

# *Why Choose an Idaho Catholic School?*

ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF BOISE  
Office of Catholic Schools

# Bishop's Message

The current global pandemic has forced us to pause, reflect, and cherish what truly matters. Our time without the Eucharist made us hunger for it even more. Our time without school buildings open, makes us desire to be back in community in classrooms.

There are 16 Catholic schools throughout the state of Idaho, stretching from Coeur d'Alene in the north, to Nampa in the west, to Idaho Falls in the east. During the nation-wide shutdown of schools, Idaho Catholic schools were up and running with distance learning within a week. Idaho Catholic school teachers served their students and taught them about faith, in spite of tremendous challenges. Idaho Catholic schools have been a source of hope and structure during this health concern.

The Catholic schools in Idaho educate children in a superior academic environment of learning and living which is fully integrated in the light of faith in God. In addition to incredible academic achievement, children are part of a Christian community that develops the whole person: mind, body, and soul.

Catholic schools provide children with smaller class sizes, religious and character development, high achievement, teacher quality, parental satisfaction, and an over-all "fit" between the culture of the school and faith. A 2018 study from the Fordham Institute found that students in Catholic schools have higher rates of self-discipline.

Thank you for taking time to learn more about Catholic schools in Idaho. As the testimonies in this brochure attest, your investment in Idaho Catholic schools will go far.

I remain sincerely yours in Christ,



Most Reverend Peter F. Christensen  
Bishop of the Diocese of Boise



*"Fear not, beloved, you are safe; take courage and be strong."*

- Daniel 10:19

## Diocese of Boise Catholic Schools' Mission Statement

Our schools are dedicated to providing a Catholic environment for learning in which all children are challenged and supported to develop into the people God created them to be.

**MOSCOW**

- **St. Mary's Catholic Parish School**  
Preschool through 8th grade  
208-882-2121 / [www.stmarysmoscow.com](http://www.stmarysmoscow.com)

**LEWISTON**

- **All Saints Catholic School**  
Preschool through 8th grade  
208-743-4411 / [www.ascs-pk6.org](http://www.ascs-pk6.org)

**GRANGEVILLE**

- **Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic School**  
Preschool through 8th grade  
208-983-2182 / [www.myspps.org](http://www.myspps.org)

**COTTONWOOD**

- **St. John Bosco Academy**  
Pre-K through 12th grade  
208-962-5650 / [www.johnbosco.org](http://www.johnbosco.org)

**BOISE**

- **Bishop Kelly High School**  
9th through 12th grade  
208-375-6010 / [www.bk.org](http://www.bk.org)
- **Sacred Heart Catholic School**  
Preschool through 8th grade  
208-344-9738 / [www.sacredheartboise.com](http://www.sacredheartboise.com)
- **St. Joseph's Catholic School**  
K through 8th grade / 208-342-4909 / [www.stjoes.com](http://www.stjoes.com)
- **Immaculata Catholic Montessori**  
Ages 3-6 / 208-342-3511  
[www.boisecathedral.org/immaculata-montessori](http://www.boisecathedral.org/immaculata-montessori)
- **St. Mark's Catholic School**  
Preschool through 8th grade  
208-375-6654 / [www.stmarksboise.com](http://www.stmarksboise.com)
- **St. Mary's Catholic School**  
Preschool through 8th grade  
208-882-2121 / [www.stmarys-boise.org](http://www.stmarys-boise.org)

**NAMPA**

- **St. Paul's Catholic School**  
Preschool through 8th grade  
208-467-3601 / [www.nampacatholic.school](http://www.nampacatholic.school)

**COEUR D'ALENE**

- **Holy Family Catholic School**  
Preschool through 8th grade  
208-765-4327 / [www.hfcs-cda.org](http://www.hfcs-cda.org)

**MERIDIAN**

- **St. Ignatius Catholic School**  
Preschool through 8th grade  
208-888-4759 / [www.stignatiusmeridian.org](http://www.stignatiusmeridian.org)



