



ARCHDIOCESE OF  
PHILADELPHIA

OFFICE OF  
CATHOLIC  
EDUCATION

*Keeping faith in mind*

2011



# SCHOOL REPORT

## Dear Parents,

I want to take this opportunity to extend my appreciation to you for considering a Catholic school education in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia for your children. As Auxiliary Bishop of Philadelphia, I oversee the Secretariat for Catholic Education and am privileged to monitor the progress of the schools and students as I dialogue with the staff in the Office of Catholic Education. I am most pleased when opportunities arise to visit the schools and see the fine work that takes place in classrooms, labs and in a variety of programs. I echo the words of the U.S. Bishops in their pastoral letter entitled, “Renewing Our Commitment to Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools in the Third Millennium”:

“Our vision is clear: our Catholic schools are a vital part of the teaching mission of the Church. The challenges ahead are many, but our spirit and will to succeed are strong. We, the Catholic bishops of the United States, in cooperation with the total Catholic community, are committed to overcoming these challenges. Adversity often brings out the best in men and women. We must respond to challenging times with faith, vision, and the will to succeed, because the Catholic school’s mission is vital to the future of our young people, our nation, and most especially our Church.”

The 2011 School Report provides compelling facts about our schools and the work of many hands reaching out to support the faith and academic advancement of each student. Jesus reminds us, “Let the children come to Me and do not hinder them.” Our pastors, priests, school administrators and teachers take great pride in providing an excellent, quality Catholic Education for children like yours. Leading children to Christ is our most noble vocation and the foremost reason our Catholic schools exist.

The National Catholic Education Association’s theme for this school year is, “Catholic Schools: A+ for America”. May God bless the work of our hands!

Sincerely yours in Christ,



**Most Reverend Michael J. Fitzgerald**

*Auxiliary Bishop of Philadelphia*



## THE VALUE OF A CATHOLIC EDUCATION

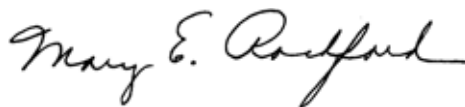
As a parent, one of the most important decisions in your life and for the lives of your children is choosing the education that will most benefit them now and in their future. Consider some of the reasons a Catholic school is the right choice:

- A culture of high achievement based on Religion, Rigor, Relevance, Relationships and Reflection
- Instruction and assessments aligned to the National Common Core Standards
- Changes in the educational landscape addressed in school improvement plans
- Increased teacher effectiveness and leadership capacity
- Technology utilized as a true teaching tool
- Maximizing the use of data to improve instruction and learning
- 21st century programs for increased levels of student engagement
- Application-based learning experiences based on real-world problems
- Student-centered instruction
- Catholic faith formation for current and future living

As the Most Reverend Roger J. Foys, Bishop of Covington, has said:

“While there may be alternatives to Catholic education, there are no substitutes.”

For parents and guardians who walk with us now in providing quality Catholic Education for your children, we thank you for your trust, support and partnership. For parents and guardians currently considering a Catholic School, we invite you look closely at all we have to offer and to choose an education full of hope for your child's future!



**Mary E. Rochford**

*Superintendent, Office of Catholic Education  
Archdiocese of Philadelphia*



## OUR MISSION



Catholic Schools form Catholic students to be full and practicing members of the Church, are centers of evangelization that call all to live fully the message of Jesus Christ, and are centers of academic excellence that rigorously prepare students to be lifelong learners and contributing members of the global community.

## OUR VISION

The Archdiocese of Philadelphia continues its longstanding commitment to providing the highest quality Catholic education to the children of the greater Philadelphia area. As we enter the second decade of this century, we recognize that there are significant trends impacting our lives. These trends challenge our notions of traditional education, as well as our definition of what it means to be Catholic.

Our students live in a dramatically different world than the one in which most of today's adults grew up. Advances in technology, changes in our demographics, the globalization of our economy, and the contradictions in societal values make the availability of a vibrant, relevant, rigorous Catholic Education more important than ever. We must provide our young people with the tools and direction they need to function amid these challenges, including the guiding message of the Gospel.

To this end, the Office of Catholic Education has developed a strategic plan to guide the ongoing evolution, direction and development of our schools. This plan is a living document with goals created around five year targets. Actions have been developed for year one only and will be extended annually to ensure the continued vibrancy and responsiveness of our direction. The plan will be assessed, modified, and improved based on its impact and effectiveness. What will not be modified, however, is the unwavering commitment expressed in our Mission Statement.

As full and practicing members of the Catholic Church, all Catholic students, in collaboration with their parents/guardians, parish and school community, will learn to live fully the call of their Baptism in following Christ. Holding fast to the faithfulness of Gospel living, frequent reception of the sacraments and responsive to the Church's expectations for a full participating member, the students will come to understand the deeper purpose of a Catholic Education. They will be called daily to live like Christ and integrate Gospel values into their ever-maturing person.

As centers of academic excellence, our Catholic Schools provide rigorous and relevant academic instruction for all students. We promote high levels of student engagement in the classroom learning process in order to maximize academic talents and minimize barriers to educational success. Each student will come to realize greater levels of individual achievement as grade levels progress.

In the words of Ralph Waldo Emerson, "To map out a course of action and follow it to an end requires some of the same courage that a soldier needs." As soldiers of Christ, we take seriously the call to strengthen the ongoing Mission of Catholic Education, and sustain it we will, well into the future of this 21st century.

