Catholic Schools Week 2018
January 28 - February 3
Annunciation Catholic School is a truly inviting place and has been a second home for our family. Annunciation provided a rigorous education for our son and inspired me to give back by becoming a teacher there myself. This school has truly been a gift to our family and to our community.

– Shaine Donoho, teacher

Annunciation truly fulfills its mission statement through our children! They are loved, disciplined, challenged and encouraged daily by teachers and staff who cannot be matched! And when it’s time for them to leave ACS, I have no doubt that they will be prepared to tackle the next stage, whatever that may be. This school is surely a blessing to us, our parish and this community!

– Carrie Baucom, parent

I love Annunciation Catholic School because I am surrounded by good role models, teachers, and friends to look up to and count on.

– Ren Kitko, eighth grade student

TRADESTION:

Each year sweet girls dress in their favorite frocks and invite their Dads to our Father/Daughter dance – an evening filled with laughter and dancing. The school also participates in a number of service projects including: Jeans for Green to raise money for different charities, Pennies for Patients, a food drive for Starkville St. Joseph Parish’s food pantry, collecting donations for the local Humane Society, sponsoring a team for the St. Vincent de Paul “Walk for the Poor” and more.

CATHEDRAL SCHOOL

701 N. Martin Luther King, Jr. Street Natchez, MS 39120
www.cathedralgreenwave.com

NATCHEZ – Students “Hem in the Headmaster” with canned goods to be donated to Stewpot. The idea was to block headmaster (Mr. Yvon) in his office with canned goods. It was a huge success – three truckloads of canned goods were delivered to the Stewpot.

“Cathedral School is truly a special place. It is a place where we can not only share our faith in religion classes, but in every aspect of the day. That’s my favorite part of teaching in a Catholic school! Each class begins and ends with prayer. That’s who we are! Cathedral has always had a family atmosphere.”

– Sharon Freeman, first grade teacher

“Cathedral School has been and continues to be a blessing to our family. As a religion instructor at Cathedral I have the privilege of journeying with many students (including four of my own) as they grow in faith and knowledge. Cathedral School truly ministers to the whole child, forming students who are spiritually, emotionally and intellectually prepared to answer the call to Christian discipleship.”

– JoAnn Waycaster, parent/religion instructor

TRADESTION:

The late Sister Loretta Parpart, DC, and former principal of our Elementary School started the “Prayer Partner Program” well over 35 years ago. Faculty and staff draw a name of another faculty/staff member to pray for during the Advent or Lent Season. Some enjoy putting prayer cards, notes, poems, Scripture verses or even little goodies in their pray partners mailboxes – keeping in mind the main focus is simply prayers. We reveal partners at a prayer service in our chapel.

Continuing the Proud Tradition of Catholic Education

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK January 26, 2018

COLUMBUS – Local celebrity, Edwina Williams a.k.a. Mother Goose, reads to prek and kindergarten students.

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NATCHEZ – A student gets her face painted during the 2016 carnival.

“The children of Holy Family Early Learning Center are talented and they are always amazing us with how happy and friendly they are and how much they learn. We are proud to say they are the best products of Catholic education.”

– Father James Fallon, SSJ, former pastor

“As a parent, I think Holy Family is a great learning center. I have seen my son Kameron grow so much just this past semester alone. The teachers are awesome from pre-k down. They teach them not only skills, but how to show respect and teach them the Bible as well. My oldest son did great his first-grade year thanks to Holy Family. It’s a wonderful school.”

– Kimberly Morgan, parent

“I feel happy about learning and reading books. I’m happy about learning about God. I like attending Holy Family.”

– Kameron Morgan, student

TRADITION:

Every Lent students stage a passion play. Despite their young ages, the students really embrace their roles and tell the story of Jesus’ passion and resurrection with intense devotion. Reading and comprehension are benchmarks of the Holy Family academic program.

FLOWOOD – St. Paul Early Learning Center uses play to help kids with early developmental goals.

“I love being a part of the St. Paul Family. Our parents are so supportive of the school and the staff. I am very fortunate to work with ladies whose love for children and for Jesus shines through them every day. I thoroughly enjoy teaching the children at St. Paul Early Learning Center and it is an honor to be in this role.”

– Susan Irby, PreK 4 and 5 teacher

“I am so thankful for St. Paul Early Learning Center. The love they show our children is unmatched and can be felt as soon as you walk into the building. I am also so pleased with the education the students are receiving. The Christian-based curriculum ensures that they are not only learning what they need to know to be successful in school, but in life as well. They are truly supporting us in developing well-rounded Christ-loving children.”

