Annual Report 2025

DIOCESE OF ALLENTOWN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

DIOCESE OF ALLENTOWN

To the Esteemed Members of our Catholic School Community of the Diocese of Allentown,

Grace and peace to you in the name of Our Lord, Jesus Christ.

It is with great joy that I present to you the **Diocese of Allentown's Annual Education Report** for the 2024-2025 school year. This report is a testament to the incredible work being done in our Catholic schools and the enduring commitment of our entire school community to the mission of Catholic education.

As Bishop, I am profoundly grateful for the vital role our schools play in the life of our local Church. They are not merely institutions of academic learning, but vibrant centers of evangelization and formation, where young people are nurtured in faith, guided in virtue, and prepared for a life of service and integrity. Our Catholic schools are a "gift to the Church and to our society," and your dedication — as clergy, religious, parents, teachers, staff, and supporters — is what makes this gift possible.

The pages of this report highlight the many accomplishments of our schools. You will find data on academic excellence, updates on our spiritual and liturgical life, and stories of how our students are living out the Gospel message through service to others. These achievements reflect the hard work and sacrifice of so many, and I extend my deepest thanks to all who contribute to the success of our students.

In a world that is often fragmented and uncertain, our Catholic schools offer a clear vision for life. They are places where the truth, goodness, and beauty of our faith are woven into every aspect of the curriculum and daily life. It is in this environment that we form the whole person — intellectually, morally, socially, and spiritually — and prepare our students to be the future leaders and saints our world so desperately needs.

I invite you to review this Annual Report and celebrate the many ways that God has blessed our Catholic school system. Please know of my continued prayers for you, our students, our educators, and all who work to support the educational ministry of our Diocese.

May God bless you and your families!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Alfred A. Schlert

Most Reverend Alfred A. Schlert
Bishop of Allentown

Mission of Diocese

A Roman Catholic family of faith, centered in the Holy Eucharist, faithful to the Church's teachings, bringing the Light of Christ to each other and to our community.

Dear colleagues in Catholic education, benefactors and friends of our schools,

As a system of 33 schools, we celebrate what makes each school distinct as well as the common elements that constitute authentically Catholic communities. We are striving for every student to know how profoundly God loves them and for each day to be an opportunity to grow in wisdom.

These "wisdom communities" are about more than the mere transmission of information. As Archbishop J. Michael Miller, CSB writes in The Holy See's Teaching on Catholic Schools, "In an age of information overload, Catholic schools must be especially attentive in their instruction to strike the delicate balance between human experience and understanding."

These are our schools — environments in which students learn what it means to be deeply human and richly faithful. We are so proud to share with you some of the highlights that make Allentown Diocesan Schools so impactful.

Sincerely in Christ,

Michael St. Pierre

Michael St. Pierre, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Catholic Education

Mission of Secretariat

The Secretariat will lead the work of Evangelization, Education, and Formation in the Diocese of Allentown by serving clergy and laity in our parishes, schools, and ministries so that disciples are formed into saints and scholars.

DIOCESE OF ALLENTOWN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Staff

Dr. Michael St. Pierre, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Catholic Education

Karen Rolston
Assistant Superintendent of Catholic Education

Katie Albright
Director of Catechesis

Cara Meskill
Director of Enrollment and School Marketing

Valerie Versmee
Director of School Development

Matt Carlin
Coordinator of Leadership Development

Monica Henrich
Administrative Support Staff

Elena Lanzieri
Administrative Support Staff

Diocesan Board of Education

Mayor Robert J. Donchez, Chair

Reverend Monsignor Daniel J. Yenushosky, V.G.

Dr. Michael St. Pierre, Ex-Officio

Reverend Christopher M. Zelonis

Dr. Kathleen Nevel

Dr. Rudy Ruth

Mr. Mark Scarbinsky

Mrs. Linda Schiller

Mr. Matthew Kloiber

Mrs. Aimee Langan

Mrs. Lynn Sabol

Mr. Paul Jarrell

I am profoundly grateful for the vital role our schools play in the life of our local Church. They are not merely institutions of academic learning, but vibrant centers of evangelization and formation, where young people are nurtured in faith, guided in virtue, and prepared for a life of service and integrity. Our Catholic schools are a gift to the Church and to our society.

Most Reverend Alfred A. Schlert, Bishop of Allentown

About Our Schools

Rooted in the mission of Catholic education, the Diocese of Allentown Catholic Schools serve a total of 9,174 students across five counties—Berks, Carbon, Lehigh, Northampton, and Schuylkill—through 33 schools, including 6 high schools, 24 elementary schools, and 3 special learning centers. Our schools, guided by Gospel values and a commitment to academic excellence for all, are situated in diverse communities: 17 in suburban areas, 8 in urban settings, 4 in inner-city neighborhoods, and 4 in rural regions.

Our student population reflects rich diversity. The racial and ethnic breakdown includes 66.5% White, 15.2% Hispanic/Latino, 4.2% Black/African American, 2.9% Asian, 2% other, and 9.2% identifying as two or more races. Faith remains central to our identity, with 75.4% of students identifying as Catholic, 22.6% as non-Catholic, and 2% unknown. Our schools welcome all families who seek a values-based education rooted in the teachings of Jesus Christ.

We are committed to inclusive education, supporting 733 elementary and middle school students (11.3%) and 453 high school students (16.5%) with disabilities, including learning disabilities, intellectual or developmental disabilities, physical disabilities, and other needs. Our student-to-teacher ratio demonstrates our commitment to personalized learning with an average of 13 students per teacher.

