MISSION STATEMENT

In light of Church documents, Catholic schools in the Diocese of Reno, in partnership with parents, are committed to fostering gospel values, academic excellence and life-long service in a faith-centered community.

YOUNG ESSAYISTS SING THE PRAISES OF THEIR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

By Tony Durante

Over the past thirty years of teaching English, I’ve certainly read my share of student essays. I’ve learned to expect many rays of hope for the future in the writing of young people, as they struggle to put their thoughts into the right words, muster their best organizational skills, and describe vivid examples to demonstrate how their ideas look in action. The essays submitted for the 2021 Diocese of Reno Catholic Schools Week Essay Contest provided my most recent reminder that the Holy Spirit is active in giving us hope during these trying times.

As one of the Diocesan school board judges for the contest, I had the responsibility and pleasure of pouring through a virtual stack of the best essays from middle and high school students in the Catholic schools of the diocese. The students were tackling the theme: Catholic Schools - Faith, Excellence, Service. As the students reflected on their experience of Catholic education, each mentioned the challenges of facing the COVID-19 pandemic, but they all praised their parents, teachers, classmates, and church communities for making them feel supported and empowered in the midst of difficult times. The young essayists told me about loving parents, balancing difficult schedules and changing duties. They praised their teachers for providing fun and interesting activities, guiding them through new technologies and methods to help them keep growing in knowledge and skill. They applauded their classmates for making them feel the warmth of community, which continued through “distance learning,” masks, small group “cohorts,” and elbow-bump greetings. They celebrated their faith in God and their closeness to Jesus in a church community that is very much alive and filled with hope, even if it has to meet on-line for now. The students know that their grace-filled community must reach out to people who are hurting and provide the service that is our participation in God’s love for all people.

I don’t want to gloss over the very real and difficult stresses of the past year. Students, parents, teachers, administrators, pastors, and churches have had to work extremely hard to keep Catholic schools safe, vibrant, and productive. The good news is, everyone’s joint effort has been wonderfully successful. Our students acknowledge the special challenges and struggles of the past year but they know that they are loved, supported, intelligent, capable, and moving forward. Reading these essays was a time of grace, a celebration of a job well done, and an invitation to keep doing what Catholic schools do so well!
Each year, the Diocesan School Board sponsors two contests in conjunction with Catholic Schools Week.

It is such an honor and privilege to see the work of our students! In previous years, awards were presented at the annual Catholic Schools Week Mass. We hope to be able to do this in person again next year.

The first contest is a poster contest, open to all of the students in our Catholic schools in grades 3-5.

The second contest is an essay contest with a category for middle school students in all of our schools and another category for high school students in our high school.

The theme is Catholic Schools: Faith, Excellence, Service

Local entries are chosen at the school level. Final judges are members of the Diocesan School Board.

Middle School essay winners and their prizes are:
First prize $100.00: Gianna Brunetti--Our Lady of the Snows
Second prize $75.00: Lily Houston--St. Albert the Great
Third prize $50.00: Keyra Dwinell--Little Flower

Honorable mentions $25.00 each--Jillian Foster, St. Teresa and Vio Henry Dizon, St. Albert the Great

Bishop Manogue Catholic High School essay winners and their prizes are:
First prize $100.00: Jill Bielke
Second prize $75.00: Tyelor Arnold
Third prize $50.00: Kyla Lorenz

Honorable mentions: $25.00 each Michael Carter and James Xu

Poster contest winners and their prizes are:
First prize $50.00: Marla Zoe Folmer--Little Flower-Marla will also be asked to create the Diocese of Reno Scholarship (D.O.R.S.) Christmas card for Christmas 2021
Second prize $30.00: Mia Lawson—St. Teresa of Avila
Third prize $20.00: Gemma Ellis—St. Albert the Great
Honorable mention $15.00: Jacy Krause—Little Flower
Who:
Bishop Manogue Catholic High School, St. Albert the Great Catholic School, Little Flower Catholic School, Our Lady of the Snows Catholic School, and in Carson City, St. Teresa of Avila Catholic School. Catholic Schools around the United States also join in this celebration.

What:
Since 1974, National Catholic Schools Week is the annual celebration of Catholic education in the United States. It starts the last Sunday in January and runs all week, which in 2021 is January 31 – February 6. The theme for National Catholic Schools Week 2021 is “Catholic Schools: Faith. Excellence. Service.” Schools typically observe the annual celebration week with Masses, open houses and other activities for students, families, parishioners and community members. Through these events, schools focus on the value Catholic education provides to young people and its contributions to our church, our communities and our nation.

Why:
Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Reno have a long history of educating students in accordance with our motto, mission, and philosophy of Catholic education.

