The Diocese of Knoxville
Living our Roman Catholic faith in East Tennessee

2012-2013
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS REPORT

Catholic Schools
of the
Diocese of Knoxville
Recognizing the vital ministry of Catholic education
to the future of the Church and nation.

2013... A Banner Year!
$23 Million in College Scholarships
43,000 Hours of Corporal Service
272 Graduating Seniors
240 Rising Freshmen
158 Scholar Athletes (GPA 3.75+)
156 Taking First Holy Communion
105 Duke TIP Participants
55 Science & Engineering Fair Winners
44 School Plays and Concerts
29 Counties Served through 10 Schools
24 Signing to Play Collegiate Athletics
14 National Merit Scholars
2 of the “Top 50” Catholic High Schools

dioknox.org/schools
Dear Parents, Guardians and the faithful of East Tennessee:

Greetings of grace and peace in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

With great joy and thanksgiving, this year our Diocese is celebrating our silver jubilee—twenty-five years of blessings. I continue to be amazed at the vibrancy of our Catholic church in East Tennessee as I approach my fifth year serving the Diocese of Knoxville. The ministry of Catholic school education is one of the many ways we fulfill the evangelizing mission of the Church. I frequently hear the youth is our Church of the future, but I say no, our youth is the Church of today.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my heartfelt gratitude to you, parents, guardians and parishioners of our Catholic school students for the commitment you have made to Catholic school education. The Catechism of the Catholic Church clearly states: “as those first responsible for the education of their children, parents have the right to choose a school for them which corresponds to their own convictions. This right is fundamental”. Catholic schools in East Tennessee have been providing parents with this fundamental right for the past one hundred years. But it is because of your dedicated support and willingness to choose this gift of Catholic school education that we continue to thrive. Catholic schools have historically been institutions of academic excellence and pillars of faith formation. I am proud to say this exemplifies our Catholic schools within the Diocese.

This 2013 Catholic Schools Report will present to you important information and statistics about our Catholic schools. We have much to be grateful for to Almighty God for all those, past and present, who have given so much effort to creating an environment filled with faith and academic excellence. Please keep this ministry and all of our ministries in your fervent prayer as we approach the New Year.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Richard F. Stika
Bishop of Knoxville
Dear Parents and Guardians:

As we have concluded our Year of Faith, 2013 has been marked by great changes including the election of our new Holy Father, Pope Francis. In Catholic school education, our schools have also met great change with revised accreditation standards and curriculum benchmarks. In 2012, the National Standards and Benchmarks for Effective Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools were created by the Center for Catholic School Effectiveness, School of Education at Loyola University and in partnership with the Roche Center for Catholic Education. These defining characteristics of Catholic Schools promote authentic Catholic schools of excellence.

Our ten Catholic Schools across the Diocese have fully embraced these standards in proclaiming their Mission:

- Centered on our relationship with Christ and our Catholic identity.
- Focused on a rigorous academic program of catechesis in the Catholic faith, and rooted in a comprehensive academic curriculum.
- Dedicated to faith in action through prayer, liturgical worship and service.
- Centered on respect for parents who are the first educators of their children and the knowledge that the Catholic school can be an integral part of faith formation for adults and children.
- Rooted in strong leadership and governance.
- Articulating a rigorous curriculum aligned with standards of 21st century skills and expectations.
- Facilitating the spiritual, social, emotional, physical and cognitive development of each child through programs, curricular and co-curricular that enrich student life.
- Centered on community.

Our Catholic schools have achieved numerous accomplishments this past year; you will see as you read our first Diocesan Catholic Schools Report.

What is the value of a Catholic Education? The value of a Catholic school education is priceless: it cannot be measured by worldly monetary treasure or value!

Thank you for believing in Catholic school education.

Because of Jesus,

Sister Mary Marta Abbott, R.S.M., Ed.S.
Superintendent of Catholic Schools
Before the formation of the Diocese of Knoxville, nine existing schools and one Montessori preschool were a part of the Diocese of Nashville with Mr. Stephen J. Hammond as the Superintendent. The Diocese of Knoxville was established on September 8, 1988, and during the transition period the nine schools remained under the supervision of the Diocese of Nashville.

