Central to the mission of the Church is the work of Catholic school education.

The National Standards and Benchmarks for Effective Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools (NSBECS)
OUR MISSION

Essential to the educational ministry of the Church, the Catholic Schools of the Diocese of Sioux City are fulfilling the Church’s mission to teach as Jesus did. Together with the support of parents, teachers, administrators, clergy, parishioners and the community at large, we are committed to providing an education rooted in the Gospel of Jesus Christ where Catholic doctrine and values and academic excellence prepare each student for a life of faith, service and integrity.

Our schools are noticeably and joyfully Catholic with prayer throughout the day, daily religion instruction and weekly Mass. We celebrate the sacraments and our students interact with religious men and women. We employ devotional practices, participate in service opportunities and promote vocations.
There are 16 Catholic School systems in the Diocese of Sioux City serving infants, toddlers, and students Pre-K through 12th grade in northwest Iowa.

Schools are located in Algona, Alton, Boone, Carroll, Danbury, Denison, Emmetsburg, Fort Dodge, Humboldt, LeMars, Pocahontas, Remsen, Sheldon, Sioux City, Spencer, and Storm Lake.

The Breakdown
83 - Under 3
589 - Preschool aged
2655 - Grades K-5
1083 - Grades 6-8
1388 - Grades 9-12
550 Faculty and Staff
30 Administrators
The Catholic Schools throughout the 24 counties are proud to serve our changing populations. Varying in size, schools are located in both urban and rural areas and offer opportunity for every child to learn and grow in faith, knowledge and service.

We know that all things work for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.
Romans 8:28
All Catholic schools in the Diocese of Sioux City are accredited by the Iowa Department of Education and meet or exceed all state standards. To further promote our Catholic schools’ mission, all schools are evaluated using the National Standards and Benchmarks for Effective Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools.

Teachers committed to working for the Diocese of Sioux City Catholic schools are required to be licensed through the Iowa Board of Educational Examiners of Instruction and are required to maintain current status by renewing those licenses on a five-year cycle. The Diocese of Sioux City Catholic schools office, in collaboration with local administration, provides support, mentoring and coaching for our beginning teachers.
Faith is the core of our Catholic education. It is what sets us apart from other local schools. We help develop and foster a relationship with Christ. We immerse our students in dynamic way that they can grow closer to Christ and serve others. Faith is incorporated into every subject. Daily prayer, weekly Masses, Eucharistic adoration, rosaries, prayer services, reconciliation, sacramental preparation and interaction with the religious men and women ensures that faith is not only taught but lived.
SERVICE

This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.
John 15:12

All our Catholic school students participate in service projects and servant leadership opportunities. By serving others and their local communities, our students build a foundation of faith and knowledge of the greater good. They continue to put their faith in action by making a difference in the lives of their neighbors and global communities. Our students continue to be active in their faith well past their Catholic school years.
Our educators are focused on providing a learning community that emphasizes service to others and a rigorous academic curriculum. Our staff works collaboratively to cultivate an environment of educational excellence by building relationships, teaching critical thinking, opportunities to discover and develop their God-given talents while maintaining high academic standards.
Ready for Tomorrow

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. 
Jeremiah 29:11

Class of 2021 graduated 312 students from our 7 high schools
98% of our graduates are continuing their education or are military bound

Outstanding Students

• Hannah Duncan: Valedictorian Kuemper Catholic School
• Carly Ortmann: Valedictorian Remsen St. Mary’s Catholic School
• Ariana Elsden: Valedictorian Storm Lake St. Mary’s Catholic School
• Lauren Harpenau & Rachel Langel: Co-Valedictorians Gehlen Catholic School
• Avery Nelson & Mary Catherine Fitzsimmons Co-Valedictorians-Bishop Heelan Catholic Schools
• Grant Heldorfer, Rylie Stenkamp, Aery Galles & Kelli Kersten: Top 10% St Edmond Catholic School
• Kelle Borman, Abbigail Heying, Reese Rosenmeyer, Amanda Thilges & Joseph Trainer: Top Seniors Bishop Garrigan Catholic School
The “Excellence in Education” award is presented to a teacher who has a clear integrated philosophy of Catholic education and is a witness of faith in their personal and professional life. Good Shepherd Award is given to a school employee who is admired, respected and held in high regard by fellow peers, students and parents. The teacher routinely goes above and beyond the call of duty enthusiastically promoting the mission of the school.