$83 Million
earned in college scholarships by graduating seniors

100%
of our Diocesan schools are accredited by the Middle States Association

$7.8 Million
in scholarships awarded for tuition assistance from grades K-12

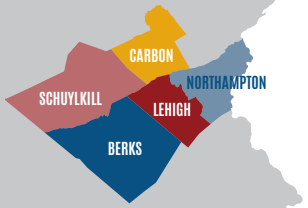
BREAKDOWN BY COUNTY

5 Pennsylvania Counties

6 High Schools

24 Elementary Schools

3 Special Learning Centers



BERKS:
Berks Catholic High School
Holy Guardian Angels Regional School
Immaculate Conception Academy
John Paul II Center for Special Learning
La Salle Academy
Sacred Heart School
St. Catharine of Siena School
St. Ignatius Regional School
St. Peter School

CARBON:
St. John Neumann Regional School

LEHIGH:
Allentown Central Catholic High School
Mercy School for Special Learning
St. Ann School
St. Elizabeth Regional School
St. John Vianney Regional School
St. Joseph the Worker School
St. Michael the Archangel School
St. Thomas More School

NORTHAMPTON:
Bethlehem Catholic High School
Good Shepherd Catholic School
Holy Family School
Holy Infancy School
Immaculate Conception School
Notre Dame High School
Notre Dame School of Bethlehem
Our Lady of Perpetual Help School
St. Anne School
St. Jane Frances de Chantal School

SCHUYLKILL:
Assumption BVM School
Marian Catholic High School
Nativity BVM High School
St. Jerome Regional School
St. Joseph Center for Special Learning

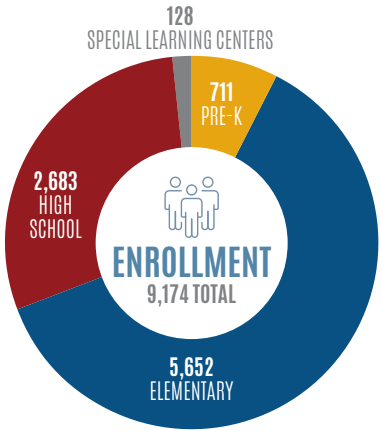
Students with Disabilities including Specific Learning Disabilities/Intellectual or Development Disability/Physical Disability/Other

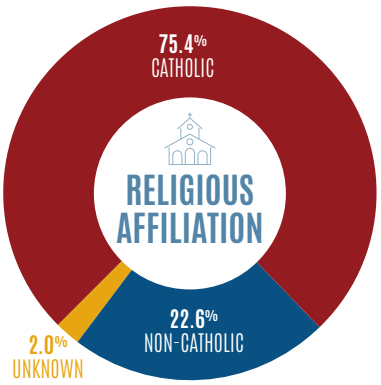
733
Elementary/Middle

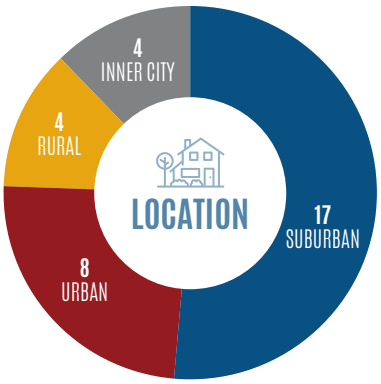
11.3%
Total E/M Schools students

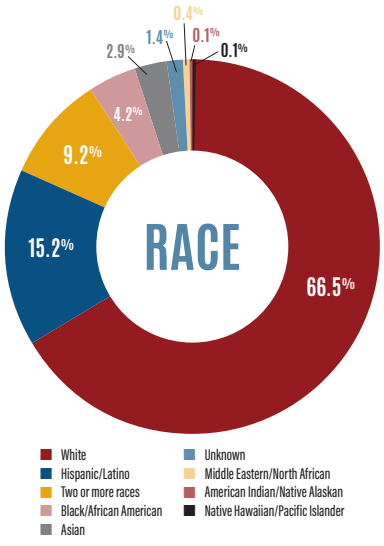
453
Secondary

16.5%
Total Secondary Schools students









The Schools of the

ELEMENTARY

Assumption BVM School
112 S. 7th St.
Pottsville, PA 17901

Good Shepherd Catholic School
1300 Newport Ave.
Northampton, PA 18067

Holy Family School
17 N. Convent Ave.
Nazareth, PA 18064

Holy Guardian Angels Regional School
3125 Kutztown Rd.
Reading, PA 19605

Holy Infancy School
551 Thomas St.
Bethlehem, PA 18015

Our Lady of Perpetual Help School
3221 Santee Rd.
Bethlehem, PA 18020

Sacred Heart School
701 Franklin St.
West Reading, PA 19611

St. Anne School
375 Hickory St.
Bethlehem, PA 18017

St. Ann School
435 S. 6th St.
Emmaus, PA 18049

St. John Neumann Regional School
PreK – 2nd Grade Campus, 641 Washington St., Slatington, PA 18088
3rd – 8th Grade Campus, 259 Lafayette Ave., Palmerton, PA 18071

St. John Vianney Regional School
210 N. 18th St.
Allentown, PA 18104

St. Joseph the Worker School
1858 Applewood Dr.
Orefield, PA 18069

SECONDARY

Allentown Central Catholic High School
301 N Fourth Street
Allentown, PA 18102

Berks Catholic High School
955 E. Wyomissing Boulevard
Reading, PA 19611

Bethlehem Catholic High School
2133 Madison Ave
Bethlehem, PA 18017

Marian Catholic High School
166 Marian Ave
Tamaqua, PA 18252

Nativity BVM High School
1 Lawtons Hill
Pottsville, PA 17901

Notre Dame High School
3417 Church Rd
Easton, PA 18045

Allentown Diocese

Immaculate Conception Academy
903 Chestnut St.
Douglassville, PA 19518

Notre Dame School of Bethlehem
1835 Catasauqua Rd.
Bethlehem, PA 18018

La Salle Academy
440 Holland St.
Shillington, PA 19607

Immaculate Conception School
290 W. Babbitt Ave.
Pen Argyl, PA 18072

St. Catharine of Siena School
2330 Perkiomen Ave.
Reading, PA 19606

St. Elizabeth Regional School
433 Pershing Blvd
Whitehall, PA 18052

St. Ignatius Regional School
2700 St. Albans Dr.
West Lawn, PA 19609

St. Jane Frances de Chantal School
1900 Washington Blvd.
Easton, PA 18042

St. Jerome Regional School
50 Meadow Avenue
Tamaqua, PA 18252

St. Michael the Archangel School
Elementary Campus, 5040 St. Josephs Rd., Coopersburg, PA 18036
Middle School Campus, 4121 Old Bethlehem Pike, Bethlehem, PA 18015