In February of 1989, the new Bishop for the Knoxville Diocese, Anthony J. O’Connell, established a school transition committee chaired by Father Xavier Mankel. Soon after the Diocese of Knoxville was formed, a decision was made to close the Mount St. Catherine Learning Center, a Montessori preschool for students 4-6 years old located in Signal Mountain, Tennessee. Bishop O’Connell subsequently appointed Father Xavier Mankel as the Superintendent of Schools responsible for the following seven elementary schools and two high schools:

### Elementary Schools
- **Our Lady of Perpetual Help School** established in 1937 in Chattanooga has a current enrollment of 338 students in Pre K-8.
- **St. Dominic Catholic School**, located in Kingsport, established in 1945 has a current enrollment of 95 students in Pre K-5.
- **St. Mary’s School**, established in 1950 in Oak Ridge has a current enrollment of 162 students in Pre K-8.
- **St. Mary’s School**, (originally opened in 1911 at another location) with an enrollment of 135 students, located in Johnson City, was re-established in 1954 and currently has an enrollment of 185 students in K-8.
- **Sacred Heart Cathedral School** established in 1956 in Knoxville has a current enrollment of 698 students in Pre K-8.
• **St. Jude Catholic School** established in 1959 in Chattanooga has a current enrollment of 402 students in Pre K-8.
• **St. Joseph School** originally opened as Holy Ghost School in 1908 on Central Street, Knoxville. It was relocated in 1963 within Knoxville and has a current enrollment is 207 students in Pre K-8.

High Schools

• **Notre Dame High School** established in 1876 in Chattanooga has a current enrollment of 382 students in grades 9-12.
• **Knoxville Catholic High School** established in 1932 in Knoxville and relocated in 2000 to its present location in Knoxville has a current enrollment of 667 students in grades 9-12.

In the fall of 1997, the Diocese of Knoxville was pleased to open its 8th elementary school, **St. John Neumann Catholic School**, located in the Farragut area of West Knoxville with an opening enrollment of 73 students in grades K-3. St. John Neumann presently enrolls 298 students in Pre K-8. The Diocese currently has 10 Catholic Schools.

Since 1989 the Catholic Schools within the Diocese of Knoxville have continued to provide a solid education platform with devoted spiritual leadership. Numerous awards have been presented to the schools in recognition of academic achievement, promoting and maintaining a strong Catholic culture, and for community involvement and contributions. As an example, both high schools have been named to the prestigious “Honor Roll” as one of America’s top 50 Catholic high schools. Knoxville Catholic High School received the award in 2008 and again in 2012. Notre Dame High School received the award in 2010 and again in 2012. In addition, St. Joseph School and St. Mary’s School of Oak Ridge were recognized as Department of Education “Blue Ribbon National Schools of Excellence” schools in 2010; Sacred Heart Cathedral School and St. Jude School had previously received this distinction in 1991 and 1988 respectively.
OUR VISION

MISSION
Dedicated to teaching the mission of the Catholic Church, the Diocese of Knoxville Schools are faith-centered, academic communities focused on teaching the Good News of the Gospel by fostering growth spiritually, intellectually, emotionally and physically while preparing students to serve in a changing society.

VISION
The Catholic Schools of the Diocese of Knoxville, recognizing the vital ministry of Catholic education to the future of the Church and nation, will provide a learning environment that emphasizes quality education and spiritual growth for all.

CORE VALUES
The Diocese of Knoxville is dedicated to providing outstanding Catholic education to the students in our region. The following core values represent our priorities. These values impact every aspect of our schools:

**Catholic Identity** - Our schools are family-centered communities where all decisions, traditions, and teachings originate from our membership in the Catholic Church and are visible as we serve, pray, encourage, and support each other. We collaborate and problem-solve in positive ways while respecting the views and needs of others.
Service to God and Others - Our schools serve God by placing our personal needs second to the service of others. We believe that work has dignity and contributes to the community.

Dignity of Individual Persons - Our schools believe that God created each person with dignity and love. We believe that this God-given life should be supported and cared for from conception to natural death.

Honor and Integrity - Our schools are open, honest, and trustworthy. We seek to be fair and loyal to our calling, to those we serve, and to those who serve us. We seek to overlook the faults of others and continue to strive to love them as our Lord has asked.

Excellence - Our schools strive to do the very best in all endeavors. We prepare, support, and assist our students to glorify God and to be successful members of society.

