

October 16, 2018

Dear Eighth Grade Parent or Guardian:

You made a decision to place your child in a Catholic elementary school because you felt it was best for your child to be in an academically, faith-based, excellent educational community. Therefore, you know that Catholic schools uniquely prepare young people for success in both the classroom – and well beyond. As you decide the appropriate secondary school for your child, I hope you will continue on this path towards future success by choosing a Catholic high school.

In the coming weeks, I invite you to attend open house events at:

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|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| • Holy Name CCHS, Worcester          | Oct. 28, 12pm – 2pm      | <a href="http://www.holyname.net">www.holyname.net</a>                 |
| • Saint Bernard's CCHS, Fitchburg    | Oct. 28, 1pm – 3pm       | <a href="http://www.stbernardscchs.org">www.stbernardscchs.org</a>     |
| • Saint Peter-Marian CCHS, Worcester | Oct. 28, 1pm – 3:30pm    | <a href="http://www.spmguardians.org">www.spmguardians.org</a>         |
| • Saint Mary's Schools, Worcester    | Oct. 24, 6:30pm – 8:30pm | <a href="http://www.stmarysworcester.org">www.stmarysworcester.org</a> |

This year in an effort to better coordinate admission practices in our three Central Catholic High Schools (CCHS), a more unified and common approach to entrance/placement exams has been adopted. Specifically:

- A common entrance/placement exam will be administered at each Central Catholic High School.
- Applicants presently enrolled in a Catholic elementary school are exempt from the exam.
- Applicants *not* presently enrolled in a Catholic elementary school are required to sit for the exam.
- All applicants wishing to be considered for merit-based scholarships are required to sit for the exam.
- The fee for the exam is \$25. Please contact the high school directly for entrance/placement exam dates.

New this year, the Catholic Schools Office will award a one-time \$250 scholarship to each Catholic elementary student who voluntarily sits for the exam and enrolls in one of our three Central Catholic High Schools (CCHS). This scholarship, named in honor of the student's Catholic elementary school, will be applied to the student's FACTS tuition account.

Our Diocesan elementary school graduates are accepted to the Catholic high school of their choice provided they have completed the eighth grade at a Diocesan Catholic elementary school, have met their 2018-2019 school year tuition obligations, and have a written recommendation from their principal.

It is our hope these new enrollment practices will enhance student academic placement, that merit-based scholarships may be awarded with more equity, and that all families will experience a clearer path towards admission to our Diocesan high schools.

If you are interested in having your son/daughter continue their Catholic education and attend any one of our Diocesan high schools, simply follow the instructions given to you by your child's present school principal, complete the Diocese of Worcester Central Catholic High School Application Form, indicate the school of choice, and return it to your present school principal by November 9, 2018. This form will be forwarded along with your child's records to the selected school. During the weeks that follow, your selected high school will be forwarding you additional enrollment and financial aid information.

As superintendent, I am extremely grateful to the many clergy and religious, administrators, teachers, community partners, and business leaders who give of their time, talents, and treasure to support Catholic education. I recognize the sacrifice many families make to keep their children in a Catholic school, and sincerely thank you for your commitment.

Yours truly,

David Perda, Ph.D.

Superintendent of Schools  
Diocese of Worcester