



2016–2017 Annual Report

Diocese of Baton Rouge Catholic Schools

MISSION

The Diocese of Baton Rouge Catholic Schools Office supports schools as they
Evangelize Hearts,
Educate Minds,
Encourage Talent, and
Embrace the Future
by promoting excellence in
faith formation,
academic rigor,
innovative programs,
responsible stewardship,
and joyful celebration of
service to the community.

VISION

Evangelize Hearts,
Educate Minds,
Encourage Talent,
Embrace the Future!

Superintendent's Message

Catholic schools began their service in America well before 1776, as the first Catholic school was founded in 1606 by Franciscans in St. Augustine, Florida. Since that time, Catholic schools have been recognized for *Evangelizing Hearts, Educating Minds, Encouraging Talent, and Embracing the Future* for the students in their care. This report is filled with news of the good work that Catholic schools have provided in the development of students, strengthening of community and building of Church.

Catholic schools in the Diocese of Baton Rouge are exceptionally strong in their ministry to *Evangelize Hearts*. Recent data gathered using the Assessment for Catechesis and Religious Education (ACRE) indicates that students in the Diocese of Baton Rouge have strong faith knowledge (p. 4) and commitment to service (p. 3).

Catholic schools in the diocese certainly *Educate Minds*, which is verified by data on academic accomplishment (p. 4). The Class of 2017 scored well above both state and national averages on the American College Test, and the ACT Aspire results indicate that elementary and middle schools realized widespread gains in only the second year of that rigorous assessment.

Faculty and staff engage in professional development, and their daily implementation of rigorous and relevant educational experiences have challenged students to develop habits of higher level thinking as they prepare for their futures in a global community. During 2016-17, the Catholic Schools Office made available more than 18,000 contact hours of professional development and collaboration for teachers and administrators. Special focus on math and writing skills resulted in outstanding academic gains for students (p. 2 and p. 5).

Catholic schools foster the development of the whole child as they *Encourage Talent* through various programs. A myriad of opportunities for such development are evident on campuses throughout the diocese, and students are able to further identify and develop their talents by enhancing their creative, aesthetic, social/emotional, physical and spiritual capabilities. Whether students are participating in student council or beta club activities, attending club meetings that interest them, playing ball on a court or field, demonstrating technological skills with robotics, creating art projects and music, or performing in a dramatic production, talent development is encouraged and verified through student surveys of program effectiveness.

Schools in the Diocese of Baton Rouge *Embrace the Future* through their commitment to continuous improvement. Schools have expanded programs to include one-to-one technology and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) curriculum. Likewise, special education has been expanded across the diocese, which has been a blessing to both schools and students.

During the 2016-17 school year, thousands of families in the Diocese of Baton Rouge experienced tragic flooding, which greatly impacted the work of schools in our area. School staff in Catholic schools rose to the challenge of returning to a routine very quickly, and all schools in the diocese reopened within just a couple of weeks. With much gratitude, we recognize the tremendous efforts of personnel and thank donors from across the country for their generosity so that schools could continue their ministry.

Despite the year's challenges, this annual report is filled with the *Good News of Catholic Education*, which could not be possible without the support of Bishop Robert W. Muench, who we thank for his leadership and support. We are also grateful to clergy, school personnel, families, and community members. With strong stakeholder support, Catholic schools will continue to be gifts to generations!



Dr. Melanie Verges, Superintendent, and Most Rev. Bishop Robert Muench, Bishop of the Diocese of Baton Rouge, with Proclamation for Catholic Schools Week from Governor of Louisiana.

DIOCESE OF BATON ROUGE CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Baton Rouge

Most Blessed Sacrament

Our Lady of Mercy

Redemptorist St. Gerard

Sacred Heart of Jesus

St. Aloysius

St. Francis Xavier

St. George

St. Jean Vianney

St. Jude the Apostle

St. Louis King of France

St. Thomas More

Donaldsonville

*Ascension Catholic
Elementary*



*APEL, Director, Dr. Keith
Corrville, donates funds
for flooded schools to
Superintendent of Catholic
Schools, Dr. Melanie Verges*

Distinguished Awardees

- Catholic School Administrator: *Ms. Paula Fabre, St. Francis Xavier School*
- Catholic School Educator: *Mrs. Roslyn Landry, Most Blessed Sacrament*
- Catholic School Clergy: *Rev. Cayet Mangiaracina, Holy Ghost School; St. Thomas Aquinas High School*