## STATEMENT OF BELIEFS

**We believe** our Catholic schools are an integral part of the Church's mission to teach young people how to proclaim the Gospel, build faith communities, celebrate through Worship, and serve others

**We believe** the goal of our Catholic schools is to assist parents/guardians in preparing the next generation of practicing Catholics who are well educated in the Catholic faith and capable of leadership in creating a just and Gospel-centered society

**We believe** our Catholic schools are committed to academic excellence, fostering the intellectual development and growth of faculty and students in embracing learning attitudes of the 21st century

**We believe** student learning in our Catholic schools begins with a rigorous curriculum presented in a learning environment that supports high levels of student engagement where ever-evolving technologies and 21st century skills are integrated with information relevant to the present as well as the future

**We believe** all students in our Catholic schools need to be given frequent opportunities to think critically, work collaboratively, and make appropriate choices in an academic climate that allows for growth in the student's ability to express learning in creative ways

**We believe** a safe, orderly, and respectful learning environment is necessary for a quality Catholic education

**We believe** our Catholic schools embrace cultural diversity reflective of the world in which our students will live and work in this 21st century

**We believe** supportive relationships enhance the learning capabilities of all of our students

## THE STRUCTURE OF OUR SCHOOLS

The Archdiocese of Philadelphia encompasses 167 Catholic elementary schools, 17 high schools, and four schools for special education. Extending beyond the city of Philadelphia, the Archdiocese spans the surrounding counties and is divided into six vicariates: Bucks County, Chester County, Delaware County, Montgomery County, Philadelphia North, and Philadelphia South. These diverse areas—each with their own unique demographics and traditions—make the Archdiocese of Philadelphia the culturally rich community that it is.

One important distinction between schools of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia and other Archdiocesan schools is the unique way in which the administration is structured.

In our Archdiocese, the parish and regional elementary schools are under the authority of the Pastor from each parish. The Pastor is the final authority at the local parish and school level, though he is supported through his leadership groups in the parish, namely the Parish Pastoral Council and the Finance Council. The Pastor delegates authority to the school Principal to oversee the day-to-day operation of the program.

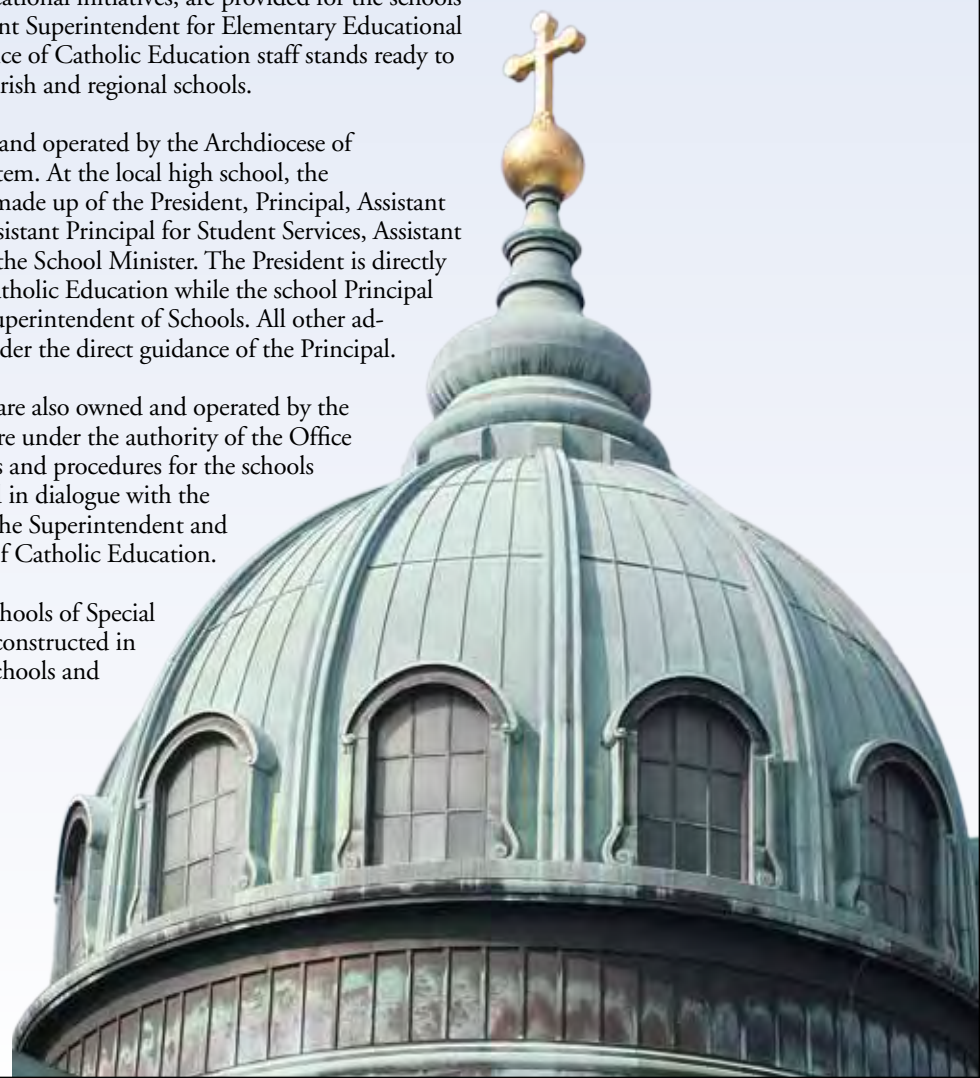
The Elementary Staff in the Office of Catholic Education offers spiritual, academic, and personal guidance and support to the pastor through its work with the school administration and faculty. In addition to visiting the parish and regional schools each year for the purpose of ongoing spiritual and academic support, the Elementary Staff is also responsible for developing curriculum guidelines, approving the list of teacher prospects, and planning the Principal Meetings. The Office of Catholic Education guides the local parish or regional school to formulate a visionary strategic plan guiding the work of the school's administration, faculty, and staff.

Professional development opportunities, planning for a fuller integration of technology, as well as current educational initiatives, are provided for the schools from the Directors and the Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Educational Services. On a daily basis, the Office of Catholic Education staff stands ready to offer support and service to the parish and regional schools.