St. Peter School
225 S. 5th St.
Reading, PA 19602

St. Thomas More School
1040 Flexer Ave.
Allentown, PA 18103

SPECIAL LEARNING CENTERS

John Paul II Center for Special Learning
1092 Welsh Road
Shillington, PA 19607

Mercy School for Special Learning
830 S. Woodward Street
Allentown, PA 18103

St. Joseph Center for Special Learning
302 Randel Street
Schuylkill Haven, PA 17972

Strong academics. Surprising affordability. Authentically Catholic.

A more competitive curriculum is within your reach.

From Catholic faith formation to well-rounded extracurriculars, join thousands of families who desire a strong Catholic education for their children within the Diocese of Allentown.

Scan the QR code to learn more about our schools or visit www.adschools.org

592
Number of First Communion

573
Number of Confirmation

23,578
Class of 2025 Service Hours

19
Number of students who became Catholic

2
Number entering Convent or Seminary

Our Service and Faith

In the Diocese of Allentown, Catholic education is more than academics — it's a mission to form young people into disciples of Christ, equipped with servant hearts and a commitment to love their neighbors. Across our six Diocesan high schools, students are living out this mission through meaningful service that transforms communities and deepens their faith. These high schools are united by a common mission: to form students who not only excel academically but also embody the love of Christ through service. In every act of kindness, they are becoming Saints and Scholars — ready to change the world, one act of service at a time.

ALLENTOWN CENTRAL CATHOLIC

At **ACCHS,** the ***Central City Project*** operates a food pantry and the ***Amy Sullivan Memorial Urban Garden,*** providing groceries and fresh produce to families in need while teaching stewardship and empathy.

BERKS CATHOLIC

Berks Catholic's *Saints in Service* program fosters servant leadership through volunteering at Reading Hospital Foundation, Mary's Shelter, and Kennedy House Soup Kitchen.

BETHLEHEM CATHOLIC

Bethlehem Catholic's *Agape Service Program* emphasizes corporal and spiritual works of mercy, encouraging students to see service as a way of life rooted in love and faith.

MARIAN CATHOLIC

Marian Catholic students serve through their Campus Ministry team, partnering with ***Catholic Charities' Community Café Food Truck*** to deliver meals and hope to underserved areas.

NATIVITY BVM

Nativity BVM engages students in clothing drives and Catholic Charities outreach to form compassionate hearts. Donations collected during Catholic Schools Week sponsored an American flag at Minersville Vets Memorial Park.

NOTRE DAME GREEN POND

At **Notre Dame HS, *Mini-Thon*** for pediatric cancer, through which the school has raised over $1 million in the past 13 years, demonstrating the community's commitment to making a difference.

Saints and Scholars: Celebrating the Diocese of Allentown's Three Special Learning Centers

In the heart of the Diocese of Allentown, three extraordinary schools stand as beacons of faith, compassion, and educational excellence for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The John Paul II Center for Special Learning in Shillington, St. Joseph Center for Special Learning in Schuylkill Haven, and Mercy School for Special Learning in Allentown each embody the Catholic Church's mission to uphold the dignity of every human life and provide inclusive, faith-based education tailored to individual needs.

Founded in 1982, the John Paul II Center's mission is deeply rooted in the Church's teaching on the sanctity of life. Students ages 3 to 21 receive individualized instruction in academics, social skills, and faith formation, while adults 21 and older continue their development in a nurturing environment. Transition planning begins at age 14, helping students prepare for life beyond school through vocational training, life skills, and community engagement. "We are a family, united in our commitment to upholding the dignity of all learners, respecting their individual needs, and challenging them to reach their fullest potential," says Kaylee Simcik, Principal.

With a legacy spanning over 70 years, St. Joseph Center for Special Learning recently relocated to the former St. Ambrose Elementary School, expanding its capacity and reach. Serving students ages 5 to 21 and adults through a licensed Community Habilitation Program, the Center offers academic, religious, and pre-vocational instruction in a Christ-centered environment. Unique among regional schools, St. Joseph offers Conductive Education, a specialized program designed for individuals with motor challenges, such as cerebral palsy and spina bifida.

The school's average student-teacher ratio of 7:1 ensures that students receive personalized attention and care. Reflecting on this mission, Principal Bob Giba shares, "I have been at SJC since 2015. The smiles, laughs, frowns, cries, and potential of our students inspire me daily."

Established in 1954, Mercy School for Special Learning has been a pioneer in special education for over six decades. It was the first program for children with intellectual disabilities in Pennsylvania to receive accreditation from the Middle States Association. Mercy offers a comprehensive curriculum from early childhood through age 21, including a strong vocational program that prepares students for employment and community involvement. Principal Beth Grys emphasizes the school's mission: "Our students love their school and being a part of this special community. They learn new skills and work hard towards reaching their goals."

Each of these special learning centers participates in buddy programs with diocesan high school students. Berks Catholic partners with John Paul II Center, Nativity BVM partners with St. Joseph Center, and Allentown Central Catholic partners with Mercy School. These partnerships foster meaningful friendships, shared activities, and spiritual growth, creating a beautiful witness to inclusion and community.

As we reflect on the Diocese's commitment to inclusive education, we are reminded that every child is a gift from God, deserving of love, respect, and the opportunity to thrive. These three centers are more than schools—they are sacred spaces where students are seen, celebrated, and empowered to live with purpose.

