



DIOCESE OF BRIDGEPORT
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS
FORMING hearts. INFORMING minds. TRANSFORMING lives.

ANNUAL REPORT



**FARMING
THE FAITH,
GROWING
IN CHRIST.**



MESSAGE FROM BISHOP FRANK CAGGIANO

Friends,

“Educating is an act of hope and a passion that is renewed because it manifests the promise we see in the future of humanity” – Pope Leo XIV

Catholic education begins with a simple, but profound trust in what God is already bringing to life within you and me. In the Catholic Schools of the Diocese of Bridgeport, the promise of the Gospel takes concrete form in daily life. It is expressed through the cultivation of minds, hearts, and souls, as students and community members are accompanied in their growth in wisdom, faith, and love.

The ongoing work of renewal and the vibrancy of our Catholic Schools offer a confident affirmation that God is at work in our midst, drawing forth the fullness of life entrusted to us and shaping a future rooted in truth and hope.

Throughout this past year, there have been many moments of encounter with the Lord and of accompaniment of our students, faculty, staff, and families. Our school communities continue to be, for me and for all those who are served by them, a source of genuine hope that nourishes not only the growth, but the flourishing of each and every person.

I am immensely grateful to our school leaders, teachers, staff, parents, and benefactors for your hard work and dedication. Through your witness, our young people come to know the love of God in a tangible and lasting way.

Be assured of my continued prayers for our students, their families, and all those who find hope through the gift of Catholic education.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

Most Rev. Frank J. Caggiano
Bishop of Bridgeport



MESSAGE FROM SUPERINTENDENT, STACIE L. STUEBER

December 2025

Dear Friends of Catholic Education,

As we reflect on the past year in the Catholic schools of the Diocese of Bridgeport, we are reminded that growth, both academic and spiritual, does not happen by chance. Growth requires intention, care, patience, and faith. This year's theme, Farming the Faith – Growing in Christ, invites us to reflect on the sacred work entrusted to our schools: preparing hearts and minds to receive the Gospel, nurturing each child's God-given potential, and trusting that God will bring the growth.

Catholic education is, at its core, a ministry of cultivation. Each day, our educators prepare the soil by creating classroom environments rooted in faith, belonging, and high expectations. They plant seeds through rigorous instruction, prayer, and witness; and they tend the field through ongoing formation, innovation, and care for the whole child. This sacred work takes many forms across our diocese, from classrooms where faith and learning are seamlessly unified to the partnerships with families, parishes, and benefactors who share in this mission. While each school community is unique, all are united by a common purpose: forming disciples and scholars who grow in wisdom, compassion, resilience, and a deepened relationship with Christ, prepared to serve the world with faith and purpose.

This annual report highlights the ways our schools continue to grow, through academic achievement, faith formation, service, and innovation, while also acknowledging the real and ongoing need for support. Some fields may require more tending, not because they are less fruitful, but because they call us to deeper accompaniment. Through tuition assistance, special education services, and mission-driven investment, we strive to ensure that Catholic education remains accessible to all families who seek it.

I am deeply grateful to our principals, teachers, staff, pastors, parents, and benefactors who labor faithfully in this shared work. Your dedication and generosity make it possible for our schools to flourish. Together, we continue to farm the faith with hope, trusting in God's promise that when we plant and water with love, He will bring the growth.

May God continue to bless our schools, our families, and all those who support the mission of Catholic education.

Sincerely,

Stacie L. Stueber

Superintendent of Schools
Diocese of Bridgeport

2025 ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD RECIPIENTS

Exceptional teaching lies at the core of Catholic education in the Diocese of Bridgeport. Guided by faith and a deep commitment to their students, our Teachers of the Year reflect the very best of our shared mission. We are grateful to celebrate their dedication and impact.

BARBARA OHLS

Elementary School
Teacher of the Year
Greenwich Catholic School
Greenwich, CT



Barbara graduated from the University of Akron as an English major with a Bachelor of Science degree. Her husband's job moved the family from Canton, Ohio to Philadelphia, then onto Nashville, Tennessee, followed by New Hampshire, and finally to Greenwich, Connecticut (among their grandchildren).

As an English teacher, Barbara has taught 7th and 8th grade in four of the states, as well as four years of high school in New Hampshire. She is the mother of four children and grandmother of fourteen grandchildren whom she credits with stretching her tremendously. She knows that she is a better teacher, mother, grandmother, and person thanks to all of them.

Barbara adds that "Through my "Windward bunch," I attended Windward's classes summer after summer and learned the best practices for dyslexic children. From those classes, I often put the lessons to practice among many of my own students who were also dyslexic, but without the benefit of Windward or Eagle Hill.

As the mother of four children and as an occasional foster parent, I never went on to get an advanced degree; There just wasn't a good time to divide myself any thinner. Although my children were always helpful, my husband was the real hero and still is. He 'picks up my chips' all day long, every day. I am the lucky one who gets to do what she loves all day, every day."



