

Exemplary Recognition Program

2019 - 2020





The Archdiocese of Milwaukee has a commitment to excellence and continued school improvement that ensures the best learning possible for our Catholic elementary and high school students. The Exemplary Recognition Program, based on the *National Standards and Benchmarks for Effective Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools*,* honors schools that have demonstrated innovation and outstanding results in one of the following categories:

- **Academic Excellence**
- **Educating the Whole Student**
- **Mission and Catholic Identity**

Schools chosen to receive Exemplary Recognition display outstanding achievement in one of the areas above, as demonstrated by information provided in the online application and data validated by an onsite visiting team.

General Program Outline:

- Information for the Exemplary Recognition Program is available on the Schools page of the Archdiocesan website biennially in the year prior to the Educators' Convention.
- Schools seeking Exemplary Recognition must be fully accredited.
- Completed application narratives are due to the Office for Schools no later than the end of January in even-numbered years.
- All application narratives will be reviewed by the Office for Schools. If a school demonstrates exemplary status in a qualifying area, it will be selected for a site visit to validate the data submitted. Site visits take place the second semester.
- Award winners will be announced in early June of even-numbered years.
- Awards will be distributed at the biennial Catholic Educators' Convention in October.
- Awards are valid for 5 years.

EXEMPLARY RECOGNITION CATEGORY: ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Please describe, in narrative form, how your school meets and/or exceeds the criteria listed below.

CURRICULUM

1. The curriculum adheres to archdiocesan policies/guidelines, and there is a process in place for purposes of realizing gaps and overlaps in content and to ensure rigorous and coherent expectations for all students.
2. There is evidence that the curriculum in all content areas is rooted in Catholic values through the integration of the religious, spiritual, moral, and ethical dimensions of learning in content and pedagogy.

INSTRUCTION

3. Students use critical thinking skills to plan and conduct research, manage projects, solve problems, apply knowledge of technology operations and concepts, and make informed decisions based on Gospel values using appropriate digital tools and resources (7.4).
4. *Classroom instruction is designed to engage and motivate all students, addressing the diverse needs and capabilities of each student and accommodating students with special needs as fully as possible (7.6).*
5. *Classroom instruction is designed to intentionally address the affective dimensions of learning, such as intellectual and social dispositions, relationship building, and habits of mind (7.5).*
6. Teachers use their knowledge of subject matter, teaching and learning, and technology to facilitate experiences that advance student learning, creativity, and innovation (7.6)
7. Teachers design, develop, and evaluate authentic learning experiences and assessments incorporating contemporary tools and resources to maximize content learning in context (7.6).

ASSESSMENT

8. *School-wide and aggregated student data are normed to appropriate populations and are shared with all stakeholders (8.2).*



9. Assessments reflect a comprehensive set of practices that analyze, inform, and drive student learning (8.3).
10. Grading practices are in place that ensure grades reflect evidence of student learning based on standards (8.4).

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

11. Faculty collaborate in learning teams to develop, implement, and continuously improve the effectiveness of curriculum, instruction, and assessment practices to assure the highest levels of student achievement.
12. *Faculty and professional support staff demonstrate and continuously improve their knowledge and skills for effective instruction, cultural sensitivity and modeling of Gospel values (7.9).*
13. Teachers continually improve their professional practice, model lifelong learning, and exhibit leadership in the school and the professional community by promoting and demonstrating the effective use of digital tools and resources (7.9).

EXEMPLARY RECOGNITION CATEGORY: EDUCATING THE WHOLE STUDENT

Please describe, in narrative form, how your school meets and/or exceeds the criteria listed below.

