

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

DIOCESE OF GRAND RAPIDS

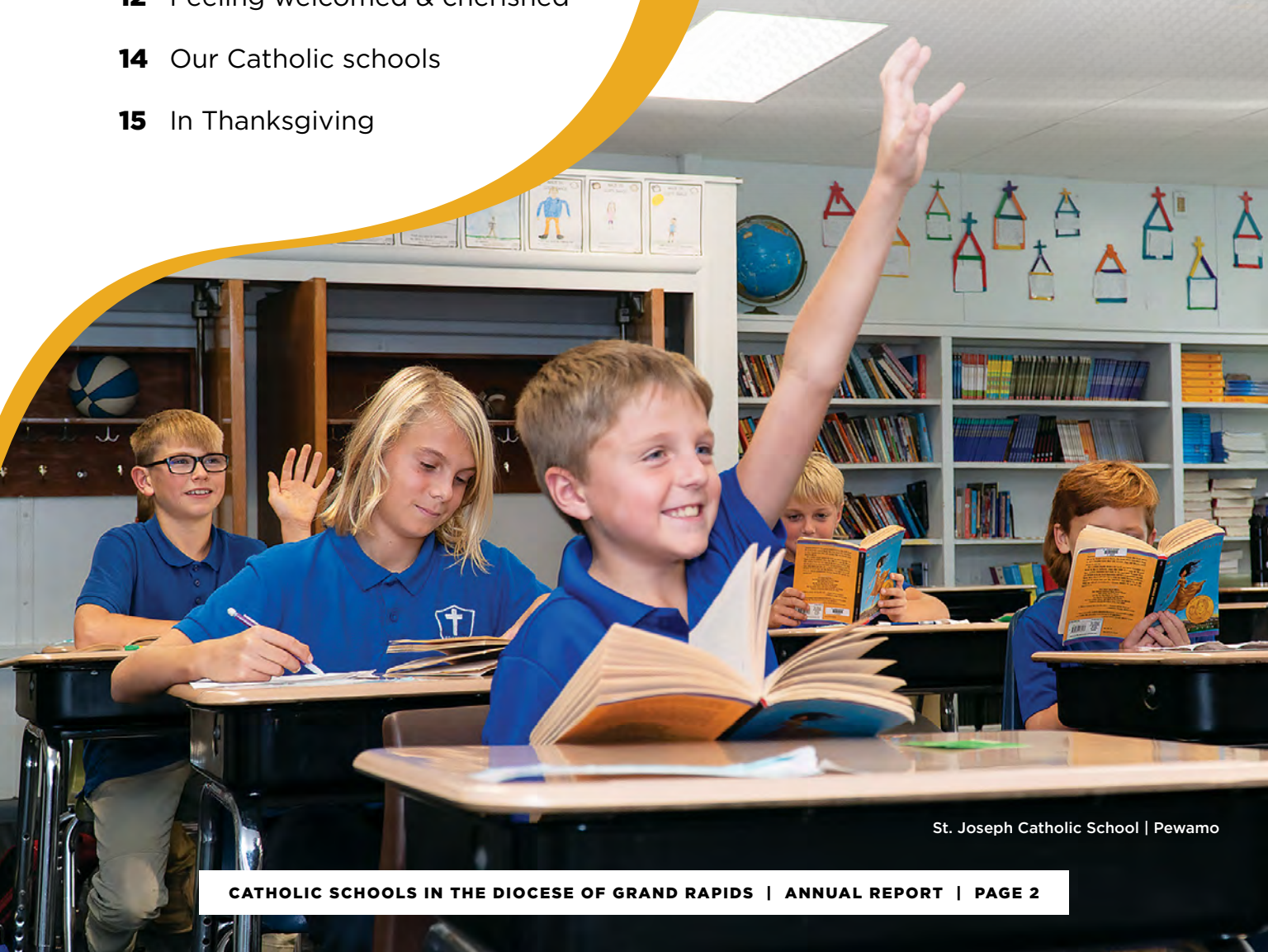
ANNUAL REPORT 2021-22

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CATHOLIC SCHOOLS
DIOCESE OF GRAND RAPIDS



St. Joseph Catholic School | Pewamo



FROM THE BISHOP

Dear friends in Christ,

I am thankful for all of you who understand the importance of providing young students the possibility of a daily encounter with Jesus Christ. This is what sets our Catholic schools apart. Of course, we have exceptional academics and numerous extracurriculars that challenge a student's body and mind, but providing a child a daily opportunity to foster their personal relationship with Jesus Christ differentiates us in our secular culture.

