Catholic school students regularly attend Mass together.
Catholic education is centered in Jesus Christ and rooted in the Gospel. In light of Christ’s instruction, “Love one another as I have loved you,” our Catholic schools focus on more than academics. They concentrate on forming all aspects of students’ lives, including their relationships with their families and classmates, with the local and global community, and, especially, with Jesus Christ. Students are impelled to embrace a Gospel-driven lifestyle of service, sacrifice and respect. It is this emphasis on teaching the whole student — mind, body and spirit — that sets our schools apart and lays the foundation for all students to become the complete and holy persons God intends them to be.

Many schools in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee have been remarkable examples of Christ-centered student development, including St. Monica School in Whitefish Bay, which has implemented a Discipleship Development Program, and St. Thomas More High School in Milwaukee, which has developed a Servant Leadership Program.

It is our emphasis on Christ-centered student development that sets our schools apart.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS IN THE ARCHDIOCESE OF MILWAUKEE BEGAN 175 YEARS AGO
In teaching the learners of today and the leaders of tomorrow, Catholic schools play a vital role in spreading the mission of the Church. As communities where faith, culture and daily life are harmoniously integrated, Catholic schools welcome students who are not Catholic and are committed to enthusiastically sharing the traditions and teachings of Catholicism with all.

In the Catholic schools of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, non-Catholics comprise 18 percent of the total archdiocesan elementary and secondary school enrollment. In many cases, non-Catholic students have chosen to become part of the Catholic community, such as at Eden’s Shepherd of the Hills School, where 5 students and 3 parents of students were baptized during the 2015-16 academic year. Catholic school students are also more likely to join religious orders*, enter the seminary, or otherwise become actively involved in Church leadership than students who do not attend Catholic schools. Milwaukee’s St. Anthony School and Catholic East Elementary School have been particularly strong in their efforts to promote religious vocations among their students.

*Source: CARA report
We welcome non-Catholics into our schools and our spiritual community.
Academic excellence is a major hallmark of a Catholic school. This tradition of intellectual formation and scholarship dates back centuries. For more than 170 years, Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee have been known for their high academic quality. This tradition of excellence continues to be manifested in the standardized test scores and post-graduate success of today’s Catholic school students, 97 percent of whom go on to college. These outcomes are no accident. Catholic school leaders and teachers are steadfast in their efforts to meet the learning needs of all students and ensure their success.

Biannually, the Archdiocese of Milwaukee highlights its commitment to excellence through its Exemplary Recognition Program. Based on guidelines from the National Standards and Benchmarks for Effective Catholic Schools, these awards honor schools that apply and merit recognition in: Academic Excellence, Educating the Whole Student, Mission and Catholic Identity, or Technology Integration. For 2015-16, three schools won Academic Excellence awards: St. Robert in Shorewood; St. John Vianney in Brookfield, and St. Eugene in Fox Point.

Students from the Archdiocese of Milwaukee are also typically well represented in the Herb Kohl Foundation Awards, a grant program that encompasses the entire state. This year, four of our students won Student Excellence Scholarships: Maureen Burke of Waukesha Catholic Memorial, Brian Coe and Madeline Shea of St. Catherine School in Racine and Luke Holzman of St. Mary’s Springs Academy in Fond du Lac. Candelario Tellez of St. Catherine School in Racine received a Student Initiative Scholarship. Additionally, two principals won Excellence in School Leadership Awards: Mr. Jeff Monday of Marquette University High School and Mrs. Donna Schmidt of Messmer St. Rose and St. Mary.
Over 97 percent of Catholic school students go on to college.
Catholic school education is rooted in the conviction that human beings have a transcendent destiny and that education should be about the whole person. Therefore, Catholic schools form the spiritual, intellectual, physical, psychological, social, moral, aesthetic and religious aspects of each student. To accomplish this, the Catholic schools of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee have developed a wide variety of co-curricular, faith-formation and service/ministry initiatives at both the elementary and secondary school levels.

Education Doesn’t End in the Classroom

Our Catholic schools have also invested in professional development programs designed to help teachers and staff meet students’ needs in all aspects of their lives. Through the Greater Milwaukee Catholic Education Consortium (GMCEC), we have been able to offer seminars and workshops sponsored by area Catholic colleges and universities on such topics as trauma response, early childhood education, special education, English language learning and technology integration for Catholic school personnel.
Our schools educate the whole person.

The arts are important in Catholic education.
Catholic education aims at the formation of the complete person. This includes preparation for professional life, development of ethical and social awareness, and religious formation. Every aspect of a Catholic school spurs students to grow in the discipline to become a self-learner, the ability to recognize moral behavior and the responsibility to transform the world with Gospel values. A Catholic school teaches students to view both secular and religious topics from a Catholic perspective.

The STEM curriculum in the schools of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee is a relevant example of this. Rather than teaching the four disciplines (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) as separate and discrete subjects, our STEM programs integrate them into a cohesive learning paradigm based on real-world applications and grounded in Catholic social teachings. By presenting the subject matter in this way, we give students the skills to understand global issues, such as environmental impact and medical research, and respond in ways that reflect a Catholic worldview.

We also encourage the cultivation of a Catholic worldview through student service organizations, such as the Tablesitters Catholic School Teaching Program at St. Francis Borgia in Cedarburg, as well as the St. Hyacinth Food Pantry and the House of Peace student mission program at Pius XI Catholic High School. Additionally, there are three International Baccalaureate schools in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee: Catholic Memorial High School, St. Joan Antida High School and Wauwatosa Catholic. In all of our schools, the curriculum focuses on helping students develop the intellectual and emotional skills necessary to thrive in a global community.
Catholic schools recruit teachers who are practicing Catholics, who understand and accept the teachings of the Catholic Church and the moral demands of the Gospel and who can contribute to the school’s Catholic identity and apostolic goals, including its commitment to social justice and evangelization.

