Dear Friends of Catholic Education,

May God Bless You!

Over the past nearly two years, our school communities have been challenged like never before. Thanks to our devoted educators and administrators, we were able to return to in-person learning in August of 2020 and have remained open through unpredictability of the COVID-19 pandemic. In our most uncertain of times, the faith and resiliency of our school communities has shown through. We stay committed to instilling the faith in our children while providing them a high-quality education rich in rigorous academics and premiere programs.

Providing a Catholic education takes sacrifice, and we are grateful for our parents, grandparents, and guardians who make it a reality for over 2,700 children in our region each year. We are also thankful for the generosity of benefactors and donors who support and believe in the mission of our schools.

We look forward to continued success over the coming years and know that—with God’s help—we will be able to continue our work of bringing the Gospel message of our Lord to children throughout this diocese.

May God bless you. Let us keep each other in prayer,

+The Most Reverend Brendan J. Cahill, S.T.D.
Diocese of Victoria Catholic Schools

There are 15 Catholic schools in the Diocese of Victoria serving children in PreK through 12th grade. All schools are accredited by the Texas Catholic Conference of Bishops – Education Department and use the National Standards and Benchmarks for Effective Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools to further incorporate our mission of faith, service, and love.

Diocese of Victoria Catholic School students have many opportunities to discover and develop their God-given talents through a wide variety of extracurricular and enrichment offerings. Each year, our schools add programs and activities based on student interests and needs. Below are just SOME of the great programs and offerings of our Catholic schools.

**Academic and Enrichment Opportunities Include:**
- Spanish and other foreign language programs
- Social/emotional curriculum
- Choir and band
- Robotics and STEM programs (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math)
- Technology, website development
- Communication applications such as speech and debate
- College planning, extensive testing and career guidance
- Practical skills such as cooking, carpentry, knitting, personal finance, gardening

**Spiritual Development Opportunities Include:**
- Daily religious instruction rooted in the Gospel of Jesus Christ
- Regular Mass attendance, either weekly or daily
- Regular reception of Sacraments such as Reconciliation and Holy Eucharist
- Grade-level and faculty retreats
- Sacrament preparation
- Service projects
Diocese of Victoria Catholic Schools
by the Numbers

2,900 - number of children, on average, given the opportunity of receive a Catholic education each year
17:1 - average student to teacher ratio
12,000+ - number of completed service hours last school year
98% - percentage of student population engaged in online learning in spring of 2020
109 - students with a diagnosed disability from a local education agency
100% - percentage of high school graduates that enter into a post-high school education or military program
10 - number of counties in Texas served by our schools

12 pre-k programs
13 elementary schools
3 high schools

Diocese of Victoria Catholic Schools
by Ethnicity

- 71% Hispanic or Latino
- 29% Non-Hispanic or Latino

Diocese of Victoria Catholic Schools
by Race

- 85% White
- 9% Two or More Races
- 2% Black
- 1% Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander
- 0% Asian
- 0% American Indian/Native

Diocese of Victoria Catholic Schools
Catholic/Non-Catholic

- 100% Catholic
- 0% Non-Catholic

Diocese of Victoria Catholic Schools
by Grade Level

- PreK: 18%
- Elementary (K-5): 48%
- Middle School (6-8): 22%
- High School (9-12): 12%
Diocesan School Advisory Council, 2021-2022

Michael Seger, President
Megan Schott, Vice President
Virginia Hromadka
Kimberly Kelly
Lt. Ralph Buentello
Father Kirby Hlavaty
Father Jacob Koether
Sean Mooney, Principal
John O’Leary, Principal
David Schmidt
Joel Novosad

St. Rose of Lima, Schulenburg
St. Joseph High School, Victoria
St. Michael, Weimar
St. Philip, El Campo
Nazareth Academy, Victoria
Our Lady of Victory, Victoria
Our Lady of Sorrows, Victoria
St. Joseph, Yoakum
St. Anthony, Columbus

Ex-Officio Members from the Diocese of Victoria in Texas

Dr. John E. Quary
Tony Martinez
Melissa Salinas
Janet Jones
Ashley Novosad

Superintendent of Schools
Chief Financial Officer
Director of Human Resources
Director of Communications
Executive Assistant, DSAC
Facilitator

Most Reverend Brendan J Cahill, S.T.D. Bishop of the Diocese of Victoria in Texas

The mission of the Office of Catholic Schools is to provide the Catholic schools of the Diocese of Victoria in Texas with the vision and service necessary to renew all things in Christ by teaching minds and touching hearts.
We Are the Body of Christ: United in Beauty and Truth by God’s Love

The annual Catholic School Seminar proves to be a much-needed day for teacher collaboration, prayer, and renewal.

On August 6, 2021, the Office of Catholic Schools hosted an all-day in-service built to serve the teachers of our diocese.

Father Jacob Koether, pastor of Our Lady of Sorrows in Victoria, gave the keynote address and focused on the uniqueness of our Catholic school system: “We have eyes that the world does not have. We can see that God is everywhere... that we come from Him and we should be moving toward Him. We can see how everything is connected and blessed by His providence. We can see that we are more than our physical bodies and we are more than our faults and failures. We can see truth and beauty united in God’s love.”

Mrs. Donna Kunz—a 35-year veteran teacher from St. Rose of Lima in Schulenburg—provided the “Teacher of Year” address. Mrs. Kunz was selected as the Texas Catholic Conference of Bishops – Education Department Elementary Teacher of the Year for 2020. Her inspiring career and her uplifting words set the tone for the school year and made us all remember that “when we have hope, God loves to show us how He can do the extraordinary through the ordinary.”

