



# 2015–2016 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

The 2015-16 school year was filled with Good News in Catholic Education in the Diocese of Baton Rouge! Students, parents, faculty, staff, administrators, board members, religious, and clergy worked together throughout the year to achieve the vision of *Evangelizing Hearts, Educating Minds, Encouraging Talent and Embracing the Future.*

The indication of how well schools in the diocese *Evangelize Hearts* can be seen in several ways. The Assessment of Catechesis and Religious Education (ACRE) results reflect another year of scores that are above the national norm for faith knowledge, showing that students are receiving quality instruction in the faith. Schools across the diocese reported a total of more than 200,000 hours in service to the community during the school year, which is indicative of students living their faith in service to others. Ministry to families unable to afford tuition grew again this year as more students were welcomed into Catholic schools through state sponsored funding programs. Teachers and administrators continued to earn credits in religious education as they completed basic, intermediate and advance certification, equipping them to teach through the lens of faith throughout the program of studies. Retreats were held for board members, principals and assistant principals to bring together leaders across the diocese to develop their faith as they work to strengthen the ministry of Catholic education.

Schools strive through academic programs to *Educate Minds*, and the effectiveness of their work is evident through metrics and awards. The ACT composite score for the Class of 2016 is 23.9, which is well-above both state and national averages, indicating that a quality academic education has been received by students in the diocese. Further, principals chose to adopt a more rigorous standardized test, and students in Grades 3 – 8 took the ACT Aspire test this year for the first time. Even though the test was new and challenging, results indicate that the vast majority of grade levels in all subjects were above national average. Accomplishment was celebrated as another school in the diocese received the NCLB National Blue Ribbon School Award. Joining several other schools that have received the award in recent years, St. Aloysius' honor reflects strong programs throughout the diocese as a result of continued collaboration between schools.

Several opportunities to *Encourage Talent* were evident during 2015-16, as faculty and staff members

provided co-curricular and extra-curricular activities and opportunities outside the classroom. Through these activities, students were able to further identify and develop their gifts and talents and enhance their creative, aesthetic, social/emotional, physical, and spiritual capabilities. Whether students were participating in student council or beta club activities, joining a club that interested them, playing ball on a court or field, demonstrating technological skills with robotics, playing music, or performing in a dramatic production, talent development was encouraged throughout schools in the Diocese of Baton Rouge this past year!

Children are educated to be ready for the future, and schools *Embrace the Future* each day through careful planning for growth with key stakeholders. The self-study for national accreditation as a district was completed early in the year, and ALL schools in the Diocese of Baton Rouge continue to maintain national accreditation! As part of the accreditation process, schools implement plans for continuous improvement, which result in clear focus toward student growth as well as building organizational capacity within and among schools. With the addition of Cristo Rey Baton Rouge Franciscan High School to the diocese, 2015-16 was a year full of hope for a bright future for the students and families served.

Thank you for your interest in Catholic education in the Diocese of Baton Rouge. We are blessed to have community support as well as the leadership of Bishop Robert W. Muench, who supports the educational ministry throughout the diocese, and the leadership of local priests, who nurture the ministry of education within their parishes. Always relying on the Holy Spirit, we are grateful to have had a wonderful journey this past year and look forward to continuing success in the future!



*Bishop Robert Muench and Dr. Melanie Verges at the Distinguished Graduates Dinner*

## 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*



*5th and 6th grade St. Jean Vianney Quiz Bowl team*



*7th and 8th grade St. Aloysius Quiz Bowl team*

### Distinguished Educators and Pastor

- Elementary Principal: *Dr. Cynthia Ryals, St. Alphonsus of Ligouri*
- Elementary Teacher: *Mrs. Caroline Murphy, St. Aloysius School*
- Secondary Educator: *Mrs. Lisa Baldrige, St. Michael the Archangel High School*
- Pastor: *Rev. Monsignor Robert H. Berggreen, Catholic of Pointe Coupee*

### Student of the Year Program

- Grade 5: *Malorie Denham, Ascension Catholic*
- Grade 8: *Amelia Pham, Holy Ghost School*
- Grade 12: *Natalie Bush, St. Joseph's Academy*