Leadership - Our schools bring out the best in others through leadership and guidance in a collaborative and community-based environment. The love of God helps the growth of leadership.
ACCREDITATION

All ten of our Catholic Schools are fully accredited by the Tennessee State Department of Education. In addition, nine of our schools are individually accredited by AdvancED, an international accrediting agency that currently serves more than 32,000 parochial, private and public institutions in 37 states and over 70 countries.

The Diocese of Knoxville will apply for District accreditation through AdvancED in the fall of 2014 to promote District unity under the AdvancED accreditation standards and to ensure accreditation for all ten of the Catholic schools in our Diocese.

The AdvancED Standards for quality school systems are:

**Standard 1: Purpose and Direction**
The system maintains and communicates at all levels of the organization a purpose and direction for continuous improvement that commit to high expectations for learning as well as shared values and beliefs about teaching and learning.

**Standard 2: Governance and Leadership**
The system operates under governance and leadership that promote and support student performance and school effectiveness.

**Standard 3: Teaching and Assessing for Learning**
The system’s curriculum, instructional design, and assessment practices guide and ensure teacher effectiveness and student learning across all grades and courses.

**Standard 4: Resources and Support Systems**
The system has resources and provides services in all schools that support its purpose and direction to ensure success for all students.

**Standard 5: Using Results for Continuous Improvement**
The system implements a comprehensive assessment system that generates a range of data about student learning and system effectiveness and uses the results to guide continuous improvement.
FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

The value of a Catholic education is priceless. Our schools strive to be excellent stewards of the gifts and resources the Lord has provided. While school tuition is the main source of funding for our Catholic schools, all schools use any viable source available to secure funding and resources. These include: parish subsidy, annual fundraising efforts, endowment revenue, federal funding through Title programs, private grants and generous contributions.

Through these combined efforts, our schools attempt to make tuition affordable for all Catholic students. Catholic students who cannot afford the tuition have the opportunity to apply for tuition support—that is, financial support above and beyond the standard subsidy for all Catholic families—through their parishes in the Tri-Cities area and through the regional tuition support programs: Knoxville and Chattanooga Deanery tuition support funds. These schools and funds are supported by parish contributions, St. Mary’s Legacy Foundation grants, Catholic Education Trust Fund grants, waived subsidy contributions from families (this is where families donate their standard parish contribution back to the fund), contributions from parish/school fundraisers, and generous donations from supportive parishioners through the Second Collection for Catholic School Support, which began during the 2012-2013 school year and will occur every last weekend in August.

In total, over $3,400,000 was provided in support of our Catholic schools during the 2012-2013 academic year. The percentage of the students in our Diocese receiving additional tuition support is approximately 25.5%. Included in this number are those students who also qualify for free and reduced lunch, approximately 10%.

Giving on-line is now available at http://www.dioknox.org/schools/
OUR TEACHERS

The teachers and faculty members of the Catholic schools in the Diocese of Knoxville are dedicated to the spiritual and academic formation of their students. They strive to foster Christ-like virtues in each of their students and endeavor to help every student realize their unique, individual God-given gifts and talents. Teachers in our Diocese actively participate in many roles within the school from coaching to facilitating numerous co-curricular activities and projects.

53% of our teachers hold advanced degrees (Masters, EDS, JD or PhD). Professional teachers hold educators’ license in their respective areas from the State of Tennessee. All religion teachers hold a professional catechetical certificate from the Diocese. Prior to employment, all faculty members undergo a criminal background check and a child abuse clearance. In addition, all faculty members participate in the Diocesan Safe Environment Training program.

Faculty members are provided many opportunities for continual professional growth and development in current research-based best practices in pedagogy, curriculum and technology. In addition, this past year all employees in our Catholic schools began intensive catechetical training courses through Aquinas College in Nashville and sponsored by the Diocese Office of Catholic School Education. During this 2012-2013 year faculty members participated in the first two courses in a series of six courses that will be completed over the next three years.

RELIGION PROFILE

Faculty in Elementary Schools

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Catholic</th>
<th>Non-Catholic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>76%</td>
<td>24%</td>
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Faculty in Secondary Schools

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Catholic</th>
<th>Non-Catholic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>58%</td>
<td>42%</td>
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</table>
ETHNICITY PROFILE

Ninety-five percent of the elementary schools’ faculty members are Caucasian with less than two percent each of Hispanic or African American ethnicity and one percent Asian.

