

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC  
**ARCHDIOCESE OF ATLANTA**



## Office of Catholic Schools Annual Report

2018-2019

# *Faith, Family & Excellence*

As you read this, we in the United States will be closing out an academic year like no other. This report, however, focuses on the 2018-2019 school year, from a time before any of us had ever imagined that a virus could spawn a crisis that would upend our entire educational system.

No matter where they attend, Catholic school students in the Archdiocese of Atlanta begin their school day in prayer. The encounter with Jesus Christ is entwined into the fabric of Catholic education. Excellent faith formation for our young people is also conveyed through educational programs in which the love of God and neighbor are encouraged. Students learn respect for themselves and others as well as the value of a challenging curriculum that prepares them for their vocation in life.

So many people contribute to the success of our schools and students. The Archdiocese of Atlanta recognizes the outstanding leadership of our pastors, administrators, teachers, and staff in forming the young people in our schools. I commend also the generous and talented personnel in the Office of Catholic Schools. The mission-driven collaboration at every level ensures that all students are amply equipped in character development, leadership, and our precious Catholic faith. In addition, students learn to make a difference by serving their community through volunteering and school-sponsored service.

Because of their students' hard work and cooperation, Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Atlanta are recognized for the quality of their faith formation and academic preparation. This is possible because of the many ways our parishes, our parents, and the wider community offer their support to schools and students. These many supporters are a blessing to our schools, as is the GRACE Scholars program. You can read more about GRACE Scholars in the pages of this report.

Finally, I ask you to join me in prayer for the health and strength of all our school communities. These schools continue to adapt their programs and to steward their resources amid significant challenges. Let us offer our thanks to God for the ways that they shape futures and bestow blessings. May the Holy Spirit lead us to still-deeper learning and humble service in Christ Jesus.

+ *Joel M. Konzen, S.M.*

Bishop Joel M. Konzen, S.M.  
Diocesan Administrator



## *Mission Statement*

As a service of the Archbishop of Atlanta, the Office of Catholic Schools provides support, assistance, and guidance for the administrators, faculties, local school councils, and parents in order to promote and to enhance the educational ministry of the local Church.







Dear Friends and Supporters of Catholic Education,

Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Atlanta continue to strive for excellence as we partner with our parents to provide solid faith formation and outstanding academic preparation to all students. Our teachers intentionally weave our faith and values into every aspect of our students' educational experiences in order that they view what they are learning through the lens of our Catholic faith.

An important component of our Catholic faith is service to others. Our schools provide regular service opportunities to all students in order that they live what they hear in their classrooms and what they

witness in their homes. *"Our life spreads light when it is given in service. The secret of joy is living to serve."* (Pope Francis). Facilitated by their teachers and principals, our students provide a shining light in the lives of so many individuals who have been touched by the generosity of our school communities.

Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Atlanta provide an academic education second to none. As we continue to increase our efforts to promote STREAM (Science, Technology, Religion, Engineering, Art and Math) activities in our schools, our students continue to excel in academic performance. Our students outpace their public school counterparts in all measures of academic achievement. Once again, our archdiocesan high school graduates received a record number of academic scholarships to post-secondary institutions; in addition, we proudly claim a 100 percent graduation rate again this year.

The Archdiocese of Atlanta continues to be recognized annually with schools receiving U.S. Department of Education Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence Status. The number of our students recognized as National Merit Scholars continues to reflect the excellence of our academic programs. The successes our students achieve in college and beyond make us proud to claim them as alumni.

I wish to thank Bishop Joel Konzen, S.M. our archdiocesan administrator, who so adeptly assumed additional duties when our former shepherd, Archbishop Wilton D. Gregory, was named the Archbishop of Washington, D.C. While maintaining a demanding schedule, Bishop Konzen always found time for our schools. Regular visits to all of our schools to celebrate Mass with our students by both Bishop Konzen and Bishop Bernard E. Shlesinger III enhanced the spiritual growth of our students, teachers and staff members.

Thank you to everyone who so generously supports the mission of Catholic education in the Archdiocese of Atlanta – especially our generous benefactors and sponsors of our annual Archbishop's Education Banquet.

