

The Case for Catholic Schools at a glance



Sacred spaces where the Gospel is proclaimed, community is experienced, service is the norm, and thanksgiving and worship are cultivated.

Proven results

- Catholic schools provide sound faith and character formation.
- Catholic schools tend to operate as communities rather than bureaucracies, which links to **higher levels of teacher commitment, student engagement, and student achievement** (Marks, 2009).
- The Catholic school **climate, mission, and purpose positively impact** student achievement and attendance (Bryk, Lee, & Holland, 1993).
- A faith-based orientation builds **coherence and integration of schools and school community** (Bryk, Lee, & Holland, 1993).
- In Catholic schools, the **student achievement gap is smaller** than in public schools (Jeynes, 2007; Marks & Lee, 1989) and **overall academic achievement is higher** (Coleman, Hoffer, & Kilgore, 1982; Sander, 1996).
- In Catholic schools, student **math scores improve** between sophomore and senior years (Carbonaro, & Covay, 2010).
- Latino and African American students in Catholic schools are **more likely to graduate** from high school and college (Grogger & Neal, 2000).
- **Students with multiple disadvantages benefit most** from Catholic schools (Greeley, 1982; Evans & Schwab, 1995; Neal, 1997).
- The poorer and more at-risk a student is, the **greater the relative achievement gains** in Catholic schools (York, 1996).
- Graduates of Catholic high schools are **more likely to vote** (Dee, 2005) and **earn higher wages** (Neal, 1997).
- Catholic schools tend to produce graduates who are **more civically engaged, more tolerant of diverse views, and more committed to service** as adults (Campbell, 2001; Wolf, Greene, Kleitz, & Thalhammer, 2001).

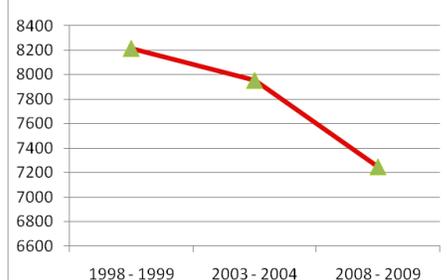
- When a Catholic school closes, **neighborhood disorder increases** (Brinig, Garnett, 2009).



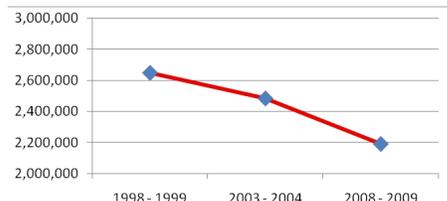
Urgency

In the last 10 years alone, about **1500 Catholic schools have closed** and student enrollment has **dropped by 450,000**. However, 400 new schools have opened.

Number of Catholic Schools in the United States



Catholic School Enrollment in the United States



at a glance What You Can Do



Pray for Catholic schools. As Oswald Chambers has said, "Prayer does not equip us for greater works—prayer *is* the greater work."

Consider your **gifts**—arts, business, reading, talking, monetary, technology, culinary—and put them to work for Catholic schools.

Teach, work, volunteer, or coach in a Catholic school; **send** your children to a Catholic school.

Befriend a teacher in a Catholic school, supporting him or her with your time and encouragement.

Get the word out about Catholic schools from the comfort of home: use tools like Facebook or Twitter; hang this flyer on your fridge; share it with a friend over coffee.

Earn tax credits by donating to an education scholarship program (currently Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Iowa, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin offer these programs).

Read *To Nurture the Soul of a Nation*, from Notre Dame's Task Force on the Participation of Latino Children and Families in Catholic Schools (<http://catholicschooladvantage.nd.edu>).

Host a wine tasting and presentation introducing Catholic schools and the issue of inviting Latino children and their families into our classrooms.

Get involved in the parental choice movement—the right of parents to choose which schools to send their children to. Learn more about it by visiting the websites of the American Federation for Children (www.federationforchildren.com) and the Center for Education Reform (www.edreform.com).

Join the Alliance for Catholic Education Advocates team to learn more about supporting Catholic schools. Visit us at <http://www.facebook.com/ACEAdvocates> and <http://ace.nd.edu/advocates/>.