



DIOCESE OF GRAND RAPIDS

Office of the Bishop

January 29, 2023

Dear friends in Christ,

We have much to be proud of regarding Catholic education in our diocese! In a special way we celebrate these accomplishments during Catholic Schools Week, January 29 - February 4, 2023. With more than 6,400 students enrolled this year (and even more who are supplementing their homeschool education with us), enrollment numbers are steadily increasing. Data from The Nation's Report Card shows that our swift response to COVID restrictions and the dedicated ministry of our teachers prevented the significant learning loss seen in students across the nation.

I am thankful for the sacrifices you make as a family to provide your children the opportunity to encounter Jesus Christ during the school day. This incarnational experience, in addition to our exceptional academics and numerous extracurriculars that challenge the body and mind differentiates us in our secular culture.

During Catholic Schools Week, I invite each of you to share with others your positive experiences in Catholic schools. Seek families who have chosen alternative institutions of education and welcome them into our Catholic schools. Your personal testimony and invitation are the best tools we have to evangelize and expand the communities we serve. Without you, the ministry of our Catholic schools would not be possible. Thank you for your support of Catholic education!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend David J. Walkowiak
Bishop of Grand Rapids