

DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON

DEPARTMENT OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

A Snapshot of Catholic Schools



Feed the hungry ✝ Give drink to the thirsty ✝ Clothe the naked



Shelter the homeless ✝ Visit the sick ✝ Visit the imprisoned ✝ Bury the dead



MISSION

The Catholic school communities of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston are committed to providing quality education in the Catholic tradition for all students in a nurturing, Christ-centered environment. We accompany families in challenging children to recognize, develop and share their God-given gifts and talents.

SYSTEM AT A GLANCE

- 20 elementary schools, 7 high schools
- 5,667 elementary & secondary students
- Nearly 830 teachers, principals, & staff
- 12% of students represent minorities
- 15th largest WV school system in number of students
- 4th largest WV school system in number of schools
- 13 counties are served by West Virginia Catholic schools
- 31% of students in our schools are students from other faiths

The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston is very proud of its tradition of providing an education of intense academic rigor within the context and practice of our Catholic faith. Our Catholic schools continue to be a tremendous resource for the faith community. However, as successful as our schools have been, we refuse to rest on our proud history of strong Catholic identity and high academic achievement and allow complacency to set into our program. Our schools continue to adapt and grow to better serve our students in the Diocese of Wheeling – Charleston.

Our Camp Magis program has been so successful at addressing both the spiritual and social growth of our seventh graders, as they transition in our Catholic schools from children to adolescents, that we are expanding our religious education program yet again. The Summit is a program targeting sophomores as they transition from adolescence into young adults. The Summit will utilize our pastoral center in Huttonsville for a three day program focusing on a strong relationship with Jesus Christ, fostering a sense of community within our Catholic high schools and empowering our students to be strong leaders in their communities. The Summit will equip our sophomores with skills and principles drawn from the Jesuit tradition of Leadership: Self-Awareness, Ingenuity, Love & Heroism.

In January, the Diocese of Wheeling – Charleston welcomed students from China to its ranks. The students are attending Wheeling Central Catholic High School and come from cities throughout their homeland to learn in our schools and share their culture. In return, our schools will share their faith, academic achievement and social opportunities. This is the start of a program that should grow to include more of our high schools. A wonderful benefit of our Chinese expansion is the addition of Mandarin language classes in two of our high schools and one grade school. Adding Mandarin to our school programs is a calculated response to the rise of influence the Asian culture has in American business and enterprise.

The Department of Catholic Schools new **Foundation for Inclusive Religious Education (FIRE)** has provided substantial grants for our schools this academic year. FIRE was established to address the education of all children by teaching acceptance,

compassion, and the value of every child of God. To that end, FIRE supports the funding necessary for special needs children to attend our Catholic schools, whenever possible. FIRE works to provide the assistance, be it functional equipment, support aides or training for a traditional teacher, to better serve the academic achievement and spiritual needs of a student.

Our high schools are producing graduates who are not only going to college at a rate greater than 98%, but, more importantly, are attending the college or university of their choice. Last year's seniors were offered more than \$19,000,000.00 in scholarships which clearly demonstrates that our Catholic high schools are producing the kind of students that colleges and universities are searching nationally to admit into their programs. Add to that, our elementary schools are clearly providing the foundational support that is necessary to succeed in secondary and higher education.

Our Catholic schools have the mission to teach the Gospel values of Jesus Christ, that are essential to the Catholic faith and to the development of the next generation of Catholics in West Virginia, clearly in its sights. Catholic schools continue to deliver a level of academic rigor that meets the highest of expectations of the Bishop, the parents and the communities served. Lastly, Catholic schools will refuse to allow gaps in the educational program to develop because of inattentive leadership. Hopefully this snapshot of our program will allow you to see all that our dedicated staffs are doing to supersede expectations.