ACADEMICS

Across the Diocese of Allentown Schools, our academic programs are rooted in excellence, preparing students for a successful future. Our curriculum includes core subjects such as mathematics, science, English language arts, and literature, while also emphasizing foundational skills like cursive handwriting and public speaking. Students engage with modern technology and digital tools to enhance learning and explore their creativity through fine arts, music, and other extracurricular activities. This comprehensive approach ensures that every child receives a well-rounded education grounded in Catholic values.

MIDDLE STATES ACCREDITATION

All 33 Catholic schools within the Diocese of Allentown have earned accreditation from the Middle States Association Commissions on Elementary and Secondary Schools (MSA-CESS)—a prestigious recognition of educational excellence. Middle States Accreditation is a rigorous, voluntary process that evaluates schools based on a comprehensive set of standards, including academic performance, leadership, strategic planning, and continuous improvement. This accreditation affirms that our schools meet high-quality benchmarks and are committed to fostering student success in a faith-based environment.

EMPOWERING STUDENT GROWTH THROUGH STAR ASSESSMENTS

In the Diocese of Allentown Schools, we are committed to nurturing each child's unique learning journey. To support this mission, all of our schools utilize **STAR computer-adaptive assessments** —a powerful tool that goes beyond traditional testing.

In just 20 minutes each trimester, STAR assessments provide educators with a comprehensive snapshot of student performance, accessible through the **Star Record Book.** This dynamic platform enables teachers to prioritize student needs, establish and manage instructional groups, and pinpoint the early literacy, reading, and math skills students are ready to learn based on their scaled scores. With the ability to view overall results, plan targeted instruction, and manage student groups effectively, the Star Record Book ensures that every child receives the personalized support they need to thrive.

By integrating STAR data into our instructional practices, the Diocese of Allentown Schools continues to foster a culture of growth, excellence, and individualized learning.

SMART GRANT FROM ALVERNIA UNIVERSITY

$450,000 PA Smart Grant for Total Experience Learning Graduate Program with Alvernia University. The funds, secured through Alvernia University, will help accelerate the ongoing efforts of Total Experience Learning® (TExpL) to address the need for access to high-quality STEM-CS education and professional development within the Diocese of Allentown. TExpL offers hands-on educational opportunities designed to develop critical thinking, creativity, and real-world skills for learners of all ages. The institution joined Alvernia University last year, bringing with it an impressive student program. To date, students have been granted 12 patents, and this year alone, the program helped secure $25,000 in funding for STEM after-school research for students in grades 5 through 12.

7.7% Higher

Higher NAEP Scale Scores for 8th Grade Math, Catholic school students vs. the national average for public school students.

7.8% Higher

Higher NAEP Scale Scores for 8th Grade English, Catholic school students vs. the national average for public school students.

14%

Diocesan 8th Grade Reading and Math proficiency scores are 14% higher than 8th Grade Reading and Math in the State of Pennsylvania.

**Comparing STAR assessments vs. PSSA scores.*

Source: NAEP (National Assessment of Educational Progress) Scale Scores (AKA "Nations Report Cards").

BLOCS

Scholarship

As a diocese, our scholarship programs offer nearly $10 million in tuition assistance to eligible elementary, high school, and special education students. There is also need-based Financial Aid available through the generosity of donors. We believe every child should have access to a Catholic education.

Pennsylvania's EITC/OSTC programs allow businesses and individuals to lower their tax bills by donating their tax dollars to the school of their choice, over 3,100 students across the diocese benefit from these programs.

Scan the QR code to learn more about the tax credit program and our partnership with BLOCS.

$7.3M

Amount the Educational Improvement Tax Credit and Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit benefits over 3,400 students

$400k

Stabler Foundation Funding

$70k

Catholic Foundation of Eastern PA

Our schools' scholarship and financial aid programs provide an additional $2.5 million in funds.

Congrats to the Class of 2025

634
High School Graduates

2
Entering Religious Life

93.2%
Entering College or Military

$82.8M
College Scholarships

23,578
Senior Service Hours

2
National Merit Scholar Finalists

National Merit Scholarship Finalists – Class of 2025

Molly Gibson, ACCHS

Tony Nguyen, Berks

Each year, the **National Merit Scholarship Program** honors high-achieving high school seniors who demonstrate exceptional academic ability and potential for success in college. Finalists are selected based on their PSAT/NMSQT scores, academic records, leadership, extracurricular involvement, and a personal essay. This recognition places students among the top academic achievers in the country, celebrating their dedication, intellect, and promise.

"Let us look to this school as our example in leading good lives. Like the city on the hill, we must let our individual lights shine out and share our gifts, talents, and most importantly, our compassion with the world."

Molly Gibson, Allentown Central Catholic
Class of 2025, Salutatorian

2025 Diocesan Valedictorians & Salutatorians

"As we move forward into the next phase of life, let's not rush to 'succeed' or 'get ahead'. Instead, let's focus on finding satisfaction in the little things that we love- whether that's the work we do, the people we meet, or the little moments that remind us why we're here."

Pricilla Kofroth, Allentown Central Catholic Class of 2025, Valedictorian

"During the course of our lives, we will experience trials. In the first chapter of the Book of James, it is stated that trials are something to be appreciated. Trials test our faith and spirit. By enduring and overcoming these trials, we are able to become who we are meant to be."

Sam Spolski, Nativity High School Class of 2025, Valedictorian

ALLENTOWN CENTRAL CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Priscilla Kofroth, Valedictorian

Molly Gibson, Salutatorian

BERKS CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Tony Nguyen, Valedictorian

Noah Newswanger, Salutatorian

BETHLEHEM CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Judy Pintor, Valedictorian

Ava Burkart, Salutatorian

MARIAN CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Erica Boyle, Valedictorian

Connor Rehnert, Salutatorian

NATIVITY BVM HIGH SCHOOL

Samuel Spolski, Valedictorian

Nolan Day, Salutatorian

NOTRE DAME HIGH SCHOOL

Madilyn McLouth, Valedictorian

Sarah Zambo, Salutatorian

2025 Bishop's Catholic Scholar Society Awards

Allentown Central Catholic High School

Therese Gasser is deeply honored to have been chosen for this award! She is a member of National Honor Society and ranked within the top five of her graduating class. She is a proud Captain and accomplished competitor of ACCHS's Science Olympiad team. Additionally, Therese is a violinist representing Pennsylvania in the National Association of Music's All-Eastern 2025 Orchestra, and she loves playing her violin for school Masses, at churches, and for the musical. In the Lehigh Valley community, Therese volunteers as a violin tutor, stablehand, and mentor for kids with special needs. After graduation, Therese plans to enter Religious Life and serve in healthcare.

