DIOCESE OF ALLENTOWN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS



FOR FAMILIES IN BERKS, CARBON, LEHIGH, NORTHAMPTON & SCHUYLKILL COUNTIES

A Parent's Guide to Choosing the Right School

Seven questions to help you find a school where your child will be known, challenged, and supported.

WELCOME

Finding the Right School for Your Child

Choosing a school is one of the most important decisions a parent can make. While academics matter, the best schools also help children grow in character, faith, confidence, leadership, and purpose. As with many independent Christian schools, families often begin their search by asking one simple question:

> *"Will my child be known, challenged, and supported?"*

The schools of the Diocese of Allentown answer that question with a strong commitment to forming both saints and scholars through faith-based education and academic excellence.

Serving more than 9,000 students across Berks, Carbon, Lehigh, Northampton, and Schuylkill Counties, the Diocese of Allentown Catholic Schools provide a comprehensive educational experience from preschool through high school. Students learn in communities rooted in Catholic values while benefiting from rigorous academics, extracurricular opportunities, and strong college and career preparation.

9,000+	5	98.7%	$102M+
STUDENTS SERVED	COUNTIES	GRADUATION RATE	SCHOLARSHIP OFFERS

Inside This Guide: Seven Questions to Ask

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SEVEN QUESTIONS

Every Parent Should Ask When Choosing a School

1

Does the School Share Your Family's Values?

A child spends thousands of hours in school. The environment should reinforce the values taught at home.

Diocese of Allentown Catholic Schools place faith at the center of everyday learning. Students participate in prayer, religious formation, service opportunities, and sacramental life while learning how to make ethical decisions and serve others. Catholic schools focus on developing the whole child: academically, spiritually, socially, and emotionally.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR

- ☐ Faith-filled culture
- ☐ Strong moral formation
- ☐ Emphasis on virtue and character
- ☐ Service opportunities that develop compassion and leadership

2

Are the Academics Challenging and Meaningful?

Parents should seek schools that prepare students for future success while inspiring a love of learning today.

Diocese of Allentown schools offer rigorous academic programs with enrichment opportunities including STEM, world languages, music, art, leadership development, Advanced Placement coursework, dual credit opportunities, and college partnerships. The Diocese reports academic achievement above state and national benchmarks in both math and reading.

QUESTIONS TO ASK

- ☐ How does the school measure academic growth?
- ☐ What enrichment opportunities exist?
- ☐ Are advanced learners challenged?
- ☐ How is support provided when students struggle?

3

Will My Child Be Known and Supported?

Research consistently shows that students thrive when adults know them personally.

A hallmark of Catholic education is its strong sense of community. Diocese of Allentown schools emphasize family partnerships, smaller learning environments, and personal attention. Faculty and staff seek to know students "by name and by heart," creating a culture where children feel safe, valued, and supported.

LOOK FOR

- ☐ Strong teacher-student relationships
- ☐ Family engagement
- ☐ Safe learning environments
- ☐ Accessible school leadership

4 What Opportunities Exist Beyond the Classroom?

Education should help students discover their God-given talents.

Students throughout the Diocese participate in athletics, performing arts, student government, music programs, robotics, STEM competitions, service organizations, leadership activities, and ministry opportunities. These experiences help students develop teamwork, confidence, creativity, and leadership skills.

ASK ABOUT

- ☐ Athletics
- ☐ Clubs and activities
- ☐ Arts programs
- ☐ Leadership opportunities
- ☐ Community service experiences



Hands-on learning in a diocesan high school science lab.



A Eucharistic procession at a diocesan high school.

5 How Does the School Prepare Students for College and Careers?

Families want confidence that today's education will open tomorrow's doors.

The Diocese of Allentown's Catholic high schools have established college and university partnerships, dual-credit programs, career exploration opportunities, and individualized college counseling. The Class of 2026 earned more than $102 million in scholarship offers, achieved a 98.7% graduation rate, and more than 91% pursued higher education.

QUESTIONS TO ASK

- ☐ What percentage of graduates attend college?
- ☐ What scholarship opportunities exist?
- ☐ Are there career readiness programs?
- ☐ What counseling services are available?

> *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 are our schools — environments in which students learn what it means to be deeply human and richly faithful.*

Dr. Michael St. Pierre Superintendent of Catholic Education, Diocese of Allentown

6 Is the School Affordable for My Family?

Many families are surprised to learn Catholic education is more accessible than they expect.

