

## Catholic Schools: Communities of Academic Excellence

We all want what's best for our children. Twenty-first century parents are savvy consumers and they want more for their children. Comparatively, Catholic schools provide academic rigor and better educational outcomes by developing the whole child – mentally, physically and spiritually.

Catholic schools offer comprehensive accredited curriculums that promote and foster academic achievement

for every child. In addition to strong programs in the academic basics, Catholic schools offer challenging programs for gifted students as well as specialized programs for exceptional learners. With smaller class sizes, Catholic school teachers are better able to address the needs of each child and encourage their students to discover their creativity and unique talents.

Amazingly, research dating back over 30 years indicates that academic excellence and character development are complimentary. To emphasize one and not the other would be a disservice to students. As faith-centered environments, Catholic schools impart both. The priority given to religious, moral and spiritual development is a significant plus.

Catholic schools engage in an ongoing process of evaluation, certification and accreditation of both teachers and programs. An emphasis of continuous improvement for teachers through regular professional development opportunities ensures their accountability and guarantees the maintenance of the traditional high standards of Catholic schools.

Research shows that Catholic school students develop more effective academic skills and score significantly above the national average on standardized tests.



*St. Joseph Satellite Site*

The latest data released from the National Center for Education Statistics for the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) indicates that eighth graders in our Catholic schools score an average of 12 and 20 points higher in math and reading (<http://bit.ly/2feqv2h>), 14 points higher in technology and engineering literacy (<http://bit.ly/2edWHR0>), and 17 points higher in history, geography, and civics when

compared to eighth graders in public schools. Also, twelfth graders in Catholic schools score an average of 20 and 26 points higher in math and reading (<http://bit.ly/2fElz8k>). Furthermore, these same twelfth graders will score an average of 45, 43, and 53 points higher on their math, reading, and writing SAT assessments (<http://bit.ly/2fd5C7s>), respectively.

Additionally, students in Catholic high schools have a 99 percent graduation rate with more than 90 percent attending college. Of those attending college, students who graduate from Catholic high schools are more likely to complete their degree program of study. Catholic schools have a proven track record of success in educating students from urban, rural and suburban settings.

Catholic education is challenging. High expectations of all students, fully-qualified and dedicated faculty, high standards and academic rigor, personalized attention and strong motivation result in higher academic outcomes and successful transitions to high school and college. Who wouldn't want this for their child? Catholic schools represent affordable excellence. Don't be afraid to share this information with your friends, family, neighbors and colleagues!