Lucas Mushrush is in the National Honor Society, ranking in the top 10 of his class. He received the AP Scholar Award, member of the Debate Team and Model UN, and represents ACCHS in the EPC Student-Athlete Character Council. He is a Student Council Class Rep and Viking Ambassador. Lucas was a captain of the two-time defending DXI Class 4A Basketball championship team, scoring 1,000 career points. He set a school Track record in the 800m run and qualified for the PIAA State Championships. Lucas is a member of St. Thomas More Parish, volunteering and altar serving. He lifeguards and landscapes for his neighbors. Lucas plans to attend Ursinus College for Math and basketball.

Berks Catholic High School

Aloyska Gonzalez is in the National Honor Society and a Saint Ambassador. She is actively involved in school, especially taking pictures for the Yearbook. Aloyska is a student-athlete who runs track and is Captain of the Varsity Cheerleading Team. Aloyska was recognized as "Student of the Week" for her active participation in the life of the school. She enjoys serving her community as a volunteer at St. Peter School where she coaches Cheer and enjoys working with homeless veterans. She is a member of the St. Peter Parish. Outside of school, she enjoys dance, photography, and babysitting. Aloyska plans to major in Marine Biology with hopes to one day work with sharks.

Amado Morales serves as Vice President of the DECA Business Club where he competed in the State Competition. He is a Saint Ambassador and an Officer in the Pre-Med Club. Amado served as a Kairos retreat leader. He earned "Student of the Week" for his academic success and involvement in school activities. Amado plays varsity Soccer and Lacrosse. Amado is an active member of St. Margaret Parish. He volunteers in the community with homeless veterans, the Reading Penn Avenue parades and as a tutor for his peers. He has started his own successful Car Detailing business. Amado plans to attend a four-year college and major in Finance to work in investment banking.

Bethlehem Catholic High School

Rhys Santiago ranks in the top 10 of his class. He is the President of Medical Club, Captain of the Scholastic Scrimmage team, and a member of the National Honor Society. He serves as a school Sacristan, writes for the Bethlehem and Lehigh Valley Press, and is the Vice President and clarinet section leader for the band. Rhys works at Wegmans and is an active member of his community and home parish at Notre Dame of Bethlehem. He volunteers at Camelot for Children, assists Notre Dame CYO basketball, serves Knight of Columbus breakfast, and raises money for the Sassy Massey Smiles Foundation as the Treasurer. He is Captain of the Boys' Lacrosse team. Rhys plans to major in Chemistry on a pre-medical track at a four-year university.

Ruthie Tocci is a member of the National Honor Society and is ranked in the top ten in her graduating class. She is the president of the Bethlehem Catholic High School Band and a member of "The Movement" a senior-only service club. In addition to her academic achievements, Ruthie has danced at the Willow Park Dance Academy for the last twelve years. She is also a funnel cake cook at Coca-Cola Park, where she has worked for the past three years. In her community, Ruthie is an active member of Notre Dame of Bethlehem Church, altar serving and working as a sacristan. Ruthie plans to major in applied mathematics at Duquesne University and later earn a master's degree in biostatistics.

MARIAN CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Alyssa Porambo is a member of Catholic Relief Service Club, National Honor Society, Campus Ministry Evangelization, Aevidum, Colts & Fillies for Life, Elder Abuse Council, and Immaculate Heart Society. She was on the Cross Country and Track & Field teams. She participated in Rock Music Ministry, County Chorus, Diocesan Festivals, and Performing Arts. A Girl Scout since Kindergarten, she achieved the Gold Award. She works at Boyer's Food Market. She is an active member and volunteer of St. Joseph Parish and school. Alyssa plans to major in Speech-Language Pathology at DeSales University or Misericordia.

Connor Rehnert is the Executive Student Council President. He is a member of St. Joseph Parish in Summit Hill. He is an Eagle Scout from Clamtown Troop #755. Connor has been a proud member of the Marian Colts Football and Track & Field teams for four years. Additionally, he is a member of the National Honor Society, Marian Mentors, Rock Music ministry, SADD, CRS, Yearbook, Immaculate Heart Society, Catholic Athletes for Christ, and Evangelization team. He also volunteers at the Catholic Charities Food Truck in Pottsville. Connor plans to major in Chemical Engineering at Villanova University.

NATIVITY BVM HIGH SCHOOL

Carleigh Palmieri is a member of St. John The Baptist Parish as a lector and festival volunteer. Her faith is an active part of her life, and is very proud to be chosen for this award. Carleigh has been involved in Catholic Schools Week, Student Council, Interact Club, National Honor Society, Pottsville Rotary Student of the Month, HOBY, Wreaths Across America, Make-A-Wish Benefits, Knights of Columbus, and more. She is an "Outstanding Student Ambassador" and featured in the AD Times article "Because We Are Catholic." Carleigh has had many speaking engagements (Pottsville Memorial Day Ceremony and Arbor Day celebrations). She is on the Golf, Softball and Volleyball JV teams. As Golf team Captain, she led them to the District Playoffs for the first time. She plans to continue her education at Temple University and major in Business Administration.

