



Catholic Schools

Centered in Faith...
Focused on the Future

In June 2005, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops renewed their commitment to Catholic schools. The bishops state, "Catholic schools afford the fullest and best opportunity to realize the fourfold purpose of Christian education, namely to provide an atmosphere in which the Gospel message is proclaimed, community in Christ is experienced, service to our sisters and brothers is the norm, and thanksgiving and worship of our God is cultivated."

-Renewing our Commitment to Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools in the Third Millennium, June 2005

Centered in Faith

"Students attending the schools of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany are guided by the mission of Jesus, witnessing, sharing and growing in the faith community. In addition to excellent academic programs, the schools provide for the spiritual, intellectual, social, emotional and physical development of each child within the framework of Catholic Christian values to witness God's unconditional love and bring forth Christ's healing presence to our world."

-Mission Statement-

The purpose of the Catholic School Office is to empower school communities to inspire, serve, and educate all students in a faith-centered environment by envisioning and promoting excellence.

High Academic Standards

In addition to providing a safe, nurturing environment in which to learn, Catholic schools set high standards for students. Their academic achievements reflect those expectations. In 2009, all students grades 3 through 8 in the Diocese of Albany took the New York State assessments. 89% of those students met or exceeded the state standards in English Language Arts and 91% of those students met or exceeded the state standards in Mathematics.

High school students also continue to excel, as indicated by the increase in Regents Diplomas awarded. In 2008, 98% of Catholic high school graduates earned Regents Diplomas. 57% of the graduates from the Class of 2009 received Regents Diplomas with Advanced Distinction. This reflects the strong emphasis placed on strengthening academic programs at all of the high schools and on the consistent encouragement students receive from teachers to reach higher levels of performance.

The accreditation of Diocesan schools by the Middle States Association is another indication of the outstanding academic program offered at Catholic schools. In adherence to the Diocesan strategic plan, each school is required to undergo the Middle States Accreditation process. To date, eleven elementary schools and all four Diocesan high schools are accredited. The goal is for all schools to be accredited by 2010. Accreditation is an expression of confidence in an educational institution's mission and goals, its performance, and its resources. Middle States Accreditation is an important attribute for parents to consider when choosing a school for their children.

Emphasis on Technology

State-of-the-art technology is available in each school, many of which also have laptops, handheld computers and videoconferencing capabilities. Curriculum integration is key and teachers work diligently to incorporate technology creatively into their lessons to enhance learning and technical skills – no matter what the subject or student's age. Learning Technology Grants, grant collaborations and donations from private entities help to keep Catholic school facilities up-to-date and students competitive. The Catholic schools recently adopted PowerSchool, a web-based student information system. Upon full implementation, all students will be in a common data base, which will ease transition from school to school. Parents will also have easier access to their child's progress and updates from the school.

Statistics:

Schools

- 23 elementary schools
- 4 high schools

Students

- 6,395 students

Students by County

- Albany 2244
- Herkimer 122
- Montgomery 201
- Otsego 104
- Rensselaer 1607
- Saratoga 971
- Schenectady 837
- Warren 309

Teachers and Administrators

- 556 Teachers and Administrators in 27 schools
- 543 Lay people
- 13 Religious

Student Academic Achievement

Students Meeting or Exceeding State Standards

Elementary English Language Arts	89%
Elementary Mathematics	95%
Intermediate English Language Arts	89%
Intermediate Mathematics	87%
High School English Regents	95%
High School Mathematics Regents	90%
High School US History Regents	92%
Regents Diplomas	98%