We truly are blessed to work with extraordinary and hard-working students, supportive parents, and caring and highly-qualified teachers and support staff members in all of our schools. Our commitment to the pursuit of excellence in all that we do remains one of our highest priorities. For all of the above, serving as the Superintendent of Schools for the Archdiocese of Atlanta remains my most profound professional honor.

With much gratitude,

*Diane Starkovich, Ph.D.*

Diane Starkovich, Ph.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

### *Archdiocesan* School Advisory Council

Marcos Arias, Chair  
Robert Heilmann, Vice Chair  
Paula Brosnan  
Reverend Jim Duffy, S.M., Pastor  
Augusto Elias  
Cathy Kennedy Harris  
Stacy Lewis  
Maureen McAbee  
Beth Clark Morrison  
Michelle Raney  
Mark Uebelacker  
Craig Wade

Saint Jude the Apostle Catholic Church  
Saint Clare of Assisi Catholic Church  
Saint Jude the Apostle Catholic Church  
Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Church  
Cathedral of Christ the King  
Saint John the Evangelist Catholic Church  
Cathedral of Christ the King  
Saint Jude the Apostle Catholic Church  
Saint Thomas More Catholic Church  
Saint Peter Chanel Catholic Church  
Saint Jude the Apostle Catholic Church  
Saint Brigid Catholic Church



Diane Starkovich, Ph.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

Connie Urbanski, Ed.D.  
Associate Superintendent

Brian Dooling  
Director of Marketing  
& Enrollment

Nancy Dilly  
School Psychologist

Donna Tomlinson  
Assistant to the Psychologist

Debra Wheeler  
Program Specialist

Laura Schwartz  
Receptionist

Mary Jo Nichols  
Director of  
Parish Preschool Program

## Student Demographics

School Year 2018-19

Total Enrollment – 7,816

Elementary – 5,475

High School – 2,341

Minority – 26%

Catholic-Non-Catholic – 88% - 12%

National School Lunch Program Qualified – 8%

Learning Needs – 9%

High School Graduates in 2019 – 571

High School Graduation Rate – 100%

College Scholarship Totals\* – \$67,742,134

(\*exclusive of HOPE)



# Catholic Schools in the Archdiocese of Atlanta (AoA)

## ACRE Scores 2019

5th Grade				
Domains	AofA Average	National Average	Catholic School Average	Parish Average
Knowledge of Faith	80.5	72	74	61
Liturgical Life	78.1	70	73	54
Moral Formation	85.5	79	80	71
Prayer	75.9	66	69	53
Communal Life	80.2	72	75	62
Missionary Spirit	71.2	55	58	41
Pillars				
Creed	79.6	70	73	59
Liturgy and Sacraments	77.4	68	71	54
Morality	80.8	72	73	63
Prayer	75.5	65	67	53
Group Average	79.2	70.1	72.6	58.4

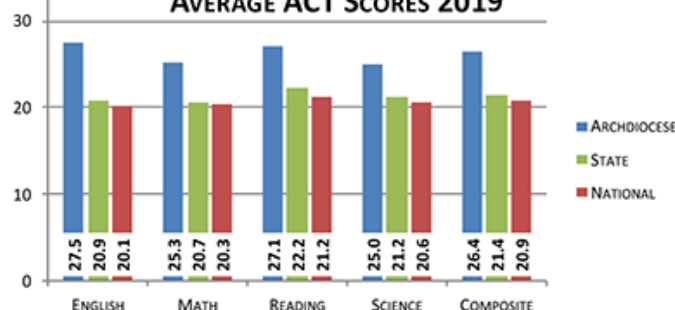
8th Grade				
Domains	AofA Average	National Average	Catholic School Average	Parish Average
Knowledge of Faith	79.3	71	75	54
Liturgical Life	75.7	69	72	57
Moral Formation	84.8	81	83	71
Prayer	80.6	73	75	61
Communal Life	73.6	62	65	49
Missionary Spirit	84.0	76	79	60
Pillars				
Creed	77.4	69	72	52
Liturgy and Sacraments	76.4	69	72	56
Morality	84.4	79	81	68
Prayer	80.6	73	75	61
Group Average	80.0	72.8	75.6	59.3