**IDAHO FALLS**

- **Holy Rosary Catholic School**  
Preschool through 6th grade  
208-522-7781 / [www.holyrosaryschoolif.org](http://www.holyrosaryschoolif.org)

**POCATELLO**

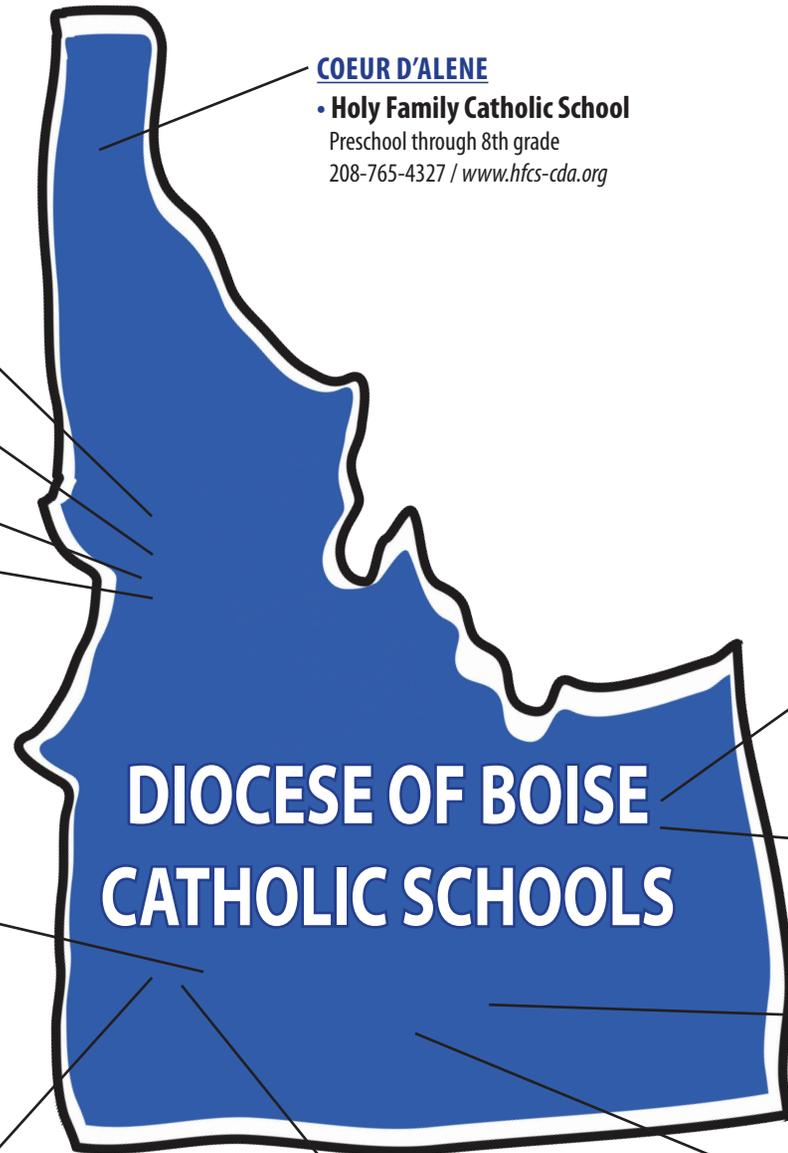
- **Holy Spirit Catholic School**  
Preschool through 8th grade  
208-232-5763 / [www.holyspirits.com](http://www.holyspirits.com)

**RUPERT**

- **St. Nicholas Catholic School**  
Preschool through 6th grade  
208-436-6320 / [www.stnicholasrupert.org](http://www.stnicholasrupert.org)

**TWIN FALLS**

- **St. Edward's Catholic School**  
Preschool through 7th grade  
208-734-3872 / [www.sainteddie.org](http://www.sainteddie.org)



**DIOCESE OF BOISE  
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS**

# Superintendent's Message

During the 2019-20 school year, all schools experienced a new reality. Without much warning, schools had to reinvent themselves overnight in order to continue to serve students. Idaho Catholic schools accepted this challenge, and found new ways to educate students: spirit, mind, and body.

