

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Diocese of Kalamazoo



DYNAMIC · DISTINCTIVE · DEVOTED

**2022
2023**
Annual Report



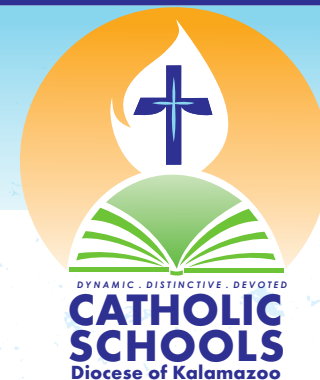
DIOCESE OF KALAMAZOO

Our Schools

1653 K-8
students



76% of parishes have
students enrolled in
our Catholic schools



99%
college or
trade-school
bound

Each school is parish-supported and
receives other operating funds
through tuition and outside sources



Each high school
has a chaplain

360 PK
students

TOTAL STUDENTS

350 9-12
students

100% Graduation rate



17% Non-Catholic



All schools
offer tuition
assistance to
families

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd
faith formation program
enhances the development
of the each child's relationship
with God.

21 Catholic Schools

16% Non-white,
more than one race



Average
student/faculty ratio



MANS accredited schools

All schools in the Diocese of Kalamazoo are
accredited through the MNSAA

14% Hispanic

ALLEGAN COUNTY

St. Margaret School, Otsego
Preschool – Grade 4
269-694-2951
www.stmargaretschool.net

St. Mary's Visitation Catholic School, Byron Center
Preschool – Grade 6
616-681-9607
www.smvschool.org

St. Stanislaus Catholic School, Dorr
Preschool – Grade 8
269-793-7204
www.st-stans.net

St. Therese Catholic School, Wayland
Preschool – Grade 5
269-792-2016
www.sttcatholicsschool.org

BARRY COUNTY

St. Rose of Lima School, Hastings
Preschool- Grade 5
296-945-3164
www.stroseschoolhastings.com

BERRIEN COUNTY

Our Lady of the Lake Elementary School, St. Joseph
Preschool – Grade 5
269-429-0227
www.lmclakers.org

Our Lady of the Lake Middle & High School, St. Joseph
Grades 6 – 12
296-983-2511
www.lmclakers.org

St. Mary's School, Niles
Preschool – Grade 6
269-683-9191
www.stmarysschoolniles.org

BRANCH COUNTY

St. Charles Borromeo Catholic School, Coldwater
Preschool – Grade 8
517-279-0404
www.scbcatholicsschool.org

St. Mary's Assumption School, Bronson
Preschool – Grade 8
517-369-4625
www.stmarybronson.org



CALHOUN COUNTY

St. Joseph Catholic Elementary School,
Battle Creek
Preschool – Grade 5
269-965-7749
www.bcacs.org

St. Joseph Catholic Middle School,
Battle Creek
Grades 6 – 8
269-963-4935
www.bcacs.org

St. Philip Catholic Central High School,
Battle Creek
Grades 9 – 12
269-963-4503
www.bcacs.org

KALAMAZOO COUNTY

Hackett Catholic Prep, Kalamazoo
Grades 9 – 12
269-381-2646
www.hackettcatholicprep.org

Light of Christ Academy, Augusta
Preschool – Grade 8
269-731-0281
www.lightofchristacademy.org

St. Augustine Cathedral School, Kalamazoo
Preschool – Grade 8
269-349-1945
www.stakzoo.org

St. Monica Catholic School, Kalamazoo
Preschool – Grade 8
269-345-2444
www.stmonicaakzoo.org

ST. JOSEPH COUNTY

Immaculate Conception Catholic School, Three Rivers
Preschool – Grade 8
269-273-2085
www.iccatholicsschool.com

VAN BUREN COUNTY

St. Basil Catholic School, South Haven
Preschool – Grade 8
269-637-3529
www.saintbasilcatholic.com

St. Mary Catholic School, Paw Paw
Preschool – Grade 5
269-657-3750
www.saintmarypawpaw.org



Saint Basil



Office of Schools

Margaret Erich
Superintendent
merich@diokzoo.org

Jillian Kellough
Associate Superintendent
jkellough@diokzoo.org

Nina Laney
Catholic School Advancement
Coordinator
nlaney@diokzoo.org

CONTACT US:

officeofschools@diokzoo.org
215 N. Westnedge Ave.
Kalamazoo, MI 49007
269-349-8714

A note from...



