

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT ENROLLING IN A *Catholic School*

WHY ENROLL IN A CATHOLIC SCHOOL?

By Bob Voboril, Superintendent of Schools

The single most important decision that parents make for their child is where they will attend school. When Pam and I came to Wichita with our six children, we asked ourselves these questions:

1. Which school will form the whole person spiritually, academically, socially, and physically?
2. Which school will challenge my child to develop to their highest academic potential?
3. Which school will form my child's character with the religious, moral, and social values that I hold so dear --- right and wrong; sharing vs. taking; selflessness vs. selfishness.
4. Which school will recognize the important role of the parents as partners in the educational process?
5. With six children, what school will be most convenient? For us, the PreK-8 school where our children would stay in the same school for ten years was priceless.
6. Where will my child be safe?
7. Is the school reputable? Is the school accredited? Do the teachers hold professional licenses?
8. Is the school affordable?

Pam and I came to the conclusion that only the Catholic schools in the Diocese of Wichita met all of our criteria.

- Catholic schools form the whole person.
- Catholic schools challenge every child academically.
- Catholic schools form disciples of Jesus Christ.
- Catholic schools expect parents to be their child's primary educator.
- Catholic schools are one stop: early childhood, primary, intermediate, and middle school - all in one building.
- Because Catholic schools are smaller they can give more personal attention.
- All Catholic schools are accredited by the State of Kansas. All of our teachers hold professional credentials.
- All Catholic schools are funded by their parishes.

It has now been twenty-three years since Pam and I made the decision to enroll our children in a Catholic school, and we have never regretted that decision. Our children have grown up, gone on to college, and are now starting to make the same decisions for our eleven grandchildren. Happily, they are making the same choices we did and are finding the same results. Catholic schools are definitely schools that you can believe in.

ARE CATHOLIC SCHOOLS EXPENSIVE?

Not in the Diocese of Wichita! The parishes of the diocese have made Catholic education a centerpiece of the mission of the Catholic church in south central and south eastern Kansas.

Therefore, active parish families pay no tuition for their children. Rather, their parishes provide direct support to the Catholic grade schools and high schools for their parish families. Parents pay only a nominal fee to cover the costs with textbooks and supplies.

Catholics who are not currently active parishioners should register in a parish, become active, and discuss their situation with the parish pastor.

Families from other faith traditions should contact the school directly. A tuition is charged, but it is typically about half of the rate charged by other private schools in the area.

For pre-school families, a monthly tuition is charged. Contact the Catholic school directly to learn the current rate.

I AM CATHOLIC, BUT DO NOT BELONG TO A PARISH. WHAT DO I DO?

When you enroll your child in a Catholic school, you are also enrolling yourself.

Therefore, as a Catholic parent you need to:

- register in a parish
- attend Mass at least every Sunday
- get involved in a parish
- live a Catholic way of life
- support the parish financially

If there are factors that are keeping you from living your Catholic faith, this would be a good time to discuss them with a Catholic priest.

In registering in a parish, it is customary although not obligatory, to register in the parish in which you reside. If you are not sure what parish you live in, feel free to contact the CSO and we will help you. You can also find parish boundry information [here](#).

I AM NOT CATHOLIC, BUT I AM INTERESTED IN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS. WOULD I BE WELCOMED?

Everyone who agrees to respect the religious nature of the school and abide by its disciplinary standards is welcome. Catholic schools have a long tradition of serving students from other faith traditions. There are currently more than 250 non-Catholic students attending Catholic schools.

Why would parents of a different faith tradition want to enroll their child in a Catholic school?

- personal attention
 - high academic and behavioral standards
 - safety
 - a community of similar-minded parents
 - high parental involvement
 - accredited schools
 - professionally-licensed teachers
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