

# Diocese of Knoxville Catholic Schools



## Mission Statement

Dedicated to teaching the mission of the Catholic Church, the Diocese of Knoxville's Catholic Schools are faith-centered, academic communities focused on teaching the Good News of the Gospel by fostering growth spiritually, intellectually, emotionally and physically while preparing students to serve in a changing society.

## Vision

The Catholic Schools of the Diocese of Knoxville, recognizing the vital ministry of Catholic education to the future of the Church and nation, will provide a learning environment that emphasizes quality education and spiritual growth for all.

## Core Values

The Diocese of Knoxville is dedicated to providing outstanding Catholic education to the students in our region. The following core values represent our priorities. These values impact every aspect of our schools:

**Catholic Identity** - Our schools are family-centered communities where all decisions, traditions, and teachings originate from our membership in the Catholic Church and are visible as we serve, pray, encourage, and support each other. We collaborate and problem-solve in positive ways while respecting the views and needs of others.

**Service to God and Others** - Our schools serve God by placing our personal needs second to the service of others. We believe that work has dignity and contributes to the community.

**Dignity of Individual Persons** - Our schools believe that God created each person with dignity and love. We believe that this God-given life should be supported and cared for from conception to natural death.

**Honor and Integrity** - Our schools are open, honest, and trustworthy. We seek to be fair and loyal to our calling, to those we serve, and to those who serve us. We seek to overlook the faults of others and continue to strive to love them as our Lord has asked.

**Excellence** - Our schools strive to do the very best in all endeavors. We prepare, support, and assist our students to glorify God and to be successful members of society.

**Leadership** - Our schools bring out the best in others through leadership and guidance in a collaborative and community-based environment. The love of God helps the growth of leadership.

# **Diocese of Knoxville Catholic Schools**

## **Pre-Kindergarten to Grade Eight**

### **Religion Curriculum**

#### **Introduction**

The work in developing the *Diocese of Knoxville Religion Curriculum Standards* is a work of intense commitment and dedication to the evangelizing and educational mission of the Catholic Church. To witness and teach the Good News of Jesus Christ as articulated in the Scriptures and in the teachings of the Church is the primary reason for the existence of the Catholic schools in the diocese. Catholic religious teaching defines the nature of the Catholic school. Through the study of religion, the students will progress beyond knowledge of precepts of the Faith to a deeper understanding and appreciation of the Spirit of the Living God in each person. Our prayerful hope is that each student will grow in a deeper relationship with Jesus, our Savior. From that knowledge and personal relationship with Christ, a deep respect is developed for the dignity integral to every human being and an acceptance of the Catholic Christian's role as disciple in building the Kingdom of God.

#### **Grade Level Standards**

Grade level standards are outcome based statements. They indicate what the student is expected to know or to do for each grade level. They do not indicate how the concept is to be taught. Standards are the WHAT and are different than curriculum and instruction that provide the HOW.

There are one or more Grade Level Standards for each of the Essential concepts. Each grade also has a particular theme or central focus:

- Pre-Kindergarten- Creation and Child of God
- Kindergarten- Creation, Jesus, and God's Family
- First Grade- Creation, Jesus, and the Church
- Second Grade-Sacraments, Mass
- Third Grade-Apostolic Succession, Creed, and the Catholic Church
- Fourth Grade- Morality, Catholic Doctrine
- Fifth Grade-Sacraments
- Sixth Grade- Old Testament, Revelation
- Seventh Grade-New Testament, Salvation History,
- Eight Grade- Church History, Morality

Because of the inter-dependency of concepts and themes for each grade level, similar student outcomes or standards may appear in several different domains (pillars). Within each section standards are identified by their catechetical name or by a sub-category within the catechetical themes. The Four Pillars are identified listed below. The sub-categories are as follows: God, History, Scripture, Sacraments, Liturgy, Personal Morality, Social Justice, Service, and Evangelization.

**Achievement Standards** are the primary instructional targets that outline essential topics and skills in the religion curriculum that students should know, be able to do, and fully comprehend by the end of eighth grade. Daily standards-based lesson planning enables educators to align curriculum and instruction with standards, as they have been adapted by the Diocese of Knoxville. This allows educators to maintain instructional decisions clearly focused on student goals.

**Student Objectives** are the primary tasks students should be able to achieve as a result of successful instruction of the skills and activities. Student objective statements should begin with verbs and must be continually assessed to assure a progression toward mastery is achieved by all students.

**Student Outcomes** are skills taught that will result in mastery of the student objective. Some enabling outcomes have been suggested as suggested skills. Teachers may design their own outcomes based their mastery of the content and experience in the classroom. Therefore, it is strongly encouraged that teachers list text correlations, resources, and assessments that work best for the outcomes listed and outcomes originally designed.

## **Four Pillars of the Catechism**

The Four Pillars of the Catechism are used as the Four Domains in the Religion Curriculum.

1. Profession of Faith (Creed and Sacred Scripture)
2. Worship-Celebration of the Christian Mystery (Liturgy and Sacraments)
3. Moral Formation-Life in Christ (Personal and Social Morality)
4. Christian Prayer

## **Six Tasks of Catechesis**

The Six Tasks of Catechesis along with the Four Pillars of Catechism provide the framework for the Diocese of Knoxville Religious Education Standards. They offer us the broad strokes of faith formation.

1. Knowledge of the Faith
2. Liturgical Education

3. Moral Formation
4. Learning to Pray
5. Education for Community Life
6. Missionary Discipleship and Service

### **Faith Formation Anchor Standards**

**To be learned across all grade levels and across all curriculum areas/disciplines.**

1. Students will explore, profess and reflect on our Catholic faith, which is the content of God's revelation found in Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition and lived out in the Creed and Church Doctrine.
2. Students study and participate in the life and mission of the Church---the Body of Christ and the community of believers as expressed in the Church's origin, history, ecclesiology, the Communion of Saints and their family, the domestic Church.
3. Students recognize the presence of Christ and enter into communion with Him through active, full and conscious participation in the Liturgical celebrations and Sacraments of the Church.
4. Students acquire and demonstrate skills to recognize their gifts from God and their vocation to share the Good News of Jesus Christ in word and deed in the world.
5. Students develop a moral conscience that is informed by Church teachings and conformed to Christ modeled in a personal life of virtue, and demonstrated in service of the Gospel's demands for society.
6. Students experience and engage in Catholic expressions of prayer to deepen their relationship with God and the Church.