



Annual Report / 2018



"Let us work together to ensure that children continue to smile: their faces serene, filled with joy and hope."

Pope Francis

TABLE OF CONTENTS

3 A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

4 OUR HIGHLIGHTS

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
HIGHER POWERED LEARNING GRANTS
NEW FOR TEACHERS
A CULTURE OF INCLUSION
COMMUNITY SERVICE
SPORTS

6 FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

7 2017/2018 "BY THE NUMBERS" INFOGRAPHIC

8 CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK 2018

9 BEACON OF HOPE SCHOLARSHIP FUND AND ANNUAL BALL

COMMUNITY SPIRIT AWARDS

10 OUR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

11 2017/2018 PARTNERS IN EDUCATION



ANOTHER YEAR OF HIGHER POWERED LEARNING

A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Friends of Catholic Education,

I am pleased to present Another Year of Higher Powered Learning, the 2018 Annual Report for the Diocese of Albany Catholic Schools.



Our collection of schools, located throughout 14 counties and serving children from Pre-K through grade 12, provides the moral, spiritual, and intellectual foundation that enables our graduates to become productive, socially conscious members of our society.

The sense of community you find in our schools is unlike any other; it is fundamental to a Catholic education. When we talk about Higher Powered Learning, we are referring to a learning environment that is literally entrusted to a higher power. Our faith guides us, restores us, teaches us the value of inclusion and being respectful of others, and prayerfully directs us to tap into our unique gifts in service to God. Said another way, we guide our students to be their very best selves. We believe that when knowledge and faith unite, pure magic happens. We invite you to visit any one of our schools to see for yourself.

Since earning our five-year accreditation from AdvancED, we have established a culture of continuous improvement throughout our system of schools. We are driven by our mission, while keenly and continuously aware of our responsibility to be good stewards of our resources.

We are grateful to our many companions on this journey. Thank you to Bishop Scharfenberger, the Diocesan School Board and the Catholic School Office – a team that is dedicated to advancing the mission of Catholic education in the Diocese of Albany.

Thank you, also, to our many benefactors, partners, local school boards, community leaders, pastors, volunteers and of course, our dedicated principals, teachers and staff, all who support the important work that we do.

We are proud of our schools and their accomplishments during the 2017/2018 school year. We ask for your prayers as we embark upon another year of dynamic Higher Powered Learning.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Giovanni Virgilio, Jr." The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Giovanni Virgilio, Jr.

Superintendent of Schools

[Twitter@RCDASupt](https://twitter.com/RCDASupt)

MISSION STATEMENT FOR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Inspired by Christ the Teacher, the schools of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany provide a transformative learning experience in an evangelizing community.

MISSION STATEMENT FOR CATHOLIC SCHOOL OFFICE

As disciples of Jesus Christ, Lord and Teacher, we at the Catholic School Office provide leadership and guidance, give direction and assistance, and offer support and advice to all members of our diocesan school communities to ensure a future, faithful Church.

OUR VISION FOR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

We envision school communities imbued with Catholic values that inspire personal growth and social justice, recognize and nurture the spirituality of each individual, and provide a safe and loving environment.

AdvancED



Our accreditation by AdvancED requires ongoing analysis, a focus on independently identified improvement priorities, and adherence to our "2020 Vision" system improvement plan. We are committed to continuous improvement, accountability, and sustainability throughout our system of schools in the Diocese of Albany. Current priorities are developing a 3-year system-wide strategic plan, creating mentoring and professional development programs for teachers, and addressing the needs of our schools in the areas of clinical services and guidance, to name a few.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Superintendent's Conference Day, held just prior to the first day of school, brings together principals, teachers, and staff for an opening liturgy and keynote speaker. We were pleased to welcome Dena Simmons, Ed.D., Director of Education at the Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence, to discuss leveraging emotional intelligence and cultural awareness in the classroom. Teachers gained valuable insight into best practices for helping all students not just survive, but thrive with a fully developed, strong sense of pride in who they are and where they came from. We are grateful to Fidelis Care for a grant that enabled us to bring Dr. Simmons' timely and important message to our educators.