– Lee Pambianchi, parent

“I like my teacher.”

– Hayes H., student

“I like playing with my friends.”

– Joseph B., student

TRADITION:

St. Paul Early Learning Center’s Annual Christmas Program - all Learning Center children have a part. Students also donate books for the Blair E. Batson Children’s Hospital and collect food for local food pantries.

Happy Catholic Schools Week

St. Paul Early Learning Center
5969 Hwy 25, Flowood, MS, 32322
601-992-2876

Jesus said...

“Let the children come to me, do not prevent them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.” — Matthew 19:14
CLARKSDALE – Students gather in the school rotunda for Advent prayer services.

“Our lives as educators are touched and blessed daily in the teaching of Jesus’ most innocent children.”
– Stacy Curcio, teacher

“Beautiful, lifelong friendships are just one of the many products of Catholic schools.”
– Georgette Sabatini, librarian

“The greatest value of St. Elizabeth for me as a mother is to trust the environment I am placing my children in. To be confident every day that they are safe, that they are loved, and that they are learning to be their best self, both academically and spiritually.”
– Mary Grace Chapman, parent

“St. Elizabeth School gives us the opportunity for a great education and to achieve success.”
– Alyssa Vassel, sixth grade and Rachel Thornton, fifth grade

TRADITION:

Mardi Gras Parade - Students participate in their own Carnival procession around the school grounds. Students donate money and food to CARES, a local animal shelter, the can wear Jeans for Greens to raise money for various projects, they bring food for the local Food Pantry and we donate can tabs to St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital.

JACKSON – Sr. Thea Bowman students use special glasses to view the 2017 solar eclipse.

“I like Sister Thea Bowman School because we are like a family. We get along well. The teachers work with us and want us to learn. The music, art, and gym classes are a part of our learning. I really like that we go to Mass each Friday.”
– Zaniah Purvis, fourth grade student

“There are many things that I like about our school. Our school provides a good education. As a Student Council member, I can help out around the school and community with my friends and the principal.”
– Alex Mason, fifth grade student

“All the students at Sister Thea Bowman School have different and extraordinary talents. The students make the school great. The teachers are informative and expect nothing but the best from us.”
– Malick Yedjou, sixth grade student

TRADITION:

Our Annual Sr. Thea Bowman School Draw Down held the last Saturday in April. This year the 12th Annual Draw Down will be held on Saturday, April 28th. Our grand prize is $5000.00. For service projects, students collected canned goods for the community food pantry. Students donated a part of their “Greens for Jeans” collection fund to help the flood and hurricane victims.
ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI
ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI
SCHOOL
PreK 3 thru 6th grade
2607 Hwy 82 E Greenwood, MS 38930-5966
www.sfgw.org

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PreK 3 thru 6th grade
2607 Hwy 82 E Greenwood, MS 38930-5966
www.sfgw.org

ST JOSEPH
ST JOSEPH
SCHOOL
7th thru 12th grade
308 New Mannsdale Road, Madison, MS 39110
www.stjoebruins.com

GREENWOOD – Kindergarteners Andrew Lopez and Zuri Brown act out the Mass reading in which Samuel first hears God’s voice and wakes Eli.

“Pope Francis said, ‘man cannot live without hope & educators generate hope.’ We as Catholic educators are called to form our students in ways that make them builders of the future.”

– Sister Kathleen Murphy, teacher

“Education will always bring a greater success in life that will open doors that you didn’t know were there.”

– Maria Virrey, parent

“Catholic school education inspires minds and keeps our hearts attuned to God.”

– Anna Scott, sixth grade student

TRAdition:
St. Francis of Assisi School nurtures the tradition of Franciscan spirituality that recognizes the presence of God in all of creation. As part of year-long service projects, students donate to the Leflore County Food Pantry and the American Cancer Society, Pennies for Patients.

MADISON – Seventh graders sing in the “Gifts of the Season” program. Fine and performing arts have a special place at St. Joseph School. Students can participate in band, choir, theater or a number of visual arts.

“As a teacher and a practicing Catholic, it’s very fulfilling to be able to openly discuss faith and prayer in the classroom. I recently asked my students how I can pray for each of them, and I love that I have the freedom to know their prayer intentions and bring them to God.”

– Kathryn Sckiets, religion teacher

“I love the fact that the teachers take a personal interest in each student, which creates a true sense of family in the Catholic school.”

– Vicki Runnels, parent

“I love Catholic schools because everyone is encouraged to be involved with what you want, whether it’s sports, academics, arts, or religion.”