Mission Statement: In light of Church documents, Catholic schools in the Diocese of Reno, in partnership with parents, are committed to fostering gospel values, academic excellence and lifelong service in a faith centered community.
PHILOSOPHY

Catholic schools strive to educate the whole person by promoting the spiritual, moral, physical, and intellectual development of each student in an environment centered on Catholic values.

Catholic schools help students develop a loving relationship with God, promote spiritual growth, and provide knowledge about and opportunities to practice the Catholic faith.

Catholic schools challenge the unique individual abilities of each student in such a manner as to enhance self-worth, self-discipline, responsibility, and to attain academic excellence.

Catholic schools seek to motivate students to live as part of a faith community which works to serve the needs of society; to foster love of life, love of family and love of country.

Catholic schools seek to enable students to embrace the plurality of cultures and beliefs and to respect and reverence this plurality as a wonder of God.

Catholic schools are committed to fostering community through careful leadership, competent teaching and cooperative endeavors with parents.

Where:
Learn more about each of our Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Reno on their websites. Many offer virtual tours, too.

Bishop Manogue Catholic High School: https://www.bishopmanogue.org/
St. Albert the Great Catholic School: http://www.stalbertscatholicschool.org/
Little Flower Catholic School: http://www.littleflowerschoolnv.org/index.html
Our Lady of the Snows Catholic School: https://olsparish.com/ols-school-1
St. Teresa of Avila Catholic School: http://stts.org/

When: January 31, 2021-February 6, 2021

Link to National Catholic Education Association (NCEA) Catholic Schools Week: https://www.ncea.org/csw/Home_Page/CSW/Catholic_Schools_Week.aspx
**U.S. Graduation Rates**
A look at national high school graduation rates.

- Catholic Schools: 99.1%
- Other Religious: 98%
- Non-Sectarian: 93%
- Public Schools (actual high school diplomas awarded): 85%


**Location of Schools**
There are 6,183 Catholic schools nationwide.
Of those,
- 1,458 are urban,
- 456 are inner-city,
- 1,982 are suburban and
- 1,099 are rural.

Number of Schools
There are 6,183 Catholic schools in the United States; 4,995 are elementary/middle schools and 1,188 are secondary schools.


Staffing of Catholic Schools
Elementary 13:1  Secondary 10:1  National 12:1

Catholic School Data from 19-20

The National Catholic Educational Association conducts Catholic education research as well as providing private education resources for a range of audiences. Information contained within these pages include Catholic school data. NCEA published selected results from NCEA's annual survey of Catholic elementary and secondary schools, including enrollment patterns, regional geographic trends, types and locations of schools, student and staffing demographic characteristics, and student participation in selected education programs.

Highlights

Enrollment
- Total Catholic school student enrollment for the current academic year is 1,737,297.
- 1,201,391 in elementary/middle schools; 535,906 in secondary schools
- Student diversity: 21.8% are racial minorities, 18.5% are Hispanic/Latino and 6.4% were reported as unknown in the racial data collection.
Non-Catholic enrollment is 331,648 which is 19.1% of the total

Schools
- There are 6,183 Catholic schools: 4,995 elementary; 1,188 secondary.
- 10 new schools opened; 98 consolidated or closed.*
- 1,866 schools have a waiting list for admission.
Coeducational schools comprise 98.6% of elementary and 70.8% of secondary schools. At the secondary level, 12.5% of the schools are male and 16.6% are female.
*The reported number of schools closed includes some that consolidated and re-opened as new entities. The total reported opened is 10 which includes newly built as well as the reconfigured entities. The net loss of elementary schools is 97 and the net loss of secondary schools is 9.

Professional Staff
Full-time equivalent professional staff numbered 146,367:
- 97.4%: Laity  (Lay women: 75.1% Lay men: 22.3%)
- 2.6%: Religious/Clergy  (Sisters: 1.6%; Brothers: 0.4%; Clergy: 0.6%)
The student/teacher ratio is 12:1.
The Diocese of Reno is committed to the safety of our children and vulnerable adults. We are in full compliance with the Dallas Charter and remain diligent in maintaining this compliance.

Through the "Protecting God's Children" program we train people to be more aware of how to protect children and vulnerable adults, and also the possible warning signs of abuse and neglect.

Each year all children within our Religious Education programs and within our schools are provided the opportunity to participate in Empowering God's Children. Together, all of us can help to create safe environments in our parish, schools, facilities and even beyond.

To register for a background check and also take an online Protecting God's Children Awareness Session, visit our website: https://renodiocese.org/safe-environment/. During COVID-19 restrictions live training is postponed.

If you have already completed the required reading of 24 bulletins and taken the recertification review, it might be interesting for you to know about new information and continue to read bulletins.