We Light the Way professional development day is an annual event that nurtures, enlightens, and inspires hundreds of Catholic school educators from parishes and schools throughout the Diocese of Albany. Attendees this past year gained valuable knowledge and critical training in a multitude of disciplines, including cultural responsiveness, emotional literacy, and English Language Learners.

HIGHER POWERED LEARNING GRANTS

The Albany Diocesan School Board awards \$100,000 in grant funds annually to our schools. This competitive grant program encourages our schools to be collaborative, creative, and think outside the box!

All Saints Catholic Academy in Albany received funding for new flexible seating for their students, allowing for an enhanced learning environment. Other schools received awards for proposing innovative theater, music, arts, language and STREAM (Science, Technology, Religion, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics) enrichment programs. "The STREAM Goes Chrome", "Make a Joyful Noise", and "Around the World in 180 Days" were all winning programs for their respective schools.

The Office of Educational Technology within the Catholic School Office was awarded a Higher Powered Learning Consortium Grant titled "App-y Hour for Teachers: Bringing Technology to the Students' Hands Through Optimizing Google Apps Content." Throughout the school year, an "App-y Hour" was held every other month where teachers worked together to create Google Apps integrated lesson plans for use in the classroom. And, the teachers even got a free Chromebook! All lesson plans created at the App-y hours were placed in a central repository online for use by any diocesan teacher.

The **St. Isaac Jogues Leadership Institute** was created to provide ongoing professional development for all principals in the Diocese of Albany. The Institute blends the characteristics of transformational and transactional leadership through varied topics that are timely and meaningful to today's Catholic school leader.

At the Diocese of Albany's **Spring Enrichment**, hundreds of teachers, catechetical leaders, and catechists attended a 3-day symposium at The College of St. Rose designed to spiritually enrich and emotionally engage the participants.



A CULTURE OF INCLUSION

Our Albany Diocesan Catholic schools are open to all, regardless of religious affiliation or family circumstances. At Bishop Maginn High School, many of our students are refugees from Myanmar who are assimilating well in their new hometown, bringing a renewed sense of vitality and joy to the school.

A large percentage of our students are non-Catholic. Parents have shared with us the desire to have their children educated in a safe, nurturing environment where the whole child is respected and prepared for the challenges of the world.

The Catholic School Office recognizes the growing need to assist families of children with developmental, intellectual, and mental health challenges.

During our annual We Light the Way professional development day, we offered our educators workshops on teaching strategies and tools to support the special education population in our schools.

The Catholic School Office presented the Too Good for Violence program to 13 elementary schools and the Too Good for Drugs and Violence

program to 3 high schools reaching over 1,100 students in Albany, Saratoga and Rensselaer counties during the 2017/2018 school year.

Catholic School Office staff serve on Bishop Scharfenberger's newly formed Mental Health Awareness Committee whose mission is to provide spiritual support, advocacy and educational resources to those who live with a mental illness and their families. The committee seeks to promote justice and end the stigma that is so often associated with mental illness and prevents those who are ill from getting treatment.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

At the Diocese of Albany Catholic schools, we instill in our students the importance of having a servant's heart. Each of our schools participate in various community service projects throughout the year, helping our neighbors, as well as those less fortunate around the world, who are homeless, hungry, or facing an unforeseen crisis.

This past year, our schools united in an effort to respond to a natural disaster of epic proportions. "Student to Student", an urgent response for hurricane relief initiated by the National Catholic Educational Association, encouraged all Catholic schools in the nation to raise funds to help the Catholic schools in the South that were most severely impacted by Hurricanes Harvey and Irma. The Albany Diocesan Catholic School Office challenged its schools to raise \$5,000. Our schools doubled that goal, raising over \$10,000 for their sister schools in the South.

SPORTS

The Holy Trinity Pride football team, comprised of students from Notre Dame-Bishop Gibbons and Catholic Central High Schools, had a resoundingly successful season, earning a coveted spot at the Section II state finals at the Carrier Dome in Syracuse. Holy Trinity Pride was alive and well!

"We're not just a football program," said Holy Trinity Pride head coach, John Barber. "We're developing young men to go out in the world." Indeed! All members of the team are headed to college with ambitious goals and no doubt fond memories of their days on the field.

