

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

“Catholic Schools are at the heart of the Church.” (Congregation for Catholic Education, “The Catholic School on the Threshold of the 3rd Millennium, 1997)

The Catholic school has had a clear identity, not only as a presence of the Church in society, but also as a genuine and proper instrument of the Church. The Catholic school finds its true justification in the mission of the Church; it is based on an educational philosophy in which faith, culture, and life are brought into harmony. (Religious Dimension of Education in a Catholic School, 1988).

According to the General Directory for Catechesis (US 1998 edition, #259, p. 234), “The Catholic school is a most important *locus* for human and Christian formation. The declaration of the Second Vatican Council *Gravissimum Educationis* ‘makes a decisive change in the history of Catholic schools: the move from school as institution to school as community.’ Catholic schools ‘are no less zealous than other schools in the promotion of culture and in the human formation of young people. It is however, the special function of the Catholic school to:

- Develop in the school community an atmosphere animated by a spirit of liberty and charity;
- Enable young people, while developing their own personality, to grow at the same time in that new life which has been given them in baptism;
- Orient the whole of human culture to the message of salvation’.”

Similarly, in the National Directory for Catechesis (USCCB, 2005, p. 262), the United States Bishops state: “Catholic schools are vital to the Church’s mission of evangelization and catechesis. They exist in order to educate the whole person: mind, body, and soul. They present the totality of the Catholic faith. Whether Catholic schools are part of a parish structure or are regional, diocesan, or private, growth in the Catholic faith for the children and young people who attend them is essential to their identity and purpose.

A parochial school is an integral part of the total parish catechetical plan. It is an evangelizing community within the larger evangelizing community that is the parish. A parochial school depends on the parish of which it is a part to provide the ecclesial vision for its particular participation in the Church’s mission. As one of the components of the total catechetical effort of the parish, the parochial school should be in harmony with and complement the other catechetical programs offered by the parish. Similarly regional, diocesan, and private Catholic schools that are not affiliated with a specific parish should work in close collaboration with neighboring parishes.

The Catholic school should strive to integrate the Catholic faith into every aspect of its life. It seeks to relate all human culture to the news of salvation, so that the life of faith will illuminate the knowledge that students gradually gain of the world, of life, and of mankind. In Catholic schools, children and young people can ‘experience learning and living fully integrated in the light of faith.’”

In The Holy See’s Teaching on Catholic Schools (Archbishop J. Michael Miller, CSB; Secretary, Congregation for Catholic Education; Sophia Institute Press, 2006, p. 17 & 61) Archbishop Miller identifies “Five Essential Marks of Catholic Schools.” He writes: “Papal interventions and Roman documents repeatedly emphasize that certain characteristics must be present for a school to be considered authentically Catholic. Like the marks of the Church proclaimed in the Creed – one, holy, catholic, and apostolic – so, too, does the Holy See identify the principal features of a school as *Catholic*: a Catholic school should be inspired by a supernatural vision, founded on Christian anthropology, animated by communion and community, imbued with a Catholic worldview throughout its curriculum, and sustained by gospel witness.”

Archbishop Miller concludes, “The Holy See, through papal interventions and the documents of the Congregation for Catholic Education, recognizes the priceless treasure of Catholic schools as an indispensable instrument of evangelization.” “Within the context of the New Evangelization, Catholic Schools are needed now more than ever.” (Submitted by Archbishop Lucas, December 14, 2015, to the Vatican Congregation for Catholic Education.)

My Dear Co-Workers in Catholic Education,

The mission of Jesus on earth was “to teach.” His own words, “I am the WAY, the TRUTH, and the LIFE” indicate this. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, He continues that work through the administrators and teachers in our Catholic Schools today. Administrators and teachers share both this “mission” and “ministry” of the Catholic Church with the “total school community”...pastors, parents, and parishioners.

Catholic Schools in the Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas are parish and inter-parish Catholic schools, elementary and secondary, which operate in accordance with the principles and teachings of the Roman Catholic Church and established policies and procedures of the Archdiocese. This *Handbook of Policies and Procedures for Catholic Schools of the Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas* is the result of consultations among the Archdiocesan Superintendent of Schools, Pastors, principals and administrators of the schools and legal counsel. The provisions of this Handbook become effective with the 2023 fall semester.

The policies and procedures are normative for all Catholic Schools in the Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas and are designed to assist the schools in fulfilling their teaching mission and ministry and to comply with church and civil laws. This Handbook is also intended to provide guidance to pastors and administrators in developing policies and making decisions at the local level.

We can be tremendously proud of Catholic Education in our Archdiocesan Church. We are equally confident of the future of all Catholic Education, since it is an essential part of the “Mission” and “Ministry” of Jesus, the Divine Teacher.

Your special ministry—your vocation—is the Catholic School. You are “called” and “sent” by Jesus, through the Church, as were the apostles. You are, as the apostles, privileged to teach and to lead. You bear witness to the TRUTH; you bring LIFE, as Jesus did.

May you find great joy and peace in being a “co-worker” with Jesus and the Church in your vocation of providing Catholic education for our youth and young people.

Sincerely yours in Jesus, the Lord of Life,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Joseph F. Naumann". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann
Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas



Vision: To grow as disciples of Jesus, to make disciples for Jesus, who is the reason for our Schools, the unseen but ever present Teacher in our classes, the Model of our faculty, the inspiration of our students.

Purpose: Understanding that each child is a Masterpiece of God, created with precision for a specific purpose, the Catholic schools of the Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas provide an education that forms the whole person, so that all may attain their eternal destiny and promote the common good of society.

Catholic Schools of Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas

Mission: In partnership with parents, the Catholic schools of the Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas provide students with exceptional, Christ-centered students who are Joyfully Catholic, diligently achieving, and intentionally self-giving.

Core Principles: Joyfully Catholic, Diligently Achieving, Intentionally Self-Giving

Office of Catholic Schools

Mission: The Office of Catholic Schools assists pastors, school leaders, and teachers in forming students who are joyfully Catholic, diligently achieving, and intentionally self-giving, in environments that are prudently managed and forward thinking.

Core Principles: Joyfully Catholic, Diligently Achieving, Intentionally Self-Giving, Prudently Managed, Forward Thinking (See appendix The Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas Core Principles document for more information)