Congratulations to our 2021 Winners

Courtney Hamilton
Pocahontas Catholic

Kris Schiltz
St. Mary’s Remsen

Amanda Schwarz
Emmetsburg Catholic

Mary Kay Augustine
Bishop Heelan High

Tim Fitzpatrick
Kuemper Catholic

Patti Bollin
Gehlen Catholic
The Catholic School Foundation (CSF) of the Diocese of Sioux City provides financial and instructional support to all 16 Catholic school systems throughout Northwest Iowa. With nearly 6000 students and over 500 teachers, administrators and staff, the CSF works diligently to ensure all schools are meeting academic standards and are fully preparing our students to become responsible future community leaders.

Catholic school foundation is funded by the Bishop’s Dinner for Catholic Schools and generous donations from Catholic school supporters. These services are essential to the health and growth of our schools:

- Accounting audits for schools
- Administrator professional development
- Principal development- aiding those that are interested in obtaining a principal license
- Catholic identity teaching training for infusion of faith in all curricular areas
- Catholic schools office staff development
- Development/fundraising to provide assistance for schools to establish stewardship programs
- English Language Learner to support staff training to meet the needs of our changing demographics
- Fifth Grade Mass reimbursement for student travel to the annual Mass by Bishop Nickless
- Legal services financial support for legal consultation
- Library World system membership for all school buildings
- Long Range Strategic Planning for 2022-27
- Marketing recruitment/enrollment management support and grants
- Safe Environment Virtus Training and Website for all volunteers, employees, teachers
- Student mental health and wellness-services provided by Catholic Charities
- Teacher support and training for Multi-Tiered System of Supports. MTSS provides a framework for tailoring instruction specific to student needs
- Tuition scholarships for middle income families in need
Time, Talents and Treasure "As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God."
Peter 4:10

Catholic School Foundation

Bishop: Most Reverend R. Walker Nickless
Secretary/Treasurer: Deacon Mark Prosser
Superintendent: Patty Lansink
Director of Education Services: Kelly Kohout
President: Dan Flattery of Fort Dodge.

2021 Board Members

Jill Book of Whittemore
Dennis Boyle of Danbury
Rev. Craig Collison of Pocahontas
Leon Heider of Humboldt
Kathi Milligan of Carroll
Nic Nelson of Sioux City
Rev. Timothy Pick of Remsen
Randy Schmitz of Boone

Diocesan Board of Education

Bishop: Most Reverend R. Walker Nickless
Superintendent: Patty Lansink
Director of Education Services: Kelly Kohout
Chair: Pete Haefs of Carroll
Vice Chair: Rev. Michael Cronin of Denison

2021 Board Members

Sharyl Bruning of Danbury
Deacon Joe Coleman of Fort Dodge
Sue Eldridge of Boone
Theresa Engle of Sioux City
Mary Fischer of Sioux City
Rev. Brent Lingle of Storm Lake
Rev. Merlin Schrad of Esterville
Greg Schroeder of LeMars
Melissa Uhl of Sioux City

Bishop’s Dinner for Catholic Schools
A Toast to 25 Years!
The Catholic Schools office provides:

- Guidance on priorities outlined by Bishop Nickless
- Professional development opportunities for administrators, teachers, staff and school boards
- Administrative assistance to supporting partner organizations
- Support with enrollment and retention
- Website support
- Guidance, training and monitoring on academic initiatives
- Oversight and guidance on curriculum
- Assistance in obtaining title funds and grants
- Policies and regulations for school guidance
- Compliance with health and safety regulations
- Strategic planning guidance and oversight
- New administrator and teacher training and mentorship
- Advocacy for our schools at the local and state level

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