More collaborative, competitive sports programs are planned.

NEW FOR TEACHERS

Phase I of the new **Diocesan Mentoring Program** was rolled out in early 2018. This phase included "Targeted Talks" on a variety of topics designed to support our new teachers in their first year of Catholic education. The talks focused on what it means to be a Catholic educator, classroom strategies and time management.

Another exciting opportunity for teachers to collaborate and grow professionally was our **1st Annual Early Childhood Symposium for teachers of Pre-K, Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grades**. The teachers in attendance found the time together and the resources provided to be invaluable.

The diocesan schools have made great progress in implementing the **NYS Next Generation Learning Standards**. Curriculum coordinators identified at each school assist



with the implementation of these new standards and assessments.

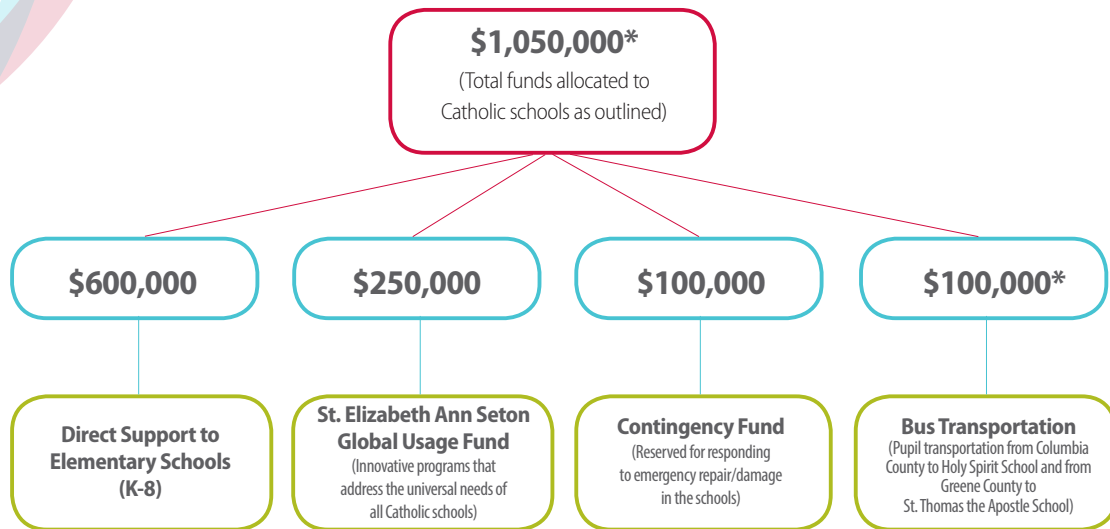
Pre-K to Grade 8 teachers received a copy of the **Math Toolkit** at the start of the school year. It was developed by Catholic School Offices throughout the state in response to the expressed needs of our elementary school teachers.

This year, the Catholic School Office forged a new partnership with **Sophia Institute**, a professional development organization committed to providing today's Catholic school teachers with the knowledge, teaching strategies, and classroom materials they need to engage their students with the Catholic faith.

In August, Sophia Institute hosted a day-long catechetical workshop for our teachers. The workshop was extremely popular. In fact, 100% of the teachers said they learned new content, gained teaching strategies, and felt more confident teaching the faith, while 96% said their opinion of Christ and His Church had changed in a positive way. These teachers now have ready-to-use activities that help to ensure that the quality of teaching at each school is strengthened, and students will develop into knowledgeable Catholics.

Four follow-up, interactive webinars were scheduled throughout the school year to further prepare our educators in their ministry of evangelizing our youth.

Diocese of Albany Catholic Schools REGIONALIZATION FUND DISTRIBUTION



Each year, parishes are called upon to contribute to the ongoing success of our schools through the Regionalization Fund. This chart demonstrates the distribution of these funds.

* Estimated amount

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

To further our mission as advisors to our diocesan school communities, the Catholic School Office established two accounting associate positions in its finance office to assist with the day-to-day financial management of our four diocesan high schools.