The secondary schools are owned and operated by the Archdiocese of Philadelphia and function as a system. At the local high school, the administrative leadership team is made up of the President, Principal, Assistant Principal for Academic Affairs, Assistant Principal for Student Services, Assistant Principal for Student Affairs, and the School Minister. The President is directly responsible to the Secretary for Catholic Education while the school Principal reports to the President and the Superintendent of Schools. All other administrative team members are under the direct guidance of the Principal.

The schools of Special Education are also owned and operated by the Archdiocese of Philadelphia and are under the authority of the Office of Catholic Education. All policies and procedures for the schools of Special Education are generated in dialogue with the administration of the school and the Superintendent and disseminated through the Office of Catholic Education.

Both secondary schools and the schools of Special Education follow a strategic plan constructed in conjunction with the individual schools and the Office of Catholic Education.



# ACCREDITATION



All secondary schools and 98 percent of the elementary schools in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia have been accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools (MSA). The additional 2 percent of elementary schools have completed the accreditation process and are currently awaiting accreditation. Early Childhood programs in the Archdiocese have also begun the process of obtaining MSA accreditation.

The MSA—comprising the Commission on Elementary Schools, Commission on Higher Education, and the Commission on Secondary Schools—ensures that participating schools maintain various standards of excellence (see list below).

For more information on these standards, visit [www.ces-msa.org](http://www.ces-msa.org).



## STANDARDS

- 1 Philosophy/Mission
- 2 Governance and Leadership
- 3 School Improvement Planning
- 4 Finances
- 5 Facilities
- 6 School Climate and Organization
- 7 Health and Safety
- 8 Educational Program
- 9 Assessment and Evidence of Student Learning
- 10 Student Services
- 11 Student Life and Student Activities
- 12 Information Resources and Technology

# QUESTION

What are the benefits of sending my child to a Catholic school?

# ANSWER

When considering the value of any education, one must consider not only the way a student performs academically, but also the long-term effects that education has on the student. Therein lies the unique value of a Catholic education. Our schools offer priceless lifelong dividends by providing students with a strong academic program that is infused with character and faith formation.

We believe strongly in the enormous value of a Catholic education and encourage you to discover that value for yourself. You are always welcome to make an appointment to visit one of our schools. There, you can speak with our administrators, teachers, and even students to learn more about the many benefits of a Catholic education.

## A COMMITMENT TO FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

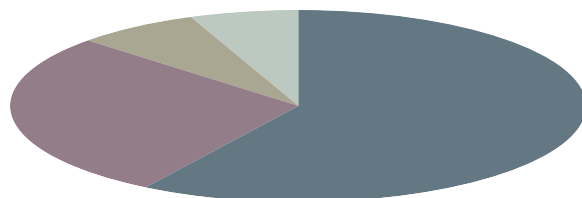
The Value of a Catholic education in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia is indeed priceless. Yet, the economic hardships that confront our nation are equally profound in our own educational system. The same burdens faced by our faithful families remain a constant at every level of elementary, secondary, and special education. We are diligent in our efforts to contain the many expenses that are often beyond our control. Certainly, the soaring costs of health care, utilities, and related expenses pose a continuous challenge as we progress with our desire to keep tuition as affordable as possible.

Providing the very best academic product – rooted in Gospel values – is a tireless commitment we make to our students and their families. We are equally grateful for their commitment to embrace a Catholic education, despite the challenging costs. Their ongoing sacrifices, combined with the dedicated efforts of teachers and administrators who steward the spiritual and academic development of their children, bode well for the future of Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

### ELEMENTARY SCHOOL REVENUE AND EXPENSES

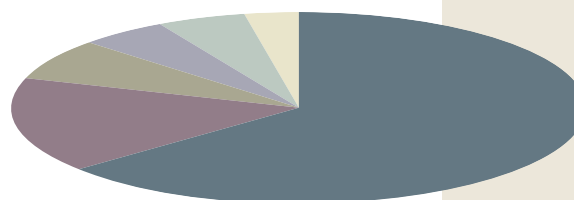
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2009

Revenue



- Tuition Income 59%
- School Subsidy from Parishes 28%
- Other Revenue 7%
- Socials and Donations, Net 6%

Expenses

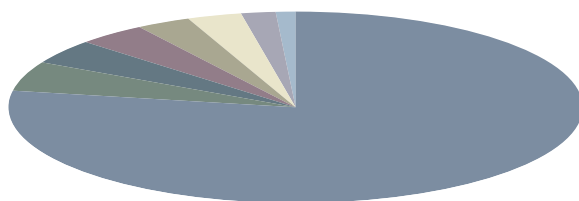


- Salaries 64%
- Payroll Taxes & Fringe Benefits 16%
- School Administration 7%
- Utilities 5%
- Maintenance 5%
- Other Expenses 3%

## HIGH SCHOOL REVENUE AND EXPENSES

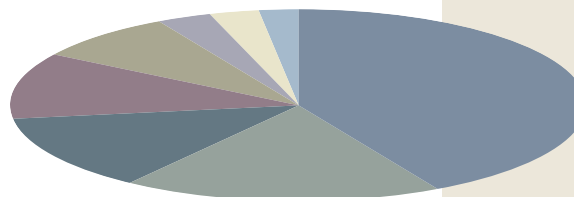
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2010

Revenue



- Net Tuition and Student Fees 78%
- Contributions & Donations 5%
- Fund Raising/Resale 4%
- Activities and Athletics 4%
- Parish Assessment 3%
- Other Revenue 3%
- Net Gains (Losses) on Investments 2%
- Interest and Investment Income 1%