SUPERINTENDENT
**Margaret
Erich**

It is always a pleasure to be able to highlight the achievements of our students in and out of the classroom. This past school year has been no exception, and the successes that our students had were plentiful. I hope as you peruse this report and see all the wonderful things our students have done academically, athletically, and through community involvement in service and extracurriculars that you are encouraged by the work our Catholic schools are doing.

As Catholic schools, we focus on educating the whole child in mind, body and spirit. After seeing the social and emotional toll the stresses of the larger world have put on our students, our teachers and administrators made social and emotional health a greater priority. Our professional development for the year was focused on how to best support the mental-health needs of students, and those around us, even ourselves. Being able to help support one another in various ways, including through our faith, allows us to demonstrate the "Catholic school difference".

In 2019 we published a strategic plan to take us through five-years, which concludes this year. While we have been able to address and work towards many of the goals and strategies outlined in the strategic plan, we also had many things that were paused due to the pandemic. We look forward to getting back on track with the strategic plan and beginning another round of planning to help guide our schools through the next five years and beyond. We will continue to partner with our schools to support them in providing an exceptional Catholic education rooted in the love of Christ and service to others.

Thank you for reviewing our annual report to learn more about how we are preparing our next generation of leaders.

Margaret Erich



WELCOME

Bishop Edward M. Lohse



As our 2022-2023 school year was ending, we received the news on May 23rd that Pope Francis had appointed Msgr. Edward M. Lohse from the Diocese of Erie as the fifth Bishop for the Diocese of Kalamazoo.

Bishop Lohse was ordained and installed on July 25, 2023, at St. Augustine Cathedral, the mother church of the diocese.

During the news conference held on May 23rd, Bishop Lohse said, "I am both humbled and honored to be asked by our Holy Father, Pope Francis to become the fifth Bishop of Kalamazoo. I am grateful for his confidence in me, and I assure him of my prayers. To the Faithful of the Diocese, I promise to give my all. No doubt, in the months and years ahead there will be moments of grace and moments of challenge. I don't have all the answers, by any means, but let's discover them together as we discern the path forward."

Prior to his appointment Bishop Lohse served as a priest of the Diocese of Erie since his ordination on April 21, 1989. He held various diocesan administrative roles including serving as Vicar General. He earned both a license and a doctorate in Canon Law and began his priestly ministry teaching theology, Latin and German at DuBois Central Catholic Middle School and High School for five years.

During his Mass of Ordination and Installation, Bishop Lohse offered a reflection on the path ahead. "The road ahead will not always be easy. But I do ask for your prayers and patience as together we seek to discern where the Holy Spirit is leading us in an increasingly complex world. No matter how complicated life may seem, one thing will always remain constant, and that one thing is Christ. It is Christ whom we follow; it is Christ whom we serve in our neighbor; and it is Christ whom we adore. He must increase*. Let this be our guiding principle. It is all about Christ. He must increase."

* Bishop Lohse has chosen as his episcopal motto "Illum oportet crescere" from John 3:30. Translated as "He must increase," they are the words of St. John the Baptist, who in speaking to his own disciples about the Lord, instructed them to follow Christ.



Upon being announced Bishop-elect, Bishop Lohse was given a tour around the diocese which included stopping in to visit some of our school children.



Photos courtesy of John Grap

Diocese of Kalamazoo



The Office of Schools

is dedicated to sustaining and improving the quality of Catholic education and faith formation in the Diocese of Kalamazoo. With each school's cooperation, the Office of Schools serves as the administrative umbrella to allow collaboration and continued success in our schools.



VIRTUAL TOURS

For the last two years, the Office of Schools has been working with our schools to create virtual tours to enhance the schools' websites and offer a glimpse of each school to prospective families.