Samuel Spolski is a member of St. Ambrose Roman Catholic Church where he serves as a lector and greeter. He enjoyed representing his parish at the Jubilee Year of Hope Mass. Sam is involved in the Evangelization team, Student Ambassadors and Student Government. He is in the National Honor Society, Science Honor Society, Math Club and Chess Club. Sam has been a member of the Varsity Track Team and a starter for the Varsity Football team (and Captain for the past three years). He has been named the "Schuylkill County Football Scholar Athlete" and "WNEP Dream Team Scholar Athlete." Sam accepted his appointment at the United States Naval Academy. He plans to major in Robotics, Control Engineering and commission to Nuclear Submarines. He believes God's purpose for him is to serve and protect people who don't even know they need protection.

NOTRE DAME HIGH SCHOOL

Tina Andreano is an active part of the student council as Senior Class Vice President. She is a member of the National Honor Society and is passionate about theater. She has performed in countless shows as a featured dancer and was nominated for a Freddy Award last Spring. She enjoys reading at Mass at school but also gives back to her community by reading at St. Jane Frances de Chantal Church. Recently, Tina was a Kairos retreat leader and in the fall she plans to pursue a major in Psychology at Franciscan University of Steubenville, Ohio.

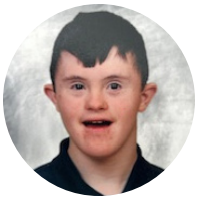
Andrew Shupe is the Senior Class Treasurer. He is in the National Honor Society and National Language Honor Society. Andrew is involved in the Greenhouse Club, Key Club, ND Queensmen and Pickleball Club. He is a member of the state semifinalists Boys Soccer team, Colonial League champion Track & Field team, and participated in basketball and ice hockey. Andrew's faith is very important to him and his community activities. He was a Kairos Retreat leader and served as a Sacristan for his school. He is an active member of St. Theresa of the Child Jesus Parish as an altar server for nine years. Andrew plans to attend Le Moyne College, in Syracuse, New York, where he will major in Marketing and compete for the Track & Field team at the Division I level.

2025 Bishop's Catholic Scholar Society Awards

JOHN PAUL II CENTER FOR SPECIAL LEARNING

Jeremy Adame is a dedicated and enthusiastic student and an integral part of the school community. He is an altar server during school masses and is involved in the Walking Club and annual Christmas program. Jeremy is a hard-working and motivated student. He was able to transition early to a secondary classroom, a testament of his maturity and dedication. Jeremy is known for his kindness and generosity towards his classmates and his teachers, and is a role model for his peers.

ST. JOSEPH CENTER FOR SPECIAL LEARNING



Ben Shellhamer lives in the Tamaqua area with his family and came to SJC this school year. His big personality, faith and engaging demeanor allowed him to fit in and shine with his classmates. The "Chief" enjoys firetrucks, first responder services, and helping his classmates and staff with various jobs. An excellent student with great potential, Ben is the master of his destiny and will be successful in anything he puts his mind to.

MERCY SCHOOL FOR SPECIAL LEARNING

Carlos Morales attends Mercy school For Special Learning.
He is a hard-working student who loves music. Carlos participates in our Job Works Program and often mentors younger students. He is an active altar server at Mercy for our Masses. Carlos helps with other students in the building as a buddy. He is empathetic and a good friend to all. Carlos is a very special part of Mercy School.

8TH Grade Bishop Scholars matriculating to Diocesan High Schools

Alexander Aguilar, *Cathedral of St. Catharine of Siena*
Giuliana Agures, *St. Joseph the Worker*
Madison Antolick, *Holy Rosary*
Yulian A. Badia, *St. Paul*
Auriella Bechtel, *Divine Mercy*
Ella Bones, *St. Richard*
Lilly Brigido, *Assumption B.V.M.*
Adrianna Carocci, *St. Thomas More*
Lola P. Carrizo, *Notre Dame of Bethlehem*
Aaliyah Carter, *Divine Mercy*
Tyler Coad, *Holy Family*
Juliette Cortez, *St. Jane Frances de Chantal*
Jaliyah Cosme, *Holy Infancy*
Nicholas Costa, *Notre Dame of Bethlehem*
Siobhan Crews, *Notre Dame of Bethlehem*
Joseph D'Angelo, *St. Catharine of Siena*
Ty Dawson, *Queenship of Mary*
Jenayla Delpino, *Holy Infancy*
Kohen Draper, *St. John Baptist de la Salle*
Caroline Dunn, *Saint Anne*
Shaun Echevarria, *Our Lady of Perpetual Help*
Emma Elias, *St. Joseph the Worker*
Cole Felty, *St. John the Baptist*
Colin Fitzpatrick, *Assumption B.V.M.*
Dina Flynn, *Holy Guardian Angels*
Nicholas Gallagher, *Immaculate Conception B.V.M.*
Alexander E. Garcia, *Holy Infancy*
Gisella Geremia, *Holy Trinity*
Madelyn Ann Glessner, *Holy Guardian Angels*
Lauren Gloria, *St. Elizabeth of Hungary*
Edison, M. Gomez, Jr., *St. Margaret*
Ivann F. Gonzalez, *Sacred Heart*
Emily Goodman, *Holy Family*
Ella Grabowski, *St. John the Baptist*
Theodore Groucutt, *Immaculate Conception BVM*
Janelys Gutierrez, *St. Margaret*
Anthony Hauser, *St. Ignatius Loyola*
Carly Hill, *St. Catharine of Siena*
Calyssa Hodgskin, *St. Anne*
Makayla Hoole, *Holy Family*
Zachary Huber, *St. Jane Frances de Chantal*
Aiden Jacob, *Our Lady of Perpetual Help*
Carleen Johnson, *Sacred Heart*
Joshua Kahr, *St. Elizabeth of Hungary*
Cash Lee Kalkiewicz, *St. Joseph the Worker*
Sarah Karwejna, *St. John Baptist de la Salle*
Kylie Kisenwether, *St. Joseph*
Owen B. Kunkel, *Assumption B.V.M.*
Casey Lagodney, *Holy Family*
Margaret E. Langan, *Holy Trinity*
Joshua Lanza, *St. Ignatius Loyola*
Reagan LeClair, *St. Joseph*
Piper Lerch, *Holy Family*
Selina Lin, *St. Catharine of Siena*
Isabella Link-Spiess, *St. Charles Borromeo*
Brady Loftus, *St. Clare of Assisi*
Crystel Lombaida, *St. Paul*
Emily Lorence, *Holy Cross*
Benjamin Manning, *Holy Family*
Harold Marks, IV, *Holy Family*
Samaria Martinez, *Holy Infancy*
Jillian Maruscak, *Sacred Heart of Jesus*
Luca Massa, *Our Lady of Perpetual Help*
Levi McCullion, *Immaculate Conception*
Jacob Mills, *St. Patrick*
Madelina Moyer, *Sacred Heart*
Liana R. Mulero, *St. Ann*
Andrew Mummey, *St. Richard*
Ana Mushrush, *St. Thomas More*
Jason Nguyen, *St. Paul*
Tessa Nistal, *Saint Anne*
Alexandra Pangaio, *Queenship of Mary*
Brody Peiser, *Holy Rosary*
Jiovani Peña, *St. Peter the Apostle*
Ariana Perez, *Notre Dame of Bethlehem*
Joey Pickel, *St. Anne*
Eddie Puello, *Holy Infancy*
Isabelle Quiros, *Assumption B.V.M.*
Grace Rinaldi, *Our Lady of Perpetual Help*
Francesca Roberts, *St. Ignatius Loyola*
Maria Rodriguez, *Holy Infancy*
Saray Rodriguez, *St. Joseph*
William Rosado, *Holy Infancy*
Maxzim Salce, *Notre Dame of Bethlehem*
Alison Schearer, *Holy Guardian Angels*
Joanna Scheidel, *Assumption B.V.M.*
Colin Sedora, *St. Joseph the Worker*
William Sharkazy, *St. Joseph the Worker*
Ava Stankavage, *Holy Cross*
Jensen Stewart, *St. Joseph the Worker*
Alexander Stoves, *St. John XXIII*
Abigail Marie Strauss, *St. Patrick*
Lillian Swauger, *St. Jane Frances de Chantal*
Bentley Swiatek, *Assumption B.V.M.*
Roy Sword, *St. John XXIII*
Daniel Trezise, *St. Clare of Assisi*
Francis G. Uhrin, *St. Clare of Assisi*
Abby Upanavage, *St. Joseph*
Hatangimana Vincent, *Holy Infancy*
Alexandra Visco, *St. Joseph the Worker*
Alice Walton, *St. Catharine of Siena*
Silvana Ward, *St. Theresa of the Child Jesus*
Adam Zawisza, *St. Ambrose*
Alexandra Zellers, *Holy Guardian Angels*