Expenses

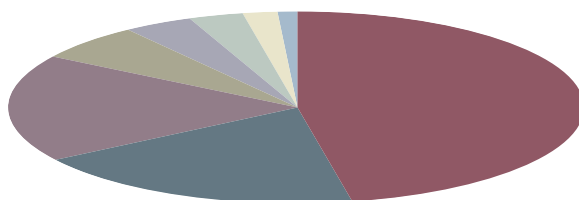


- Instruction 42%
- Employee Benefits 18%
- Administration 13%
- Plant Operations 11%
- Activities and Athletics 8%
- Building Renovations 3%
- Other Expenses 3%
- Debt Service 2%

## SPECIAL EDUCATION SCHOOLS REVENUE AND EXPENSES

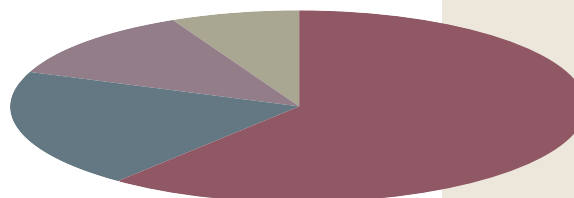
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2010

Revenue



- Catholic Charities 47%
- Contributions and Donations 19%
- Tuition 18%
- Fund raising 6%
- Net Gains (Losses) on Investments 4%
- Contributed Services 3%
- Interest and Investment Income 2%
- Other Revenue 1%

Expenses



- Instruction 61%
- Employee Benefits 20%
- Administration 12%
- Plant Operations 7%

## OUR TEACHERS

The teachers of the Catholic schools of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia are dedicated to the academic and moral development of each and every student. They actively participate in and moderate a wide variety of activities and service projects that promote the total growth of the students entrusted to them.

In our schools, the focus is always on realizing each student's academic and spiritual potential, rather than on "teaching to the test." Teachers strive to create a safe, positive environment in which Gospel Values like Truth, Compassion, Forgiveness, and Faith are woven into daily lessons and experiences.

The Office of Catholic Education provides teachers with many avenues for continuing professional development. Workshops occur at all levels and allow teachers to choose the courses that are most beneficial to their needs. As a result, our teachers are fully equipped with 21st century instructional strategies, such as small group learning, to draw students into the learning process.



**22%**  
Elementary  
teachers  
with Advanced  
Degrees\*



All permanent secondary teachers in our schools must:

- 1 Be practicing members of a faith with a letter from a clergy person verifying attendance and affiliation.
- 2 Have a four-year teaching degree with certification (to receive tenure).
- 3 Undergo the following police checks: FBI clearance, criminal background check, and child abuse clearance. Teachers also participate in the Safe Environment Training program.

**53.8%**  
Secondary  
teachers  
with Advanced  
Degrees\*

\*Includes MA, DMA, and Ed.D.



# OUR STUDENTS

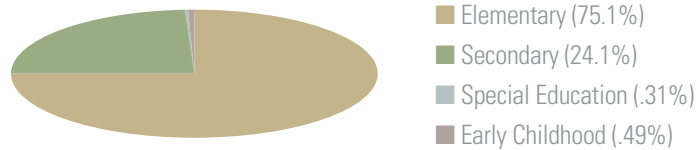
Who are the young men and women receiving outstanding educations from the Catholic schools of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia? They are a truly diverse population, coming from many different backgrounds, cultures, and even religions. Again, the extraordinary diversity of our population only adds to the richness of our schools and the larger Archdiocesan community.



The charts below offer a closer look at the students in our schools.

## 2009-2010 Statistics · Archdiocese of Philadelphia

Total Enrollment = 68,396 students



Minority	23.50%
Caucasian	76.50%
Catholic	85.46%
Non-Catholic	14.54%
Boys	48.96%
Girls	51.04%

## QUESTION

What is the average class size?

## ANSWER

There is an average of 25 to 30 students within our classrooms, which is the national norm for Catholic schools. In contrast to a traditional classroom setting where a teacher will lecture and students listen, our classrooms are more of a “learning laboratory” where students are engaged in the learning process. Our teachers act as coaches to facilitate the students’ abilities to not only understand the material, but also to apply that knowledge to their work.



## CLASS SIZE

The class sizes in the schools of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia are structured in a way to ensure students receive not only an exceptional education but also an affordable one.



The size of our classes allow teachers to implement a “small group learning” approach to education. Classes are divided into smaller groups to ensure students receive individual attention from their teachers and, therefore, remain fully engaged during the day.

In addition to small group learning, our teachers implement a variety of other methods to address the different ways in which students learn. Some of these unique teaching styles include differentiated instruction, collaborative learning, flexible grouping, and learning stations. The result is that students become more engaged in class and, overall, more involved with their education.

## TUITION

The Archdiocese of Philadelphia has one of the most reasonable tuition packages in the United States for parish, regional, and secondary schools. This is due in large part to the generosity of our parishes that contribute as much as 35% of tuition costs each year on the elementary level. In addition, approximately 10% of funds raised from the ongoing *Heritage of Faith* ~ *Vision of Hope* campaign will be directed towards tuition assistance.



## TUITION ASSISTANCE

### Elementary School Tuition Assistance

Tuition and fees in the parish and regional elementary schools vary from school to school. As these schools are the sole responsibility of the Pastor of each individual parish, it is recommended that parents or guardians contact the school or parish office directly to determine tuition and fees.

In addition, inquiries regarding tuition assistance should be directed to the school or parish office, as well as resources such as BLOCS ([www.blocs.org](http://www.blocs.org)) and the Children's Scholarship Fund Philadelphia ([www.csphiladelphia.org](http://www.csphiladelphia.org)).

### High School Tuition Assistance

The secondary schools operated by the Archdiocese are funded principally through tuition and fees which account for 89% of funding. The current tuition of \$5,350, while low when compared to other private secondary schools locally and nationally, remains a challenge to many families.