In the 2022-23 school year, the Office of Schools provided:

- Professional development opportunities for teachers, administrators and support staff
- Administrative assistance to Catholic schools and Local Consultative Advisory Boards
- Support with enrollment, retention and marketing initiatives
- Guidance and monitoring on school improvements
- Oversight and direction on curriculum
- Assistance with obtaining Title funds and grants
- Policies and regulations for school guidance

Office of Schools Updates:

\$13,500 awarded to the high school senior Capstone Finalists

1st place- Braden Roosevelt, St. Philip Catholic Central

2nd place- Cristina Avello, Our Lady of the Lake

3rd place- Sydney Van Es, Hackett Catholic Prep

Other finalists, in alphabetical order:

Rhianna Bradshaw, St. Philip Catholic Central

Raphael Deleon, Hackett Catholic Prep

Patrick Ogrin, Hackett Catholic Prep

Layne Ridderman, Hackett Catholic Prep

Madeleine Root, Hackett Catholic Prep

Andrew Sobottke, Our Lady of the Lake

Breanna Wallace, Hackett Catholic Prep

Lake Michigan Catholic name change

In an effort to better identify with the Catholic faith and the saints, the Lake Michigan Catholic Schools merged into one Preschool-12 school and have been officially renamed to Our Lady of the Lake Catholic School.



Make-a-Wish Foundation makes a Visit

The St. Stanislaus School and Parish Community embraced LiLi and her family through their medical battle by having special prayer events, a month of Pink Hair and special color days in her honor. LiLi had the opportunity to Make-A-Wish and she chose to give herself and her classmates a new playground at the school.



\$16,800 in Grant Money awarded to families (received from the Black & Indian Mission Office)

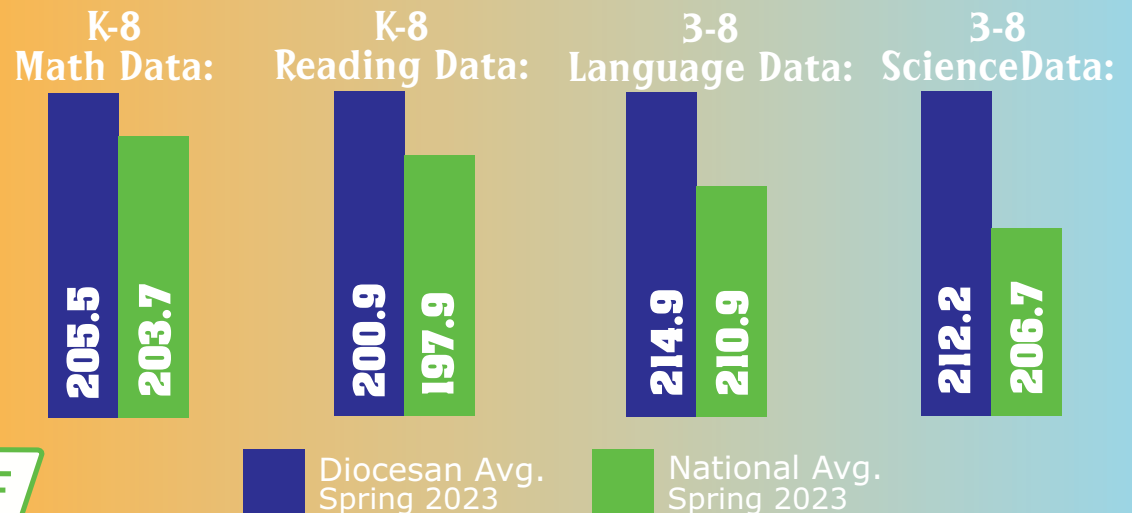


Excellence in Knowledge



SAT scores & MAP testing

NWEA Measure of Academic Progress (MAP) is a research-based, computerized assessment which allows educators to determine academic growth throughout the course of the school year. Each student takes three MAP tests annually in math and reading from kindergarten through eighth grade as well as language and science from third through eighth grade. The national average is calculated based on five-years of testing data. The national average below was reported in 2020 and reflects data collected from 2015-2020. Our testing average is from the spring of 2023.