Our Educators: The Heart of Catholic Education.

Teachers in the Diocese of Allentown are the heart of our Catholic schools, bringing together faith, knowledge, and compassion in the classroom. Their work goes beyond academics — they inspire values, nurture spiritual growth, and create an environment where students thrive both intellectually and personally. Through their dedication and example, they help shape the minds and hearts of young people, preparing them to lead lives of purpose and integrity. This year, we celebrate their unwavering commitment and the profound impact they have on our schools and communities.

New Principals

Welcome to our newest principals across the Diocese for the 2025-2026 School Year:

St. Anne School	Dr. Greg Fries
Notre Dame of Bethlehem	Mrs. Dominique Kucharczuk
Our Lady of Perpetual Help	Mrs. Alesha Pretopapa
Nativity BVM HS	Mr. Mike Grabowski
Allentown Central Catholic HS	Mrs. Diane Young
LaSalle Academy	Mrs. Mary Adams
Marian High School	Fr Robert Finlan

Total Experience Learning

Through a $450,000 PA Smart Grant with Alvernia University, the Diocese of Allentown offers our teachers an innovative professional development program through Total Experience Learning (TExpL)® Graduate Program. This graduate certificate program consists of four 3-credit courses completed within one year and can be applied toward a master's degree. With three cohorts of 20 or more teachers each, participants gain advanced teaching methodologies, real-world tools, and project management frameworks to reimagine traditional classrooms. Beyond coursework, TExpL fosters a collaborative network where educators share ideas, build lasting relationships, and engage in special-topic international experiences — all designed to inspire lifelong learning and student success.

Celebrating a Legacy of Leadership at Nativity BVM High School

After 45 years of dedicated service in Catholic education, including 15 years as principal of Nativity BVM High School in Pottsville, Lynn Sabol retired. A Nativity alumna with deep family ties to the school, Sabol had been a steadfast leader, guiding the community through challenges and fostering its unique family atmosphere. Known for her commitment to students, faculty, and staff, she leaves behind a legacy of resilience and faith-driven leadership. After stepping down from her role, Sabol plans to remain connected by teaching part-time. The Diocese extends heartfelt gratitude for her remarkable contributions and wishes her joy in this next chapter.

Leadership Academy

The Leadership Academy, led by the Office of Education, builds leadership capacity within our schools and across the Diocese. Reintroduced in 2024–2025 by Superintendent Dr. Michael St. Pierre, Coordinator of Leadership Development Mr. Matt Carlin, and Assistant Superintendent Mrs. Karen Rolston, the program engages nominated participants in a year-long study of leadership topics, including mission-driven practices, school community building, instructional supervision, and crisis management. Graduates return with renewed purpose and practical strategies that strengthen Catholic education. The third cohort began in January 2025 and concluded in December 2025.

20%

Percentage of the faculty and staff from across the Diocese who are alumni of the school where they teach or serve.

13:1

Student to Teacher Ratio

A Snapshot of Just Some of Our Achievements!

1 **St. John Vianney** students ***Brayden Heintzelman*** and ***Kassandra Ortiz*** achieved a remarkable honor by having their poems selected for the *2025 Rising Stars Collection* in the Appelley Publishing Poetry Contest.