Over \$11 million in funding was provided for tuition assistance and scholarships in the 2009-10 school year for secondary students. This funding represents 12.4% of the total tuition billed. The largest source of funding comes from school and alumni organizations which provided \$6.18 million. Third party organizations such as the Connelly Foundation, The Ellis Trust, and the Sullivan Foundation provided \$2.74 million while an additional \$1.02 million came from the Educational Improvement Tax Credit program. The Office of Catholic Education also provides funding through its Tuition Assistance Program (TAP), which allocated \$1.43 million in funding in the 2009-10 school year.

### Educational Improvement Tax Credit

The Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) gives businesses the opportunity to invest in tomorrow's workforce. Companies who donate through the EITC program contribute to the academic success of students and earn a substantial tax credit in the process. Every year, thousands of Pennsylvania businesses earn tax credits for making donations to local scholarship organizations to make sure our children get the education they need to succeed in life. For the 2009-2010 school year, \$60 million was dedicated to the EITC program.

Enacted in 2001, the EITC program has become the national model for business educational tax credit programs. It provides a tax credit of up to 90% for companies that donate to non-profit scholarship and educational improvement organizations. Since the program's inception in 2001, more than 3,600 Pennsylvania companies have participated in the EITC program—donating over \$430 million to participating organizations!

EITC donations for students in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia go through BLOCS (Business Leadership Organized for Catholic Schools) and 100% of these donations provide tuition assistance for our students.





## BLUE RIBBON SCHOOLS

Thirteen elementary schools in the Archdiocese have been recognized by the Department of Education as Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence:

- 🏆 Epiphany of Our Lord School, Plymouth Meeting
- 🏆 Grey Nun Academy, Yardley
- 🏆 Gwynedd-Mercy Academy Elementary School, Spring House
- 🏆 Our Lady of Mt. Carmel School, Doylestown
- 🏆 Rosemont School of the Holy Child, Rosemont
- 🏆 St. Aloysius Academy, Bryn Mawr
- 🏆 St. Anastasia School, Newtown Square
- 🏆 St. Genevieve School, Flourtown
- 🏆 St. Ignatius of Antioch Catholic School, Yardley
- 🏆 St. John the Evangelist School, Morrisville
- 🏆 Waldron Mercy Academy, Merion Station
- 🏆 Mary, Mother of the Redeemer, North Wales
- 🏆 Ancillae-Assumpta Academy, Wyncote

## QUESTION

How do Catholic schools measure up to surrounding schools?

## ANSWER

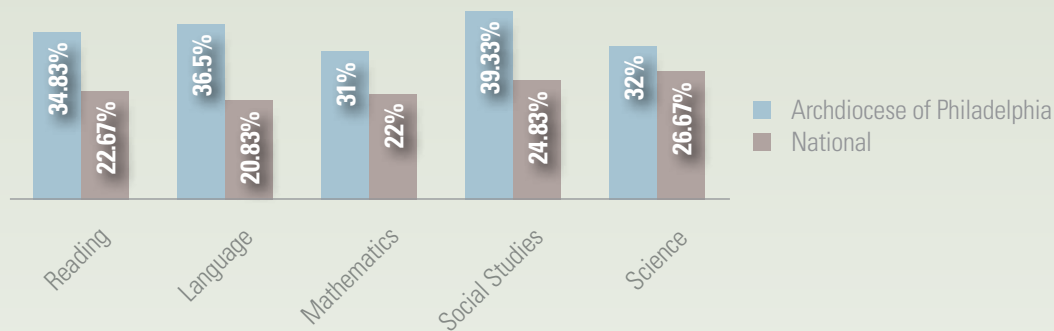
A Catholic education provides students with a challenging curriculum that is rigorous, relevant, and above all, rooted in the Catholic faith. For nearly ten years, the Archdiocese of Philadelphia has partnered with the International Center for Leadership in Education. The Center examines our curriculum to ensure our students gain the appropriate learning skills and abilities each year. In addition, we work closely with the Partnership for 21st Century Skills to guarantee our schools and academic programs are equipped with the strongest instructional tools available.

## TEST SCORES

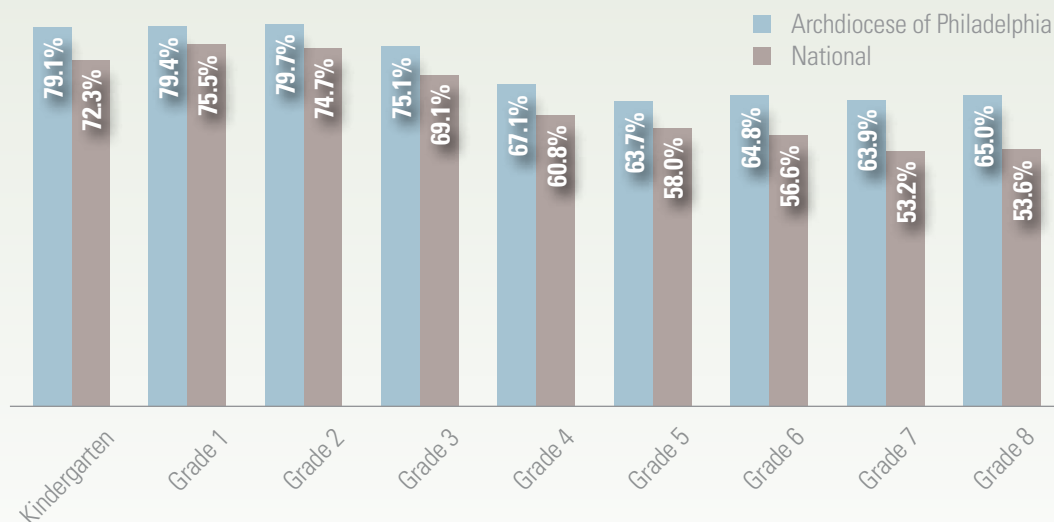
It's no surprise that an outstanding curriculum produces outstanding results. In the case of the Catholic schools of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, the results tell a story of academic excellence that leads to impressive real-world outcomes. These results are not only impressive on a regional level but also when compared to national scores.

