



# DIOCESE OF COLORADO SPRINGS

## OFFICE OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

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Dear Catholic School Parents/Guardians,

It is a true blessing to welcome the 2024-2025 school year. Whether you are a returning student, parent or teacher, or joining us for the first time, I am excited for the opportunity to work alongside you in the important mission of Catholic education. Catholic schools are vital instruments for the Church's mission of evangelization, contributing to the dialogue between faith and culture and the formation of future leaders who will serve the Church and society.

We are dedicated to supporting families in forming children who develop a friendship with Christ and a love for the Church. In the words of Bishop Golka, we want our students to be "fascinated by Christ and good stewards of God's grace." Our partnership with parents is one of the vital characteristics of Catholic education. This relationship requires a commitment to respect the dignity of all persons and to work for reconciliation when we have disagreements. When we come together to resolve an issue, we first pray that our conversation is "always gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you know how you should respond to each one." (Colossians 4:6)

The mission of Catholic education is to integrate faith and reason while cultivating moral and spiritual formation. We celebrate the academic success of each of our schools where our students demonstrate a strong foundation on which they build deeper critical thinking and analysis skills. We challenge students to develop a deep relationship with God so they can understand their unique gifts and how they are called to use those gifts to build the kingdom of God on earth so they can see God face-to-face in Heaven. As Pope John Paul II emphasized, Catholic schools are not just places of learning, but communities of faith where students encounter the living God and are drawn to lead lives "characterized by all that is beautiful, good, and true."

I thank you for trusting us in your most important gift from God. Our world needs individuals who not only reach their intellectual potential but also have strong, moral character and a deep, living faith.

Please pray for your pastors, principals, and teachers as we start a new school year. May the Holy Spirit be the "teacher of the faith" and the "artisan" who enlightens the minds and hearts of students, teachers, and the entire school community.

Yours in Christ,

Sheila Whalen

Superintendent of Catholic Education

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