

Dear Sacred Heart Catholic School Parents,

The theme for Catholic Schools Week 2010 is *Catholic Schools: Dividends for Life*. It emphasizes the value of a Catholic education, which provides benefits for years to come. Our families and our community counts on Sacred Heart Catholic School to instill in our students the faith, knowledge, morals, and discipline that will enable them to fulfill their future roles as active Catholics, responsible citizens, and effective communicators and leaders.

In the logo for Catholic Schools Week, the four qualities of *faith, knowledge, discipline, and morals* are emphasized. These are important hallmarks of a Catholic education. *Faith* is our personal relationship with God, but it is also about our relationships with others. Sacred Heart Catholic School strives at instilling both aspects of faith in our students. Religion classes and service opportunities as well as the integration of Gospel values into teaching and learning are built into the curriculum at Sacred Heart Catholic School.

*Knowledge* has two aspects; it means acquiring information about a subject, such as history or science, as well as a relational meaning, as in “I know you and you know me.” The academic excellence of Catholic schools is well-known. An amazing number of students graduate from Catholic schools, and a very large percent of those graduates go on to college or vocational training.

*Discipline* is a necessary skill for school lessons, to be sure, but it is also a necessary skill for a happy life. Without discipline or self-control, we cannot achieve our dreams and goals. Sacred Heart Catholic School teachers and staff help students learn self-discipline by setting strong boundaries and imposing appropriate consequences if rules are broken. The goal of good discipline is to ensure a controlled, safe, and effective learning environment where each young person’s energy is channeled into learning.

Finally, *morals* are also a component of a happy and balanced life. Setting high standards of behavior calls out the best in our students. Knowing right from wrong, and having the self-control to resist evil and choose the good, enables our young people to serve with integrity, not only as students today, but as leaders in whatever field they choose – be it business, education, government, church, or parenting in the future.

Sacred Heart Catholic School does indeed provide *dividends for life*.

In Christ’s service,

Lucy Shindler Shawn