Ninety-five percent of the secondary schools’ faculty members are Caucasian, three percent are African American and two percent are Hispanic.
GENDER AND LAY/RELIGIOUS PROFILE

Elementary Full and Part-time staffing

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Professional Staff</th>
<th>Full-time</th>
<th>Part-time</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Female Religious</td>
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<tr>
<td>Male Religious</td>
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<tr>
<td>Clergy</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lay, Male</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lay, Female</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
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Secondary Full and Part-time staffing

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<th>Professional Staff</th>
<th>Full-time</th>
<th>Part-time</th>
<th>Total</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Clergy</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lay, Male</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lay, Female</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>105</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We have three Religious communities serving in six of our ten schools:

Dominican Sisters of Saint Cecilia Congregation (aka: Nashville Dominicans)
Serving at Saint Mary, Oak Ridge; Knoxville Catholic High School, Knoxville and Notre Dame High School, Chattanooga

Missionary Congregation of the Evangelizing Sisters of Mary (aka: Evangelizing Sisters)
Serving at Sacred Heart Cathedral School, Knoxville and Saint John Neumann, Farragut

Religious Sisters of Mercy of Alma, Michigan (aka: Sisters of Mercy)
Serving at Saint Joseph School, Knoxville and as the Superintendent of Catholic Schools
OUR STUDENTS

Our students are the reason for our schools’ existence. Our schools, located in Knoxville, Chattanooga, Kingsport and Johnson City, serve 36 counties in East Tennessee. Currently, these schools serve 3,420 preschool to grade twelve students representing approximately 2,747 families from various cultural, ethnic, religious and socio-economic backgrounds. The geographic and cultural differences across our region create rich and vibrant environments for our students to grow and flourish.

The Diocese of Knoxville Catholic school students learn in an atmosphere framed by Gospel values. Our students are taught to be accepting of diverse cultures and encouraged to develop a broad interest in service to their fellow men by living the spiritual and corporal works of mercy. Our students receive the academic foundation required to master the challenge of a complex and ever-changing society.
The ethnic distribution of our student population indicates that 85% of our students are Caucasian, 7% are Hispanic, 4% are Asian, 2% are African-American, and 2% are multi-racial.

**ETHNICITY PROFILE**

The religious affiliation of our students is defined in the following manner: approximately 90% are Catholic in the Knoxville area, approximately 89% are Catholic in the Chattanooga area, and in the Tri-Cities area approximately 75% are Catholic.

**RELIGION PROFILE**
STUDENT PROFILE

The male/female distribution in the entire diocese is 50.5% male and 49.5% female. The social economic demographic compilation of our students ranges from the poverty level to families whose incomes reach the upper income brackets.

Approximately 19% of our students have special learning needs. In addition, 8% of our students have a first language that is not English. They are served within our schools to the highest degree that individual schools can provide with the resources available.

Early Childhood programs increase the number of potential students for our elementary schools as well as provide a very important service to the community. Currently, early childhood programs exist in seven of the eight elementary schools compared to only two preschool programs in 2005.

Of the 3,420 students in the diocesan schools, 210 or 6% of those students are enrolled in the preschool programs.
Our rigorous curriculum and high expectations produce outstanding results. Student performance data is collected, analyzed, disaggregated and evaluated for continuous improvement. The elementary schools utilize Iowa Assessments, a nationally norm-referenced standardized series of assessments to evaluate student progress. Students in the Diocese of Knoxville elementary schools perform in the top 15% of schools across the nation. In 2012-2013, the Diocese of Knoxville elementary schools students were administered the newly normed assessment, Iowa Form E that reflected increased standards and a greater level of difficulty. As in previous years, student performance exceeded national norms in all areas and across all grade levels. Approximately 90% of students who attend a Catholic elementary school in the Knoxville and Chattanooga areas continue on to a diocesan high school. Students who have matriculated from our elementary schools are prepared for a challenging instructional program in high school whether attending one of our high schools, a public high school or another parochial/private institution. The two secondary schools, one in Knoxville and one in Chattanooga, provide a comprehensive college preparatory curriculum. The ACT assessment program is used to evaluate student progress. Our students consistently exceed national, state and local composite scores. The current composite average for both high schools is 25, compared to the national average of 21 and the state average of 19.