### Quiz Bowl Competition

#### Grade 7/8 Teams

- First Place: *St. Aloysius School*
- Second Place: *St. Jude*

#### Grade 5/6 Teams

- First Place: *St. Jean Vianney*
- Second Place: *Most Blessed Sacrament*

### Catholic Schools Week

#### January 2016 - February 2016

- National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA) Theme - *Catholic Schools: Communities of Faith, Knowledge and Service*
- **Mass Concelebrated by Bishop and Priests**
- Representatives from All Schools Attended
- Hosted by Holy Family Church in Port Allen on Wednesday, February 3, 2016
- Donated Items for Catholic Charities – Valued at \$16,000
- Awards Presented to Distinguished Educators & Pastor, Faculty/Staff for Years of Service, and St. Aloysius for NCLB National Blue Ribbon Award

### Distinguished Graduates Dinner

- Dinner at Renaissance Hotel on Monday, February 1, 2016
- Awards presented to Distinguished Graduate from each school in the diocese and to Students of the Year
- Recognition of Distinguished Educators & Pastor
- Music Performance by St. Michael High Jazz Band – Dr. Kevin Andry, Conductor

### Media

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

### Coordinated by Catholic Schools Office District Accreditation

- Self-study Report Completed and Submitted to AdvancED for Each School and Diocese/District
- Review Team Visit Hosted in January at the Tracey Center
- Re-Accreditation Status Awarded to District

### Annual Catholic Educators Gathering

- Held at River Center on Friday, September 4, 2015
- Keynote Speaker: Robert M. Tasman, Attempting to Fulfill the Directive of the Gospel by Cultivating the Fruit of the Spirit in Everyday Life
- Breakout Sessions 28
- Business Partners 44
- Mass & Commissioning Ceremony with Bishop Muench

### Professional Development

- New Teacher Orientation (4 sessions)
- Leadership Cohort for New Principals (6 sessions)
- Lenten Retreats for Principals & Assistant Principals, The Abbey Retreat House in Covington, LA – *Fruits of the Spirit: Mercy in Motion*, Facilitator: Sr. Judy Gomila, MSC
- Math Vertical Team Initiative: Workshops and Formation of Learning Standards for Algebra I by Middle and High School Teachers

- Graduation of Catholic Teacher Leader Cohort through Partnership with Our Lady of Holy Cross College, M. Ed. in Educational Leadership
- Leadership Summit for Administrators in Ocean Springs, MS – June 12 - 14, 2016: *Mindset Matters*
- Summer Writing Institute for Teachers – June 6-10, 2016
- Principal Meetings (Catholic Life Center and School Sites) (Qty. 10)
- Coordination of Attendance at Professional Conferences through Title Funding – 2018 educators, 18 conferences
- Continuing Learning Units Granted

### Diocesan School Board (DSB)

- Retreat for Diocesan School Board and Local School Board Members – August 24 and 25, 2015 at Manresa Retreat House.
- Oversight for Catholic Educators Trust Fund, Bishop's Annual Appeal Tuition Assistance, and Black and Indian Mission Tuition Assistance
- Completion of Local Board Constitution and By-Laws
- Administrative Manual Policy Updates
- Annual Orientation Sessions (6) for New Board Members and Veteran Members (Workshops and Webinars)
- Expansion of DSB and Committee Membership
- Participation in Committees (8)

### Home & School Association

- Fall General Membership Meeting
- Volunteer Support: Catholic Educators Gathering – August  
Catholic Schools Week Mass - January  
Distinguished Graduates Dinner – January  
Accreditation Visiting Team Hospitality - 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 State
- Adoption and 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)
- Management of State Testing Mandated Activities: 23 Schools, 1017 Students
- Special Education Program Expansion Support – Autism, Intellectual Disability, Dyslexia, Resource: 6 Sites
- State Scholarship Program and Student Tuition Organization Program Support: 843 State Scholarship Students and 174 STO Students at 23 schools
- Annual Leadership Appreciation Luncheon for Principals and Pastors on Thursday, November 5, 2015 at Juban's Restaurant with Presentation by Superintendent and Special Education Director
- United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
- Annual State Report Support for all Schools in Diocese
- Christmas Art Contest Artwork Chosen: Kate Valle, Grade 1, Holy Ghost School
- Asbestos Reporting Support and Coordination of Facility Training for Chemicals
- Temporary Teaching Certificates and Updates to Teaching Certificates Processed
- Hosting of High School Athletic Meetings for Catholic Schools Throughout LA – (2) Meetings; 269 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*