JEN DOHERTY

High School Teacher
of the Year
Immaculate High School
Danbury, CT



Jennifer Doherty, is blessed to be a mother of 4 faith filled, joy-filled, college graduates (as of this past May) a wife to Andrew for 28 years, and a lifelong Catholic. She received her undergraduate degree at Crane School of music in Potsdam NY where she studied music education, with a concentration in voice and special education in music. She received her Master of Arts in educational leadership at San Diego State university. Having been raised around the world as a child of a diplomat, Jennifer was baptized at the church of the Sacred Heart in Vientiane, Laos. She made her first communion at St. Joseph Church in Abu Dhabi, UAE was confirmed at Holy Family church in Maadi, Egypt, and was married at St. Mary's church in Jamesville, NY.

St. Joseph School in Danbury helped grow Jennifer's family in faith. When all 4 were at school, Jen followed behind them and became the music and children's choir teacher at St Joseph School. In 2019, Jen was invited to join the Immaculate high school faculty as the choir teacher where her own children were students. Since then, Jen has also taught religion and led campus ministry.

Jen's philosophy as a teacher is founded on the principle that God has given each of us talents and that we should grow and use those talents to elevate the community around us. Whatever that talent looks like, find it and grow it..for the greater good of others. It is through the students' hard work, dedication, and growing talents that Jen was able to share some memorable musical experiences with her students. The Immaculate Inspire choir performed at Radio City Music Hall, Carnegie Hall and most recently traveled to Ireland. As she always reminds her students, their talents are truly realized as gifts when singing to honor our war veterans at ceremonies, singing for our senior citizens, and singing at Mass when we elevate our Mass with our voices..all for the greater glory of God!

Jen's education informed her teaching, but it is the model of excellence in her own teachers that ignited her own journey as a teacher. It is her faith that has transformed her teaching into her a vocation and it is through serving as a teacher that she realizes the beauty of God's presence in the students before her.

SPECIALIZED SERVICES

KEARA BRADY

School Psychologist,
Instructional Coach
for Special Services



Mrs. Brady was hired through a grant from Foundations in Faith in 2024. She is a certified School Psychologist in the State of Connecticut with various relevant experience in therapeutic day programs.

As a member of the OSS team, Mrs. Brady works in specific elementary schools, St. Andrew, St. Ann, St. Catherine of Siena, Assumption, and Catholic Academy of Stamford, as a Special Services Coach.

She provides consultation on IDEA law, particularly how it relates to students with learning needs, provides direct coaching and professional development on implementation of Child Study Teams and Student Success Team models, and works directly in the classroom with teachers on effective instructional strategies for special needs students.

Mrs. Brady is well regarded among the Principals and has worked closely with the school psychologists, social workers and other instructional coaches with the schools.

The OSS is extremely grateful to Foundations in Faith for providing funding on this critical position.



SARAH BECK

Director of Personalized
Learning



LISA RYAN

Personalized Learning Coach

In the fifth year of the grant funded Personalized Learning Initiative, the establishment of best practices has been the goal. To that end, the evolution of the personalized learning initiative has reaped meaningful and measurable results as well as institutionalized the teaching and learning within the schools.

Mrs. Beck and Mrs. Ryan have been welcome advocates and coaches for the teachers for the last several years. They travel to each school throughout the year and work directly with teachers in coaching and feedback sessions designed to give students the opportunity to follow their learning paths.

When Mrs. Beck and Mrs. Ryan visit schools, they provide collaborative planning, targeted coaching, observations and feedback and data dives. Utilizing data from I-Ready gives teachers, parents, and students up to date information that can be applied to instruction for each student. With station rotation for the K-5 students, each student can work on mastery skills as well as growth skills.

In addition to their work with individual teachers, Mrs. Beck and Mrs. Ryan design and provide professional development opportunities that are responsive to school-specific needs and priorities. They also organize and coordinate larger-scale professional learning experiences, including the November Professional Development Day, during which all elementary teachers come together to share their expertise; the May half-day Professional Development sessions, where teachers meet regionally to discuss best practices and data use; and the Summer Institute, a three half-day experience that allows teachers to collaborate, share ideas, and learn new instructional strategies.

As a result of this work, the test scores for the DOB Elementary Schools are competitive with public school scores both locally and nationally.



FOUNDATIONS IN FAITH



FOUNDATIONS IN EDUCATION

A Partnership Advancing Catholic Education



Foundations in Faith's mission is to empower and transform pastoral ministries in the Diocese of Bridgeport by inspiring discipleship and providing essential funding, guidance, and resources, all in service of The One.

