



Catholic Schools

ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022





“We want to educate you, to have a useful and happy life. We want you to be able to contribute to the world around you and we are training you for that. But more important, and in addition to that, we want you to know God, to love God, and to spend eternity with Him. ...I expect you to be saints, scholars, and apostles.”

– Bishop Flavin, 1986

Dear Friends in Christ,



In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus underlines the dignity of Catholic Education when he states: “Whoever obeys and teaches these commandments will be called the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven.” There is no greater duty in the faith than to share the faith with others. In fact, it is a corporal work of mercy to “instruct the ignorant,” because through teaching we are informing His children of the incredible love that God has for them, and we are helping to form them to live in a way consistent with the plan for Christian living. Jesus revealed for humanity.

It is for this reason, as we begin a new academic year, I am so proud of our Catholic Schools and our Catholic Educators. They are the heartbeat of our diocese and the hope for our future. Through their witness every single day, teachers and administrators go into our schools and reveal the love of God to their students. By their example, they proclaim the truth of our salvation, and they form the new generations of Catholics who will carry the torch after us.

I am so grateful for their untold sacrifices, and I’m continually in awe of the good work they have been able to accomplish, time and time again.

Entrusting all of our schools, teachers, administrators, faculty, and support staff into the arms of our Blessed Mother, Our Lady Seat of Wisdom, please know of my prayers for each one you, as I remain,

Sincerely in Christ,

The Most Rev. James D. Conley, Bishop of Lincoln





Did you know?

48 priests and 37 religious sisters are teachers or administrators in our schools.

Their presence is a witness of a life consecrated to Christ and his Church and their vibrant and enthusiastic witness helps encourage young people to consider religious and priestly vocations. Their presence in our schools is a grace to the vitality and health of our entire diocese.



IDENTITY

Distinctly Catholic

Catholic schools are important. And our continued commitment to them is more critical now than ever with the state of the world.

The Diocese of Lincoln has been dedicated to the apostolate of Catholic education from its very beginning. And because of the efforts of parents, teachers, pastors, and bishops, our schools have done extraordinary work to fulfill our mission.



Guiding Principles

The Diocese of Lincoln has long been committed to these five important principles regarding Catholic schools:

- 1. Faithful:** Catholic schools should be faithful to Gospel, and to the teachings of the Church.
- 2. Formative:** Catholic schools should be concerned with formation of the whole person: intellectually, morally, socially, and spiritually.
- 3. Apostolates of the Community:** Catholic Schools should be apostolates of the entire community and supported by all parishes and Catholics in the diocese.
- 4. Affordable:** Catholic schools should be affordable to all in that no child should be turned away because of an inability to pay.
- 5. Engagement of Priests and Religious:** Priests and religious should play a central role in the education of our students and the leadership of our Catholic schools.