It's 8:45 a.m. on Monday, March 30, 2020. Instead of dropping off children at St. Paul's Catholic School, parents are given scheduled times to do a curbside pick-up of materials, following the proper social distancing guidelines.

It's 9 a.m. School bells are ringing in hallways that have been empty since March 13, 2020. Angela Hild and Fr. Joseph Lustig from St. Edward's Catholic School are welcoming students to the week with prayer and announcements through Facebook.

Now it's 9:15 a.m., and three children are seated at their kitchen table, each with a Chromebook and several school materials. One child is watching a video of her second grade teacher teaching a math lesson. Another child is practicing vocabulary and grammar on Spelling City, and the third child is attending a live session via Google Hangouts with his English teacher. The teachers are stationed in various locations (their guest room, their classroom, their own kitchen table), and this new way of learning is becoming the norm.

Or, look at the Bishop Kelly High School students using Schoology, a Learning Management System, to interact with their teachers, watch recorded lessons, and continue to complete assignments in their selected courses.

All 16 Idaho Catholic schools continued educating students, even though they could not physically enter the school buildings. The schools found ways to recognize achievement through Zoom, Youtube, and socially distanced events.

Idaho Catholic school staff stepped up in the face of challenge and provided an excellent education in faith, academics, and life to students during a very difficult time. As we enter another school year where so much is uncertain and so many things not guaranteed, I invite you to look at our Catholic schools and how they can give your student hope and structure during a global pandemic.

Blessings,



Dr. Sarah Quilici, Superintendent of Catholic Schools



# Accreditation

All schools in the Diocese of Boise are accredited by Western Catholic Education Association (WCEA). Bishop Kelly High School and St. John Bosco Academy are also accredited by AdvancED. Each school has an on-site visit every six years to ensure they are providing the best academic and spiritual formation for students.



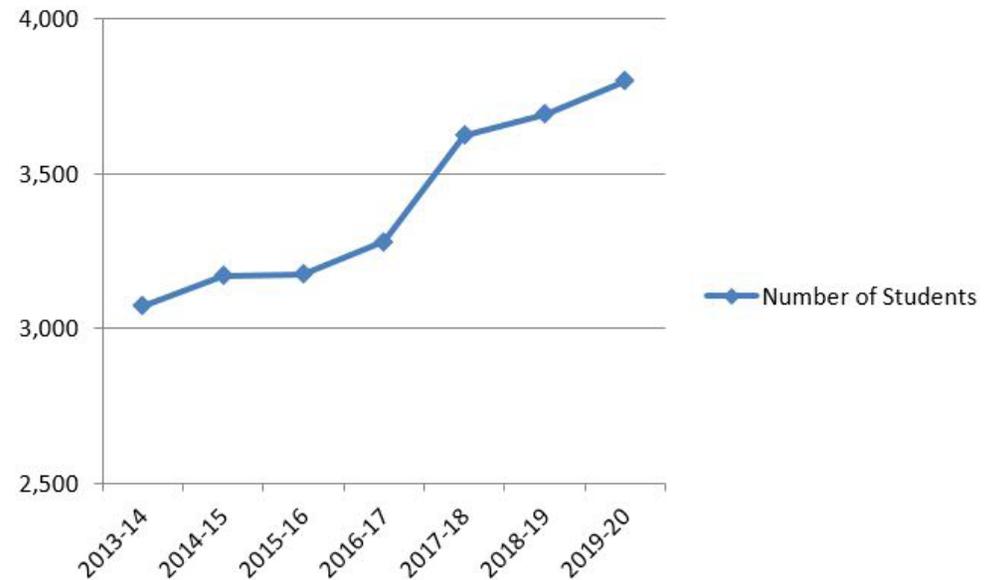
In addition, Catholic school teachers in the Diocese of Boise are required to be certified through the Idaho State Department of Education. Idaho Catholic school teachers are also asked to earn their catechist certification (through the Diocese of Boise) to ensure an understanding of the teachings of the Catholic Church.



