



## Catholic Diocese of Columbus

**Department for Education**

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Dear Parents,

The Catholic school system is not simply an alternative form of education. As an important ministry of the Church, Catholic schools offer a unique educational experience, one that addresses the whole human person and one that can be offered in almost no other setting.

There are certain characteristics that define a Catholic school. One is the context in which education takes place. There is no such thing as “Catholic” mathematics or “Catholic” physics, or a specifically Catholic methodology for the study of history or languages. Each field of study proceeds according to its own methodology. There is, however, a specifically Catholic atmosphere in which everything is learned. Part of this atmosphere is the desire for integration of the various fields of study so that a student can understand that knowledge is ultimately one and that all truth has one source, God Himself. In a Catholic school there must be a desire, not simply for information or techniques of learning, but for understanding and wisdom as well. After all, the destiny of the human person is eternity.

Another part of this Catholic atmosphere is a specific commitment to moral formation according to the mind of Christ’s Church. Assisting the parents, the first teachers of their children, a school must not only encourage a child to pursue intellectual excellence but moral excellence as well. Training in the virtues is basic to authentic human happiness.

Finally, a Catholic school recognizes the necessity for worship and prayer. An education that does not honor the spiritual realities and obligations of human life does not recognize fully the essential dignity of the human person made for God.

I reaffirm my support for Catholic education, especially as we face our challenging future. I am grateful for those who sacrifice to enhance the education of our children.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Frederick F. Campbell, D.D., Ph.D.  
Bishop of Columbus