Student of the Year

- Grade 5: *Joseph DiGiovanni, Holy Ghost School*
- Grade 8: *Anna Eagleton, St. Aloysius School*
- Grade 12: *Emma Woodruff, St. Joseph's Academy*

Quiz Bowl Competition

Grade 7/8 Teams

- First Place: *St. Aloysius School*

Grade 5/6 Teams

- First Place: *St. Jude the Apostle School*

Flood Recovery

- Our office helped coordinate the re-opening of schools across the Diocese of Baton Rouge. We created a website page to inform our community when schools would re-open.
- The Catholic Schools Office helped distribute \$57,000 in checks and \$11,000 in gift cards from 36 donors from across the country to assist our schools.
- Our office helped coordinate donations of school supplies, uniforms, clothing, and textbooks to our schools or other Catholic relief agencies from Texas, Chicago, Alabama, and Florida.

Catholic Schools Week

January 2017 - February 2017

- National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA) Theme - Catholic Schools: Communities of Faith, Knowledge and Service
- Mass was held on Wednesday, February 1, 2017 and hosted by Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in East Baton Rouge
- Mass Concelebrated by Bishop Robert Muench and Priests throughout the Diocese
- Representatives from all schools attended
- Items were donated by all Catholic Schools for Catholic Charities – the items were valued at \$16,500
- Awards were presented to Distinguished Educator, Clergy, Administrator, and Faculty/Staff for Years of Service.

Distinguished Graduates Dinner

- The dinner was held on Monday, January 30, 2017 at Renaissance Hotel
- Awards were presented to Distinguished Graduate from each school in the diocese and to Students of the Year
- Recognition of Distinguished Educators & Pastor

Media

- Television appearances: WBRZ, WAFB, Catholic TV
- Print Ads: Catholic Commentator, Advocate

Annual Catholic Educators Gathering

- Held at River Center on Tuesday, August 2, 2016
- Keynote Speaker: Gregory Dhuyvetter, Ten Technology Trends that Will Change Education (and the World); To Tech as Jesus Did: Gospel Values for Technology Planning & Instruction
- Breakout Sessions: 26 breakout sessions were held for faculty and administration
- Business Partners: 36 Business Partners exhibited education related materials
- Prayer Service & Commissioning Ceremony – Bishop Muench

Professional Development

- New Teacher Orientation & Workshops (4 sessions)
- Leadership Cohort for New Principals (6 sessions)

- Lenten Retreats for Principals & Assistant Principals, Cenacle Retreat House, Metairie, Louisiana – Growing in Christ: The Joy of the Gospel, Facilitator: Mr. Matthew F. Rouso
- Math Vertical Team Initiative: Workshops and Formation of Learning Standards for Algebra I by Middle and High School Teachers
- Leadership Summit for Administrators in Ocean Springs, MS – June 11 - 13, 2017: Growing Seeds of Mercy
- Summer Writing Institute for Teachers – June 5 – 9, 2017
- Principal Meetings - 10 held at both Catholic Life Center and School Sites
- Coordination of Attendance at Professional Conferences through Title Funding – 2018 educators, 18 conferences
- Granting of Continuing Learning Units, as per State Requirements

Diocesan School Board (DSB)

- Retreat for DSB and Local School Board Members – August 22 and 23, 2016 at Manresa Retreat House.
- Catholic Educators Trust Fund oversight
- Completion of Local Board Constitution and By-Laws updates
- Administrative Manual policy updates
- Annual Orientation for New Board Members and Veteran Members (Workshops and Webinars) (6 sessions)
- Expansion of DSB and Committee Membership
- Participation in Principal Committees

Home & School Association Activities

- Fall General Membership meeting
- Volunteer Support
- Catholic Educators Gathering – August
- Catholic Schools Week Mass - January
- Distinguished Graduates Dinner – January
- Student of the Year Program - February
- Donation of door prizes for Catholic Educators Gathering
- Annual Luncheon & Mother Seton Awards Program at Drusilla's Seafood Restaurant – April