# Growth

At a time when Catholic schools around the country are closing their doors, Catholic schools in Idaho are growing! In August 2017, St. Ignatius Catholic School opened in Meridian. The school provided 480 new high-quality educational seats. In August, 2018, Bishop Kelly High School opened a STEM wing, which added 70 more high quality seats, with the potential for more. All Saints Catholic School in Lewiston opened a new school building in August 2017, and they expanded to include 7th and 8th grades. In the summer of 2020, St. John Bosco Academy in Cottonwood is adding on a new classroom wing, and St. Edward's Catholic School in Twin Falls is adding a middle school program.

Number of Students



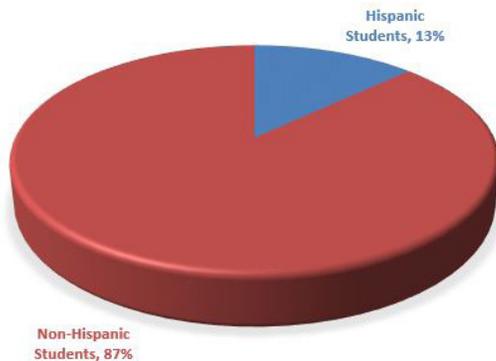
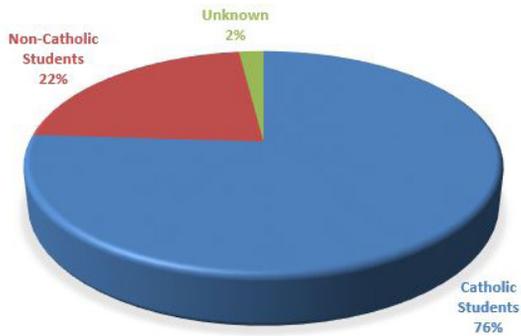
# Who We Serve

**3,800** Number of students

**500+** Increased number of seats from 2017-2020

**2970** Pre-K through grade 8

**830** High school students, grades 9-12



*To me, Sacred Heart is not a place where I moan and sigh saying, "I don't want to be here." In fact, every night before the next school morning, I look forward to seeing my wonderful friends and learning new things. Sacred Heart has such a welcoming community that allows me to feel comfortable and loved. The staff is so dedicated to making us smart and sensible while also making us feel so loved and cared for. I love Sacred Heart because it is such a small community where I have found my forever friends. When my parents chose Sacred Heart for my sisters and me, they did not know that they would find their forever friends too. Lastly, I would like to mention the strong connection I feel with God when I'm at this school. When I go to church and sit with my first-grade buddy or just simply walking down the hall, I feel so close to God. Sacred Heart is the best when it comes to educating us on our great faith and that's what I love about this school. Sacred Heart is a school that makes you feel close to God, cares for you both educationally and personally, and helps you find your forever friends. No matter what, Sacred Heart will be my forever home.*



– Carley Calovich, student, Sacred Heart Catholic School, Boise

# Catholic School Difference



## FAITH

The Diocese of Boise has a religion curriculum that all of the schools follow. Each school has at least one parish priest connected to the school to celebrate liturgies and teach students. Students participate in liturgies by singing, reading, altar serving; these opportunities help our students grow in their faith and develop their public presentation skills. Our education in faith and values sets Catholic schools apart from other educational institutions.



## KNOWLEDGE

Data shows our students perform above the national norm on standardized tests. 100% of our seniors graduate from high school. Our students go on to perform well in college and beyond.



## SERVICE

Each school is committed to giving back to their community. Students participate in individual, class, and school-wide community service projects.