– Iliana Ramos, student

TRAdition:
Students are required to complete 20-30 hours of community service every year. This emphasis on spiritual growth and Christian charity is something that is unique to our school. We strive to educate the whole student and instill in them a love of helping others, so they will be ready to serve God in their own unique ways long after they leave St. Joseph.
CLARKSDALE – Students participate in a Great Rewards Always with a Catholic Education (GRACE) academic enrichment class for gifted students at St. Elizabeth. (Photo courtesy of Sally Olivi)

COLUMBUS – Sixth grade students portray the saints during the Annunciation’s All Saints Day Mass. This tradition helps bring the stories of the saints to life for the rest of the school. (Photo courtesy of Katie Fenstermacher)

NATCHEZ – At left, Cathedral fourth grade teacher Amanda Wilson lights her candle in Seton Hall Chapel for the Faculty/Staff Advent Prayer Service at Cathedral School. This service is part of the “Prayer Partners Tradition. (Photo courtesy of Cara Serio)

SOUTHAVEN – Above, Students at Sacred Heart School study displacement using water and wood in their science class. The school used money from the one-day online fund-raiser iGiveCatholic to improve their science, technology, engineering and math lab. (Photo courtesy of Bridget Martin)

HOLLY SPRINGS – Holy Family School Panther, Jayden Williams, gets a leg up at a recent basketball game against sister-school Sacred Heart. (Photo courtesy of Laura Grisham)

JACKSON – Pre-k students see what St. Nicholas left in their shoes on his feast day at St. Richard School. Students get a prayer card and the story behind the saint along with a candy cane. (Photo courtesy of Wendi Shearer)
MADISON – At left, Patricia Holder cheers on Ulysses Wilson at a St. Anthony ‘house challenge.’ Students are divided into groups, called houses, dedicated to different saints.

MADISON – At left, Father Jason Johnston celebrates Mass at St. Joseph School. Father Johnston teaches the-ology in the high school. (Photo courtesy of Todd Therrell)

MERIDIAN – St. Patrick School first graders play a game with their grandparents during Grandparents Day in September. (Photo by Helen Reynolds)

VICKSBURG – On December 16, the St. Francis “Nut Cases” sixth-grade Robotics Team won their qualifying round in the First Lego League competition. The team will compete at the state championship on February 10 at Mississippi College. The Nut Cases, coached by Tisa and Ben Webb, won the Robot High Performance Award and the Global Innovation Award. (Photo courtesy of Kristi Smith)

GREENVILLE – Above, St. Joseph School art students participate in the River Region Arts Fest, an arts festival for area special needs children sponsored by The Pilot Club of Greenville. (Photo courtesy of Missi Blackstock)

FLOWOOD – At left, The PreK 4 and 5 class has a picnic at St. Paul Early Learning Center. (Photo courtesy of Jennifer Henry)

GRANDPARENTS—Above, St. Joseph School art students participate in the River Region Arts Fest, an arts festival for area special needs children sponsored by The Pilot Club of Greenville. (Photo courtesy of Missi Blackstock)

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MADISON – At left, Father Jason Johnston celebrates Mass at St. Joseph School. Father Johnston teaches theology in the high school. (Photo courtesy of Todd Therrell)
On September 13, Vicksburg Catholic students participated in the Chick-fil-A Leader Academy Kick-off Event at Delta State University.

“I have been a part of the Vicksburg Catholic School family my entire life. I am thankful my parents chose VCS for my K-12th education and can’t wait for my children to receive the same love and education as I did. It helped make me into the person I am today.”
– Laura Blackledge Kidder, SAHS ’05, Montessori teacher

“Every day when I drop my children off, I leave with the peace of knowing that they are surrounded by God’s presence in all they do. The teachers and administrators are able to enhance their character and faith while providing an outstanding educational experience. When my children graduate from Vicksburg Catholic School I know they will not only be academically exceptional, but they will also be good people with the tools to serve Christ and others.”
– Brooke Southerland, parent and PTO president

“St Aloysius High School pushes students to reach their academic potential, build their faith, and be of service to others. The students are bound together by strong relationships and an encouraging environment. There is truly something special about this school, and I am proud to be a part of it.”
– Grace Upshaw, senior and student body president

TRADITION:
At Baccalaureate Mass, our Senior students hand out gold roses to all those family members and school community members that have influenced their time at Vicksburg Catholic School.

HOLLY SPRINGS – Prayer and liturgy complement academics at Holy Family. Above, students pray at back-to-school Mass. At top right, Bishop Kopacz holds his miter over Quentin Salter after Mass. Below, students exchange peace.

