

**Catholic Schools** - The Diocese of New Ulm has fifteen elementary school and three Catholic high school programs. Ten of the fifteen elementary schools also include parish sponsored preschool. A total of 2,150 children (PreK-12) receive an opportunity to grow in their relationship with Christ through their Catholic school experiences. These students are immersed in an environment with a strong Catholic identity and are exposed to an excellent rigorous curriculum nurtured in faith. Catholic Schools Office director, Karla Cross, collaborates with Catholic school administrators in the diocese providing leadership, enrichment, and support to principals and educators working within the Catholic school systems. In addition, the office oversees key diocesan initiatives necessary to support Catholic education.

- Oversight and implementation of the Diocesan Plan for Schools—the diocesan initiated strategic planning providing direction for future initiatives at both the diocesan level and at the local level, for all Catholic schools and parishes within the diocese to address.
- Annual faith formation and teacher workshop day for collaboration of educators across the eighteen schools.
- School strategic planning through a state sanctioned association for accrediting nonpublic schools in Minnesota. The accreditation is a catalyst for enhancing the quality of Catholic education in our diocese. The process includes a visionary and focused strategic plan with annual reporting requirements and on-site visits by teams of educators. Strategic plans and annual reports are reviewed at the diocesan level to provide oversight of local school programs. Catholic identity is also reviewed by the director of the Office of Catholic Schools and included as a part of the process.
- Standardized Student Evaluations – the schools utilize a minimum of one assessment tool to measure the academic progress of individual students at various grade levels. Aggregate data is reviewed at both the local level and the diocesan level to provide for school academic oversight.
- School Policies – providing model language or implementing policies consistent for all schools