2 75% of **Notre Dame Elementary** students who participated in the Pennsylvania Jr. Academy of Science competition achieved 1st Place, with two earning perfect scores and one recognized for the Best Biochemistry project in the state.

3 **Holy Infancy Elementary** was named #1 in Star Math and Reading growth in the Diocese.

4 **Assumption BVM Elementary School** participated in the Chief Science Officer (CSO) Program through IU29. The program is an international initiative dedicated to elevating student voices through leadership opportunities in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).

5 **Allentown Central Catholic** Senior ***Bryan Garza*** received the full four-year Leadership Scholarship from DeSales University that is awarded annually to a student who has shown outstanding leadership in their community.

6 The **Our Lady of Perpetual Help** Track & Field team concluded their 2025 season by clinching the #1 spot at the Diocesan Championship; and Varsity Girls Basketball secured the Diocesan Championship title and went to Pittsburgh for the state championship!

7 **Nativity BVM Class of 2025** was awarded three full-ride scholarships: Noah Dolbin received a full athletic football scholarship to the United States Military Academy at West Point; Nolan Daynorowicz earned the Penn State University, University Park Campus, Nuclear Engineering Naval ROTC Scholarship; and Sam Spolski earned a United States Naval Academy, Robotics and Control Engineering, United States Naval Academy Scholarship.

8 2nd Graders from **St. Elizabeth** won a box of Crayola goodies from the LV Press for writing about why they enjoyed having the newspaper in the classroom.

9 **Holy Guardian Angels'** Scholastic Scrimmage team was crowned champions, defeating the other Berks Catholic High School partner schools.

10 **St. Peter's** 8th Grade students had their poetry published in both the *National Anthology of Young Poets and Creative Communications*.

11 **Berks Catholic High School's** new eSports Team won the Pennsylvania Scholastic eSports League Fortnite Duos State Championship; and their Green Team (Environmental Club) placed 2nd in the Berks County Conservation District "Paint the Rain" Rain Barrel Competition.

12 **Notre Dame High School** was named a Lehigh Valley Top Workplace for 2025 by The Morning Call.

13 The **Bethlehem Catholic** Engineering Team qualified to participate in the 2025 Technology Student Association TEAMS (Tests of Engineering Aptitude, Mathematics, and Science) National Finals in Nashville, TN, by placing 6th out of 77 teams in Pennsylvania.

14 **Immaculate Conception Academy** students ***Gabby L.*** and ***Gabriella C.*** took 2nd and 3rd Place in the Daniel Boone Optimist Club Essay Contest in April.

15 **Marian Catholic** Senior ***Alyssa Porambo*** earned the Girl Scout Gold Award, the highest honor in scouting. Alyssa has been a part of the West Penn Girl Scout Troop 31208 since 1st Grade.

16 **Immaculate Conception School** student-musicians participated in the Pocono Youth Orchestra and Pocono Junior Strings Orchestra.

17 **St. Thomas More School** earned 2nd Place for participation in the St. Luke's Half Marathon Youth Run, hosted by the LV Road Runners. The event promotes youth health and physical fitness.

18 Student Council members at **St. Ann School** in Emmaus collected canned goods and non-perishables for local families who need extra support. Giving back is the heart of the St. Ann School community!

19 **Sacred Heart School** student ***Anthony Hauser*** won three awards at the 2025 Reading Berks Science and Engineering Fair: 1st Place overall in Physical Sciences, Penn State Berks Science Division Award, and the Scoboria Family Physics Award.

20 **Good Shepherd School's** Performing Arts Group sang the National Anthem at the Lehigh Valley Iron Pigs Game and did a wonderful job letting their voices echo through the stadium!

21 **St. Jane Frances de Chantal School** students participated in the Northampton County Bar Association art contest, "My Favorite Place in America." Two students won for their depictions of Hershey Park and the State of Wyoming.

22 **St. Catherine of Siena** 5th Grade STEM Team took on the Berks County IU K'nex Design Challenge, tackling a sustainability challenge by researching, designing, and building a game-changing prototype to improve infrastructure, reduce costs, and save time.

23 **St. Ignatius Loyola** students ***Matthew, Alicia,*** and ***Ava*** participated in the Berks County Declamation contest, all three placing in the top three overall, with Matthew tied for Grand Champion!

24 **St. Anne School** in Bethlehem students participated in the Lehigh Valley *What's so Cool About Manufacturing* video contest, partnering with ATAS International, Inc.

25 **La Salle Academy** had 28 students who participated in the 73rd Annual Berks Science and Engineering Fair at Albright College, and 16 of those students earned awards!

26 The **St. John Neumann** Chess Club participated in the 2025 CYO Chess Tournament. ***Daniel*** earned 1st Place in for Grades 7/8, and ***Cameron*** won four consecutive matches, placing 4th in the Grades 5/6 category.

27 **St Jerome Regional School** 8th Grader ***Lillian Porambo*** won first place for Dramatic Interpretation at the CYO Speech Competition.

28 **St. Joseph the Worker's** Reading Olympics Team brought home 3rd Place at the Carbon-Lehigh IU competition. Teams from across Carbon and Lehigh counties prepare for the competition by reading from a list of 25 books.

29 **St. Michael the Archangel** students participated in the Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science competition at Penn State. Student ***Fiona*** received the prestigious Director's Award for the *Best Earth and Space Project* in Pennsylvania.

30 **Holy Family** Track & Field Team won the District 1 Team Championship, with students from Kindergarten through 8th Grade contributing to the victory!

31 **Mercy School for Special Learning** performed its beloved tradition of a *Passion Play* during Holy Week – it was an event to remember!

32 **St Joseph Center for Special Learning** celebrated its 70th Anniversary in 2025!

33 The **John Paul II Center for Special Learning** community garden, known as Mary's Garden, has received a grant from the Pennsylvania Heartland Herb Society. This grant funds the garden, allowing students to gain hands-on experience through the school's farm-to-table initiative.

Visit ADSchools.org or
Text ADSchools to 84576
for more information.

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