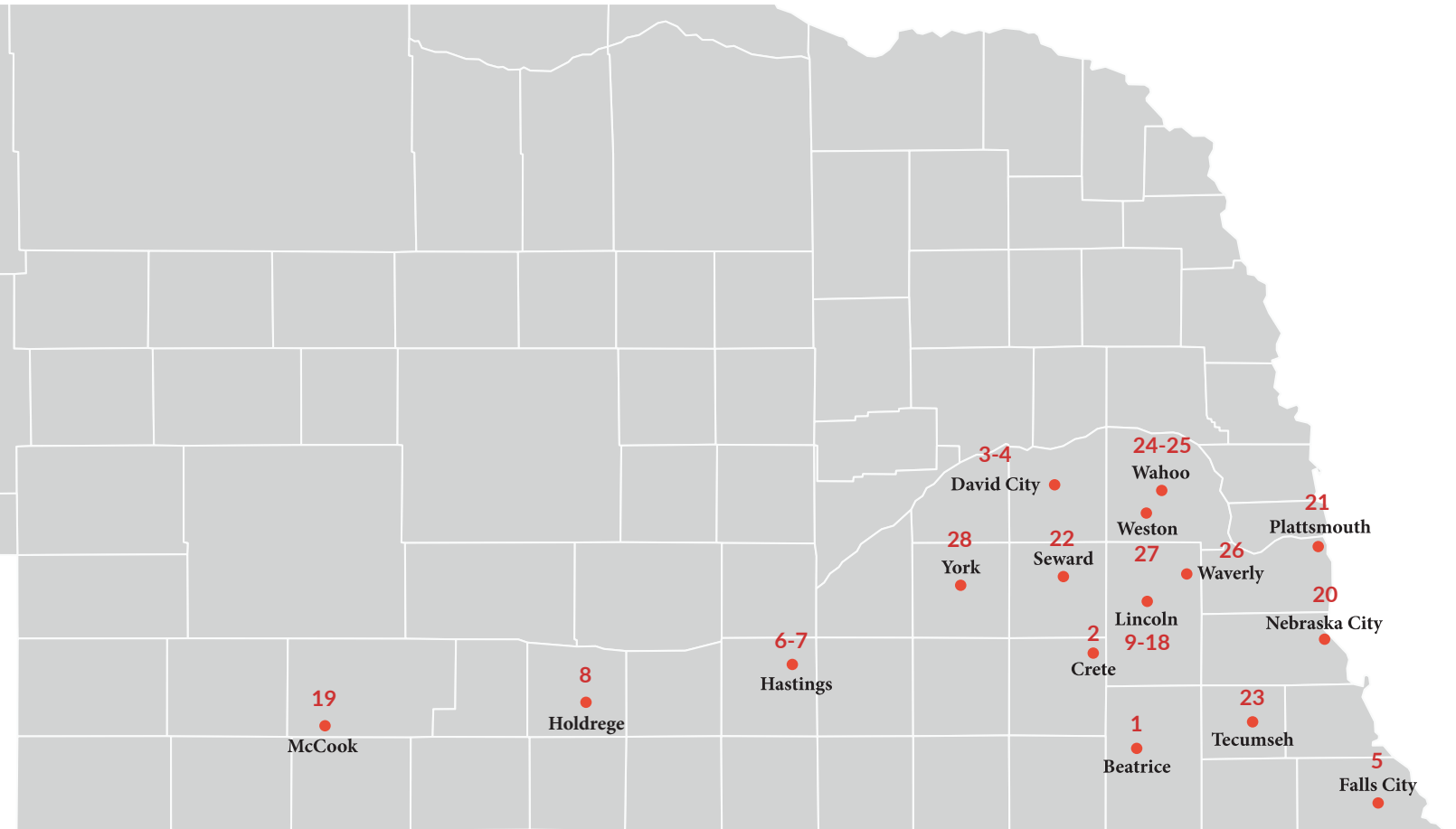
Because of our diocesan commitment to these principles, the Catholic schools of our diocese are strong and fruitful, thriving centers of the Christian life, forming generations of students for lives of holiness and excellence. We should be proud of our schools and grateful for the sacrifices and leadership that has made them thrive. We can see their fruit in the priests, religious, and faithful Catholics of the Diocese of Lincoln, who are earnestly striving to glorify the Lord through the holiness of their lives.

“... because of the efforts of parents, teachers, pastors, and bishops, our schools have done extraordinary work to fulfill our mission.”

— excerpt from Bishop Connelly's Apostolic Letter on Education

Our Elementary and High Schools

“Catholic education has an important role in the evangelization and renewal of our culture and it starts in our homes and continues in our schools.”