Currently, 78% of high school students are enrolled in Advance Placement or college-credit classes. Of this 78%, 81% scored 3 or better on the advanced placement courses offered. One hundred percent of our high school graduates attend college and 86% of these graduates receive scholarships. In 2013, 272 graduates received $23 million in scholarship awards, with approximately 90% of these scholarships awarded for academic achievement.

Our students are competitive in a number of regional, state and national academic awards. In 2012-2013, the following achievement accolades were awarded to students in our Catholic schools:

- 14 National Merit Scholars
- 24 high school students signed to play collegiate athletics
- 1 Grand Champion in the Southern Appalachian Science & Engineering Fair and 12 winners of various science fair awards of excellence
- 3 UTC Science Fair winners
- 5 award recipients in the Tennessee History Day
- 55% of our 7th grade students qualified for the Duke Tip (Talent Identification Program) with several students receiving State and Grand recognition for their high scores on the college admission exams, ACT or SAT.
- 17 second grade poets published in the Anthology of Poetry by Young Americans
- 2 students placed 7th and 8th in the nation on the National French Language Exam
• 1 student placed in the top 1% in the nation in Latin and 2 received consecutive gold medals in the Latin National Language
• 1 student placed 5th in the state and 3 students placed in the 95th percentile on the Spanish National Language Exam
• 3 students placed in the TMTA math competition
• 5 student winners in the Technology Student Association state competition in the following areas: Music production, Career Preparation, Debating Technological Issues, Extemporaneous Speech, Architectural Renovation
• 9 students placed in the 2013 Young Southern Student Writers Contest
The Iowa Assessments are administered to students in grades one through eight. The assessments include achievement assessments in the following categories: Reading, Language, Vocabulary, Word Analysis, Listening, Mathematics, Computation, Social Studies and Science. An English Language Arts (ELA) total is provided by the composite score of reading, language and vocabulary. A math composite score total is compiled by the math assessments including concepts and problem-solving. In addition, students in grades 3, 5 and 7 are administered the Iowa Cognitive Abilities Assessment. Students are evaluated on their reasoning performance in the areas of Verbal, Quantitative and Non-Verbal. Teachers use these scores to compare student’s cognitive ability to their actual achievement. The tables below chart the national percentile ranks of student performance in 2012-2013. The national percentile rank is a scale from 1-99 with a score of 50 being the median score.
IOWA COGNITIVE ABILITIES TEST

The Iowa Cognitive Abilities test is administered in grades 3, 5 and 7 and assesses students’ cognitive ability in the areas of verbal reasoning, non-verbal reasoning and quantitative reasoning. The Cognitive Abilities Test charts are represented by the students’ age percentile rank rather than their grade level percentile rank. These scores assist in determining student achievement compared to the predicted cognitive achievement level.
ASSESSMENT OF CATHOLIC RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND OTHER STUDENT PERFORMANCE MEASURES

The schools in our Diocese also administer a number of other curriculum-based and standardized performance evaluation assessments. These assessments vary from school to school, but include the following:

- Assessment of Catholic Religious Education-Grades 5 and 8
- Star Reading, Star Math and Star Early Literacy
- TCAP Writing Assessment-Grades 5 and 8
- Algebra I End of Course State Assessment

In those schools where these assessments are administered, students perform exceptionally well. Scores are above state and national averages on all assessments.

ACT PERFORMANCE DATA

Diocese of Knoxville
Five Year Trends-Average ACT Scores

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<th>Grad year</th>
<th>English</th>
<th>Mathematics</th>
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<th>Science</th>
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<td>2009</td>
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<td>22.3</td>
<td>23.8</td>
<td>23.0</td>
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<td>2010</td>
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<td>2011</td>
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<td>23.7</td>
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<td>2012</td>
<td>25.3</td>
<td>23.0</td>
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<td>2013</td>
<td>26.0</td>
<td>23.3</td>
<td>25.9</td>
<td>24.4</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
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</table>

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATES

Our high schools are committed to preparing students for college and career readiness. The graduation rate is 100%. In 2013, our high school students received $23 million in scholarships. High school seniors have been accepted into over 105 of the most prestigious colleges and universities in the country, as well, as obtained commissions into the armed forces and armed forces academies.
CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Our students are well-rounded individuals where individual gifts and talents are nurtured and developed through a wide spectrum of athletic, academic, artistic and spiritual clubs and activities. Co-curricular clubs and organizations vary from school to school and demonstrate the rich tapestry of opportunities unique to each school. Listed below are some of the clubs and activities found in the schools.