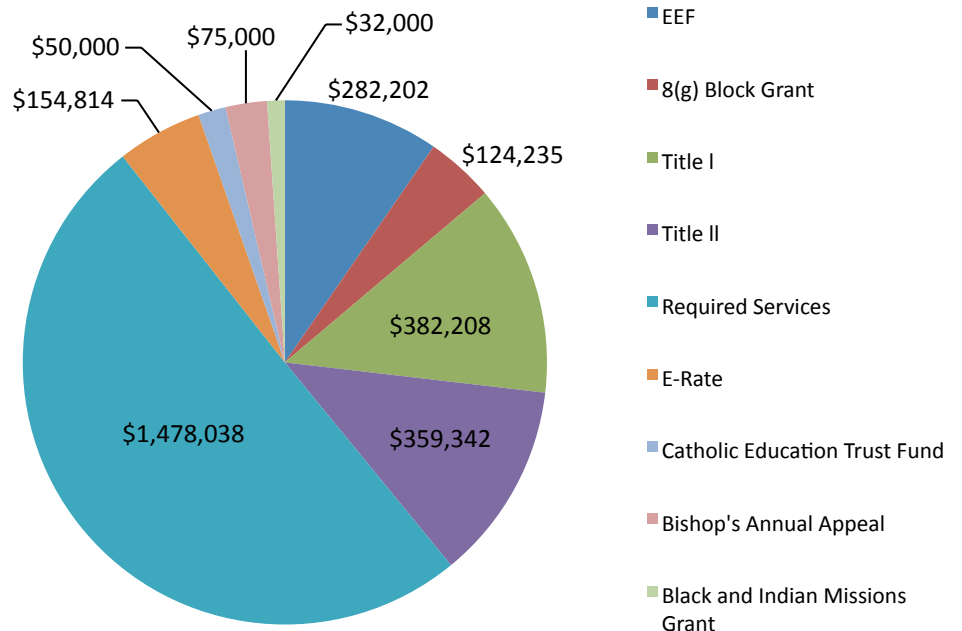
*Paincourtville*

*St. Elizabeth  
Interparochial*

Category	Elementary 2015 - 16	Secondary 2015 - 16
<b>School Enrollment</b>		
Total Enrollment	11,046	3,851
Catholic	83%	88%
Non-Catholic	17%	12%
Caucasian	83%	85%
Minorities	17%	15%
<b>Secondary School Graduates</b>	<b>2015 - 16</b>	<b>2015 - 16</b>
Total Graduates		888
Reported Enrollment in College		97%
Scholarships Awarded - Total		\$66,035,688.22
College Scholarships		\$53,916,685.52
TOPS		\$12,119,002.70
Advanced Credits		2937
<b>General Data</b>	<b>2015 - 16</b>	<b>2015 - 16</b>
Total Professional Staff	816	374
Average Student/Teacher Ratio	13.5	10.2
Average Tuition	\$4,585	\$8,202
Service Hours	75,590	130,957

State, Federal and Diocesan Funding

- 2015-16 Diocese of Baton Rouge Schools Received Materials and Funds valued at: **\$3,802,204**
  - Federal Funds: **\$896,364**
  - State Funds: **\$2,780,840**
  - Donations/Diocesan Funds: **\$125,000**
  - Reimbursements (Required Services): **\$1,478,038**



*Saint Louis King of France  
STREAM Program (Science,  
Technology, Religion,  
Engineering, Art, and Math)*



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 2015-16 Testing

	Grade 5	Grade 8	Grade 11
<b>Diocese</b>	69%	79%	81%
<b>National Norm</b>	61%	69%	65%