Teaching Minds and Touching Hearts: The Office of Catholic Schools Celebrates 25 Years

The Office of Catholic Schools honored outstanding members of our Catholic school alumni by hosting its tenth annual Distinguished Alumni Awards Dinner on June 4, 2021. The event was catered by Mike Pozzi Catering and featured an elite group of recipients. From a local dairy farmer, to an ordained deacon, to a woman who has dedicated her time, talents and treasure to developing and maintaining a prison ministry, our Catholic school alumni is a true reflection of the caliber of our schools. Dedication and devotion runs through their veins: one of our awardees has donated over $400,000 to his alma mater! We give glory to God for the legacy of the Catholic education generation after generation.
Diocese of Victoria Catholic Schools: News Makers

Donna Kunz from St. Rose in Schulenburg is named Teacher of the Year!

The Texas Catholic Conference of Bishops Education Department (TCCB ED) name Donna Kunz the 2021 Elementary Teacher of the Year. This award is selected from all Catholic schools across the state of Texas. Donna Kunz is in her 35th year of teaching at St. Rose of Lima Catholic School and currently teaches English and Math in grades 6-8. Her energy and enthusiasm for teaching is evident in her pursuit of professional development, the individual attention she gives to students, and the mentorship she provides to her colleagues. Mrs. Kunz attends 20-30 hours annually of continuing education and had been training on Google classroom prior to the pandemic. When the schools closed, she was a leader among the staff, and her knowledge, along with her positive spirit, helped ease the transition to remote learning. In the classroom, she tailors her instruction to meet the individual needs of each student, providing multiple opportunities for success which she celebrates no matter how small.

- On January 31, 2022, ALL 291 students of St. Joseph High School in Victoria provided a “Day of Service” for the Victoria community. Organizations supported include: The Food Bank of South Texas, The Texas Zoo, Dorothy O’Connor Pet Adoption Center, Keep Victoria Beautiful. The day also included a South Texas beach clean-up. Way to give back, STJ!

- Jake Yackel, senior at Shiner Catholic School, participated in the NASA High School Aerospace Scholar program. He was selected from tens of thousands of applicants to be part of the group of approximately 950 students across the state who worked with NASA scientists and engineers to help plan the 2024 Artemis Mission and the Mars Exploration Program. What an incredible honor for our outstanding senior!

- On the 100th day of school in January 2022, the fifth-grade students at St. Philip Catholic School in El Campo took time out of their day to pray the rosary with their prek-3 buddies. What a beautiful inspiration our “big kids” give to our littles! Mary, Mother of God, be with them always.

- In March 2021, St. Michael’s Catholic School in Cuero cheered in the return of in-person family and community activities with the First Annual Color Run and Children’s Carnival. Go Mustangs!

- Our Lady of Victory Catholic School in Victoria is growing! They have recently expanded their campus with a new playground pavilion, an additional early child classroom, smart TVs in every room, a new library, and new athletic fields.

- St. Anthony Catholic School in Columbus recently made the FINAL payment on the $4.8 million construction of the new school facilities and renovations. This project was completely crowd-funded and shows the power of donations! YOU make a difference!

- St. Michael Catholic School in Weimar moved their Christmas pageant outdoors due to the pandemic. They told the Christmas Story in a drive-thru depicting various scenes. It was a great success as hundreds of people attended who otherwise would never have seen our students in our regular pageant!

- Our Lady of the Gulf Catholic School in Port Lavaca celebrated its 25th Birthday on August 14th, 2021 and with the accomplishment of this milestone it also kicked off the Mariner Alumni Group. Additionally, an alumnus recently gifted the school $10,000 stating how strongly she still feels connected to the school and how fondly she remembers her years at OLG. How exciting to see alumni from the past support the school in the future!
ALL SCHOOLS ENROLLING NOW!
Hurry! Spaces are limited!
Please visit websites for tuition and waitlist information.

Nazareth Academy Catholic School in Victoria, PreK3 thru 8th grade, Established 1867 https://nazarethacademy.org/
St. Joseph High School in Victoria, 9th thru 12th grade, Established 1868 http://www.stjvictoria.com/
St. Michael Catholic School in Cuero, PreK3 thru 6th grade, Established 1877 https://stmschoolcuero.org/
Sacred Heart Catholic School in Hallettsville, PreK3 thru 12th grade, Established 1882 https://www.shschool.org/
St. Rose of Lima Catholic School in Schulenburg, PreK3 thru 8th, Established 1889 https://strosecardinals.org/
St. Michael Catholic School in Weimar, PreK3 thru 8th, Established 1890 https://stmichaelswords.org/
St. Joseph Catholic School in Yoakum, PreK3 thru 8th grade, Established 1891 https://stjchurches.org/
St. Ludmila Academy in Shiner, PreK3 thru 12th grade, Established 1897 https://shinercatholicschool.org/
Holy Cross Catholic School in Bay City, PreK3 thru 5th grade, Established 1940 https://bcholycrossschool.org/
St. Philip Catholic School in El Campo, PreK3 thru 8th grade, Established 1949 https://stphilipschool.org/
St. Anthony Catholic School in Columbus, PreK3 thru 8th grade, Established 1955 http://www.stanthonycolumbus.net/
Our Lady of Victory Catholic School in Victoria, PreK3 thru 8th grade, Established 1957 http://ourladyvictory.org/
Our Lady of the Gulf Catholic School in Port Lavaca, PreK4 thru 8th grade, Established 1996 https://olgmariners.org/