



St. John Paul II Catholic Schools

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Holy Spirit Elementary School • Nativity Elementary School • Trinity Elementary School
Sacred Heart Middle School • Shanley High School

July 2022

Dear Parents,

Tuesday, July 26 is the 140th anniversary of the opening of the first Catholic school in Fargo in 1882 by two Presentation Sisters—who had arrived in the frontier town by train just four days earlier, just five years after the first Mass was offered there, and seven years before statehood!

Thanks be to God for the courage, conviction, and faith they brought to this “mission from God” and for all the graces of that great legacy of Catholic education. Thanks to the generations of students, parents, staff members (lay, religious, priests), and friends for building our 140 year tradition of excellence in our faith-based, total-person-focused program of education and formation.

Just as previous generations prepared for each new school year, we, too, have been preparing in earnest and are soon in the home stretch of preparations for the 2022-2023 school year.

Our 2022-2023 opening day of school for students in grades 1-12 is Tuesday, August 23; younger students (Little Deacons-PK-K) will have their first full day on Thursday, August 25. Please review all the enclosed materials so your students are prepared to begin school.

In contrast with many reports of learning loss in schools across the nation, our students overall are in strong standing academically in spite of the varied challenges in recent years. Due gratitude goes to our students, our teachers, and you for that accomplishment.

We remain committed to manifesting our core values increasingly in partnership with you as “a community inspiring excellence through faith, learning, and service.” That is especially true this school year as we seek the input of all our stakeholders in forming our new strategic plan and blueprint for mission success for the next five years.

Parents, thank you in advance for your partnership, patience, and perseverance as we collaborate in our mission to educate the total person in body, mind, and spirit. Christ helps us integrate and elevate all aspects of our schools: academics, service, the arts, athletics, social events, and friendships. That integrating love of Christ is what makes our schools such a unique gift and treasure. Thank you for choosing to share this treasure with your children by enrolling them in St. John Paul II Catholic Schools.

It's time for another year of Catholic education.

Mike Hagstrom

Mike Hagstrom

President, St. John Paul II Catholic Schools



The Mission of St. John Paul II Catholic Schools is to inspire excellence by teaching the total person and fostering the following of Christ, as taught by the Catholic Church

Prayer for Catholic Schools

(Used with permission from the University of Notre Dame's "Alliance For Catholic Education")

Preface: ... [W]e recognize that our lives and our work are totally dependent upon God. Through prayer, we entrust to God our communities and all we do in service to Catholic schools, as we share Mary's conviction:

"Nothing will be impossible for God" (Luke 1:37).



Let us pray:

O Christ, our Teacher,

You invite Your faithful people to make disciples in Your name and to announce good news to the poor. We thank You for the gift of Catholic schools, where

*The message of Your life, death, and resurrection is proclaimed,
Christian community is experienced,
Service to our brothers and sisters is modeled,
And worship of You is cultivated.*

Increase our zeal for ensuring that all children and families can benefit from a high quality Catholic education, and that Catholic schools grow in their ability to nurture the soul of our nation.

We ask this through the intercession of Our Lady, Mother of Catholic Schools. Amen.