

Education

SPECIAL PULL-OUT SECTION



DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER

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My dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

Nothing gives me more joy than to see the eager faces of our young people as they begin a new year in our schools. Of course, there is some nervousness over finding classrooms and getting used to new teachers, but also that wonderful excitement of renewing friendships after the long summer break, freshly scrubbed classrooms, hallways ready to be adorned with new artwork, minds ready to absorb new ideas and knowledge.



Above all, as the summer wanes and the roar of school buses signals that our busyness must begin anew, it is a time to count our blessings.

We are blessed with energetic people who care deeply about our children. I never cease to be amazed at the dedication of our principals, staff and our teachers, who work hard and long and somehow turn our limited resources into lasting treasure for our young people. I am also very proud that our reputation in the community and among educators is one of excellence. This is evidenced not only by the number of Catholic parents and a growing number of people of other faiths who choose Catholic schools for the premium education offered, but by the above-average performance of our children in statewide academics.

I am very much grateful, too, for the support and energy of the parents and grandparents of the schoolchildren. With good stewardship and much sacrifice, they find the means to send their charges to Catholic schools, in hope that they not only will receive a good education but discover their faith in new and lasting ways. I assure them that the Catholic Schools office and our schools' staffs plan all summer to ensure both of these noble goals are accomplished.

I pray that the 2003-2004 school year will be one of continued blessings, and much productivity and reward for our school staffs, students and families, and that our loving God will continue to bless our Catholic schools.

With every good wish, I remain

Your brother in Christ,

+Matthew H. Clark
Bishop of Rochester

God's Love Endures Forever



DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER CATHOLIC SCHOOLS OFFICE

Dear Parents and Guardians:

If you are at all like me, I am sure that you are somewhat amazed that we are already approaching the start of a new school year. Rather than months, June seems as though it was days ago, when I was visiting schools and witnessing joyful, smiling young people primed and anxious to start in on their summer vacation.



Traditionally, though, as I make my way through schools in the early days of a new school year, I am gratified to see that same joy in those beautiful faces, the joy of being back with "family" — classmates, friends, and caring and dedicated teachers and staff members. Indeed, family is an important link to the success of our Catholic schools, the core of a partnership between home and school that is integral to the academic achievement and spiritual growth of our students.

I would like to reaffirm to you our sincere commitment to that partnership. In the planning behind last year's marketing campaign for our schools, we felt it necessary to talk with groups of parents to gain insight into what they valued in a Catholic education. Those sessions demonstrated to us that while academic excellence is still expected — and delivered — in a Catholic-school setting, faith-based values and an environment conducive to learning were also emphatically cited as strengths of our schools. It all gets back to the concept of "family."

As the individual responsible for leading our schools, I want to make sure that our family continues to grow stronger each day. To that end, I'm pleased to share that applications for teaching and administrative positions have far exceeded our need. We are delighted to be able to retain the best of our present teachers and add those who will further strengthen programs that already are a great source of pride.

In the same light, I would ask for your renewed commitment to our partnership as well. Help ensure that your children arrive at school each day rested, nourished and ready to learn. See to it that homework and special projects are completed on time. Take time to pray with them and encourage their spiritual growth. Finally, please feel free to communicate with your teachers and principals to share concerns or ideas you might have that will make your child's learning experience even better.

Be assured you have my prayers and wishes for a most successful school year!

Sincerely,

Sister Elizabeth Meegan, OP
Superintendent of Catholic Schools