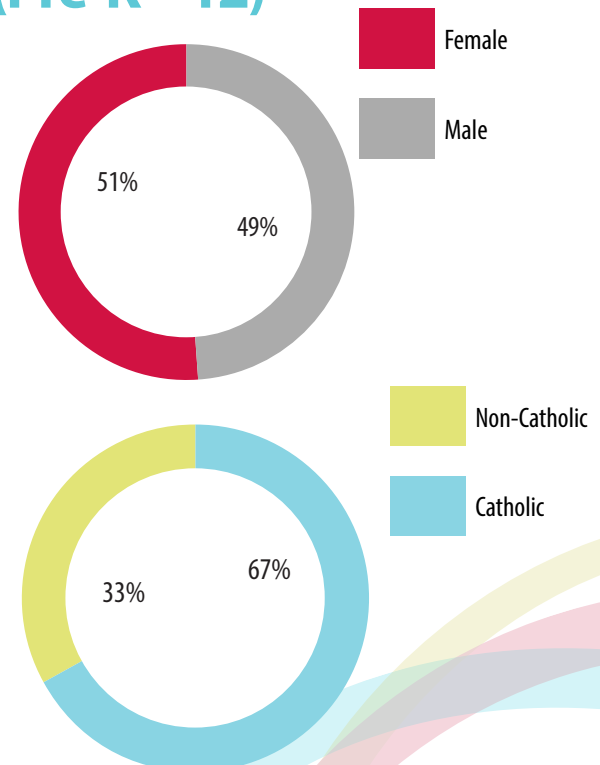
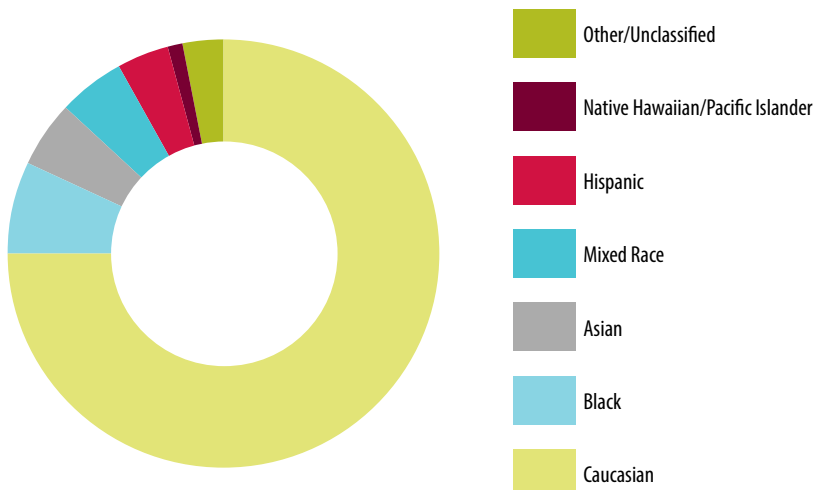
By pooling resources among our schools and centralizing key services, we are leveraging opportunities to provide the best education for all children in the Diocese of Albany.

The Kenneth and Thelma Lally Partnership in Catholic Education is a needs-based financial aid program that is managed by the Catholic School Office and made available to families looking to enroll their children in grades 1 to 12 at one of our diocesan schools. Scholarships are given in the amounts of \$750 and \$1,000 for grades 1 to 8 and 9 to 12, respectively. A total of \$238,000 was awarded during the 2017/2018 school year.



Student Demographics (Pre-K – 12)

ETHNICITY DEMOGRAPHICS



2017/2018 “By The Numbers” Infographic

\$29,036,012

in college
scholarships awarded
to the Class of 2018

\$238,000

in Lally Partnership
in Catholic Education
financial aid awarded

99%

graduation rate for
diocesan high schools

\$66,000

in Beacon of Hope
Scholarships awarded

22

early education,
elementary and high
schools in our diocese

13

points scored in the
last 5 minutes of play
by Holy Trinity at
Carrier Dome

1

the first and only diocese
in NYS to be accredited
by AdvancedED, the largest
community of education
professionals in the world.



CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK 2018

Each year, the last week of January is an exciting time at each of our diocesan schools because it is when we observe Catholic Schools Week.

Since 1974, Catholic Schools Week has provided an opportunity for Catholic schools throughout the nation to display the value that a Catholic education offers young people.