School	City	Grade
1 St. Joseph	Beatrice	K-5
2 St. James	Crete	K-6
3 Aquinas	David City	7-12
4 St. Mary	David City	K-6
5 Sacred Heart	Falls City	K-12
6 St. Cecilia	Hastings	7-12
7 St. Michael	Hastings	K-6
8 All Saints	Holdrege	K-4
9 Blessed Sacrament	Lincoln	K-8
10 Cathedral	Lincoln	K-8
11 North American Martyrs	Lincoln	K-8
12 Pius X High	Lincoln	9-12
13 St. John	Lincoln	K-8
14 St. Joseph	Lincoln	K-8

School	City	Grade
15 St. Michael	Lincoln	K-8
16 St. Patrick	Lincoln	K-8
17 St. Peter	Lincoln	K-8
18 St. Teresa	Lincoln	K-8
19 St. Patrick	McCook	K-8
20 Lourdes	Neb. City	K-12
21 St. John the Baptist	Plattsmouth	K-8
22 St. Vincent de Paul	Seward	K-4
23 St. Andrew	Tecumseh	K-6
24 Bishop Neumann	Wahoo	7-12
25 St. Wenceslaus	Wahoo	K-6
26 Villa Marie	Waverly	K-12
27 St. John Nepomucene	Weston	K-6
28 St. Joseph	York	K-8

Education in Action

In a Catholic school, when it is living out its mission and identity, children not only learn the doctrines of the Catholic faith, but are introduced to Jesus as a living Person. This only happens when everyone at the school – from parents to custodians, teachers to office staff – is on the same page. It only happens when the Catholic identity is explicit in every way and the mission of sharing the Good News of the Gospel is incorporated into every class, every sporting event, indeed, every event that takes place within the school walls. In other words, teaching and living out the Faith can't be something relegated to Religion class.

This goal of evangelization, of forming disciples of Jesus, flows from and back to explicit catechesis, the teaching of the faith. They both can organically exist and deepen in the setting of Catholic school. If this environment is saturated with the Father's love, if each person is growing in his or her own personal relationship with Jesus, and if the school is unabashedly Catholic, grace will flow.

What an incredible opportunity it is to have a captive audience for 8 hours a day, 9 months of the year to foster this relationship between our Lord and the children entrusted to our care. Catholic education has an important role in the evangelization and renewal of our culture – it starts in our homes and continues in our schools.



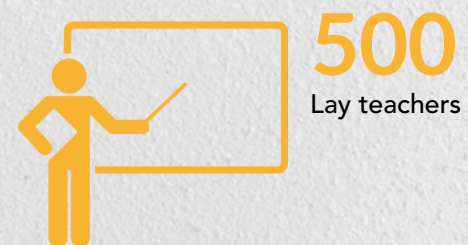
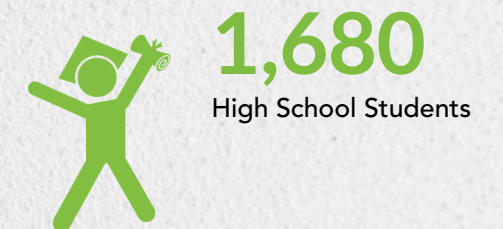
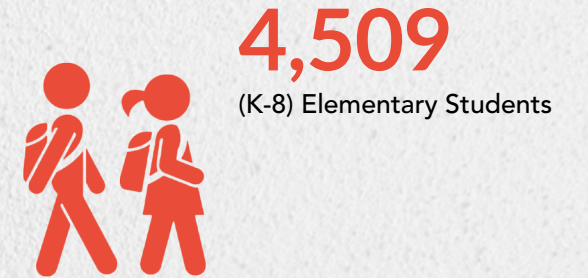
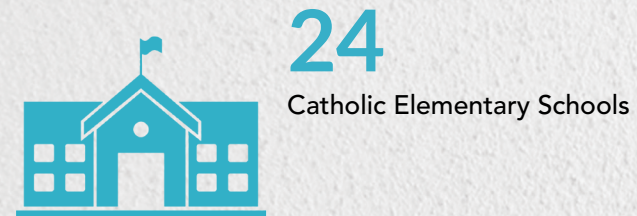
Making an Eternal Impact

"Father, I just had to tell you this story. This morning at breakfast, I walked in and saw Katie eating at the table by herself and there were several pieces of cereal sitting next to her bowl. I told her, 'Just be sure to clean up your mess when you're done.' She replied, 'Ok, Mom, I will, but that's not a mess. Fr. Kaup told us during Mass at school that we can invite Jesus to eat with us, and since I'm eating by myself today, I did that. So this is my cereal and that's Jesus' and I'm just sitting here talking to him.'"