Catholic education is central to its mission, receiving \$1,675,983 in supporting grants from Foundations in Faith since 2019. By helping form students intellectually, spiritually, and morally within the life of the Church, Diocese of Bridgeport Catholic Schools and Special Needs Center stand at the heart of pastoral ministry as a vital instrument for sustaining and deepening the faith across generations and communities.

In FY 2024-2025, Catholic Schools received three grants from Foundations in Faith:

- \$33,429 award to the St. Catherine Center for Special Needs
- \$48,000 award for services supporting students with special needs attending Catholic schools
- \$223,322 award to the Office of the Superintendent of Schools for administrative services, offsetting cost tuition across the board

Foundations in Education (FIE) is proud to partner with the Office of the School Superintendent in a shared mission to expand access to high-quality Catholic education and foster excellence across our schools. Together, we work to ensure that families throughout the Diocese of Bridgeport can realize the dream of a Catholic education for their children, one rooted in faith, academic rigor, and service.

Since its founding in 2015, FIE has collaborated with generous donors and friends to provide critical tuition assistance to families in need. As Connecticut's largest K-8 scholarship granting organization, FIE has awarded more than 27,000 scholarships totaling over \$29 million, helping thousands of students benefit from the transformative experience of Catholic schooling.

Beyond tuition assistance, FIE is deeply committed to supporting educators and schools through innovation. Through its competitive Innovation and Leadership Grants program, FIE encourages teachers to pursue creative, forward-thinking approaches in their classrooms. To date, the program has awarded 196 grants totaling more than \$1.1 million. FIE also supports other transformative initiatives, including the Kolbe Cathedral Prep High School Transformation Project and the Advanced Manufacturing Project at Kolbe, strengthening educational pathways that prepare students for the future.

FIE is especially grateful to the Office of the School Superintendent staff, led by Superintendent Stacie Stueber, whose leadership, compassion, and dedication guide our Catholic schools with distinction. As partners in this vital work, we remain committed to expanding opportunity for families and empowering educators, ensuring Catholic schools continue to transform young lives for generations to come.



Our students represent

70

cities and towns in and around Fairfield County



98%

The percentage of our high school students that go onto college or the military.



100%

The percentage of students who graduate from our high schools.



100%

The percentage of our schools that are fully accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges.



27

Innovation and Leadership Grants totaling

\$150,000



More than

\$91M

in college scholarships were awarded to

800

graduating seniors from our diocesan high schools.



1300

students awarded

\$3,306,480

in tuition assistance



DIOCESAN AND DIOCESAN SPONSORED SCHOOLS

BETHEL

St. Mary School
www.stmarybethelct.org

BRIDGEPORT

Catholic Academy of Bridgeport
www.catholicacademybridgeport.org

St. Andrew Academy
St. Ann Academy
St. Augustine Academy
St. Raphael Academy

Kolbe Cathedral Preparatory High School
www.kolbecaths.org

DANBURY

St. Gregory the Great School
www.saintgregoryschool.org

St. Joseph School
www.sjsdanbury.org

St. Peter School
www.stpeterschooldanbury.org

Immaculate High School
www.immaculatehs.org

FAIRFIELD

Assumption Catholic School
www.assumptionfairfield.org

St. Thomas Aquinas School
www.stasonline.net

St. Catherine Center for Special Needs
www.stcatherineacademy.org

GREENWICH

Greenwich Catholic School
www.gcsct.org

NEWTOWN

St. Rose of Lima School
www.stroseschool.com

NORWALK

All Saints Catholic School
www.allsaintsnorwalk.com

RIDGEFIELD

St. Mary School
www.smsridgefield.org

STAMFORD

Catholic Academy of Stamford
www.catholicacademystamford.org

Cardinal Kung Academy
www.cardinalkungacademy.org

STRATFORD

St. James School
www.stjamesstratford.org

St. Mark School
www.stmarkschool.org

TRUMBULL

St. Catherine of Siena School
www.stcatherinesienatrumbull.org

St. Theresa School
www.sttheresaschooltrumbull.org

St. Joseph High School
www.sjcadets.org

INDEPENDENT CATHOLIC SCHOOLS LOCATED IN THE DIOCESE

FAIRFIELD

Fairfield College Preparatory School
www.fairfieldprep.org

Notre Dame Prep
of Sacred Heart University
www.notredame.org

GREENWICH

Sacred Heart Greenwich
www.shgreenwich.org

NORWALK

Regina Pacis Academy
www.reginapacisacademy.org

STAMFORD

Mater Salvatoris Preparatory School
www.stamford.matersalvatoris.org

Villa Maria School
www.villamariaschool.org



9024

SEEDS OF GROWTH
Students enrolled in catholic schools
in the Diocese of Bridgeport

5034

Students enrolled in
our 20 Elementary
Schools and 1 Special
Needs School

1484

Students enrolled in
4 Diocesan Sponsored
High Schools

2506

Students enrolled in
6 Independent
Catholic Schools