Our 2018 Catholic Schools Week commenced with a special mass at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, with Bishop Edward Scharfenberger presiding. Following the liturgy, we honored a notable group of Catholic educators and community partners with distinguished awards and recognition of service.

The celebration continued across the street at the Empire State Plaza with our diocesan wide Student Art Show, a popular event that always inspires and delights!

2017/2018 Catholic School Awardees

Bishop Howard J. Hubbard Distinguished Administrator Award

Mary Rushkoski, Principal, St. Mary's School, Waterford

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Distinguished Elementary School Teacher Award

Denise Chonski, St. Thomas the Apostle School, Delmar

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Distinguished Secondary School Teacher Award

Kristen Grasso, Holy Spirit School, East Greenbush

Vicki Bullis Distinguished School Staff Award

Mary Susan Megna, St. Mary's Institute, Amsterdam

Mother Frances Cabrini Distinguished School Support Award

Ann Pawlik, Catholic Central High School, Troy

St. John Neumann Award for Commitment to Catholic Education

Rev. John Bradley, Blessed Sacrament Church, Albany

Community Partner Award

John Barber, Head Coach, Holy Trinity Pride Football Team

Service Awards

25 Years of Service

Thomas Kane, Principal, St. Thomas the Apostle School, Delmar

Mary Gregorio, Religious Education Director, St. Mary's/St. Alphonsus School, Glens Falls

Rebecca Judith Stauffer, Teacher, St. Clement's Regional Catholic School, Saratoga

Susan Bolduc, Teacher, St. Mary's/St. Alphonsus School, Glens Falls

30 Years of Service

Cathy Bush, Teacher, St. Francis deSales Regional Catholic School, Herkimer

Anna Farone, Assistant Principal/Teacher, St. Clement's Regional Catholic School, Saratoga

Michele Moreau, Teacher, St. Clement's Regional Catholic School, Saratoga

Kathleen Winters, Teacher, St. Mary's School, Ballston Spa

35 Years of Service

Stephanie Kleindienst, Teacher, St. Clement's Regional Catholic School, Saratoga

40 Years of Service

Ann Pawlik, Campus Minister, Teacher, Catholic Central High School, Troy

50 Years of Service

Sr. Patricia Lynch, RSM, Principal, Blessed Sacrament School, Albany



From left to right: Giovanni Virgiglio, Superintendent of Schools, Sister Patricia Lynch receiving the 2018 Community Spirit Award and Most Rev. Bishop Edward Scharfenberger.

Sister Patricia Lynch, RSM

Sister Patricia Lynch, also affectionately known as Sister Penny, dedicated her life's work to her vocation and the advancement of Catholic education. As a Catholic school educator for five decades, she impacted thousands of children and families by her caring nature, genuine love for her students, forward thinking academic programs, visionary leadership, and so much more.

In partnership with Fr. John Bradley, longtime pastor of Blessed Sacrament Church, Sister Penny assisted families in need and was always a source of hope and quiet strength when needed. Her selfless charitable works defined who she was and the faith filled school community that she created at Blessed Sacrament... one of Christian love, acceptance and fellowship.

We are grateful to Sister Penny for her 50 years of service to our Diocese of Albany Catholic schools, and we wish her good health and abundant blessings in the years ahead.

BEACON OF HOPE SCHOLARSHIP FUND AND ANNUAL BALL



Launched in 2006, the **Beacon of Hope Scholarship Fund** provides tuition assistance for families and children in need who wish to receive a Catholic education at any one of our Albany Diocesan Catholic Schools. Scholarships are in the amount of \$1,500 per student per year.

During the 2017/2018 school year, we awarded \$66,000 to families throughout our diocese. With nearly \$235,000 in application requests, we were far from reaching our goal of helping all who were deserving of our assistance. We are committed to growing our scholarship fund to enable as many families as possible to provide a Catholic education for their children.

The Beacon of Hope Ball, our signature fundraising event for the scholarship program, was a sold out success at Kiernan Plaza in downtown Albany.