“This is my first year here at Holy Family. All of the staff and students have made me feel welcome.”
– Edward Newton, Social Studies teacher

“Working here has given my life both purpose and meaning. I am doing what God has called me to do.”
– James King, Science/religion teacher

“Holy Family School is the greatest. They make the learning fun. The school has a family friendly atmosphere. They really care about each child.”
– Royce Pegues Sr., parent

“Holy Family’s teachers and students are friendly, the classwork is hard but, I really like religion class the most”
– Jamaun Lane, third grade student

TRADITION:
Students participate in family reading night full of fun literacy activities and Read Around the Christmas Tree when we invite community leaders to bring a book to read to a student. They don’t read the whole book, they just get started and then give the book to the student as a gift for the student to finish reading and take home. Service projects this year included canned food drives, the St. Jude Math-a-thon, a Hurricane Harvey relief drive, a sickle cell research fundraiser.
GREENVILLE – St. Joseph middle school students use special glasses to view the eclipse.

“Catholic Schools have been a total gift to me and my family, nourishing us for 4 generations in academics, faith and love. My 59 years as a teacher at St Joseph have been and continue to be extremely rewarding.”

– Mrs. Sandra McGaugh, teacher

“As our time here comes to a close, I have every confidence St Joseph has prepared my senior—academically, socially and spiritually—as was myself and my 2014 grad, who is about to graduate from DSU!”

– Melissa Blackstock, c/o 1988, mom to senior Emily and graduate Allison

“It all feels like a dream, but it is really happening! I want to thank everyone at St Joe for supporting me and preparing me. Special thanks to my Family, Friends, Coaches and all the Fighting Irish Community for giving me a solid foundation to succeed in my next chapter of life—The United States Naval Academy!”

– Senior Brice Johnson, student

TRADITION:
All School Elementary Christmas Play. Service projects for this year included: A sixth-grade Christmas project in which students collect money, make budgets and shop for Christmas for local Washington County children in need; 11th-12th graders are Reading Buddies to Greenville Public School students at Lucy Webb Elementary and middle and high school classes adopted Angels off the Salvation Army Angel Tree.

ASSISI EARLY LEARNING CENTER
4000 West Tidewater Lane, Madison, MS 39110
601-856-9494

“THE ASSISI EARLY LEARNING CENTER has been a blessing to our family. We visited every place in town, but no other compared to the quality of Assisi. During our first visit to Assisi, we were told that after attending Assisi, our daughter, Pheebie, would be ready for any school anywhere. That has proven to be more than the truth. It has exceeded our expectations, and has been done with genuine love and Christian values. From the moment we walked into the front doors, we knew we were home. Assisi was warm, the curriculum unmatched, and the quality of the staff was genuine. Sister Paula and every staff member are loving. Our daughter, Pheebie, is eager each day to go to school. That is a great feeling as a parent made only possible by AELC!”

– Julee and Rick Fava, parents

TRADITION:
We are serving second generation children – parents who have graduated from AELC are bringing us their babies; eleven families so far!
During Catholic Schools Week, we read and study the story Stone Soup. Along with discussing the values of this story, our four-year old classes make Stone Soup for the whole school which is a service to the school. The idea is that when we all share a little, we can feed a village.

ASSISI EARLY LEARNING CENTER
Nurturing and Educating Infants through Four Year-Old Children since 1987

4000 West Tidewater Lane
Madison, MS 39110
601-856-9494

Sr. Paula Blouin, director

Serving a need for parents who have to work by providing a loving, safe, stimulating environment in which each child can become the best version of themselves.

A ministy of St. Francis of Assisi Parish

St. Joseph Catholic School
Our Lady of Lourdes/St. Joseph
ONE GOD • ONE SCHOOL • ONE FAMILY

Catholic School Rocks!

at St. Joseph Catholic School
Join us for Catholic Schools Week

Monday - Mass with Bishop Kopacz
Tuesday - Rock in the 50’s: Sock Hop.
   - Service project at Hopewell Baptist Church
Wednesday - Rock in the 60’s: Relay Games
Thursday - Rock in the 70’s:
   - Service project continues
Friday - Rock in the 80’s: “Paddington Bear 2” screening.

All are welcome to the OPEN HOUSE Wednesday 8 a.m.-3 p.m.
Info: 662-378-9711
ST. RICHARD SCHOOL
100 Holly Drive Jackson, MS 39206
www.strichardschool.org

PreK 3 thru 6th Grade
601-366-1157

“Becoming a part of the St. Richard family has been an exciting experience for me. The teachers, staff, parents and students all emulate a culture of diversity and inclusivity, and academic excellence is what we strive for each day. This school provides the right education, faith and social foundation for our students to succeed anywhere.”