- Archdiocesan elementary school students scored almost 10% above the national mean on the Objective Performance Index and over 48% above in Proficiency Levels on TerraNova testing in the 2009-2010 school year.
- The top 33% of Archdiocesan students who took the SAT in the 2009-2010 school year scored 44 points above the national average in math and 64 points above the national average in verbal.
- The top 50% of Archdiocesan students who took the SAT in the 2009-2010 school year scored above the national average in math and verbal.
- Over 48% of all AP exams taken in 2009-2010 school year resulted in students being eligible for college credit in that subject.

2009-2010 Average TerraNova Proficiency Levels by Subject (Grades 3-8)



2009-2010 Average TerraNova Objective Performance Scores by Grade (Grades K-8)



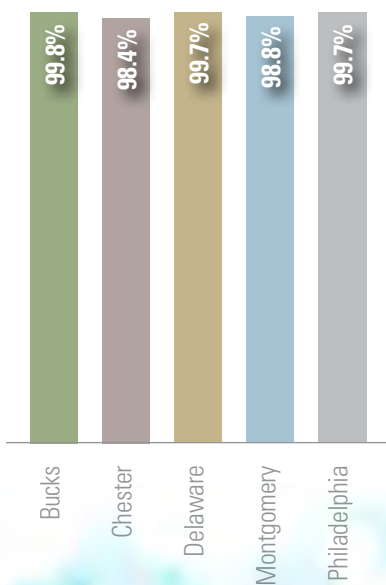
## HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATES

Archdiocesan schools in Philadelphia are fully committed to ensuring students are well prepared for an academic experience beyond secondary school. After graduation, our students go on to attend some of the nation's finest colleges and universities.

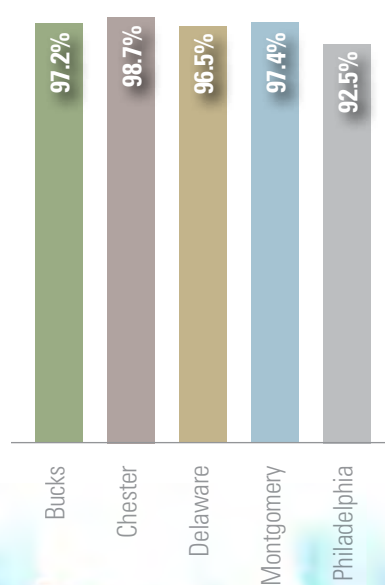
the Class of 2010 received  
**\$262,069,165**  
THE HIGHEST IN HISTORY

The charts below illustrate recent graduation rates of our students, as well as statistics on post-secondary education. See how our schools compare to public schools in the five county area of Philadelphia and the state of Pennsylvania.

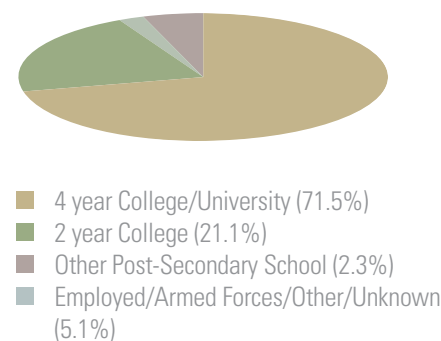
Archdiocesan Graduation Rates\*  
by County



Archdiocesan Class of 2010  
Post-Secondary Education by County



Over 92% of the Class of 2010 graduates  
went on to post-secondary colleges  
and universities



\*Students graduated on time within a 4-year period

# COLLEGE PARTNERSHIPS & DIOCESAN SCHOLARS

## College Partnerships

The Office of Catholic Education, in collaboration with local colleges and universities, encourages students to engage in college coursework during the junior and senior years of high school. More than 140 students participate in over 50 college partnerships. College partnerships are arranged in a variety of formats such as the Diocesan Scholars Program, Dual Enrollment Programs in collaboration with the Pennsylvania Department of Education, Articulation Agreements where Archdiocesan secondary school courses are approved for college credit, and various other on-site and off-site college opportunities.

## Diocesan Scholars

The Diocesan Scholars Program provides selected Archdiocesan high school seniors with the exceptional opportunity to attend college courses at nearby Catholic colleges and universities. As “guests” of those schools, participating scholars are not charged tuition. They are, however, responsible to provide their own transportation to and from campus and to purchase the required textbooks for their courses. Participating Catholic colleges and universities provide this opportunity to students in recognition of the quality education offered by Archdiocesan high schools.

- Diocesan Scholars are selected from among the top 2% of the juniors at each Archdiocesan school.
- Students may enroll in a maximum of two college courses per semester, earning a possible 12 college credits before leaving high school.
- In 2009-2010, there were 136 students participating in the program.



## SCHOOLS OF SPECIAL EDUCATION

Our Schools of Special Education offer a comprehensive educational program in an environment that nurtures self-esteem, independence, and academic and functional performance. The four schools of Special Education of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia ensure that our special needs students receive specially designed instruction that includes supplementary aids and services in the least restrictive environment, as well as the full benefits of a Catholic education.

Our two sensory schools (St. Lucy for the Blind and Archbishop Ryan for the Deaf and Hearing Impaired) follow the curriculum of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. These schools strive to meet the needs of students with visual impairments or who are deaf or hard of hearing.