The Diocese offers competitive tuition rates along with financial assistance through diocesan scholarships, parish support, EITC, OSTC, and other tuition assistance programs. Millions of dollars are awarded annually to help families access Catholic education.

EXPLORE

- ☐ Tuition assistance programs
- ☐ Need-based scholarships
- ☐ Parish support opportunities
- ☐ State tax-credit scholarship programs

7 Does the School Help Children Become the People They Are Called to Be?

The best schools do more than prepare students for tests. They prepare them for life.

The mission of Catholic education in the Diocese of Allentown is not simply academic achievement. It is the formation of young people who live with faith, integrity, compassion, and purpose. Through a combination of intellectual growth, faith formation, and service to others, students develop into future leaders who make a positive difference in their communities.

QUESTIONS TO ASK

- ☐ How are faith and character nurtured?
- ☐ How do students learn to serve others?
- ☐ How does the school define success?
- ☐ How are students' gifts developed?

WHY FAMILIES CHOOSE

Diocese of Allentown Catholic Schools

Faith First

Students grow in their relationship with God through prayer, worship, religious instruction, and service.

Academic Excellence

Diocesan students consistently demonstrate strong academic achievement and graduate prepared for college, careers, and life.

Character Formation

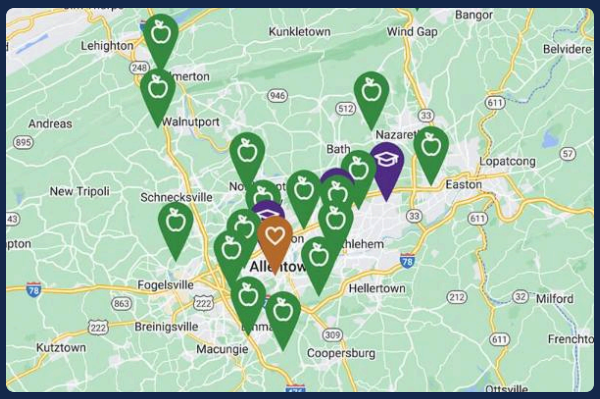
Schools intentionally develop virtues such as honesty, responsibility, courage, kindness, and leadership.

Safe and Supportive Communities

Students learn in welcoming environments where they are known, encouraged, and challenged to succeed.

Proven Outcomes

- More than 9,000 students served across five counties
- 100% Middle States accredited schools
- Over $102 million in scholarship offers earned by recent graduates
- 98.7% graduation rate among diocesan high schools
- Strong college matriculation and career-readiness outcomes



THE DIOCESE DIFFERENCE

Saints and Scholars

The Diocese of Allentown describes its mission as forming students into both saints and scholars. Academic excellence remains essential, but true success is measured by who students become: young men and women of faith, knowledge, integrity, service, and leadership.

As highlighted throughout the *Saints & Scholars* and *School Corner* features in the AD Times, Catholic schools seek to help students discover their God-given gifts and use them to serve the world.



> *Choose a school where your child will be known, loved, challenged, and inspired to become the person God created them to be.*

Your Child's Future Starts Here

When choosing a school, look beyond rankings and test scores. Visit classrooms. Meet teachers. Talk with families. Ask about faith, values, service, community, and outcomes.

Explore Catholic schools in Berks, Carbon, Lehigh, Northampton, and Schuylkill Counties:

www.adschools.org

DIOCESE OF ALLENTOWN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

FOR YOUR SCHOOL VISITS

My School Visit Notes

Bring this page with you as you visit schools. Jot down what you see and hear for each of the seven questions so you can compare your options side by side.

QUESTION	SCHOOL 1	SCHOOL 2	SCHOOL 3
School name			
1 Shares our family's values			
2 Challenging, meaningful academics			
3 My child will be known and supported			
4 Opportunities beyond the classroom			
5 College and career preparation			
6 Affordable for our family			
7 Helps my child become who they are called to be			

Other Notes

DIOCESE OF ALLENTOWN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Forming Saints and Scholars

Choose a school where your child will be known, loved, challenged, and inspired to become the person God created them to be.

www.adschools.org

SCAN TO WATCH

5 Reasons to Choose Catholic Schools

A short video from the Diocese of Allentown Catholic Schools

BERKS • CARBON • LEHIGH • NORTHAMPTON • SCHUYLKILL