12th Grade				
Domains	AofA Average	National Average	Catholic School Average	Parish Average
Knowledge of Faith	78.1	60	60	43
Liturgical Life	80.0	61	61	43
Moral Formation	85.5	65	65	54
Prayer	86.6	69	69	61
Communal Life	87.1	66	66	55
Missionary Spirit	81.1	67	77	52
Pillars				
Creed	83.7	71	72	59
Liturgy and Sacraments	82.3	71	72	62
Morality	84.6	72	72	65
Prayer	73.3	67	68	59
Group Average	82.8	64.3	64.4	50.6



Archdiocese of Atlanta 2019 Iowa Assessment National Percentile Rank (NPR)								
Core Composite								
K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
93	78	83	80	83	81	81	83	84
Language Arts Total								
K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
91	86	81	83	86	86	86	89	87
Math Total								
K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
92	79	87	80	82	81	79	79	82
Social Studies Total								
K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
*	78	80	77	81	79	76	81	79
*								
Science Total								
K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
*	82	85	80	82	77	77	75	77
*								
*Subject not assessed at this grade level								

## ARCHDIOCESE OF ATLANTA AVERAGE ACT SCORES 2019



**2019 Advanced Placement Exams**  
983 Students • 2,135 Exams • 27 Subjects  
3.3 Average Score





## Tuition Assistance



# Catholic Schools

## GRACE Scholars

Georgia taxpayers can make a no-cost contribution to GRACE Scholars, a Student Scholarship Organization (SSO) founded by the bishops of Georgia. GRACE Scholars provides Catholic schools scholarship dollars to award to students with financial need. Contributions are "no cost," as they are eligible for a 100 percent tax credit against state income taxes.

In school year 2018-19, \$5.4 million was contributed from donors throughout the state, of which \$3.7 million was collected right here in the Archdiocese of Atlanta. As a result, 762 students in archdiocesan schools received \$2.7 million in scholarship dollars for the 2018-19 school year.

## Archbishop's Banquet for Catholic Education

Through the generosity of sponsors for the annual Archbishop's Banquet for Catholic Education, the Office of Catholic Schools awarded six scholarships in the amount of \$3,500.00 each to children of school, parish, and chancery employees in the 2018-19 school year.

## Financial Aid Funding Sources

During the 2018-19 school year, applicants for financial aid demonstrated need totaling \$11.2 million dollars. Through archdiocesan and local school efforts, \$9.1 million dollars, or 81 percent, of the need was satisfied, easing the financial strain for families wishing to secure a Catholic education for their children.

● Archdiocesan financial aid	\$2,800,000
● Local tuition assistance	\$3,300,000
● Other aid	\$1,300,000
● GRACE (One-Year Award)	\$1,700,000

**Total assistance awarded \$9.1 Million**

Archdiocesan Catholic Schools are supported by parishes through an assessment of approximately 10.9 percent of parish ordinary income. These resources are used to reduce construction mortgages for five schools built in 1999-2000 and to provide tuition assistance to Catholic families.



## School Tuition and Cost to Educate Rates

Archdiocesan Median Catholic Tuition Rates:

- Elementary - \$7,983
- Secondary - \$12,700

Archdiocesan Median Cost to Educate\*

- Elementary - \$9,734
- Secondary - \$14,596

*\*Includes bond subsidy for Catholic Education North Georgia, Inc. (CENGI)*

## Federal Program Participation

Archdiocesan Catholic Schools participate in several federally funded compensatory programs to provide services to students and professional development for faculty and staff.

Title I	\$126,315.00
Title II (A)	\$212,457.39
Title III	\$10,740.55
Title IV	\$95,008.50
E-rate	\$154,442.60
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$598,964.04</b>

## Office of Catholic Schools Revenue Sources

The services provided by the Office of Catholic Schools are predominantly funded in three ways: the archdiocesan budget, school pupil assessment (\$34 per student), and the Archbishop's Annual Appeal.

● Archdiocesan Budget	\$404,100
● Pupil Assessment	\$270,000
● Archbishop's Annual Appeal	\$50,000
● Other	\$134,100

**Office of Catholic Schools Expenses \$858,200**