The Archdiocese of Milwaukee fosters its teachers’ faith through the Sustaining the Mission religious education certification program provided through the Saint Clare Center at Cardinal Stritch University. Every year, more than 2,000 of our elementary and secondary school educators are formed in the faith through the systematic, coherent curriculum of this program, which is delivered during scheduled teacher in-service days. Other professional development programs include an annual Literacy Day for all teachers, as well as regular curricular update sessions, most recently in English / Language Arts and the revised Science and Family Life curriculum. Learning Support Teams and Early Childhood programs, sponsored in collaboration with the GMCEC, guide teachers in their efforts to assist students in their personal goals and overall development. Other innovative programs, grounded in our commitment to expand the personal and professional capacity of both students and teachers, include the Discovery Project, online and face-to-face blended courses for high achieving eighth graders, and the Future Leaders Seminar, sponsored by the Institute for Catholic Leadership at Marquette University, aimed at developing the interests and skills of potential future leaders for our Catholic schools.

Teachers are role models of faith for their students.

**Sustained by Gospel Witness**
“The first duty of a teacher is to form Christians ... Society needs people of virtue more than people of learning.”

Blessed Basil Moreau, C.S.C.
Catholic education puts an emphasis on the school as a community: a community of faith, a community of learning, and a community of care. Catholic schools do everything possible to promote trust and collaboration among teachers and parents, always mindful that parents are the primary educators of their children.

Our schools are also actively engaged with their parishes. In fact, 70 of the Milwaukee Archdiocese’s 94 elementary schools have a 1:1 relationship with a single parish, while the other 24 elementary schools and the 15 high schools develop relationships with local parishes in varied ways. Parish life is integral to our Catholic schools, and Catholic schools are integral to our parishes. Every parish, regardless of whether a Catholic school is on-site or not, has a commitment to Catholic education. Archbishop Listecki has emphasized that every parish has a Catholic school.

The end-goal is to build up a community of excellence in faith, learning and care.
Given their mission of evangelization, Catholic schools make themselves available to all people who want a quality Catholic school education for their children. Working within the broader Catholic and civic communities, Catholic schools maximize their use of available resources and find innovative options to make Catholic education accessible and affordable for all students.

In the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, this access is achieved through a variety of scholarships and initiatives. The St. Gerard Scholarship program, offered at select schools on Milwaukee’s south side, is one example. Criteria for this scholarship include Catholic values, academic performance, service to parish and community and financial need. Similar programs exist throughout the archdiocese. As a system-wide fundraiser for tuition support, the archdiocese conducts the Soles for Catholic Education Walk every year. Held at Mount Mary University, it brings together students, families and community members for a two-mile fundraising walk, with all proceeds going toward individual school initiatives and tuition assistance.

Almost half of our Catholic elementary schools and almost all of our high schools participate in one or more of the Parental Choice programs available in the state of Wisconsin. These programs provide tuition vouchers for parents who apply and are eligible for this form of tuition assistance.

Students from all backgrounds are invited to receive a quality Catholic school education.
Catholic schools make themselves available to all who want a Catholic school education for their children.

Catholic schools are communities of faith, learning and care.
Archbishop Jerome E. Listecki oversees the Archdiocese of Milwaukee’s 92 elementary schools and 15 high schools, ensuring that each offers a program of rigorous academics and a broad-based, multi-faceted education steeped in Catholic values. Actively putting into practice his vision of making Catholic education sustainable, affordable and accessible, the archbishop dynamically and regularly promotes our Catholic schools.

Under Archbishop Listecki’s leadership, the Archdiocese of Milwaukee’s system of schools has flourished and grown. The recently-founded Seton Catholic Schools, comprised of 26 Milwaukee County schools, is a network aimed at strengthening the academic excellence, evangelization, and organizational efficiencies of its member schools. A similar school network is being developed for the Catholic schools in Racine.

Each year, the elementary schools of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee participate in a review process to ensure continued strength in academics and faith and are accredited by the Wisconsin Religious and Independent Schools Accreditation Association and the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. This rigorous accreditation process is based on the National Standards and Benchmarks for Effective Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools.

“Archbishop Jerome E. Listecki

“...Our Catholic schools teach young people how to live the Gospel through their actions, not just their words. These students are not only our next generations of Catholic disciples, but will also become active citizens, business men and women, and leaders in our communities. They will fill our pews and be the example of faith, knowledge and service to others.”

Archbishop Jerome E. Listecki

Rooted in History and Catholic Identity

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

TOTAL ENROLLMENT of ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS 23,664

TOTAL ENROLLMENT of HIGH SCHOOLS: 7,108

OVER 200 7th & 8th GRADE STUDENTS ARE TAKING CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL COURSES

24.68% OF STUDENTS ARE HISPANIC OR LATINO

637 PROFESSIONAL STAFF IN SECONDARY SCHOOL

TOTAL ELEMENTARY and MIDDLE SCHOOL PROFESSIONAL STAFF 2,015

SCHOOLS WITH WAITING LISTS 26

LIFE. LESSONS.

LOCATION OF SCHOOLS:

RURAL: 33
URBAN: 28
SUBURBAN: 23
CENTRAL: 18