

# 10 REASONS WHY CATHOLIC EDUCATION STILL MATTERS

## 1. An Incarnational View of the World

Catholic school students learn that God is present and active in their lives and in the world. They learn to recognize the “footprints of God” in their daily experiences, especially in the midst of life’s challenges.

## 2. Immersion in the Paschal Mystery

Our lives are a series of small and not so small dyings and risings. In union with the Paschal Mystery, we realize that there is redemptive power in suffering and in the power of the cross. In it lies the answer to the mystery of all of life’s successes and failures.

## 3. The Values of Relationships as a Reflection of the Divine

Catholic school students learn to experience God’s grace and presence in their lives through their relationships with family, friends and teachers. The loving and supportive relationships they experience are reflections of the love and life-giving dynamic of the Trinity.

## 4. A Nuanced View of Scripture

Catholic school students are given the opportunity to explore the beauty and richness of Sacred Scripture seen through the lens of faith and lived out in daily practice.

## 5. Civic Engagement

In recent research, it has been reported that private school graduates are significantly more likely to actively participate in civic activities than their public school counterparts. Catholic Schools were ranked #1 in the percentage of graduates who actively participate in civic and community activities.

## 6. Service for the Common Good

Catholic schools promote service as an essential component of their curriculum. Many Catholic schools have service programs from kindergarten through twelfth grade.

## 7. Discipline as a Faith Expectation

Catholic schools promote self-discipline through clarity of moral vision that is based on the Gospel. Students are challenged to be Christ-like in word and action.

## 8. The Centrality of Arts, Ritual, Drama, Music to the Life of Faith

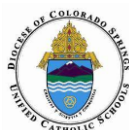
Through Catholic education, students are exposed to the richness of the religious tradition. Music, Art, Literature, Drama, and Ritual are rooted in the rich history of the Church, and find their truest glory as an expression of divine praise.

## 9. The Fullness of the Catholic Identity at the Heart of the Church

Catholic education has always been at the heart of the Catholic mission. Catholic education, and the students who are the product of it, have been called the “greatest work of the Church”. They have been entrusted with the fullness of faith and have been charged with the mission of evangelization. They are to go out into the world and share the gifts they have received, as doctors, lawyers, firemen, businessmen and women, teachers, priests, and religious etc., all as Catholic school graduates.

## 10. Personal Excellence as a Spiritual Goal

Catholic school students learn that excellence is a response to God’s blessings. Academic excellence is not a gospel value in and of itself. The Sermon on the Mount doesn’t say “Blessed are you who get all A’s”. Education must have an altruistic orientation. Students learn so as to help others, and make a difference in the world around them.



Adapted from an article written by: Reverend Ronald J. Nuzzi