



Front row (L to R) Katie Gregg, Hunter Puckett, Aiden DeMelo, Chaz Meek, Brett Garner, Helen Halter, Jack Jones
 Back Row (L to R) Will Curtis, Alexandra Meek, Samantha Yates, Andrew Hennessey, Natalie VanPelt, Sarah Bowman, Shawn Sullivan

The Gift of Education

Springfield Catholic Schools

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 Springfield, MO 65804

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www.springfieldcatholicschools.org

Number of faculty: 100

Number of students: 1,300

Top Executive: Any DeMelo,
 Director of Schools

Product or service: Catholic
 Education System

Year founded: 1977



At Springfield Catholic Schools, families realize the rewards of investing in their child's education. Springfield Catholic Schools are rooted in community, academic excellence, and providing students with an atmosphere which allows them to reach their full potential. "It is our hope and prayer that the experience children and parents have in our elementary and secondary schools is one filled with an excellent education, real enrichment and a sense of caring and compassion that springs from our faith—the bedrock of our system," says Jean Gruetzemacher, Director of Development.

The Springfield Catholic School system is comprised of four elementary schools (St. Agnes, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, St. Joseph, and Immaculate Conception) and Springfield Catholic High School.

"What makes our schools so successful is the unwavering commitment we have to high academic achievement, ethical behavior, and community participation. Springfield Catholic students are prepared for a lifetime of learning and leadership," says Amy DeMelo, Director of Schools.

"One of the really unique aspects of Springfield Catholic Schools is the positive peer pressure. Kids encourage each other to do well. It is looked upon as a good thing to care about school and your future" DeMelo says. And, students do indeed perform well, surpassing test score averages at the state and local levels in both elementary and high school. Students in the 2nd through the 8th grade take the Iowa Test of Basic Skills. This year's aver-

age composite total was above the 90th percentile at each grade level. A composite total includes a full battery of student scores from the Reading, Language, Math, Social Studies, Science, and Information subtests. In 2007, over 25% of Springfield Catholic's seniors received a 30 or higher on the ACT; their average ACT score is a 25.8 (compared to a national average of 21.1 and state average of 21.6) Ninety-nine percent of Springfield Catholic graduates take the ACT, and 98% attend four year colleges. The 84 graduates of the class of 2007 were offered over 4.2 million dollars in scholarships

Excellence extends beyond the classroom as an expression of spirituality and responsibility. Students participate in a wide range of service projects from holding a Valentines Day dance at Mercy Villa to adopting an orphanage in Tanzania, and donating thousands of hours of community service annually. "This is an integral part of educating the whole child. Community service gives students an opportunity to practice and experience being a productive, giving member of their community, and society," DeMelo says.

DeMelo further states "This experience is the greatest gift you can give to your children. Our students are successful because they have this amazing community of parents, teachers, parishes, and peers who support them; this allows our students to experience true growth, the result of surpassing one's own expectations."