



# ST. CECILIA

ROMAN CATHOLIC SCHOOL

5313 MADISON PIKE • INDEPENDENCE, KY 41051 • 859.363.4314

## Why A Catholic Education?

- A Catholic school is more than a place to gain academic knowledge. While a strong educational program is essential, Catholic schools are special because they are communities of faith as well as knowledge. The Catholic school operates in an environment that fosters the development of the whole person. This is generally understood to be the "Catholic school advantage" — all of the elements supporting your child's education that are not available in public schools.
- In a Catholic school a joyful and Gospel-centered environment enriches the minds, hearts and souls of students and prepares them to grow in their faith and responsibility to live justly. All curriculum and instruction in the Catholic school is permeated with religious and moral values promoted in the Gospels. Students explore their faith through classes, participation in spiritual activities and in Christian service programs.
- Catholic education is challenging! High expectations of all students, fully qualified and dedicated faculty, high standards and academic rigor, personalized attention and strong motivation result in high academic outcomes and successful transitions to high school and college. With small class sizes, teachers are able to address the students' needs and encourage them to discover their own gifts and talents and share them with others. **Catholic school students score significantly above the national average on standardized tests and have a 99 percent graduation rate with more than 90 percent attending college.**
- A Catholic school recognizes parents and families as a child's primary educators and joins with them to form a community of shared values in which each person is unique and valuable.
- Catholic schools are committed to the development of the whole person. Challenging academic subjects are balanced with additional instruction and activities that are integral parts of the total educational experience. The arts, music, sports and community service projects reflect the diversity of student interests. All students are encouraged to participate in appropriate social and cultural activities. Through these opportunities, they develop skills including healthy competition, spirited friendship, cooperation and strong leadership.
- A Catholic school education is a commitment to a child's future that is well worth the investment a family makes. In addition to a strong academic program, Catholic schools provide students with the advantage of religious, moral and spiritual development that will inform the choices they make throughout life. Research shows that Catholic school attendance leads to higher economic earnings. Catholic school graduates are self-disciplined, self-motivated, responsible and creative citizens who will be tomorrow's leaders in church and society. In most schools and dioceses, financial aid is available to help families afford the tuition so their children may take advantage of the benefits of a Catholic education.



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- With all these advantages, there is still a main benefit that can never be overlooked and that is the fact that daily Religion is provided. Religion is a "lifestyle" in Catholic schools.
- Amazingly, research dating back over 30 years indicates that academic excellence and character development are complimentary. To emphasize one and not the other would be a disservice to students. As faith-centered environments, Catholic schools impart both. The priority given to religious, moral and spiritual development is a significant plus.
- Catholic schools engage in an ongoing process of evaluation, certification and accreditation of both teachers and programs. An emphasis of continuous improvement for teachers through regular professional development opportunities ensures their accountability and guarantees the maintenance of the traditional high standards of Catholic schools.
- The latest data released from the National Center for Education Statistics for the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) indicates that eighth graders in our Catholic schools score an average of 12 and 20 points higher in math and reading, 14 points higher in technology and engineering literacy, and 17 points higher in history, geography, and civics when compared to eighth graders in public schools. Also, twelfth graders in Catholic schools score an average of 20 and 26 points higher in math and reading. Furthermore, these same twelfth graders will score an average of 45, 43, and 53 points higher on their math, reading, and writing SAT assessments, respectively.
- Private school parents are significantly more satisfied with the schools their children attend than are parents from other sectors, including public charter schools and public district schools. That finding comes from two new studies released by Education Next, a scholarly journal on school reform published by the Hoover Institution at Stanford University and the Harvard Program on Education Policy and Governance at the Harvard Kennedy School.