SAT SCORES:



AP Test Scores:

Our high school students have opportunities to earn college credit through taking AP classes and exams.

Across our high schools, students enrolled in **7** different AP courses scored above the state average pass rates for those tests.

2023 Senior, Charles Kennedy at Hackett Catholic Prep was recognized as a National Merit Commended Scholar based on his outstanding academic performance on the PSAT.

Excellence in *Character & Service*

President's Volunteer Service Award:

Serving others helps our students build on the foundation of faith and knowledge for the greater good of humanity. They put their faith into action by making a difference in people's lives and impacting the communities around them. Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Schools had numerous students as well as a staff member recognized for their outstanding service.

Teen Category:

Hannah Hysell, 56 hours
Josie Balkin, 54 hours
Connor Siglow, 50 hours

Young Adult Category:

Mary Riley, 166 hours
Zach Fraser, 120 hours
Izzy Schrauben, 100 hours
Hazel Hysell, 135 hours
Nathan Poll, 150 hours

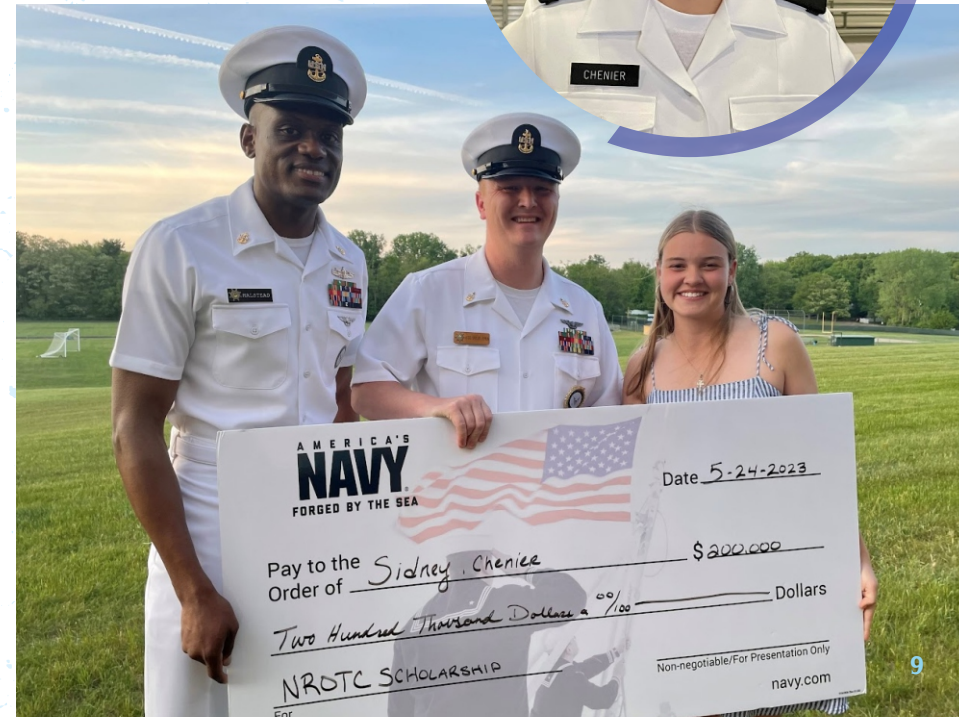
Adult Category:

Allison Gleiss, 375 hours



Hackett Catholic Prep senior, Sidney Chenier

was awarded a 4-year Navy ROTC scholarship worth approximately \$200,000. The scholarship is based on leadership skills, school and community involvement, high academics, and physical fitness. Out of 22,000 applicants, 400 scholarships were awarded. Sidney is one of only 20 pilots who were selected nationwide. This fall, Sidney is attending the University of Mississippi and majoring in physics. Upon graduation, she will commission into the Navy as an officer and will head to pilot school.



