

Exemplary Recognition Program





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**

The Exemplary Recognition Program is offered on a biennial basis. 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 located at <https://schools.archmil.org/educators/Exemplary-Recognition-Program.htm>.
- 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 the application school year.
- 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 in the spring of the application school year.
- Award winners will be announced in early June of the application school year.
- 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 (7.5).*
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 (7.6).*

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. Assessments reflect a comprehensive set of practices that analyze, inform, and drive student learning.

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 (8.3).



7. Grading practices are in place that assure grades reflect evidence of student learning based on standards.

Criteria used to evaluate student work and the reporting mechanisms are valid, consistent, transparent, and justly administered (8.4).

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

8. Faculty collaborate in learning teams to develop, implement, and continuously improve the effectiveness of curriculum, instruction, and assessment practices to ensure 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 (7.9).*

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. *Students understand human, cultural, and societal issues related to technology and are guided in its use by the teachings of the Catholic Church.*
4. *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).*
5. *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).*
6. *Students use digital resources and environments to communicate and work collaboratively to support individual learning and contribute to the learning of others.*
7. *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).*
8. *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).*
9. *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).*
10. *Catholic culture and faith are expressed in the school through multiple and diverse forms of visual and performing arts, music, and architecture (2.6).*



11. *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).*

12. *Administrators and teachers 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.*



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 VISION STATEMENT

1. Describe in detail **the process** your school community followed to develop your mission statement. Explain how your school mission statement is comprehensively reviewed and evaluated by school stakeholders each year. Include the mission statement as part of your response.
2. How does your mission statement **impact decision-making** within your school community? Please provide at least one specific example.
3. What evidence can you provide that your mission is **seen, known, understood, lived, and communicated** within the community?

RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION

4. Provide at least 2 – 3 examples of ways in which your school's mission **prioritizes approaches to religious instruction** as a means of living its mission.
5. Provide 2-3 examples of how the religious curriculum is integrated into **other areas of school curriculum and programming**.

SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT AND CULTURE

6. How do various aspects of the school environment reflect, in an exemplary way, the school's commitment to its **essential tradition, spirituality, and mission?**
7. Provide specific examples that illustrate how Catholic Social Teachings are **integrated into your total school community** in an exemplary way?



LITURGY, PRAYER, AND SPIRITUAL LIFE

8. Identify and describe the ways in which **multiple forms of prayer** are integrated, in age-appropriate ways, into your total school community.
9. Provide examples of exemplary approaches to **adult faith formation for faculty and staff**.
10. Beyond offering regular opportunities for Mass, how is the **liturgical life of the Church integrated** into all aspects of the community?
11. Explain how your retreats are intentionally designed to deepen the **integration of faith, life and culture** within your school community.

SERVICE AND GOSPEL WITNESS

12. Describe how your school's service efforts include **reflection, preparation, and intentional connection** to Catholic Social Teachings.
13. Describe the process your school uses to **prioritize and select** your service projects.
14. How is the Catholic Social Teaching theme of "**Call to Family and Community Participation**" fulfilled in your school's service efforts?
15. How does your school assess its **graduates' personal integration** of faith-based knowledge, dispositions, and skills (i.e., students in the current 8th grade or senior class)?



APPLICATION PROCESS

1. Complete the online application narrative for the relevant category. Go to <https://schools.archmil.org/educators/Exemplary-Recognition-Program.htm>, 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, 2023.
3. Schools demonstrating exemplary status in the selected category will be chosen for a site visit during the spring of the 2022-2023 school year.
4. Winners will be announced early in June 2023.

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).

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