Elementary/Middle School
- Art/clay
- Choir
- Lego Robotics First
- Orchestra
- Science Olympiad
- Band
- Culinary
- Math Club
- Rosary Club
- Service
- Beta Club
- Drama Club
- Nat. Junior Honor Society
- Scholar’s Bowl
- Spanish Club

High School
- Art Club
- Chorus
- Latin Club
- National Honor Society
- Scholar’s Bowl
- Technology Student Association
- Band
- French Club
- Mock Trial
- Philosophy Club
- Spanish Club
- Yearbook
- Blarney Stone Press
- Interact
- Mu Alpha Theta
- Robotics First
- Theater Club
- Y-Teens

Awards and Recognition
- KCHS Scholar’s Bowl ranked 2nd out of 56 teams in the PBS Scholars’ Bowl
- KCHS Mock Trial Best Witness and Best Attorney in the region
- NDHS Technology Student Association is the only private school TSA organization in the state.
- NDHS student elected to a State TSA office and another student nominated for national office.
ATHLETICS

In 2013, our high schools had 158 scholar athletes with GPA’s of 3.75 or higher. Athletic teams and activities include football, basketball, soccer, tennis, cheerleading, softball, baseball, swimming, volleyball, lacrosse, cross-country, golf and wrestling. Knoxville region elementary/middle schools established Catholic Youth Swimming.

This year our schools varsity athletic teams achieved the following awards:

K-8 Athletic Accomplishments

- OLPH Soccer team won the Co-ed League Division title
- SJN KISL boys varsity basketball tournament champions
- SJN KISL girls varsity basketball tournament champions
- SJS KISL boys varsity basketball League Champions
- St. Jude’s track and field conference champions
- SHCS Tennis Team City County champions two years consecutively
High Schools’ Athletic Accomplishments

- Student runner-up in the A/AA State golf tournament
- Boys’ golf team District champions and Runner-up in the Region
- Girls’ volleyball team District champions and Runner-up in the Region
- Cross country team 3rd in the Region
- Girls’ soccer team District champions and state finalists for 8th consecutive year
- Football made it second round of the playoffs
- Cheerleaders first place winners in Fusion Cheer & Dance Competition
- Student placed 2nd in the State Wrestling Tournament at 126 lbs.
- Boys’ tennis team, District and Region Champions, had an undefeated season and placed 2nd in the State
- Girls’ tennis placed 2nd in the District
- Tennis coach, Gary McIntyre was named the Time/Free-Press Coach of the Year
- Boys’ soccer team District and Region champions proceeded to State quarterfinals
- Faculty Jim Schermerhorn awarded the TSSAA A.F. Bridges Coach of the Year
VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS

Appreciation of truth and beauty are integral components to our curriculum. The Arts provide a natural vehicle through which students can explore and express themselves and through which they can discover and interpret the world around them. Participation in the visual, fine and performing arts contributes to students’ life and learning in an important way — it involves intense engagement, development of motivation and confidence, and the use of creative and dynamic ways of thinking and knowing. Through the study of dance, drama, music and visual arts, students have the opportunity to develop creative and critical thinking and expression. Students develop aesthetic appreciation and learn how to communicate that appreciation. Every school provides annual theatrical and/or musical productions and artistic endeavors. Additionally, in 2013, students in our Catholic schools participated in the Scholastic Art Awards, Bijou Awards and had art displayed in numerous festivals and art museums including the Dogwood Arts Festival, Chattanooga Market, University of Tennessee Hospital Cancer Center and the Knoxville Regional Fine Arts Museum Exhibit.

Awards and Honors in the Arts

- 2 Scholastic Art Photography awards
- 1 Silver Key Scholastic Art Award for 3D Shoe Sculpture
- 1 student received All State Band award
- 3 students received the All East Band awards
- 1 student in All East Honor Choir
MUSIC MINISTRY, CONCERTS, MUSICALS
PLAYS AND PRODUCTIONS

Our student choirs and bands lead the music ministry in their individual schools throughout the year in over 169 Masses, monthly First Friday Benedictions, weekly Stations of the Cross during Lent, as well as providing music for numerous school assemblies, religious devotions such as May Crowning, athletic games and other events. Our students sing, strum, dance clap, snap and giggle in joyful praise to our Lord every day. In addition, our schools have presented the following community concerts and productions.