Athletics & Extracurriculars

Hackett Catholic Prep was named the **"Ultimate High School Champion"** for the 22-23 school year for the Kalamazoo Area. This award recognizes the athletic achievement of the students at the school and is based on how athletic teams finished in the Michigan High School Athletic Association tournament.

Achievements included:

- Regional title in Girls Country Cross
- Boys Track & Field State Champion (4th time in 6 years, including 2020 when there was no season)
- Girls Basketball Regional Champion
- Baseball Regional Champion
- Girls and Boys Tennis both placed 5th at the State Final
- Boys Golf finished 8th at the State Finals



One of many extracurricular activities offered to students is Robotics. Students compete at the FIRST in Michigan Robotics competition.



Students have opportunities to participate in various bands (eg. jazz, marching) as well as put on small and large scale theatre productions within our schools.



St. Philip Catholic Central's Vicky Groat, athletic director and varsity volleyball coach, was awarded the **Michigan High School Athletic Association's Allen W. Bush Award for 2023**. This award recognizes recipients for their dedication and far-reaching contributions to educational athletics. Mrs. Groat has led the Tigers for over 20 years and has compiled a 1,240-304-95 record and led them to 14 MHSAA Volleyball Championships.



Nate Buchmann, individual state champion in Discus

St. Mary's Visitation, St. Stanislaus and St. Therese have a combined 3rd through 8th grade Orchestra with over 42 students participating under the direction of Dr. Sheri Jaffurs.



Distinctive:

1. a difference or contrast between similar things or people.
2. excellence that sets someone or something apart from others.

Soap for Hope: As part of a school project, students of all grades at Immaculate Conception made soap and sold it to fundraise and give money to charity during Lent.



Our Lady of the Lake's DECA chapter competed at their first district conference competition this year at Western Michigan University College of Business. 18 students competed in 12 different events ranging from: Hospitality Services Team Decision Making Series, Business Laws and Ethics Series, Principles of Finance, and others.



Yearly, non-Catholic students in our schools enter our faith. Sometimes teachers also serve as their sponsor. Students pictured here are from St. Charles Borromeo School.



Dynamic

1. (of a process or system) characterized by constant change, activity, or progress. 2. (of a person) positive in attitude and full of energy and new ideas.



Students at Our Lady of the Lake are busy building! Their new Maker Space lab is equipped with tools and technology for hands-on projects and experiences that solve real-world problems.



After learning about Ancient Rome, 2nd grade students at St. Monica Catholic School treated the student body to a taste of what that period of time was like with chariot races and a feast.



Devoted:

1. very loving or loyal. 2. given over to the display, study, or discussion of.

Breakfast with Jesus: Each month, St. Joseph Middle School students begin their day with "Breakfast with Jesus". At 6:30 a.m., they join Father Chris at the altar as he celebrates Mass. Afterwards, they eat breakfast and conclude their time together with trivia and prizes before beginning the school day.