Various Activities, Events, Programs & Initiatives

- Student of the Year Program for all Non-Public schools in the state
- Implementation of ACT Aspire Testing for grades 3 – 8
- Support for Data Analysis of Act Aspire test results
- Coordination of government programs (Title I & II and State Scholarship and Student Tuition Organization Programs)
- Special Education Program Expansion Support – Autism, Intellectual Disabilities, Dyslexia, Resource: 6 Sites
- State Scholarship Program and Student Tuition Organization Program Support
- Annual Leadership Appreciation Luncheon for Principals and Pastors on Thursday, November 3, 2016 at Juban's Restaurant with presentation by Superintendent and Special Education Director
- Annual State Report review and support for all schools in Diocese
- Christmas Art Contest – artwork chosen: Anna Otterstetter, Grade 11, Saint Michael High School
- Asbestos reporting support and coordination of facility training for chemicals
- Processing of temporary teaching certificates and updates to teaching certificates
- Hosting of High School Athletic Meetings for Catholic Schools throughout Louisiana - 2 Meetings, LSHAA Breakfast meeting 58 Attendees; Catholic High Schools meeting 211 Attendees.
- Creation of Catholic Schools Athletic Association for Sports in Grades 3 - 8

**DIOCESE OF
BATON ROUGE
CATHOLIC
ELEMENTARY
SCHOOLS**

Gonzales

St. Theresa of Avila

Greenwell Springs

St. Alphonsus Liguori

Hammond

Holy Ghost

Independence

Mater Dolorosa

New Roads

*Catholic Elementary
of Pointe Coupée*

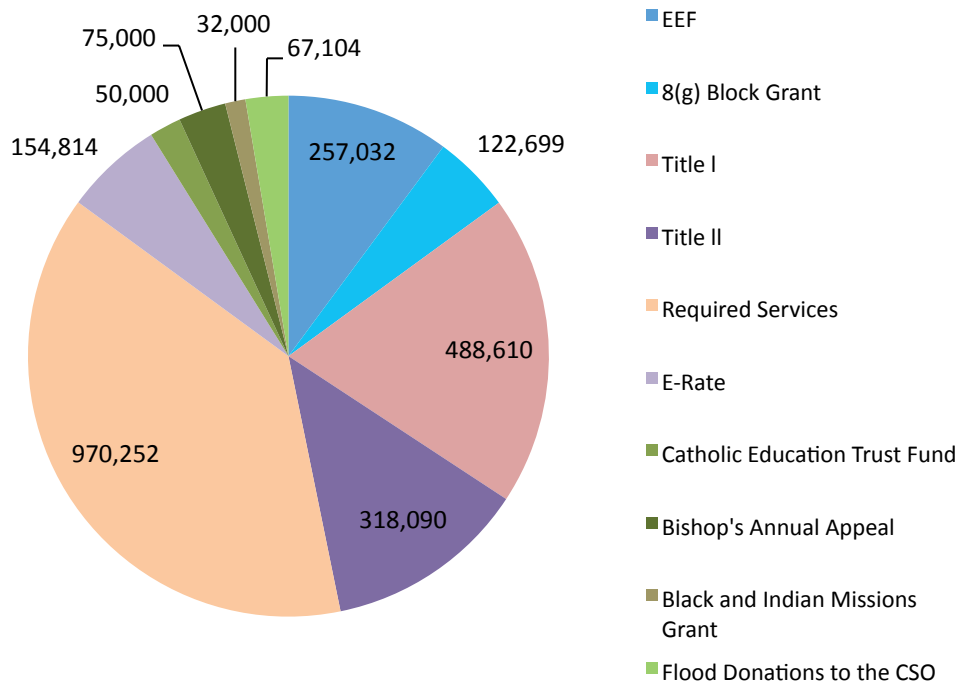
Paincourtville

*St. Elizabeth
Interparochial*

Category	Elementary 2016 - 17	Secondary 2016 - 17
School Enrollment		
Total Enrollment	11017	3873
Catholic	84%	86%
Non-Catholic	16%	14%
Caucasian	84%	83%
Minorities	16%	17%
Secondary School Graduates	2016 - 17	2016 - 17
Reported Enrollment in College		99%
Scholarships Awarded - Total		\$63,454,979
College Scholarships		\$51,254,979
TOPS		\$12,200,000
Advanced Credits	603	2937
General Data	2016 - 17	2016 - 17
Total Professional Staff	882	348
Average Student/Teacher Ratio	12:1	11:1
Average Tuition	\$4,840	\$9,062
Service Hours	76,720	132,585

State, Federal and Diocesan Funding

- 2016-17 Diocese of Baton Rouge Schools Received Materials and Funds valued at: **\$2,535,600**
 - Federal Funds: **\$961,513**
 - State Funds: **\$1,349,983**
 - Diocesan Funds: **\$224,104**



