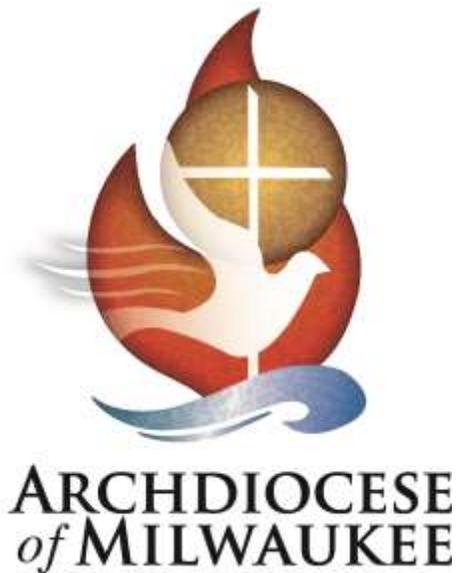


Exemplary Recognition Program

2015 - 2016





The Archdiocese of Milwaukee has a commitment to excellence and continued school improvement that ensures the best learning possible for our Catholic elementary and high school students. The Exemplary Recognition Program, based on the *National Standards and Benchmarks for Effective Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools*,* honors schools that have demonstrated innovation and outstanding results in one of the following categories:

- **Academic Excellence**
- **Educating the Whole Student**
- **Mission and Catholic Identity**
- **Technology Integration**

Schools chosen to receive Exemplary Recognition display outstanding achievement in one of the areas above, as demonstrated by information provided in the online application and data validated by an onsite visiting team.

General Program Outline:

- Information for the Exemplary Recognition Program is available on the Schools page of the Archdiocesan website biennially in the month of April in the year prior to the Educators' Convention.
- Schools seeking Exemplary Recognition must be fully accredited.
- Completed application narratives are due to the Office for Schools no later than the end of January in even-numbered years.
- All application narratives will be reviewed by the Office for Schools. If a school demonstrates exemplary status in a qualifying area, it will be selected for a site visit to validate the data submitted. Site visits take place the second semester.
- Award winners will be announced in early June of even-numbered years.
- Awards will be distributed at the biennial Catholic Educators' Convention in October.
- Awards are valid for 5 years.



EXEMPLARY RECOGNITION CATEGORY: ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Please describe, in narrative form, how your school meets and/or exceeds the criteria listed below.

CURRICULUM

1. The curriculum adheres to archdiocesan policies/guidelines, and there is a process in place for purposes of realizing gaps and overlaps in content and to ensure rigorous and coherent expectations for all students.
2. There is evidence that the curriculum in all content areas is rooted in Catholic values through the integration of the religious, spiritual, moral and ethical dimensions of learning in content and pedagogy.

INSTRUCTION

3. Classroom instruction is designed to intentionally address the affective dimensions of learning such as intellectual and social dispositions, relationship building, and habits of mind.
4. Classroom instruction is designed to engage and motivate all students, addressing the diverse needs and capabilities of each student and accommodating students with special needs as fully as possible.

ASSESSMENT

5. School-wide and student data generated by a variety of tools are used to monitor, review, and evaluate the curriculum to plan for continued and sustained student growth.
6. Faculty use a variety of curriculum-based assessments aligned with learning outcomes and instructional practices to assess student learning, including formative, summative, authentic performance and student self-assessment.
7. Criteria used to evaluate student work and the reporting mechanisms are valid, consistent, transparent, and justly administered.



PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

8. Faculty collaborate in learning teams to develop, implement, and continuously improve the effectiveness of curriculum, instruction, and assessment practices to assure the highest levels of student achievement.
9. Faculty and professional support staff demonstrate and continuously improve their knowledge and skills for effective instruction, cultural sensitivity, and modeling of Gospel values.

EXEMPLARY RECOGNITION CATEGORY: EDUCATING THE WHOLE STUDENT

Please describe, in narrative form, how your school meets and/or exceeds the criteria listed below.

1. *School-wide programs for parents/guardians provide opportunities for parents/guardians to partner with school leaders, faculty, and other parents/guardians to enhance the educational experiences for the school community (9.1).*
2. *Guidance services, wellness programs, behavior management programs, and ancillary services provide the necessary support for students to successfully complete the school program (9.2).*
3. *Co-curricular and extra-curricular activities provide opportunities outside the classroom for students to further identify and develop their gifts and talents and to enhance their creative, aesthetic, social/emotional, physical, and spiritual capabilities (9.3).*
4. *Classroom instruction is designed to intentionally address the affective dimensions of learning, such as intellectual and social dispositions, relationship building, and habits of mind (7.5).*
5. *Classroom instruction is designed to engage and motivate all students, addressing the diverse needs and capabilities of each student, and accommodating students with special needs as fully as possible (7.6).*
6. *Faculty and professional support staff demonstrate and continuously improve knowledge and skills necessary for effective instruction, cultural sensitivity, and modeling of Gospel values (7.9).*
7. *Faculty use the lenses of Scripture and the Catholic intellectual tradition in all subjects to help students think critically and ethically about the world around them (2.5).*
8. *Catholic culture and faith are expressed in the school through multiple and diverse forms of visual and performing arts, music and architecture (2.6).*
9. *The leader/leadership team articulates a clear mission and vision for the school, and engages the school community to ensure a school culture that embodies the mission and vision (6.2).*



EXEMPLARY RECOGNITION CATEGORY: MISSION AND CATHOLIC IDENTITY

Please describe, in narrative form, how your school meets and/or exceeds the criteria listed below.