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*I am so grateful for the sense of community at Holy Rosary School. I know that my children are loved by the staff and that they will seek out what is best for my children. The community of staff and families at Holy Rosary School supports my children's growth academically, spiritually, and morally.*

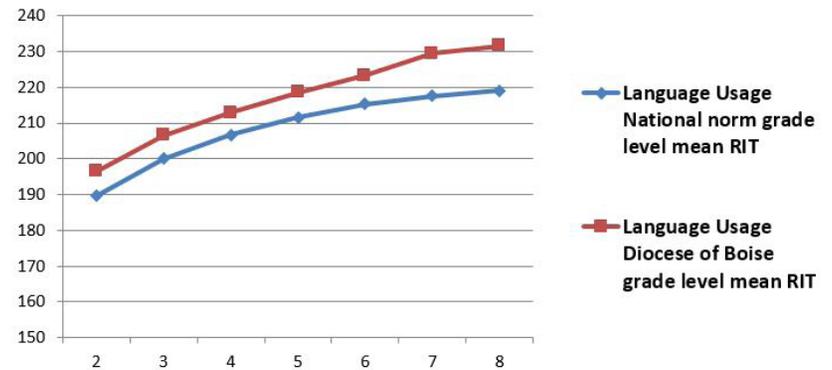
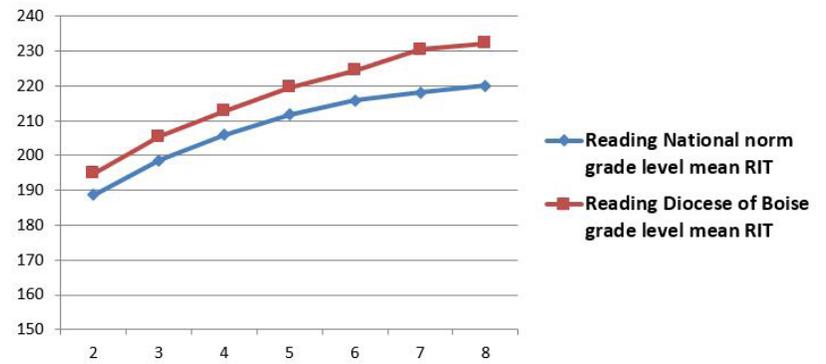
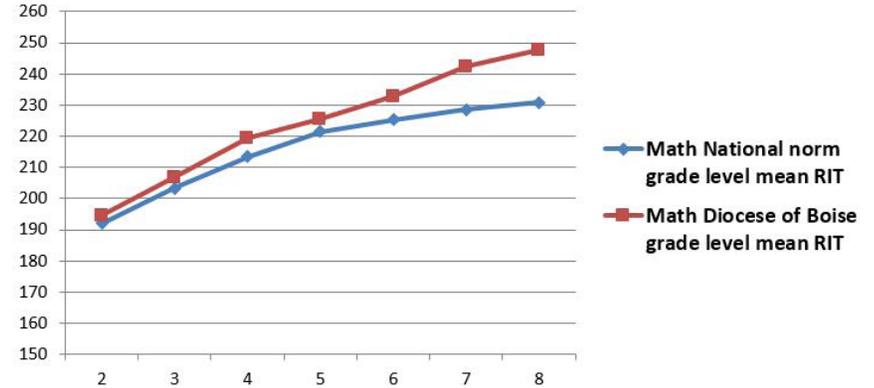
– Mary M., parent, Holy Rosary Catholic School, Idaho Falls

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# Elementary/Middle Schools

Students in the Diocese of Boise take Northwest Education Association's (NWEA) Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) assessment. Students are performing above the national norms on these standardized assessments.

The students in Idaho public schools take a different assessment; however, MAP projected proficiency studies show that students from the Diocese of Boise would be 58% proficient or advanced in math (compared to a 45.1% proficiency rate in the state of Idaho) and 70.5% proficient or advanced in reading (compared to 55.6% proficiency across the state of Idaho).