St. John Primary students

**DIOCESE OF
BATON ROUGE
CATHOLIC
ELEMENTARY
SCHOOLS**

Paulina

*St. Peter Chanel
Interparochial*

Plaquemine

*St. John the Evangelist
Interparochial*

Ponchatoula

St. Joseph

Port Allen

Holy Family

Prairieville

St. John Primary

**Assessment of Catechesis/Religious Education (ACRE)
Faith Knowledge 2016-17 Testing**

	Grade 5	Grade 8	Grade 11
Diocese	83%	83%	77%
National Norm	77%	79%	72%

(Percent of Students Proficient or Advanced)

Diocese of Baton Rouge Standardized Tests

	2012-2013 TN	2013-2014 TN	2014-2015 TN	2015-2016 AA	2016-2017 AA
Reading - Grade 3	71	71	69	50	51
Grade 4	65	68	66	52	52
Grade 5	68	68	69	55	56
Grade 6	70	71	69	56	53
Grade 7	68	69	68	58	65
Grade 8	75	72	75	65	61
Math - Grade 3	64	66	67	67	49
Grade 4	57	56	62	59	46
Grade 5	62	63	62	65	40
Grade 6	65	64	64	63	50
Grade 7	78	74	75	78	52
Grade 8	77	76	74	75	57
English - Grade 3	72	73	71	58	58
Grade 4	71	74	72	63	64
Grade 5	70	68	71	63	63
Grade 6	74	73	70	59	68
Grade 7	77	78	78	61	69
Grade 8	82	78	81	66	66
Science - Grade 3	76	78	75	49	48
Grade 4	66	70	68	55	53
Grade 5	66	66	69	56	62
Grade 6	67	67	67	64	58
Grade 7	64	65	66	59	63
Grade 8	70	68	70	68	65
Writing - Grade 3	N/A	N/A	N/A	55	66
Grade 4	N/A	N/A	N/A	58	56
Grade 5	N/A	N/A	N/A	57	54
Grade 6	N/A	N/A	N/A	32	38
Grade 7	N/A	N/A	N/A	49	61
Grade 8	N/A	N/A	N/A	52	57

TN= TerraNova (2012-13 – 2014-15) AA=ACT Aspire (2015-16 and 2016-17)

High School ACT Composite Scores

Class of:	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
Diocese of Baton Rouge Average	24.0	23.9	24.0	23.6	23.6
State of Louisiana Average	19.5	19.5	19.4	19.2	19.5
National Average	21.0	20.8	21.0	21.0	20.9

(State and National averages include Catholic Schools)



*Saint John Vianney student
sharing his faith*

**DIOCESE OF
BATON ROUGE
CATHOLIC HIGH
SCHOOLS**

Baton Rouge

Catholic High

*Cristo Rey Baton Rouge
Franciscan High School*

St. Joseph's Academy

*St. Michael the Archangel
Diocesan Regional High*

Donaldsonville

*Ascension Catholic
Diocesan Regional High*

Hammond

*St. Thomas Aquinas
Diocesan Regional High*

New Roads

*Catholic High of
Pointe Coupée*

Plaquemine

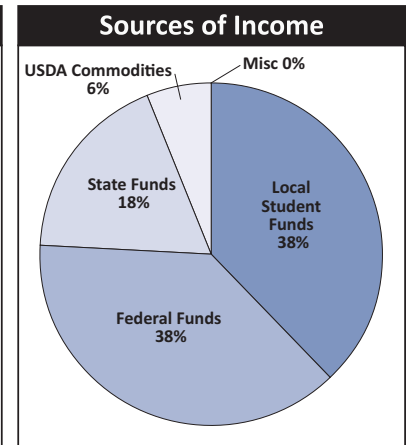
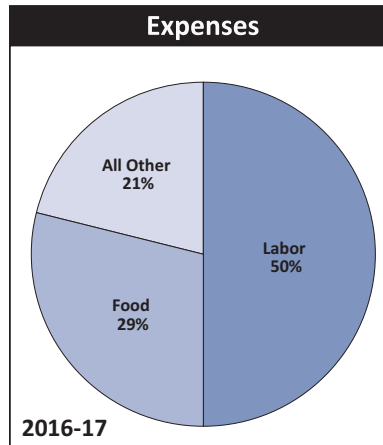
*St. John the Evangelist
Interparochial High*



*Student working in the
computer lab of St John
Primary School*

Child Nutrition Program 2016-17 Annual Report

- Average daily participation: **8,315**
- Students receiving free/reduced price meals: **2,321**
- Total meals served: **1,935,882**
Breakfast & Lunch: **1,430,190**
Afterschool: **505,692**
- Meal prices:
Elementary: **\$2.90**
Middle: **\$2.90**
High School: **\$3.10**