THE MISSION AND THE MISSION STATEMENT

1. The governing body and the leader/leadership team ensure that the mission statement is the foundation and reference for all planning and includes a commitment to Catholic education. The school leader/leadership team regularly calls together the school's various constituencies to clarify, review, and renew the school's mission statement. The mission statement is visible, known, and understood by all.

THE LEADERSHIP TEAM, GOVERNING BODY, AND THE MISSION

2. The governing body ensures fidelity to mission in every aspect of school operations. The leader/leadership team articulates a clear mission and vision for the school and engages the school community to ensure a school culture that does so as well.

RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION

3. Religious instruction is structured around Archdiocesan Standards.
4. Teachers of religion meet archdiocesan certification standards and religion classes are an integral part of the curriculum and the school schedule.
5. *Catholic culture and faith are expressed in the school through multiple and diverse forms of visual and performing arts, music and architecture (2.6).*
6. Scripture, the Catholic intellectual tradition, and the theory and practice of Catholic social teaching are woven into all subjects where appropriate.

SERVICE AND GOSPEL WITNESS

7. *The theory and practice of the Church's social teachings are essential elements of the curriculum (2.7).*



LITURGY, PRAYER, AND SPIRITUAL LIFE

8. Students are engaged in the celebration of the liturgy.
9. Students are presented with retreats and other prayer experiences.
10. Every student participates in Christian service programs and experiences role models of faith and service among administrators, faculty, and staff.
11. Faculty and staff engage in retreats and other prayer experiences.

CATHOLIC CULTURE AND COMMUNITY LIFE

12. The leader/leadership team and faculty assist parents/guardians in their role as the primary educators of their children in faith and collaborate with other institutions to provide faith formation opportunities for parents/guardians.
13. *All adults in the school community are invited to participate in Christian service programs to promote the lived reality of action in service of social justice (4.4). Every administrator, faculty, and staff member visibly supports the faith life of the school community (4.5).*



EXEMPLARY RECOGNITION CATEGORY: TECHNOLOGY INTEGRATION

Please describe, in narrative form, how your school meets and/or exceeds the criteria listed below.

STUDENTS

1. Students demonstrate creative thinking, construct knowledge, and develop innovative products and processes using technology.
2. Students use digital resources and environments to communicate and work collaboratively to support individual learning and contribute to the learning of others.
3. Students apply digital tools to gather, evaluate, and use information.
4. Students use critical thinking skills to plan and conduct research, manage projects, solve problems, apply knowledge of technology operations and concepts, and make informed decisions based on Gospel values using appropriate digital tools and resources.
5. Students understand human, cultural, and societal issues related to technology and are guided in its use by the teachings of the Catholic Church.

TEACHERS

6. Teachers use their knowledge of subject matter, teaching and learning, and technology to facilitate experiences that advance student learning, creativity, and innovation.
7. Teachers design, develop, and evaluate authentic learning experiences and assessments incorporating contemporary tools and resources to maximize content learning in context.
8. Teachers exhibit knowledge, skills, and work processes representative of an innovative professional in a global and digital society.
9. Teachers understand local and global societal issues and responsibilities in an evolving digital culture, and are guided in its use both instructionally and personally by the teachings of the Catholic Church.
10. Teachers continually improve their professional practice, model lifelong learning, and exhibit leadership in the school and the professional community by promoting and demonstrating the effective use of digital tools and resources.



SCHOOL LEADERS

11. Administrators inspire and lead development and implementation of a shared vision for comprehensive integration of technology and promote and sustain a digital-age culture that provides a rigorous, relevant, and engaging education for all students.
12. Administrators promote an environment of professional learning and innovation that empowers educators to enhance student learning through the infusion of contemporary and digital resources.
13. Administrators understand local and global societal issues and responsibilities in an evolving digital culture and are guided in its use both professionally and personally by the teachings of the Catholic Church.
14. School/board/parish leadership share a vision for technology integration, develop a technology plan to support that vision, and are committed to an annual budget to sustain the plan.



APPLICATION PROCESS

1. Complete the online application narrative for the relevant category. Go to www.schools.archmil.org, click on the *Educators* tab, then click on *Exemplary Recognition*, and then the appropriate ERP category. Describe, in detail, how the school meets or exceeds the category's criteria.
2. Submit the application narrative to the Office for Schools no later than January 31, 2016.
3. Schools demonstrating exemplary status in the selected category will be chosen for a site visit during the second semester of the 2015-2016 school year.
4. Winners will be announced early in June 2016.
5. Exemplary Recognition awards will be presented at the Milwaukee Archdiocesan Catholic Educators' Convention in October 2016, and are valid for 5 years.

If you have any questions, please contact:

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*The *National Standards and Benchmarks for Effective Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools*, Center for Catholic School Effectiveness, School of Education, Loyola University Chicago, in partnership with the Barbara and Patrick Roche Center for Catholic Education, Lynch School of Education, Boston College (2012).