At St. Lucy for the Blind, students learn with the assistance of adaptive materials, which can be used both at school and at home. At Archbishop Ryan for the Deaf and Hearing Impaired, students communicate through American Sign Language and participate in our Oral Academy where they develop speaking, reading and language skills.

Our two schools for children with cognitive impairments (Our Lady of Confidence and Saint Katherine Day School) provide training in life skills and functional academics to help students reach their full potential and become active and vital members of their community. The students from both programs extend their formal learning experience into the high school programs centering on Life Skills at Bishop McDevitt High School in Wyncote and Archbishop Carroll High School in Radnor.



# SCHOOLS OF SPECIAL EDUCATION

(CONTINUED)

## Learning Support Programs

In addition to our four schools of Special Education, the Archdiocese offers four of its elementary schools and two of its secondary schools as sites for Learning Support Programs. Each program provides learning support in an inclusive environment for students with learning disabilities and learning challenges. Students learn academic and organizational skills that foster academic performance, self-acceptance, self-discipline and consistent work habits. Students receive the support needed to become responsible members of the communities in which they live.

In our elementary schools, students are mainstreamed for all classes except integrated language arts and math. Specialized teachers help students learn strategies to assist them in all subject areas by providing specially designed instruction that supports their learning skills.

Students in our high school Learning Support Programs are mainstreamed for all classes and also participate in a Learning Strategies period where they work with a specialized teacher to master specific strategies to help them succeed in the general education classroom.

[Click here to watch a brief video on our Special Education programs.](#)



## ATHLETICS

Athletics in our Archdiocesan schools promote teamwork, teach sportsmanship, and build character. These values can be traced back to the summer of 1920, when a Diocesan Priest, who would later be known as Monsignor Bonner, formed the Philadelphia Catholic League.

During the 2007-2008 school year, the Philadelphia Catholic League joined the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (PIAA) Division 12. PIAA includes 1,500 schools, 95 of which are from the Philadelphia Catholic League and Philadelphia Public League. By joining the competitive PIAA, our students now have improved sporting and scholarship opportunities. We have also seen an increase in the number of student athletes named to “All-State” designations.

The Philadelphia Catholic League is the only entity of its kind in Pennsylvania. It acts as its own league but also maintains status within Division XII of the PIAA. Since joining the PIAA, we have crowned a Catholic League Champion in each sport, while also sending multiple representatives within each sport to Division 12 Championships.

## SPORTS AND SPIRITUALITY

Athletics play an enormous role in the growth and spiritual development of our young people. Our sports teams foster a sense of community through commitment, cooperation, and common goals. These ideals are the cornerstone of our faith. In fact, all sports-related activities are preceded and concluded with prayers and/or reflections in remembrance of our true goals and challenges, and maintain year-round service projects.



### Championship Success

The Philadelphia Catholic League has had an unprecedented level of success. In just over two years, our athletes have made 19 State Championship appearances, winning 8 state titles.

- Archbishop John Carroll High School Girls' Basketball
- Archbishop John Carroll High School Boys' Basketball
- Father Judge High School Boys' Soccer
- West Philadelphia Catholic High School Girls' Indoor Track
- West Philadelphia Catholic High School Boys' Outdoor Track
- West Philadelphia Catholic High School Football
- Ss Neumann Goretti Catholic High School Boys' Basketball
- Archbishop Wood High School Girls' Basketball





## TECHNOLOGY

Though Catholic education is a centuries-long tradition, it is hardly behind the times. On the contrary, the Catholic schools of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia place great emphasis on utilizing modern technology to enhance the learning process.

The Office of Catholic Education is committed to incorporating technology in Archdiocesan classrooms to fully prepare students for the future. “These emerging technological trends are a large part of that future,” says the Director of K to 12 Technology. “We will continue to recognize

the influence of technology by ensuring its inclusion in our classrooms.” Including school leaders in the technology planning process is a priority. Our school leaders benefit from knowledge on the latest research and trends on technologies, and can support this growth in their schools.

Regardless of course of study or career goals, a solid grasp of technology skills is fostered in our schools each and every day. In classrooms from kindergarten through 12th grade, we strive to uphold a curriculum that correlates with the National Technology Standards for Students (NETS). In addition, all Catholic schools follow an Acceptable Use Policy to promote safe and ethical use of the Internet and all technologies.

Bolstered not only by traditional teaching methods but also state-of-the-art technology, a Catholic education provides students with a challenging curriculum that is rigorous, relevant, and above all, rooted in the Catholic faith.

*Technology has become an essential part of daily lives and we incorporate cutting-edge technology in our schools to enrich the ways in which our teachers teach and our students learn. Our:*