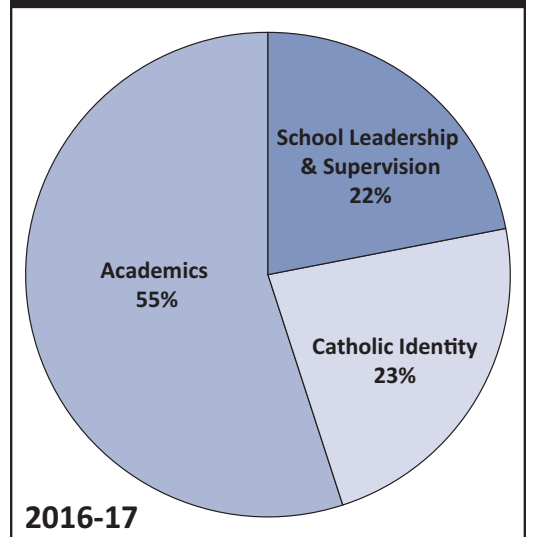


**Catholic School Office
Professional Development:
Catholic Identity,
School Leadership,
Teaching & Learning**



Diocesan School Christmas Card Artist, Anna Otterstetter, Grade 11, Saint Michael High School, Dr Mel, and Ellen Lee, Principal

PD Contact Hours: 18,114 Total



Catholic Schools Week Mass Procession at Sacred Heart of Jesus Church

Catholic Schools:

Preserving a Catholic tradition since 1845

Catholic Schools Office Diocese of Baton Rouge

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P.O. Box 2028
Baton Rouge, LA 70821

Phone: (225) 336-8735
Fax: (225) 336-8711

www.csobr.org



St. John Vianney students
in Math class

Diocesan School Board

Dr. Melanie B. Verges, *Superintendent*
Mrs. Carolyn Landry, *Chair*
Mr. Jeff Larson, *Chair Elect*
Mrs. Ashley Sandage, *Vice Chair*
Sr. Sandra Blanchard, *SCJ*
Dr. Beau Clark
Rev. Jamin David
Mrs. Dina Dow
Mrs. LaShawn Jolivet
Mrs. Donna Newchurch Landry
Mrs. Ellen Lee
Br. Paul Montero
Rev. Caye A. Nelson III
Mrs. Judith Roberson
Mrs. Deidre Robert
Mr. Ruel Seneca
Mrs. Renee Tullier

Diocesan Home and School Board

Mrs. Renee Tullier, *President*
Mrs. Annette Savoy, *Secretary*
Mrs. Randi Peltier, *Treasurer*
Mrs. Jeanne Barone
Mrs. Dawn Beale
Mrs. Sharron Buchart
Mrs. Cindy Gautreau
Mrs. Wanda Gawarecki
Mr. Michael Miller

Diocesan Special Education Committee

Mrs. Bethany Robicheaux, *Director*
Mrs. Carolyn Landry, *Chair*
Mrs. Brooke Avery
Mr. Grant Gautreaux
Mrs. Jill Stewart

Catholic Schools Office Staff

Dr. Melanie B. Verges, *Superintendent*
Mr. Michael Miller, *Assistant Superintendent*
Mrs. Diane Talbot, *Instruction Specialist*
Mrs. Linda Raush, *Curriculum Specialist*
Mrs. Christie Francis, *Department Secretary*
Mrs. Joni Herrmann, *Secretary to the Superintendent*

Special Education Department

Mrs. Bethany Robicheaux, *Director*
Mrs. Teresa Rodney, *Secretary*

Child Nutrition Program Department

Ms. Lynda Carville, *Child Nutrition Director*
Ms. Chiquita Coston, *Business Manager*
Mrs. Cristal Willis, *Accounts Payable*
Mrs. Terri Deville, *Accountant / AR*
Ms. Terry Pennison, *Payroll / HR Specialist*
Mr. Bradford Ray, *Purchasing Manager*
Mrs. Annette Dinecola, *Purchasing / AR*
Mr. Mark Kleiner, *Technology Specialist*



Catholic School Administrators from the Diocese of Baton Rouge at the Catholic Schools Office Summer Summit in Ocean Springs, MS



Dr. Verges; Ms. Paula Fabre, *Distinguished Administrator*; Rev. Cayet Mangiaracina, *Distinguished Clergy*; Mrs. Roslyn Landry, *Distinguished Educator*; and Most Rev. Bishop Robert Muench