*(Percent of Students Proficient or Advanced)*

### Mandated Standardized Testing

	Former Mandated Test Program (Terra Nova) Spring Test			Newly Adopted ACT Aspire Test
	Spring 2013	Spring 2014	Spring 2015	Fall 2016
<b>Reading - Grade 3</b>	71	71	69	50
<b>Grade 4</b>	65	68	66	52
<b>Grade 5</b>	68	68	69	55
<b>Grade 6</b>	70	71	69	56
<b>Grade 7</b>	68	69	68	58
<b>Grade 8</b>	74	72	75	65
<b>ELA - Grade 3</b>	73	73	71	58
<b>Grade 4</b>	71	74	72	63
<b>Grade 5</b>	70	68	71	63
<b>Grade 6</b>	74	73	70	59
<b>Grade 7</b>	76	78	78	61
<b>Grade 8</b>	82	78	81	66
<b>Math - Grade 3</b>	67	67	67	49
<b>Grade 4</b>	56	62	59	46
<b>Grade 5</b>	64	62	65	40
<b>Grade 6</b>	64	64	63	50
<b>Grade 7</b>	74	75	78	52
<b>Grade 8</b>	76	74	75	57
<b>Science - Grade 3</b>	76	72	75	49
<b>Grade 4</b>	66	70	68	55
<b>Grade 5</b>	66	60	69	56
<b>Grade 6</b>	68	72	67	64
<b>Grade 7</b>	64	69	66	59
<b>Grade 8</b>	70	70	70	68
<b>Soc. St - Grade 3</b>	71	72	70	N/A
<b>Grade 4</b>	68	70	67	N/A
<b>Grade 5</b>	61	60	63	N/A
<b>Grade 6</b>	71	72	70	N/A
<b>Grade 7</b>	66	69	68	N/A
<b>Grade 8</b>	71	70	72	N/A

### High School ACT Composite Scores

Class of:	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012
Diocese of Baton Rouge Average	23.9	24.0	23.6	23.6	23.4
State of Louisiana Average	19.5	19.4	19.2	19.5	20.3
National Average	20.8	21.0	21.0	20.9	21.1

*(State and National averages include Catholic Schools)*



*Encouraging talent with  
the St Theresa band*

**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*

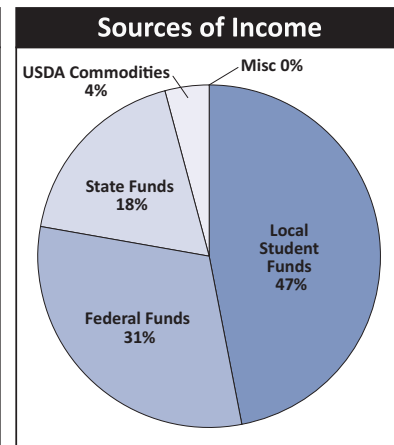
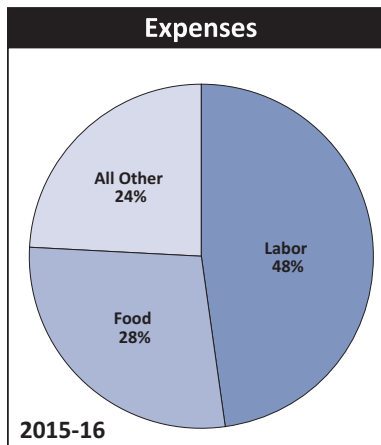
*St. John the Evangelist  
Interparochial High*



*Bishop Muench and a student*

**Child Nutrition Program 2015-16 Annual Report**

- Average daily participation: **8,265**
- Students receiving free/reduced price meals: **1,946**
- Total meals served: **1,967,7303:**  
Breakfast & Lunch: **1,421,622**  
Afterschool: **546,108**
- Meal prices:  
Elementary: **\$2.85**  
Middle: **\$2.85**  
High School: **\$3.10**