# High Schools

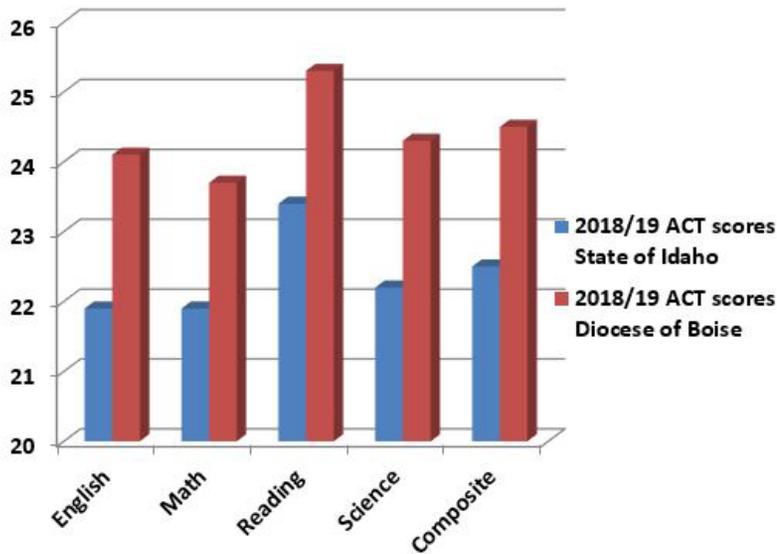
**182** Number of students who graduated (100% of seniors!)

**97%** Graduates “going on” to college or the military

**\$20M** Merit-based scholarships offered to the classes of 2019

**Top 10%** The classes of 2018/19 had mean SAT and ACT scores among the top 10% of schools in the country

**6000** Number of hours students spent in service to their community



# Digital Learning

Idaho Catholic schools were poised and ready to go with learning very quickly once the closure was announced. Many of the schools are small and were able to provide resources (i.e. Chromebooks and online tools) to students who needed them. Several of the teachers were already using tools in the classroom that they could translate into distance learning. Finally, Idaho Catholic schools already partner with their students and families, and they were able to do that in a new way.

All of the Idaho Catholic schools are anxious to have their students back on campus. The best way to serve students and families is to have them present in the classrooms and celebrating the Sacraments. Even with all of the uncertainties, schools are planning for the 2020-21 school year with the following goals:

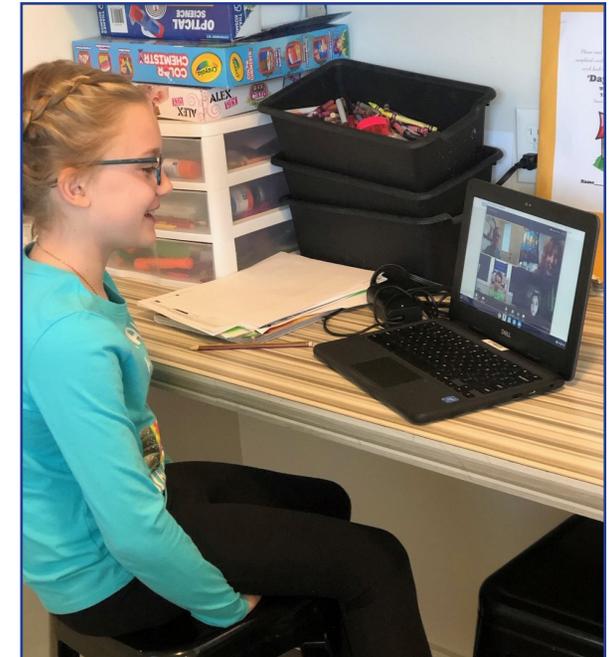
- Work to ensure the health and safety of students and staff.
- Maintain our Catholic identity.
- Keep students engaged in learning.
- Teach students essential skills for their grade level.
- Build relationships with families to help them feel a sense of belonging and connectivity.