— Jennifer David, principal

“My boys have been at St. Richard’s for 8 years and we love it. The staff are completely engaged, nurturing, responsive, and the school provides an excellent spiritual and intellectual framework that allows all of its children to thrive and shine. St. Richard’s is a vibrant, loving community and we could not be more blessed to be a part of it.”

— Frank Garrison, parent to fifth and second grade boys

“My favorite special is ART because we get to create art using paints, crayons, scissors, glue, and colored paper. It takes me to my imaginary place and I can be creative.”

— Lily Frances Garner, second grade student

TRADITION:
A tradition we cherish is our “Guardian Angel” program. Our 6th grade students act as faith sponsors, a guardian angel of sorts, for our second grade students who are preparing to receive the sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist for the first time. They sit with them at liturgy and try to be good examples of faith and service.

“IT is a gift and a privilege to teach in a Catholic School where an emphasis is placed on promoting the dignity, self-esteem, and full development of each person made in God’s image. . . . We are proud of what our students achieve, but more importantly, we love them for who they are and who they will become.”

— Anne Cowger, teacher

“The power of prayer is an amazing gift! Although God’s answers may not resemble our prayer, His grace and love will cover and support us through any trial. The ability to pray openly anywhere or at any time, privately in the chapel, or with fellow students and staff in an all school Mass, is one of the greatest gifts our students are given by attending a Catholic School. ‘For where two or three gather in my name, there I am with them.’ Matthew 18:20”

— Lisa Harmon, parent

“Going to a Catholic School has told me a lot about my faith and how to be a follower of Jesus Christ. At Saint Anthony School I learned what the Mass means and why we do each part of it. This school is a big family that I am very happy to be part of and I cannot think of a better school to attend.”

— Paige Loyacano, student

TRADITION:
The entire school gathers for morning prayer and pledge daily. Students also participate in food drives and other service work.

SAINT ANTHONY SCHOOL
1585 Old Mannsdale Road, Madison, MS 39110
www.stanthonyeagles.org

PreK 4 thru 6th Grade
601-607-7054

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— Paige Loyacano, student

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The entire school gathers for morning prayer and pledge daily. Students also participate in food drives and other service work.
“Working in a Catholic school has been a tremendous blessing in my life! Every day when I go to work, I remember that parents are not only sending their children to our school for an education, but for the development of the whole child, with the most important factor being to instill the values and morals of living a Christ-centered life. I feel extremely blessed that God has chosen me to be a part of something so great!”
– Lauren Walker, Kindergarten teacher

“I love teaching in a Catholic school, because I get to share my faith with my students and colleagues every day. Being able to pray with my students and talk about Jesus’ love for all of us really makes a difference in my daily mindset. Teaching is an important profession and teaching in a Catholic school makes me feel I am making a difference in my students’ lives. I know they are making a difference in mine too!”
– Mary Helen Russell, teacher

“I like Sacred Heart School for many reasons. To teach my children about loving care and compassion for everyone around them is very important to me. Small classes contribute to a better learning environment and a higher academic standard. Extra-curricular programs such as sports and the many different disciplines like basketball, soccer, football, volleyball, karate, as well as arts, etc. provide a great experience for after-school activities. Aftercare program gives me a peace of mind when I am at work and I know that my children are being supervised and assisted until I am available to pick them up. The protection of the Children program is a priority for the school and it is revised and updated constantly to ensure the safe environment of the children.”
– Lorena Espinoza, parent

“Sacred Heart has the nicest teachers I have ever met.”
– Vinnie Heeney, student
a dozen reasons to choose Catholic Schools

1. We provide an education that combines Catholic faith and teachings with academic excellence.
2. We partner with parents in the faith formation of their children.
3. We set high standards for student achievement and help them succeed.
4. We provide a balanced academic curriculum that integrates faith, culture and life.
5. We use technology effectively to enhance education.
6. We instill in students the value of service to others.
7. We teach children respect of self and others.
8. We emphasize moral development and self-discipline.
9. We prepare students to be productive citizens and future leaders.
10. We have a 99 percent high school graduation rate. 85 percent of our graduates go to college.
11. We cultivate a faculty and staff of people who are dedicated, caring and effective.
12. We offer a safe and welcoming environment for all.

Catholic Schools

THE NATIONAL CATHOLIC EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION
NCEA.org/cs