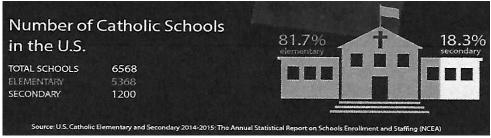


## What is National Catholic Schools Week?

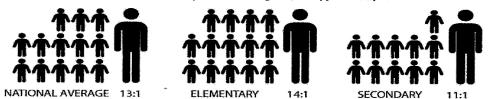
National Catholic Schools Week is the annual celebration of Catholic education in the United States. It starts the last Sunday in January and runs all week, which in 2015 is January 25 - 31. Schools typically observe National Catholic Schools Week with Masses, open house and other activities for students, families, parishioners and community members. Through these events, schools focus on the value Catholic education provides to young people and its contributions to our church, our communities and our nation.

## Good News for the Nation: Catholic Schools Are Thriving

Catholic schools offer academic excellence and faith-filled education for students nationwide. National test scores, high school graduation rates, college attendance and other data show that Catholic schools frequently outperform schools in both the public and private sectors. While some Catholic schools are challenged by declining enrollments and school closures, the good news is that there is a strong demand and enthusiasm for Catholic schools. Thirty-two percent of Catholic schools have waiting lists for admission and new schools are opening across the country. Below, I have included some facts and figures about the ongoing excellence and promise of growth represented in our country's Catholic schools.



Staffing Ratios The average pupil/teacher ratio in Catholic Schools, determined by the full time equivalent teaching staff, was approximately 13:1.



National Secondary School
Graduation Rates

ATHOLIC 99:096
OTHER RELIGIOUS 97.8%
NON-SECTARIAN 95.2%
PUBLIC 78.2%\*
actual high school diplomas awarded

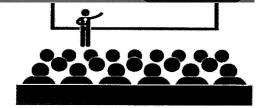
## College Attendance Comparison\*

 CATHOLIC
 85.7%

 OTHER RELIGIOUS
 62.1%

 NON-SECTARIAN
 56.1%

 PUBLIC
 39.5%\*\*\*



\*data not available for community colleges, technical schools or enlistment in the military

Source: Broughman, S.P., Śwain, N.L. (2013); Stillwell, R., and Sable, J. (2014)

In Christ Jesus and St. Augustine, Fr. Gregory Heidenblut, O.S.A.