This *Snapshot of Education* will hopefully whet your appetite for the fact that our schools are growing and developing students who not only maximize their potential, but are also making you proud as parents. More importantly, the Catholic schools of the Diocese of Wheeling – Charleston are alive in the Spirit of Christ and are willing to go out into our communities, and the world as a whole to make a substantial difference for the sake of others.

Please accept this invitation to explore our Catholic schools and thank you for your continued support.

Vincent de Paul Schmidt, Ed.S, M.A.
Superintendent of Catholic Schools

CATHOLIC IDENTITY

From beginning to end, each day in our Catholic schools is grounded in Gospel values. From the classroom to sports arenas, from academic assemblies to service projects, Gospel values are being lived by the entire school community. Each year our students contribute thousands of service hours through their initiative and support of local, national and global projects.

The Catholic school experience includes:

- ✦ Daily religion classes
- ✦ Prayer throughout the school day
- ✦ Weekly and monthly masses
- ✦ Student and faculty retreats
- ✦ Reconciliation services
- ✦ Living Rosaries
- ✦ Service clubs and organizations
- ✦ Involvement in the parish

The *Camp Magis* experience for our seventh grade Catholic School students, now in its second year, was held at the DWC Bishop Hodges Pastoral Center in Huttonsville, with over 300 students in attendance, along with a mix of teachers, principals, parent chaperones, and our school pastors. This program seeks to provide an environment in which these students can grow in their faith and in the call to Christian service, especially in relationship to one another, to their school, parish, local community as well as to society as a whole. During the three day camp experience, the students were able to meet fellow seventh graders from schools across the Diocese while participating in numerous small group activities, including morning prayer and evening mass. Activities at the three day camp, as well as follow up classroom lessons and service projects throughout the year at our Catholic schools, will help students to make connections with their profession of faith and the call by Pope Francis to “Go, do not be afraid, and serve.”

■ DWC 2014-2015 ■ National Average

Students in the 5th, 8th, and 11th grades in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston scored higher than Catholic schools students across the nation in the Assessment of Catechesis/Religious Education test (ACRE).

2014-2015 ACRE TEST RESULTS



ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

In the Catholic schools of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, we seek to provide an education of academic excellence that is both instructional and formative; an education that offers a synthesis of faith and reason; an education rooted in our Catholic faith.

- Our students are recognized with numerous awards earned at the local, county, state, and national levels.
- Members of the Class of 2015 were offered more than \$19 million in college scholarships.
- Members of the Class of 2015 are enrolled in more than 60 different colleges and universities.
- The Classes of 2011-2016 had 36 National Merit Semi-Finalists and Finalists.
- The Classes of 2011-2016 had 12 students nominated as Presidential Scholars.

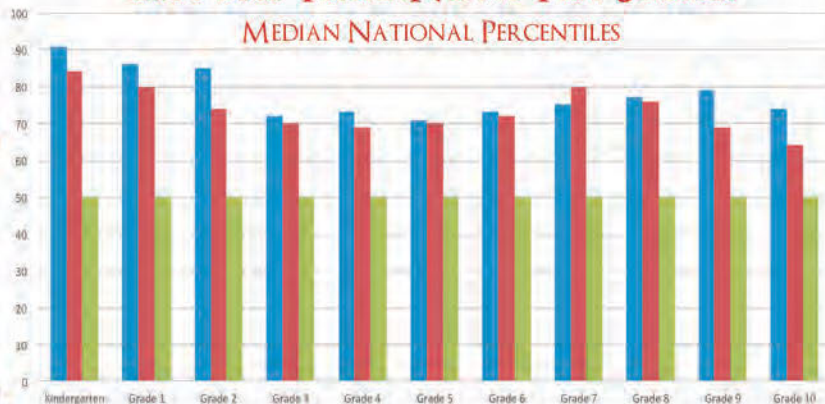
■ National Average

■ DWC Reading ■ DWC Math

Students in grades K-8, scored higher than the national average in reading and math.

2014-2015 TERRANOVA TEST SCORES

MEDIAN NATIONAL PERCENTILES



DID YOU KNOW?