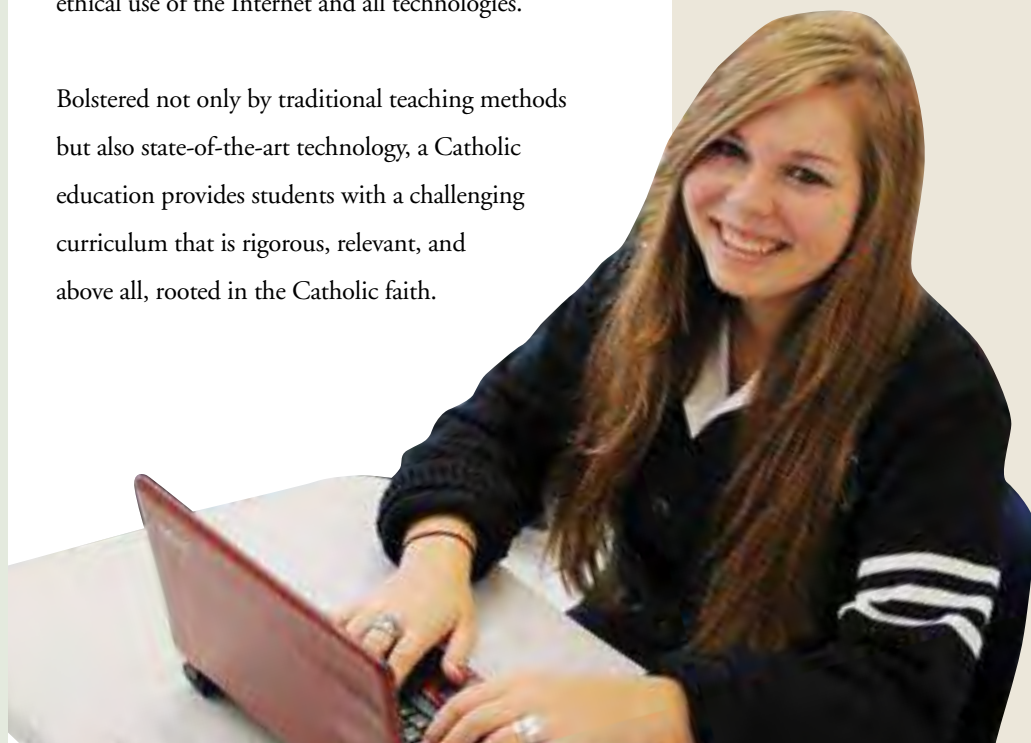
- *Virtual Academy provides teachers and administrators with ongoing and useful professional development courses online.*
- *Students are equipped with netbooks so they can connect to a world of learning on the Internet.*
- *Smart classrooms feature interactive whiteboards, projectors, and digital cameras to make learning engaging and interactive.*
- *Modern web tools, resources, and robust networks expand and support the world of learning for our students.*
- *Schools are looking to further explore:*
  - *Mobile devices such as netbooks*
  - *Ipads and cell phones,*
  - *One to One Laptops*
  - *Ebooks*
  - *Web Based tools*
  - *Digital Video and Photography*
  - *Interactive Whiteboards*
  - *Online assessments for learning*

## QUESTION

Are Catholic schools “behind-the-times” with technology?

## ANSWER

Through generous funding from the government, actively sought grant sources, and individual school commitment, our schools make it a top priority to stay on the cutting edge of technology. In fact, just this year, schools were provided with netbooks so that more students could begin benefiting from the latest of mobile technology and connect to online learning content. On the whole, our schools pride themselves on the ways they’ve seamlessly integrated the latest technology into their curriculums.



# THE TRUE VALUE OF A CATHOLIC EDUCATION

A Catholic education promotes academic excellence and provides outstanding opportunities for a diverse and talented population of students. What makes a Catholic education exceptional, however, is the fact that our schools nurture both the mind and the spirit of these young people by providing a strong academic foundation in the context of a faith-based environment. To learn more about the value of a Catholic education, we encourage you to visit the following links.

## Find a Catholic School Near You –

<http://www.catholicschools-phl.org/find-a-school/find-a-school>

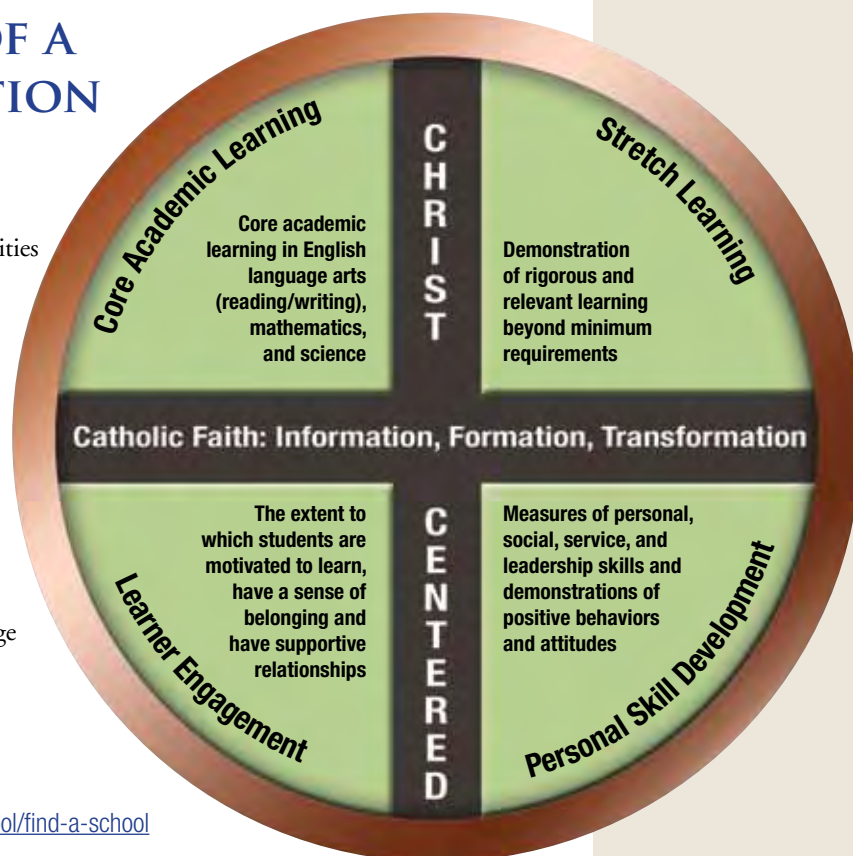
About OCE – <http://www.catholicschools-phl.org/about-oce/mission>

Technology – <http://www.catholicschools-phl.org/about-oce/technology>

Elementary Curriculum – <http://www.catholicschools-phl.org/parent-resources/elementary-curriculum>

Secondary Curriculum – <http://www.catholicschools-phl.org/parent-resources/high-school-curriculum>

Special Education Schools – <http://www.catholicschools-phl.org/find-a-school/special-education-schools>



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