One of the highlights of this annual event is recognizing outstanding individuals in our Catholic school communities who go above and beyond, giving the immeasurable gift of time and talent to enrich our schools. Nominations for the **Community Spirit Award** can come from anyone in the school community. Congratulations and our deepest gratitude to the award winners for 2017/2018. We salute you!



All Saints Catholic Academy	<i>Kris Burns</i>
Blessed Sacrament	<i>Fr. John Bradley and Sr. Patricia Lynch, RSM</i>
Bishop Maginn	<i>Sr. Margaret Mary Hohl, DC</i>
Catholic Central High School	<i>Ernie Bariteau</i>
Holy Spirit School	<i>Mrs. Bailey Naples</i>
Mater Christi School	<i>Theresa Kelly</i>
Notre Dame-Bishop Gibbons	<i>Colleen Rudinski</i>
Sacred Heart School	<i>Nicole Johnson</i>
Saratoga Central Catholic	<i>Mrs. Dawn Martinez</i>
St. Ambrose School	<i>William and Rita Fahr</i>
St. Clement's School	<i>Mr. Vern Utter</i>
St. Jude the Apostle School	<i>Tina Daley</i>
St. Kateri Tekakwitha School	<i>Antionette Kranz</i>
St. Madeleine Sophie School	<i>Conrad and Lorraine DeCuyper</i>
St. Mary's Academy, HF	<i>Mark and Kathy Hunt</i>
St. Mary's/St. Alphonsus	<i>Sally Behan</i>
St. Mary's, Ballston Spa	<i>Crystal Kenneally</i>
St. Mary's School, Waterford	<i>Mrs. Mary Ayotte</i>
St. Pius X School	<i>Mrs. Heidi Cummins</i>
St. Thomas School	<i>Anne Hurley</i>

OUR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Early Childhood/Elementary

ALBANY

- All Saints Catholic Academy
- Blessed Sacrament School
- Mater Christi School

AMSTERDAM

- St. Mary's Institute

BALLSTON SPA

- St. Mary's School

DELMAR

- St. Thomas the Apostle School

EAST GREENBUSH

- Holy Spirit School

GLENS FALLS

- St. Mary's / St. Alphonsus Regional Catholic School

HERKIMER

- St. Francis De Sales Regional Catholic School

HOOSICK FALLS

- St. Mary's Academy

LATHAM

- St. Ambrose School

LOUDONVILLE

- St. Pius X School

SARATOGA SPRINGS

- St. Clement's Regional Catholic School

SCHENECTADY

- St. Kateri Tekakwitha Parish School
- St. Madeleine Sophie School

TROY

- Sacred Heart School

WATERFORD

- St. Mary's School

WYNANTSKILL

- St. Jude the Apostle School

Secondary

ALBANY

- Bishop Maginn High School
Maya Reid '18 Valedictorian
Ja'Vonte Askew '18 Salutatorian

SARATOGA SPRINGS

- Saratoga Central Catholic School
Jacob David Lenz '18 Valedictorian
Sophia Michele Russo '18 Salutatorian

SCHENECTADY

- Notre Dame-Bishop Gibbons
Taylor Barber '18 Valedictorian
Dylan Sawyer '18 Salutatorian

TROY

- Catholic Central High School
Kay Elizabeth Valley '18 Valedictorian
Maggie Helenek '18 Salutatorian



DIOCESAN SCHOOL BOARD

Carolyn M. Kelly, President
Julie Pasquini, Vice President
Michael Buckley
Ellen Fitzgerald
Deacon William Henkel
Theresa LaPoint

Very Rev. Robert Longobucco
Josephine Pienkosz
Catherine Leahy Scott
Kathryn Szalda
Gregory Vandenburg
Jeffrey VanDenburgh

CATHOLIC SCHOOL OFFICE

Giovanni Virgilio
Ninette Kondratowicz
Patricia Ricchiuti
Terri McGraw
Nathan VanDeusen
JoAnn Gamello
Kathleen Yanas
Stephen Mawn
Solange Mandevu
Daniel Jaromin
Bridget Frament
Maureen Bernstein
Rosemarie Tobin
Sal Carbone
Eileen Keegan