The ministry of our Catholic schools and the future vitality of the Catholic Church are strengthened by your commitment. Thank you for your support of Catholic education!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend David J. Walkowiak
Bishop of Grand Rapids

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear supporters of Catholic education,

I am pleased to present our first annual report on Catholic schools in the Diocese of Grand Rapids! We have so much to be proud of as an alliance of Catholic schools and as instructed, "... your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father." (MT 5:16) This report is one opportunity for us to highlight our mission and vision, including our four guiding promises, and how schools are demonstrating excellence.

By God's grace, our schools are thriving as places of encounter with the person of Jesus Christ. We have seen high retention of students and an overall increase in enrollment for the 2021-2022 school year. Families are coming to us not just because of our resilience over these last two years, but because our schools teach and model the truth of the Gospel message. In the following pages, you will see examples of this truth alive in and out of our classrooms. I hope you learn something new, get inspired, and use this annual report to invite people into our schools. We are ready to welcome them and prepare their children to seek and fulfill God's plan for learning and life!

Sincerely,

David Faber
Superintendent of
Catholic Schools



BY THE NUMBERS

189 
YEARS OF CATHOLIC
EDUCATION

 31
TOTAL SCHOOLS

7 **COUNTIES
REPRESENTED** 

470
TEACHERS

387
Elementary

83
High school

34%
Master's Degree or higher

14:1
Student to teacher ratio

LOCATION

13 8 7
URBAN SUBURBAN RURAL

SCHOOL SIZE

9 9 10
SMALL/
MICRO-
SCHOOLS
(0-100
students) MEDIUM
(101-200
students) LARGE
(201+
students)



ENROLLMENT

↑ 4.2%

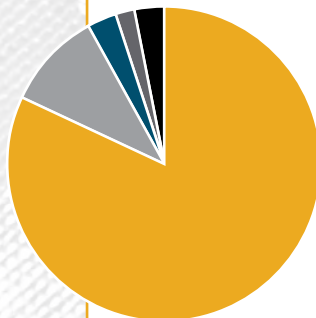
SINCE 2020-21

4,970
ELEMENTARY

1,296
HIGH SCHOOL

6,267
TOTAL STUDENTS

1,260
NEW STUDENTS



RACE/ ETHNICITY

- White (82%)
- Hispanic (10%)
- Asian (3%)
- Black (2%)
- Multi-racial, other (3%)



85%

OF STUDENTS
ARE CATHOLIC



4 PROMISES

Catholic education is a gift that lasts a lifetime. We promise to help the students entrusted to us to:

- 1.** Grow in faith & grace
- 2.** Achieve more in school & life
- 3.** Develop creativity & character
- 4.** Feel welcomed & cherished

OUR MISSION

We prepare students to seek and fulfill God's plan for learning and life.

OUR VISION

An alliance of Catholic schools expanding outstanding educational ministry.



Corpus Christi Catholic School | Holland

GROWING IN FAITH & GRACE



West Catholic High School | Grand Rapids



Our Catholic schools across the Diocese work faithfully to educate the whole person: mind, body, and soul. From daily prayer to curriculum built upon the foundation of our faith, each school community nurtures the spirit of our students. Building a lifelong relationship with Jesus is woven throughout the very fabric of the school day.

INVITING CHRIST INTO SCHOOL IS A PHYSICAL REALITY AT WEST CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL.

Celebrating its 30th year on campus, the Adoration chapel brings students face to face with our Lord in the Eucharist. In the midst of this vibrant high school, the chapel's peaceful atmosphere has offered students a place to deepen their prayer life. Inspired by the mystery of the Real Presence, senior Caleb Haskell ('22, pictured left) sought out experts in the community who could teach him more about the meaning of the Eucharist. The result? He produced a [short video series](#) for his peers, exploring what Catholics believe about the Eucharist and the proper response to God's sacrificial gift.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS ALSO HELP STAFF MEMBERS GROW IN FAITH AND GRACE.

Our educators are exploring Saint John Paul II's masterwork, the Theology of the Body (TOB) through weekly formation and discussion, and sharing its timeless wisdom with students. Grounded in Christian anthropology, TOB brings clarity to the confusion spreading throughout society today, answering the big questions of life like "Who am I?" and "Why am I here?" Thanks to the generosity of a donor, our schools received the newest TOB curriculum materials for kindergarten through 5th grade. Additionally, every educator in our 31 schools received a copy of *Eclipse of the Body* by TOB expert Christopher West. This supplemental reading feeds our faculty and helps them strengthen their witness as disciples of Christ.

