

Memorandum of Understanding

As the parent/guardian of a student in a Catholic school, I understand, affirm, and support the following:

- The primary purpose of a Catholic school education is to form good Catholic Christians and honest citizens. In doing so, we strengthen the Kingdom of God both in this life and in the life to come.
- Catholic schools are distinctive religious education institutions guided by the teachings of the Catholic Church. They are not simply private schools offering a positive moral code. Rather, they exist to advance the faith mission of the sponsoring Catholic parish(es), Diocese, or Catholic religious community.
- While Catholic education places a high value on academic excellence and extracurricular achievement, its fundamental priority is fidelity to Catholic teaching and identity.
- Attending a Catholic school is a privilege, not a right. The school and its administration have the responsibility to ensure that Catholic teaching and moral integrity permeate every facet of the school's life and activity and that the school can function as a community of faith.

Statement of Faith

In addition, our Catholic School community professes our shared commitment to the following core beliefs:

Faith in God: We believe in the one true God, the Holy Trinity—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Our faith is centered on the teachings of Jesus Christ as revealed by the Holy Scriptures and through His Catholic Church.

<u>Catholic Tradition</u>: We embrace and uphold the rich teachings of the Catholic Church, guided by the Magisterium, and recognize the authority of the Pope as the Vicar of Christ on Earth.

<u>Sacraments</u>: We acknowledge and celebrate the seven sacraments as essential channels of God's grace, fostering spiritual growth and unity within the Catholic community.

<u>The Bible</u>: We affirm the authority and inspiration of the Holy Bible as the Word of God, guiding us in matters of faith, morality, and spiritual formation.



<u>Catholic Education</u>: We provide a Catholic education that integrates faith and learning, fostering the holistic development of each student—intellectually, spiritually, morally, and socially.

Respect for Life: We value and defend the sanctity of human life from conception to natural death, promoting a culture of life rooted in the teachings of the Catholic Church.

Social Justice: Inspired by Catholic Social teaching, we are committed to addressing societal issues with compassion, justice, truth, and a preferential option for the poor and marginalized.

<u>Community Service</u>: We believe in the importance of building a strong Christian community, fostering love, compassion, and service to others as exemplified by Jesus Christ.

<u>Prayer</u>: We recognize the power of prayer as a means of communication with God and seek to cultivate a deep and personal prayer life within our school community.

<u>Unity in Diversity</u>: As our Catholic Catechism teaches us, "the dignity of a human person is rooted in his creation in the image and likeness of God" (CCC 1700). We create an environment where the dignity of every human person is respected and valued.

Our students will embrace the statement of faith by living out the principles throughout their day. This may include religion class, daily Mass, adoration, participating in sacraments, Pro-Life projects, service projects, spiritual field trips, retreats, daily prayer, etc. I pledge to actively contribute to a Christ-centered education for my child that nurtures their spiritual growth and character development.

As a parent/guardian desiring to enroll my child in St. Helen Catholic School, I accept this memorandum of understanding and Statement of Faith. I pledge support for the Catholic identity and mission of this school, and by enrolling my child, I commit myself to uphold all principles and policies that govern the Catholic School.

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