1. *School-wide programs for parents/guardians provide opportunities for parents/guardians to partner with school leaders, faculty, and other parents/guardians to enhance the educational experiences for the school community (9.1).*
2. *Guidance services, wellness programs, behavior management programs, and ancillary services provide the necessary support for students to successfully complete the school program (9.2).*
3. Students understand human, cultural, and societal issues related to technology and are guided in its use by the teachings of the Catholic Church.
4. *Co-curricular and extra-curricular activities provide opportunities outside the classroom for students to further identify and develop their gifts and talents and to enhance their creative, aesthetic, social/emotional, physical, and spiritual capabilities (9.3).*
5. *Classroom instruction is designed to intentionally address the affective dimensions of learning, such as intellectual and social dispositions, relationship building, and habits of mind (7.5).*
6. Students use digital resources and environments to communicate and work collaboratively to support individual learning and contribute to the learning of others.
7. *Classroom instruction is designed to engage and motivate all students, addressing the diverse needs and capabilities of each student, and accommodating students with special needs as fully as possible (7.6).*
8. *Faculty and professional support staff demonstrate and continuously improve knowledge and skills necessary for effective instruction, cultural sensitivity, and modeling of Gospel values (7.9).*
9. *Faculty use the lenses of Scripture and the Catholic intellectual tradition in all subjects to help students think critically and ethically about the world around them (2.5).*
10. *Catholic culture and faith are expressed in the school through multiple and diverse forms of visual and performing arts, music and architecture (2.6).*



11. *The leader/leadership team articulates a clear mission and vision for the school, and engages the school community to ensure a school culture that embodies the mission and vision (6.2).*

12. Administrators and teachers understand local and global societal issues and responsibilities in an evolving digital culture and are guided in its use both professionally and personally by the teachings of the Catholic Church.



EXEMPLARY RECOGNITION CATEGORY: MISSION AND CATHOLIC IDENTITY

Please describe, in narrative form, how your school meets and/or exceeds the criteria listed below.

THE MISSION AND VISION STATEMENT

1. Describe in detail the process your school community followed to develop your mission statement. Include the mission statement as part of your response.
2. Provide at least one account of a debate or discussion among members of your school community in which your mission determined a fundamental decision or aspect of school operation.
3. Explain how your school mission statement is comprehensively reviewed and evaluated by school stakeholders each year.
4. Describe, as specifically as possible, your school's vision and its impact on school planning.

RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION

5. Provide at least 2 – 3 examples of ways in which your school's mission impacts teachers' approaches to religious instruction.

SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT AND CULTURE

6. Provide a "map," graphic organizer, or other depiction that reflects the integration of Catholic identity into all aspects of school life and culture.
7. How do displayed artifacts and the environment as a whole consistently reflect the school's commitment to its essential tradition, spirituality, and mission? To support this response, submit either a 3-minute video (without sound track) or no more than 12 photographs/slides (submit to Maureen Wurster at wursterm@archmil.org).



8. Using specific examples, explain how Catholic social teachings are integrated into all grade levels and various curricular areas beyond single service projects.

LITURGY, PRAYER, AND SPIRITUAL LIFE

9. Identify and describe the ways in which multiple forms of prayer are integrated, in age-appropriate ways, into the life and culture of your school community.
10. Describe how the faculty and staff's spiritual and religious growth and development are fostered by organized school programs. Provide specific examples of the ways in which faculty and staff members assume leadership roles in this effort. How many faculty and staff are involved?
11. In what ways is the liturgical experience of the school developed and integrated into all aspects of school life including community outreach and parental involvement?
12. Describe your retreat program(s) for students and faculty.

SERVICE AND GOSPEL WITNESS

13. Provide examples of the school's outreach to people on the margins of your community.
14. Describe how your school's service efforts include reflection, preparation, and intentional connection to Catholic social teachings.
15. In what ways do faculty, staff, and other adults in the school/parish community participate in the school's service initiatives?
16. Describe the process your school uses to assess its graduates' personal integration of faith-based knowledge, dispositions, and skills; i.e., students in the current 8th grade or senior class.



APPLICATION PROCESS

1. Complete the online application narrative for the relevant category. Go to www.schools.archmil.org, click on the *Educators* tab, then *Exemplary Recognition*, and then the appropriate ERP category. Describe, in detail, how the school meets or exceeds the category's criteria.
2. Submit the application narrative to the Office for Schools no later than January 31, 2020.
3. Schools demonstrating exemplary status in the selected category will be chosen for a site visit during the second semester of the 2019-2020 school year.
4. Winners will be announced early in June 2020.
5. Exemplary Recognition awards will be presented at the Milwaukee Archdiocesan Catholic Educators' Convention in October 2020, and are valid for 5 years.

If you have any questions, please contact:

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*The *National Standards and Benchmarks for Effective Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools*, Center for Catholic School Effectiveness, School of Education, Loyola University Chicago, in partnership with the Barbara and Patrick Roche Center for Catholic Education, Lynch School of Education, Boston College (2012).