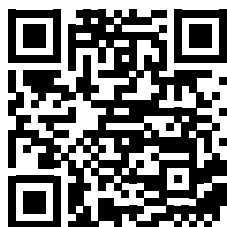
ACHIEVING MORE IN SCHOOL & LIFE

Our Lady of Consolation
Catholic School | Rockford

Catholic schools also have a well-earned reputation for providing an excellent academic experience. While the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted every organization, our schools held firm. With faith and fortitude, our instructional staff safely connected with students in-person and through virtual settings. Current research reveals that students who attend our schools have progressed despite the recent tumultuous years. Data continues to show our students outperform the national average on standardized tests and are more likely to graduate high school, earn scholarships, and attend college than their non-Catholic school peers.

(Source: Broughman, S.P., Swain, N.L. (2013):
Stillwell, R., and Sable, J. (2014))

**For more test
scores, visit:**



EXCELLENCE IN CATHOLIC EDUCATION STARTS AT HOME.

Our schools work diligently to support parents and caregivers as they share their faith in the domestic church. Each year, our 5th grade, 8th grade, and 11th grade students are assessed on their knowledge of Catholicism and their development as Christian disciples. Results from ACRE (Assessment of Children/Youth Religious Education) in 2021 show:

75.6%

of 5th
graders
attend
mass
regularly.

94.1%

of 8th
graders
stated
they have
a personal
relationship
with Jesus.

95.1%

of 11th
graders
believe in
the real
presence of
Christ in the
Eucharist.

**OUR STUDENTS EXCEL
OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM,**

T00. GRACEAC (Grand Rapids Area Catholic Elementary Athletic Council) oversees athletic programs for our elementary and middle school students. The program focuses on developing student athletes who embody the Christian qualities of good sportsmanship and fair play in every aspect of life. GRACEAC offers more than 10 sports to engage students. Recent program additions include girls sideline cheer, girls lacrosse, and boys and girls ski teams.



St. Anthony of Padua Catholic School
| Grand Rapids



St. Mary Catholic School | Big Rapids

DEVELOPING CREATIVITY & CHARACTER

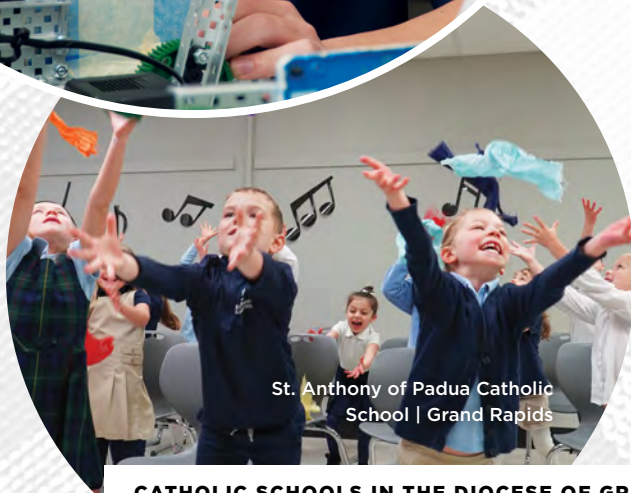


Our Lady of
Consolation
Catholic School |
Rockford

A well-rounded education includes participation in activities that encourage exploration, creativity, and the development of character. Each one of our students was created by God and endowed with unique gifts. Our schools celebrate these gifts by offering students the opportunity to cultivate their time and talents in service to the Lord and each other.

OUR BAND PROGRAMS ENCOURAGE STUDENTS TO EXPRESS THEMSELVES WITH JOYFUL SOUND.

(Just listen to the drumline during a high school football game!) Fall dramas and spring musicals involve extroverts and introverts alike through acting, singing, set building, and backstage activities. Art students work in a variety of mediums, exhibiting their work both in school and around West Michigan's dynamic art community. STEM-focused robotics and Science Olympiad teams may just produce the next Albert Einstein.



St. Anthony of Padua Catholic
School | Grand Rapids



St. John Vianney Catholic
School | Wyoming

MANY OF OUR SCHOOLS, INCLUDING SAINT JOHN VIANNEY AND ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA, HAVE INTRODUCED HOUSE SYSTEMS THIS YEAR.

Patterned from our diocesan high schools, House Systems organize students into smaller, close-knit groups across grade levels and build intentional Christian communities. Each House grows in faith and school spirit, keeping students connected to each other in authentic friendship.

CHARACTER FORMATION IS EQUALLY IMPORTANT FOR OUR FUTURE CATHOLIC LEADERS.

At Sacred Heart Academy, a program titled “Living Stones” is open to upper school student leaders who commit to standing as a witness of faith for their peers and schoolmates. These student leaders model commitment to Christ, evangelize, catechize, give personal testimony, and lead small groups.