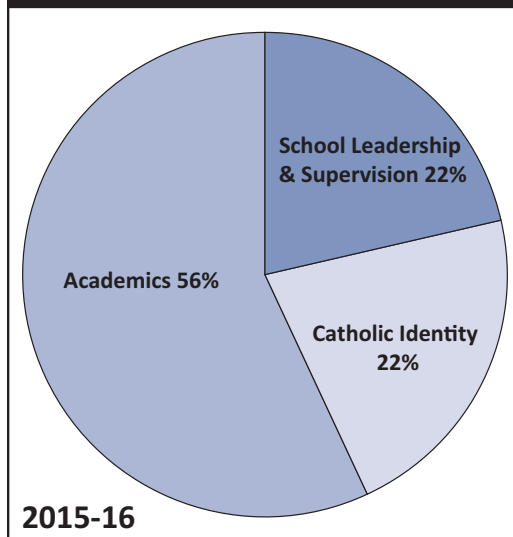


**Catholic School Office  
Professional Development,  
Catholic Identity,  
School Leadership,  
Teaching & Learning**



*Principal Cherie Schlatre, St. John the Evangelist School Distinguished Graduate Mr. Charles Miranda, Bishop Robert Muench, and Dr. Melanie Verges at the Distinguished Graduates Dinner for the Diocese of Baton Rouge*

**PD Contact Hours: 17,896 Total**



*Summer Leadership Summit for the Diocese of Baton Rouge*

# Catholic Schools:

Preserving a Catholic tradition since 1845

## Catholic Schools Office Diocese of Baton Rouge

1800 South Acadian Thruway  
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Baton Rouge, LA 70821

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Fax: (225) 336-8711

[www.csobr.org](http://www.csobr.org)



Mrs. Erin Candilora, Principal of St. Aloysius School and Dr. Melanie Verges, Superintendent of Catholic Schools celebrate St. Aloysius National Blue Ribbon Award

### Diocesan School Board

Mrs. Donna Newchurch Landry, *Chairperson*  
Mr. Ruel Seneca, *Vice Chairperson*  
Mr. Perry Franklin, *Immediate Past President*  
Sr. Sandra Blanchard, SCJ  
Mrs. Geraldine Bordelon  
Mrs. Carolyn Landry  
Rev. Caye A. Nelson III  
Mrs. Rhonda Parenton  
Mrs. Judith Roberson  
Mrs. Wendy Ross  
Mrs. Ashley Sandage  
Mrs. Renee Tullier  
Dr. Melanie B. Verges, *Superintendent*

### Diocesan Home and School Board

Mrs. Renee Tullier, *President*  
Mrs. Annette Savoy, *Secretary*  
Mrs. Randi Peltier, *Treasurer*  
Mrs. Sande Bardwell, *Hospitality*  
Mrs. Kathleen Compton, *Hospitality*  
Mrs. Jeanne Barone, *Member at Large*  
Mrs. Dawn Beale, *Member at Large*  
Mrs. Sharron Buchart, *Member at Large*  
Mrs. Jennifer Bourgeois, *Member at Large*  
Mrs. Cindy Gautreau, *Member at Large*  
Mrs. Wanda Gawarecki, *Member at Large*  
Mr. Michael Miller, *Moderator*

### Special Education Advisory Committee

Mr. Sean Casey  
Mrs. Carolyn Landry  
Mrs. Ellen Ratcliff  
Mrs. Bethany Robicheaux  
Mrs. Jill Steward  
Mrs. Veronica Winchester

### Special Education Staff

Mrs. Veronica Winchester, *Director*  
Ms. Aloma Dias, *Secretary*

### Catholic Schools Office Staff

Dr. Melanie B. Verges, *Superintendent*  
Mr. Michael Miller, *Assistant Superintendent*  
Mrs. Dianne Talbot, *Instruction Specialist*  
Mrs. Linda Raush, *Curriculum Specialist*  
Mrs. Susan Steele, *Secretary*  
Mrs. Joni Herrmann, *Secretary*

### Child Nutrition Program Staff

Ms. Lynda Carville, *Child Nutrition Supervisor*  
Mrs. Anne Peterson, *Business Manager*  
Mrs. Cristal Willis, *Accounts Payable*  
Mrs. Terry Deville, *Accountant*  
Mrs. Terry Pennison, *Payroll Benefits Manager*  
Ms. Chiquita Coston, *Secretary*  
Mrs. Annette Dinecola, *Bookkeeper*  
Mrs. Hermione Pate, *Receptionist*  
Mrs. Holly Leonards, *Purchasing Manager*



Dr. Melanie Verges and Mr. Rob Tasman, keynote speaker for the 2015 – 2016 Educator Gathering



Teachers at the Rigor and Writing workshop



District Accreditation Coordinators for our Catholic Schools