- 9 talent shows
- Grease
- Alice in Wonderland
- The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe
- Sing Down the Moon
- 9 Advent/Christmas Concerts
- 9 Spring Musical Concert
Catholic school education is strong academically, relevant for future preparation and rooted in faith formation. Our schools strive to foster a life-long commitment to prayer, service and ministry. In fulfillment of its mission to live out Gospel teachings, students in the diocesan schools participate daily in the life of the Church through religious instruction, public and private prayer, and reception of the sacraments. Students utilize their gifts to serve in all aspects of liturgical ministry, such as lectors, extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist, cantors and altar servers. Our second grade classrooms fully prepare the students to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. Beginning in middle school, our students also participate in religious retreats. All the schools in the diocese require students to participate in service hours correlated to the corporal works of mercy. In 2013, students throughout the diocese completed over 41,000 hours of corporal and community service. Listed below are some of the ministries our students have served this past year:

- American Heart Association
- Catholic Charities
- Columbus Home
- Habitat for Humanity
- Knoxville Rescue Ministry
- Lafollette Food Drive
- Salvation Army
- St. Jude Children’s Hospital
- Ulster Project

- American Cancer Society
- Christmas Stocking Collections
- Family Promise
- Haiti Outreach
- Ladies of Charity
- Pregnancy Help Center
- Second Harvest
- Uganda Nursery School
LOOKING AHEAD

In 2010, the principals of the ten Catholic Schools with the Superintendent developed a five year strategic plan for the Catholic schools. At that time, it became evident to fully achieve the strategic goals, the Superintendent and Principals would need additional professional expertise in the area of curriculum and instruction. The vision of our Bishop to increase evangelization throughout the region has been evident in the growth of Catholics across East Tennessee. Catholic schools are an integral part of parish ministry and essential to the evangelizing mission of the greater Church. The geography of our Diocese can make unity difficult, but our Bishop has expressed his desire that all of the Catholic schools should operate in a more unified, cohesive manner rather than ten separate entities. It is also important to understand the changing face of education with increased accountability in student performance, as well as, national changes in curriculum standards. Catholic schools must evaluate all of these educational reform initiatives to determine if they align with our mission as Catholic schools and discern the appropriate direction for our students based on the values inherent in Catholic education. In order to fully realize our future goals, the Catholic Schools Office has hired Mrs. Sedonna Prater to be the Director of Curriculum and Instruction. She will assist the Superintendent in her authoritative and consultative role with Catholic school pastors and principals to achieve Catholic identity and academic excellence throughout the Catholic schools. Assisting Sister Mary Marta Abbott and Sedonna Prater in the Catholic Schools Office is Marie Garvey, administrative assistant.

Currently, all ten of our Catholic schools are accredited by the state of Tennessee and nine of our Catholic schools are accredited by the regional accreditation organization AdvancED. Looking forward, with the establishment of a Director of Curriculum and Instruction, our Diocese will apply for District Accreditation through AdvancED in 2014. This will help to realize our Bishop’s goal of greater unity within the Catholic schools across the Diocese.

For the current 2013-2014 academic school year, the Superintendent and the Director of Curriculum and Instruction have defined the following goals and initiatives:

1. Develop the Reading/English/Language Arts (ELA) Curriculum Standards and Performance Expectations for Reading/ELA PreK-Grade 12.
2. Develop a Diocesan Standards-based report card for grades K-3.
4. Create a Diocesan Policy and Procedural Manual for English Language Learners within our schools.
5. Develop a Catholic Schools Report for the Diocese of Knoxville.
6. Review the current religion curriculum and revise as needed.
8. Develop a Diocesan textbook adoption cycle.
9. Analyze and review the Catholic textbook initiative for Social Studies.
10. Review and revise Diocesan Policies and Procedures
11. Implement the revised Diocesan Policies and Procedure Handbook for students with special needs.

As you can see, we have quite a lot planned. It is an exciting time for our schools with great opportunity. Our work in the Catholic Schools Office potentially impacts hundreds of students annually and any educator can tell you that is what it is all about--working together to help students develop and realize their unique, God-given talents.