For additional information or to access recent bulletins, please contact Elda Juarez at (775) 326-9445 or email her at eldaj@catholicreno.org
Theme: Catholic Schools Week

We asked our students what they love about receiving a Catholic education. Here were some of their answers:

“I love my Catholic school because it has encouraged me to grow with my faith.”
“My Catholic school is a family.”
“I love the like-minded environment with similar values!”
“Because I feel closer to all the other students as a family and community!”
“The teachers help me grow educationally and spiritually!”
“They are a community willing to help each other out.”
“Because of all the doors it opened for me and everything it taught me.”
“It helps me find who I really am.”

Our students gain so much more than an education at our Catholic school. They gain a community that will support them forever. Thank you to everyone who recognizes the immeasurable value of our school!

In honor of Catholic Schools Week, we plan to celebrate what makes our Miner Family special. Find a schedule of activities for the week of February 1st through February 5th on our website at https://www.bishopmanogue.org/catholic-schools-week/
During Catholic Schools Week, as we do throughout the year, we provide diverse opportunities for the students of Our Lady of the Snows to participate in meaningful ways in acts of charity, such as bringing in non-perishable items for the food drive. This living expression of their faith allows the children to deepen their understanding of what it means to be Catholic and to experience the message of Jesus through their own words and work.

At Snows, we are proud of the fact, that in addition to providing educational excellence for our students, we also find meaningful ways to help them discover who they are as Catholics and to share their gifts with the world around them. Through small acts of thoughtfulness and generosity they learn that they do have the power to bring the light of Christ to their community and as Mother Teresa said, “do something beautiful.” What better way to share the true meaning of Catholicism?

A Vintage Affair, our annual fundraiser supported by Our Lady of the Snows School Board, will be held virtually on February 5th. This event features dinner packages along with a virtual silent auction. The Vintage Affair team has spent months planning the event, securing donations, and selling raffle tickets. Proceeds from this event have supported technology, capital improvements, campus development, and classroom enhancements.
Catholic Schools week is always a busy week for our students and staff. During this week, we are celebrating some important people in our lives.

Monday—Celebrating our Community—The students are making Go Bags comprised of ready-to-eat food items for the Eddie House.

Tuesday—Celebrating our Students—Our gift to them is a free dress day with the proceeds going to the Diocese of Reno Scholarship Fund (D.O.R.S.).

Wednesday—Celebrating our Nation—The students will wear Red, White, and Blue socks in support of our military. Letters will be written to people who serve in the military.

Thursday—Celebrating our Parish—A can of food from each family will be donated to the Parish Food Bank.

Friday—Celebrating Faculty and Staff—Treats will be given to each member of our faculty and staff.

Little Flower students continually show their love for others in our community and beyond.
Catholic Schools week BC – before Covid!! St. Teresa students visited different community organizations and dropped off coffee and donuts.

This year, we are dropping off boxes of cookies made by Delicious Designs, one of our parents’ bakeries.
Happy New Year! St. Albert the Great Catholic School is wishing you a very blessed 2021. We have started out our new year together by preparing for one of the most important weeks we get to celebrate as a community: Catholic Schools Week. This is the week where we get to celebrate every person who makes a quality Catholic education available for our students.

This year’s theme of Catholic Schools Week is “Faith. Excellence. Service.” As a school, we will be taking each day of our four-day school week to celebrate the community, nation, students and staff members. Monday is “Celebrating Our Community” so students will come to school wearing Reno or Nevada clothing. Tuesday is “Celebrating Our Students” where students will dress up as each other! Wednesday is “Celebrating Our Nation” where we will wear patriotic clothing; and Thursday is “Celebrating Our Teachers, Priest, Staff and Volunteers” where students can dress as their favorite staff member.

The students will also get a chance to compete against one another in the Door Decorating Contest. This will give the students a chance to show the importance of Catholic education in a more creative outlet.

Every staff member, volunteer, board member and adult who makes it possible for our students to learn everyday will receive a thank you card. We find it very important to praise those who make it possible for us to do what we do. We are a very blessed school.

We will be having our annual talent show in a different capacity this year. Students are sending in video clips of their talents that will be compiled into a virtual talent show video that each class will watch together. We are so excited to see the talent our wonderful students have!

We are a very blessed school to have the opportunity to take an entire week to celebrate a passion we all share: Catholic Education. Catholic Schools Week is a reminder that we are a part of something much larger than us; a world created by God for opportunity, growth, faith and much more. All of which we strive for at St. Albert the Great Catholic School during not only Catholic Schools Week, but all the time.

An intelligent heart acquires knowledge, and the ear of the wise seeks knowledge. (Proverbs 18:15)