- † The class of 2015 had a near 99% graduation rate and nearly 98% continued on to higher education.
- † An independent audit in the 2014-2015 school year, commissioned by the USCCB, found our diocesan Catholic schools to be in full compliance with Safe Environment policies and protocols, ensuring an optimal and safe environment.
- † Over \$850,000 in tuition assistance will be distributed from the Diocesan Tuition Assistance Program to families in need during the 2015-2016 school year.
- † Schools across our diocese are utilizing the latest enhancements of Google Apps for Education so that students can use technology to create, share and collaborate on a variety of projects.
- † Many schools are implementing mobile technologies into their classrooms. Two high schools have implemented a 1:1 iPad program; one high school has implemented a 1:1 Chromebook program; and several elementary schools have 1:1 iPad or 1:1 Chromebook initiatives in the middle school grades.
- † Students in many of our schools in grades 3-8 continue to utilize *Think Through Math*, an online program that challenges students to complete math lessons. To date, in the 2015-2016 school year, students have completed over 24,000 lessons. This work is over and beyond their regular classroom instruction.
- † FIRE (Foundation for Inclusive Religious Education) has assisted our students in the diocese with special needs to attend our schools, and achieve personal and academic success.
- † Funded by the Sisters of St. Joseph Health and Wellness Foundation and the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, the School Based Health Program (SBHP), housed in two of our elementary schools, provides health and wellness education programs and screenings for students in these schools and nearby schools. Additionally, a website, created by the SBHP staff, provides health and wellness information and a periodic newsletter for all 27 schools in our Diocese.
- † Our diocesan teachers continue to be engaged in the ongoing development of curriculum units accessible to colleagues through a shared data base. This data base has been reviewed nationally and is under consideration for implementation in dioceses across the country.
- † Religion teachers in our schools participate in the University of Dayton's on-line Virtual Learning Community of Faith Foundation (VLDF) program, in which they can enhance their learning on a wide range of religious education topics.
- † In August 2015, all schools implemented a new student information system called RenWeb. This program has strengthened the school-home connection by providing access to online grades and enhanced parent/school communication.
- † Eleven schools were awarded Bishop's Cross Merit Grants in 2015, totaling over \$40,000, to implement new and innovative projects across our schools, such as: creating a social justice fair, implementing a project using STEM sensors in the science classroom, and enhancing a band and choir program.

Students from the class of 2015 were accepted into a wide range of colleges and universities across the United States including:

St. Louis University, Vanderbilt University, Wake Forest University, Rhodes College, Emory University, Purdue University, New York University, Carnegie-Mellon University, University of Notre Dame, Washington & Jefferson College, University of Tampa, Rutgers University, University of Indiana, The Catholic University of America, University of Pittsburgh, University of Alabama, University of Virginia, University of South Carolina, University of Dayton, Coastal Carolina University, Xavier University, Washington & Lee University, University of Kentucky, Pennsylvania State University, Furman University, Kent State University, Drexel University, Loyola Marymount University, University of Toledo, George Mason University, Butler University, University of Arkansas, University of Rochester, University of Minnesota, John Carroll University, Kenyon University, Otterbein University, Old Dominion University, Virginia Tech University, University of Tampa, Belmont University, University of California-San Diego, University of Louisville, Oklahoma State University, Case Western Reserve University, The Ohio State University, Westminster College, Arizona State University, Johns Hopkins University, Gannon University, Wofford College, Full Sail University, Wooster College, High Point University, Roanoke College, Samford University, University of Cincinnati, Southern Methodist University, Point Park University, Concordia University, Bowling Green University, Texas Christian University, the Georgia Institute of Technology, West Virginia University, West Liberty University, University of Charleston, Fairmont State University, West Virginia Wesleyan College, Alderson Broaddus University, Bethany College, Marshall University, and Wheeling Jesuit University, the state's only Catholic institution of higher education.