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NEWS RELEASE

The Nation's Report Card Shows Catholic Schools Excelling Post-pandemic

ALBUQUERQUE – Tuesday, November 1, 2022 – IMMEDIATE RELEASE –The Catholic Schools Office of the Archdiocese of Santa Fe is more than pleased to see the results of the National Assessment of Educational Progress, also known as the Nation’s Report Card. Donna Illerbrun, Superintendent of Catholic Schools said, “The National Report Card shows that even during a pandemic, our teachers showed up and held high expectations for their students. It is with their love and dedication that our schools continued to outperform, even during a pandemic.”

Below is a summary from the National Catholic Educational Association:

According to the National Assessment of Educational Progress, Catholic school students performed at or near the top in reading and math compared to public schools coming out of the pandemic. NAEP released its findings for math and reading for Grades 4 and 8. NAEP is considered the most consistent measure of U.S. student achievement over time and a lens into student success.

As one commentator observed, if Catholic schools were a state, they would be the highest performing state in the country. The data also shows that Catholic schools are near the top in learning outcomes for students receiving free and reduced-price lunch, demonstrating the system’s commitment to underprivileged students. Although Catholic school students experienced a statistically significant five-point drop in Grade 8 math, Catholic school students’ average scores remained 15 points higher than the average scores of their Grade 8 public school peers.

Aside from Catholic schools, other private schools did not meet the minimum standard of responses to be included in the 2022 assessment.

Catholic schools are self-sustaining and do not receive public funding. They serve many students and families living in poverty while receiving nearly 50% of the budget of their public-school counterparts. Illerbrun said, “It is our trust in God and our belief that all children are children of God and deserve to have a quality education. We want all children to lead productive lives. The Catholic schools of the Archdiocese of Santa Fe are dedicated to being the light of Christ in our communities.” Contact: Catholic Schools Office csadmin@archdiosf.org | 505.831.8214 --END