Sacred Heart Academy |
Grand Rapids



St. Thomas the Apostle
Catholic School |
Grand Rapids

FEELING WELCOMED & CHERISHED

While most students attending our schools are Catholic (85%), we welcome and cherish every child, regardless of faith. As our mission is rooted in Christ, love and hospitality is in our DNA! We joyfully open the doors to all who seek a warm, nurturing environment in which to grow academically and spiritually.

WELCOMING ALL STUDENTS ALSO MEANS A COMMITMENT TO INCLUSIVE EDUCATION.

No two students are alike, and every student deserves tailored instruction that helps them learn best. That's why schools like St. Thomas the Apostle and Catholic Central High School are charging forward in their promise to deliver excellence in education to persons of all abilities. From physically accommodating classrooms to instructional differentiation, students receive the individualized attention they need to succeed. St. Stephen School offers a unique approach to education for students with learning disabilities — the Arrowsmith Program focuses on repairing and creating new pathways in the brain. Additionally, 11 of our Catholic schools have partnered with All Belong Center for Inclusive Education, an organization that is a leading catalyst and a local go-to resource for inclusive, Christ-centered communities. With their help, our schools are continuously working to meet the educational, socio-emotional, physical, and behavioral needs of all students.

MORE AND MORE FAMILIES ARE SEEING THE VALUE OF CATHOLIC SCHOOL EDUCATION BUT ALSO EXPERIENCING THE TRUTH ROOTED IN THE GOSPEL MESSAGE.

Visiting All Saints Academy was eye-opening for Amanda Bradley. As she sought the best school for her son Nolan, she quickly fell in love with the small, lively community. In a recent [FAITH Grand Rapids article](#), Amanda shares that she had no religious upbringing. Yet the feeling of welcome she and her son experienced made all the difference. Now the Bradleys regularly attend Mass and Amanda even completed RCIA, joining the Catholic Church in full communion this Easter.



All Saints Academy |
Grand Rapids

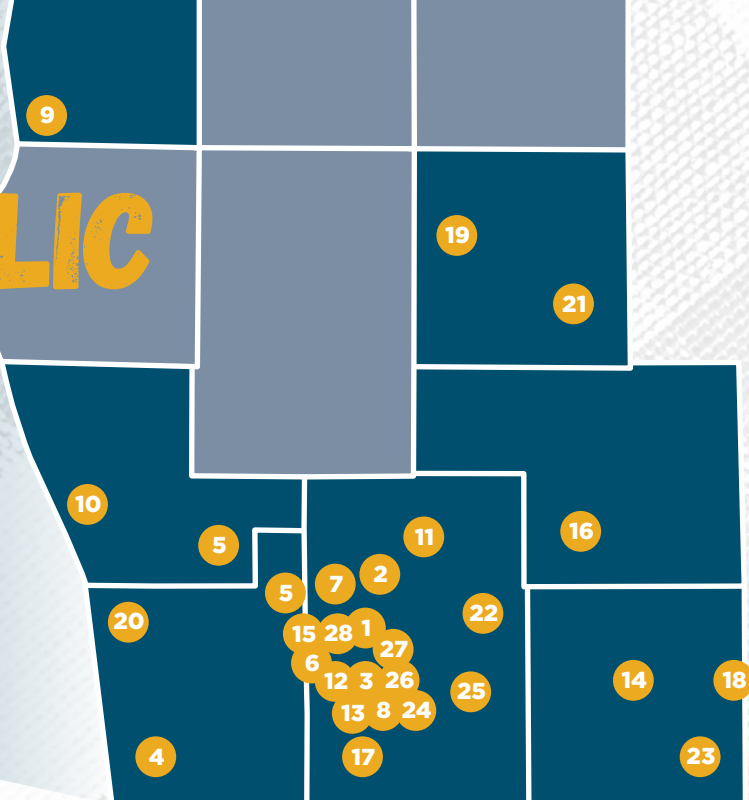
IN APRIL 2022, FR. STEPHEN DUDEK, PASTOR OF HOLY NAME OF JESUS PARISH

and canonical administrator of San Juan Diego Academy (SJDA), was awarded the [National Catholic Educational Association's Lead. Learn. Proclaim. Award!](#) He was one of 13 people to receive the national award which recognizes his vision and leadership in transforming SJDA beyond a parish school, into a beacon of hope welcoming new immigrant families.