Superintendent of Schools
Associate Superintendent of Schools
Executive Assistant to the Superintendent
Consultant for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment
Director of Educational Technology & Communications
Director of Financial Operations
Director of Advancement and Strategic Partnerships
Director of Catechist Formation
Accounting Associate
Accounting Associate
Personnel Services Coordinator
Prevention Educator
Consultant for Persons with Disabilities
Safety Coordinator
Administrative Assistant

SOCIAL MEDIA

There is so much happening in our diocesan schools!
Be sure to "like" us, "share" and engage with us on social media!
Higherpoweredlearning.org @RCDASchools #RCDASchools
#HigherPowerLearning



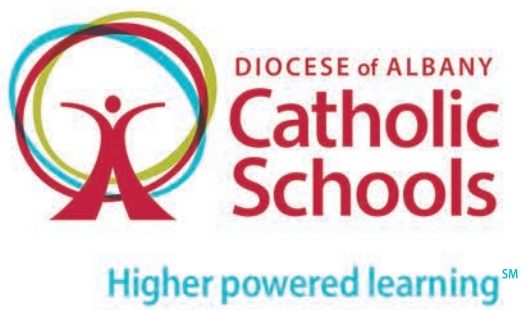
OUR GRADUATES HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED AT THE FOLLOWING DISTINGUISHED COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES:

Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences; Alfred University; American International College; American University; Assumption College; **Auburn University**; Ave Maria University; Bentley University; Binghamton University; Boston University; Bryant College; Canisius College; Castleton University; **Catholic University of America**; Cazenovia College; Champlain College; Chestnut Hill College; **Clarkson University**; Colgate University; College of St. Joseph; Curry College; Daemen College; Dean College; Delaware Valley University; DeSales University; D'Youville College; Elmira College; Emmanuel College; Endicott College; Fairfield University; Florida Institute of Technology; Florida Southern College; **Fordham University**; George Washington University; Gordon College; Grove City College; Hartwick College; Hobart and William Smith Colleges; Hofstra University; Holy Names University; Hudson Valley Community College; Iona College; Ithaca College; **Johnson & Wales University**; Keene State College; **LeMoyne College**; Lesley University; **Long Island University, C.W. Post**; Loyola University; Manhattan College; Manhattanville College; Maria College; Marist College; Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts; **Massachusetts College of Pharmacy**; Mercyhurst University; Merrimack College; Mount St. Mary College; New England College; New York Institute of Technology; New York University; Northeastern University; Nova Southeastern University; Ohio University; Providence College; Quinnipiac University; Regent University; Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute; Rider University; Roberts Wesleyan College; **Rochester Institute of Technology**; Sacred Heart University; St. Bonaventure; St. John Fisher College; St. John's University; St. Joseph's College; **St. Lawrence University**; St. Michael's College; Salve Regina University; Schenectady County Community College; Scranton University; Seton Hall University; **Siena College**; Skidmore College; Southern Vermont College; Springfield College; Stevensen University; Stonehill College; Stony Brook University; SUNY Adirondack; SUNY College at Brockport; SUNY College at Cobleskill; SUNY College at Cortland; SUNY College at Oneonta; **SUNY College at Oswego**; SUNY College at Plattsburgh; SUNY College at Potsdam; SUNY Polytechnic Institute; Syracuse University; The Citadel; **The College of St. Rose**; The Sage Colleges; The University of Scranton; The University of Tampa; The University of Mississippi; Union College; Unity College; University at Albany; University at Buffalo; University of Colorado; University of Hartford; University of Kentucky; University of Maryland; University of New England; **University of New Haven**; University of Northwestern Ohio; University of Minnesota; University of Pittsburgh; University of Rhode Island; **University of Rochester**; University of St. Joseph; University of San Francisco; University of the Sciences; University of Virginia; University of Utah; Utica College; Villanova University; Wells College; **Wentworth Institute of Technology**; Western New England University; West Virginia University; **Worcester Polytechnic Institute**.

2017/2018 PARTNERS IN EDUCATION

We are grateful to our partners in ministry who support the ongoing professional development needs of our teachers, administrators, and catechetical leaders.





40 North Main Avenue
Albany, NY 12203
Phone: 518.453.6602

www.higherpoweredlearning.org

