

## WHO WE ARE

The Diocese of Gary, established on December 17, 1956, and it encompasses four counties in Northwest Indiana: Lake, Porter, LaPorte, and Starke. The Diocese, pastored by Bishop Robert J. McClory, has seventeen elementary schools and three high schools. All Catholic schools in the diocese are coeducational.

- All elementary schools include preschool offerings; in addition, numerous schools have before and/or after school programs to compliment a rigorous curriculum of instruction.
- All high schools offer college preparatory programs, including dual credit, internships, and associate degree-seeking programs.

Families are supported with financial assistance through a variety of opportunities that include the Indiana School Choice Scholarship Program (all schools), the Scholarship Granting Organization (SGO) (all schools), the Big Shoulder Fund (10 schools), Catholic Services Appeals (all schools) as well as local parish/school level assistance.

## CONTACT US



# VISION FOR THE FUTURE

*Academic  
Excellence  
Inspired by  
Faith in Action*

DIOCESE OF GARY  
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

2022

## VISION & MISSION

### MISSION STATEMENT:

The mission of the Catholic Schools Office of the Diocese of Gary is to form our children to be fully alive as disciples of our Lord Jesus Christ in their intellects. The clarity of this purpose finds full expression in a robust Catholic Identity, stimulating academic excellence, committed operational vitality and effective governance and leadership.

### VISION STATEMENT:

Our vision is to teach and learn, pray and serve, love and give as disciples of Jesus Christ.

### OUR MOTTO

*Academic excellence inspired by Faith in Action.*



## GOALS FOR TEACHING & LEARNING

### ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE



**Objective:** Develop a unified process to collect, monitor, analyze and evaluate student growth and achievement data to inform instructional practices and enhance student support.

**Indicators of Success:**

- ✓ A calendar for curriculum development, evaluation, and revision
- ✓ Ongoing curriculum revisions across grade levels and content areas
- ✓ System-wide, highly quality, and consistent professional development
- ✓ Increases in student growth and achievement metrics

### INNOVATION



**Objective:** Identify and organize professional development in research-based best practices for embedding instructional and assessment strategies in the 1:1 classroom.

**Indicators of Success:**

- ✓ Ongoing professional development related to technology best practices for teaching and learning
- ✓ Each school has a technology plan that identifies goals and strategies to maintain and upgrade technology, 1:1 device, and systems of operation.

### RETENTION & RECRUITMENT



**Objective:** The Office of Catholic Schools should continue to develop a new teacher orientation program, prioritizing intentional onboarding and continued support for all new teachers in the Diocese.

**Indicators of Success:**

- ✓ New Teachers feel effective and supported
- ✓ New Principals feel effective and supported

# FAITH FORMATION & CATHOLIC IDENTITY INTERSECT ALL GOALS

- The Diocese of Gary is committed to strengthening its Catholic identity and prioritizing the faith formation of all students, faculty, and staff. Teachers are supported through catechetical courses, and students PK-12th grade are catechized in the rich traditions of the Catholic faith.
- Students in the Diocese of Gary are provided daily opportunities to see faith in action and to live out the SYNOD 2022's ten principles for being Missionary Disciples. Through daily prayer, religion classes, weekly masses, the sacraments, and service, students are learning to become missionary disciples.



# OVERVIEW OF FOCUS AREAS

## ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

- Aligned Curriculum
- Effective and Supported Teachers
- Effective and Supported principals
- Engagement in Professional Learning

## INNOVATION

- 1:1 platform for learning with ongoing professional development
- Technology Plan
- System-wide aligned Student Information System and formative assessments

## RETENTION & RECRUITMENT

- New Teacher Mentor Program
- New Principal Mentor Program



## MEETING THE NEEDS OF ALL LEARNERS

### What is Offered?

Programs are available at all levels to accommodate the needs and interests of our most advanced learners, those who need extra support to be successful, and all learners in between. Robust curricula, knowledgeable and effective teachers, a positive learning environment, and a culture of continuous improvement equip students to meet the challenges of living in an ever-changing world.

### *ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE INSPIRED BY FAITH IN ACTION*

**Equitable Access:** All students, including those with IEPs, in our school have equal access to the general education curriculum and extracurricular learning activities with appropriate supports.

**Supportive & inclusive district culture:** All faculty and staff are expected to support all students, regardless of their title or student need, instruction and supports are respectful, and can be flexible and innovative, meeting the diverse needs of students.

**Culturally Responsive Practices:** All school personnel (i.e., instructional, and other personnel) share responsibility and employ culturally responsive practices to educate all students in our school. Culture is central to learning. Learning environments and activities that reflect students' social, cultural, and linguistic experiences maximizes learning opportunities and makes instruction relevant for students.

## A STRONG CATHOLIC EDUCATION MEANS:

- Collegiate preparation – 94 percent of Catholic school graduates attend a college or university
- Faith-based – The goal of Catholic education is to help children understand and explore their faith. Religious formation begins at home and carries on to the classroom.
- A strong community – students and families dedicate hundreds of millions of volunteer service time to their schools. This is vital and critical to the continued growth of Catholic education.
- Student-focused faculty and staff – Catholic schools teachers provide a rigorous curriculum that challenges students to achieve academic excellence in and out of the classroom.

### Shared Beliefs of the Catholic Schools Office

The Office of Catholic Schools:

- cares for the people of God through servant leadership
- advances the mission of the Catholic Church
- provides curriculum that educates and inspires students to think critically and globally, allowing them to become faithful members of the Body of Christ
- provides formation and professional development to faculty and staff
- analyzes system data to determine best practices for sound decision-making
- fosters collaboration of resources among other Catholic agencies, parishes and secular educational programs
- advocates for the institutional advancement of Catholic schools
- seeks avenues for equitable distribution of resources.