Fr. Stephen
Dudek, San Juan
Diego Academy |
Wyoming

OUR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS



1. All Saints Academy, Grand Rapids | asagr.org
2. Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Catholic School, Belmont | schoolassumptionbvm.com
3. Catholic Central High School, Grand Rapids | grcatholiccentral.org
4. Corpus Christi Catholic School, Holland | corpuschristischool.us
5. Divine Providence Academy; St. Joseph, Conklin & St. Catherine, Ravenna | wingsdpa.org
6. Holy Spirit Catholic School, Grand Rapids | holyspiritschoolgr.org
7. Holy Trinity Catholic School, Comstock Park | holyltrinityschoolcp.com
8. Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic School, Grand Rapids | ihmschoolgr.org
9. Ludington Area Catholic School | lacschool.com
10. *Muskegon Catholic Central | muskegoncatholic.org
11. Our Lady of Consolation Catholic School, Rockford | olcparishrockford.com/school
12. *Sacred Heart Academy, Grand Rapids | shgr.org
13. San Juan Diego Academy, Grand Rapids | sanjuandiegoacademy.com
14. SS. Peter and Paul Catholic School, Ionia | spppcatholic.com
15. St. Anthony of Padua Catholic School, Grand Rapids | saparish.com/school
16. St. Charles Borromeo Catholic School, Greenville | saintscjm.com/school
17. St. John Vianney Catholic School, Wyoming | stjohnvianney.net/school
18. St. Joseph Catholic School, Pewamo | stjosephpewamo.org/school
19. St. Mary Catholic School, Big Rapids | stmaryschoolbr.org
20. St. Mary Catholic School, Spring Lake | stmarysl.org
21. St. Michael Catholic School, Remus | stmikes.us
22. St. Patrick Catholic School, Ada | stpatrickparnellschool.org
23. *St. Patrick Catholic School, Portland | portlandstpats.com
24. St. Paul the Apostle Catholic School, Grand Rapids | spagr.org/school
25. St. Robert Catholic School, Ada | strobertschoolada.org
26. St. Stephen Catholic School, East Grand Rapids | ststephenschoolgr.com
27. St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic School, Grand Rapids | stthomasgr.org
28. West Catholic High School, Grand Rapids | grwestcatholic.org

**Each K-12 school is counted twice in our total number. Once as an elementary school and once as a high school.*



IN THANKSGIVING

BISHOP'S FUND FOR CATHOLIC EDUCATION

Established by the late Bishop Robert J. Rose (1930-2022) and currently the largest fund at the Catholic Foundation of West Michigan, this endowment provides approximately half of the total support of the annual Bishop's Scholarships.

In the past academic year, Bishop's Scholarships have been awarded to 1,043 students totalling \$542,438.

WELCOME SCHOLARSHIPS

Welcome scholarships were available this year to every preschool and kindergarten student who is new or returning after one or more years away, who is registered in a parish in the diocese, has not received a Welcome Scholarship before, and does not have any siblings currently enrolled in any Catholic school in the diocese. New kindergarten students were eligible for \$750 toward tuition. New preschool students were eligible for \$250 toward tuition in each year of preschool, and the balance of the \$750 when they enter kindergarten.

In the 2021-2022 school year, \$99,500 was awarded via Welcome Scholarships.

OFFICE OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS STAFF

DAVID FABER
Superintendent

SARAH GREY
Assistant Superintendent

ANNA BOCKHEIM
Admissions Advocate

CONRAD CUNCANNAN
GRACEAC Athletic Director

SUZI FURTWANGLER
Student Support & Innovation Consultant

SHELLEY HOFMANN
Administrative Assistant

IZAMAR MANDUJANO
Admissions Advocate

LUZIA TARTARI
Admissions Enrollment Field Consultant

SARAH TOEPFER
Marketing & Communications Coordinator

DIOCESAN CATHOLIC SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

SUE HAAS-WILLIAMS
Chair and Strategic Planning Committee

ANDREW BLUM
Development Committee

DAMON BOUWKAMP
Admissions Committee

CHERYL BUTKUS
Committee on Directors

REV. DARREL KEMPF
Mission Effectiveness Committee

KRISTINA MARTINEZ-PRECIOUS
School Principal

SR. COLLEEN ANN NAGLE
Mission Effectiveness Committee

REV. GODFREY ONYEKWERE
Mission Effectiveness Committee

PATRICIA SCHRAND
Finance Committee

TIM THIMMESCH
Building and Grounds Committee

LEAH WARECK
Marketing Committee

Catholic Diocese of Grand Rapids
Office of Education
360 Division Ave. S
Grand Rapids, MI 49503-4501



CATHOLIC SCHOOLS
DIOCESE OF GRAND RAPIDS

CatholicSchools4U.com
info@grcatholicschools.org
616.551.4743



Catholic schools in the Diocese of Grand Rapids are always welcoming new families.

If you or someone you know is interested in enrolling, contact us today.