*At All Saints Catholic School, the children not only get a quality academic and spiritual education they learn how to be a positive influence in our community. During the spring COVID-19 shut down, All Saints School teachers and staff demonstrated an incredible focus and dedication to the students. The implementation of the Distance Learning is an example to all.*

– Kevin Kelly, parent, All Saints Catholic School, Lewiston

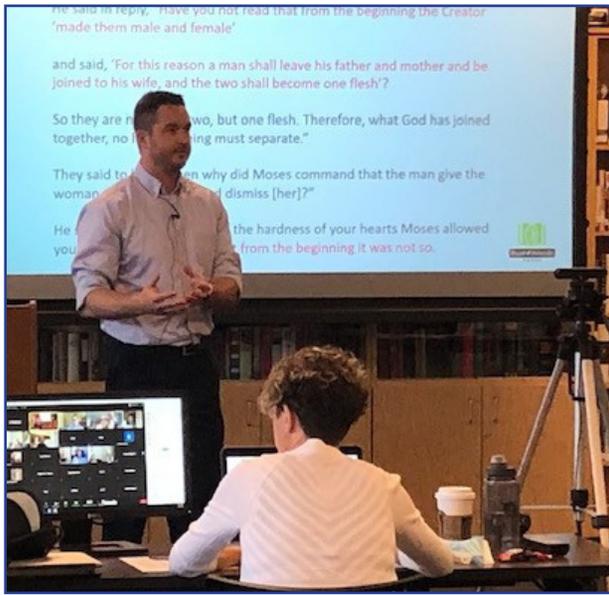
*When COVID hit, the school staff responded rapidly to ensure student learning continued. An effective plan for distance learning was quickly implemented. Teachers consistently reached out to check on student progress and to answer questions. Although our child attended school remotely, he never felt disconnected.*

– Tyler and Michelle Andrew, parents, Sacred Heart Catholic School, Boise



# Statewide Professional Development

Teachers from across Idaho have worked together this year more than ever. The closure of school buildings taught us that we need to collaborate even more and that we can learn from one another. Throughout the closure, Idaho Catholic teachers and principals from across the state met via Zoom to share resources and ideas. On June 12, 2020, the Diocese of Boise held a hybrid training (some participants were in-person at Bishop Kelly High School, and several other participants were remote through Zoom) on Theology of the Body. The week of June 15, 2020, 86 Idaho Catholic teachers attended professional development sessions designed to prepare them to teach next school year. Even though the state of Idaho is geographically vast, we have connected and learned from one another during this crisis more than ever.



# IDAHO CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Catholic Schools prepare students from Pre-K to 12th grade for a successful Christian life. Catholic schools are the good news in education, offering:

- Strong Catholic identity and moral values
- High academic standards
- A “go-on” rate that exceeds state and national standards; more than 97% of our graduates attend college
- Emphasis on service to others
- Smaller class sizes
- An inclusive and nurturing school community
- A safe school environment
- Award-winning extracurricular activities
- Full- and half-day kindergarten options
- Instructional time that exceeds state recommended guidelines

- Average tuition for K-8 schools is \$4,023
- Bishop Kelly High School tuition, \$8,760
- Summit Academy (high school)tuition, \$2,800
- Tuition should not be a barrier for a student to receive a Catholic education. All of our schools designate money to go to tuition assistance to make Catholic school affordable for families.

During this difficult time, Catholic schools need your support more than ever:

1. Schools may not be able to hold their traditional fundraisers.
2. Parishes have experienced decreased donations, which may impact school budgets.
3. More families are experiencing economic hardship and may need more financial aid.
4. Schools have had to purchase more technology, cleaning supplies, protective equipment, etc. to improve the safety of their schools.
5. Catholic schools receive no money from the state of Idaho and limited federal support.

*Schools you can believe in!*



**ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF BOISE**

Office of Catholic Schools  
1501 S. Federal Way, Suite 400  
Boise, Idaho 83705

208.342.1311 • [www.catholicidaho.org](http://www.catholicidaho.org)

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