This family had entered the Catholic Church a few weeks prior, led there because they enrolled this little first grader in our Catholic school. This is the impact of Catholic education and is just one small snapshot of its power to form disciples of Jesus Christ.

— Fr. Ryan Kaup, Teacher at Lourdes Central Catholic School

Catholic School Facts



Eternal Impact

Invested in YOU

In the Diocese of Lincoln, we place the largest portion of our resources into our Catholic Schools. The largest number of our priests and religious sisters, largest number of our personnel, and the largest portion of the collections each and every Sunday, in most parishes throughout the Diocese, *is invested in you.*

Why? Because you are worth it!

The Church is in the business of making saints. And it makes those investments so that you, and students all throughout the diocese, may become the saints that you were made to be. *Because we believe in you.* But, even more so, *we trust you.* We trust that you will make the most of this opportunity that has been given to you each day, each hour.

We thank our many supporters, from parents paying tuition to parishioners making Sunday donations and individuals who don't even live in our diocese, who have responded to the graces that have been entrusted in them and financially support our Catholic schools. These generous partners make it possible to keep tuition affordable and share the message of the Gospel with all people.

Thank You!

As economies are ever-changing and cost to education always on the rise, the Diocese of Lincoln will always be invested in you.



The Church ... makes those investments so that you, and students all throughout the diocese, may become the saints that you were made to be. Because we believe in you.

Average Cost to Educate 2021-2022*

Funding Catholic schools in the Diocese of Lincoln has always been and remains a dynamic partnership between parishes, families, and generous supporters. We show our commitment to Catholic education by working together to ensure that tuition is affordable for all families, knowing that our schools produce much fruit for the future of our Diocese and the Catholic Church at large.

Over the past 3 years, average tuition has been increased in Diocese of Lincoln Catholic schools to accommodate for the rising cost of education per student. Though our funding model has changed ever-so-slightly, our tuition remains extremely affordable when compared to national Catholic school averages. The increase in tuition also relieves some burden from parishes that generously work to fund schools and allows schools to compensate teachers competitively.

THANK YOU for your support of Catholic education on every level!

Average Tuition (per student)	\$ 2,682.00
Average Parish Investment (per student)	\$ 3,350.00
Average Other Funding Needed (per student)	\$ 1,618.00
Average Total Cost to Educate (annual, per student)	\$ 7,650.00

*Based on FY2022 reports received thus far.



The Good Shepherd Scholarship Fund exists to provide tuition assistance to Catholic school families most in need across the Diocese of Lincoln.

Families with more than 3 students enrolled or those whose income falls within 225% of the Federal Poverty Level can receive scholarships. The Good Shepherd Scholarship Fund is a key element in ensuring that the Lincoln Diocese maintains its longstanding commitment to excellent, faithful, and affordable Catholic education for all students, regardless of their family's ability to pay tuition.

1 in 4

students in Lincoln Diocesan schools who receive Good Shepherd Scholarships

\$6+ million

scholarship funding awarded since 2019

1,500

approximate scholarships given each year for amounts up to 75% the cost of tuition.

100%

graduation rate of scholarship recipients

Consider supporting the Good Shepherd Fund: There are approximately 1,500 students waiting for you to invest in their future – both their present and eternal future. Any investment, large or small, will make a Catholic education that much more accessible for all children in our diocese. **Learn more at goodshepherdscholarship.com.**



PRAYER FOR LINCOLN DIOCESE SCHOOLS

O Christ, our Teacher, We thank you for the gift of Catholic schools, where the message of your life, death, and resurrection is proclaimed, discipleship is modeled, worship of you is cultivated, and community is experienced.

Increase our zeal for ensuring that all children and families can benefit from an authentic Catholic education, and that Catholic schools grow in their ability to nurture the souls and form the minds of its students for generations to come.

We ask this through the intercession of Our Lady, Mother of Catholic Schools.

Amen.