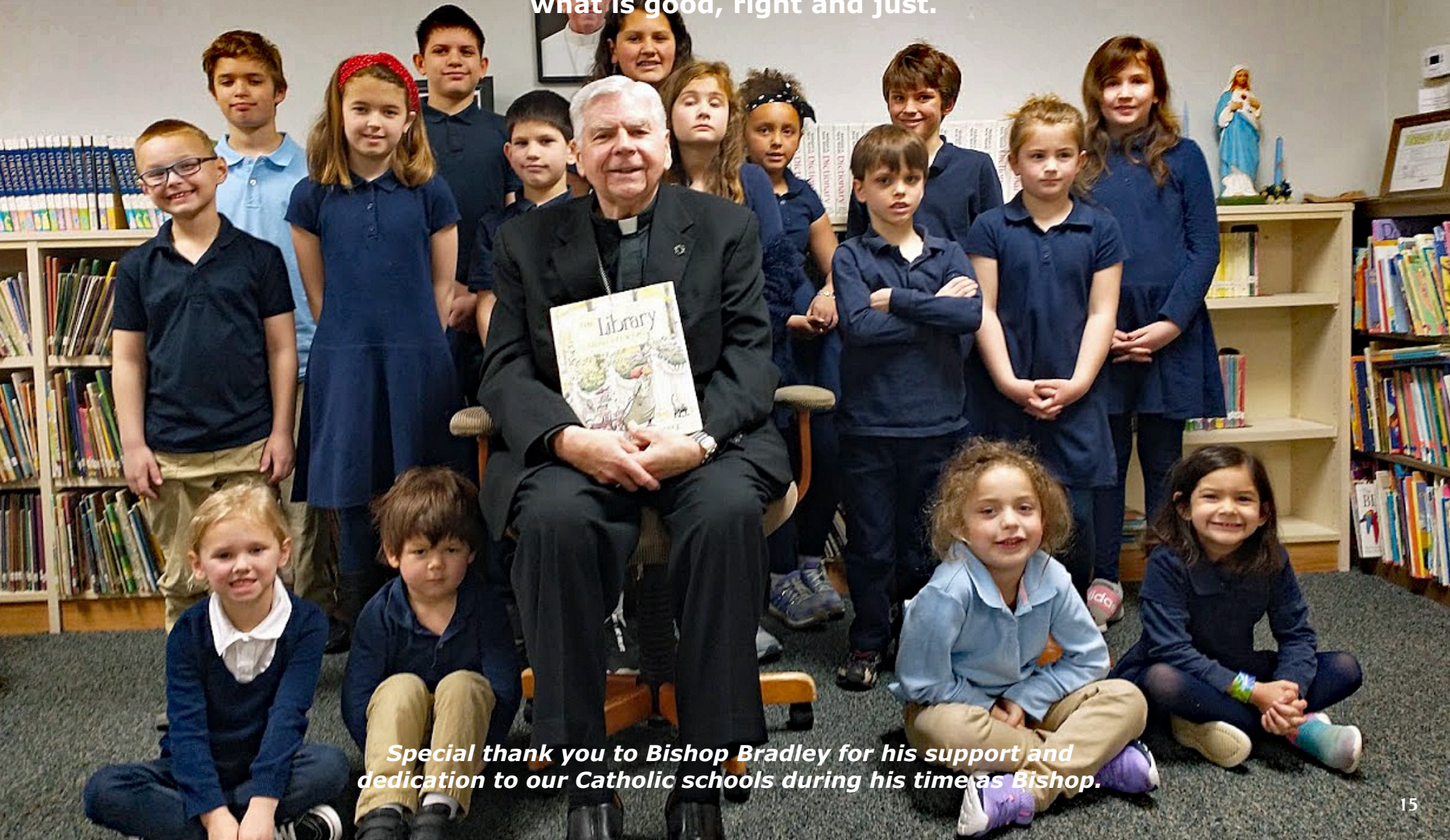
Our schools have enthusiastic alumni who valued their education and want to see it continue for future generations. At St. Mary's Assumption School, alumni return to play in their Alumni Basketball Game to raise money for the school's tuition assistance fund.

All Souls' Mass: Hackett Catholic Prep connects with its alumni and greater community for their annual All Souls' Mass. People are able to purchase a candle in remembrance of a loved one and each candle is marked with that individual's name and is a part of the Mass. After Mass, candles are put in the school's chapel and remain there for a week as a reminder to pray for those who have gone before us.



the *Catholic School* Difference

A Catholic school education seeks not only to educate but also to touch the hearts and form the consciences of its students with a desire and commitment to pursue what is good, right and just.



Special thank you to Bishop Bradley for his support and dedication to our Catholic schools during his time as Bishop.



DIOCESE OF KALAMAZOO

215 N. Westnedge Ave.
Kalamazoo, MI 49007
269-349-8714

School Bus



**CATHOLIC
SCHOOLS**
Diocese of Kalamazoo



215 N. Westnedge Ave., Kalamazoo, MI 49007

WEBSITE:
catholicschools.diokzoo.org

EMAIL:
officeofschools@diokzoo.org

[diokzoocatholicschools](#)



Design by Kelly Burdick