



Where Christ
illuminates learning and life

**Catholic
SCHOOLS**

CatholicSchools4U.org

Why do most Catholic schools start so early this fall?

This was one concern many of you brought to my attention as part of my superintendent assessment last month.

We are starting school two weeks before our public school counterparts because Labor Day is September 7, which is the latest date it can possibly occur. Public schools are required by law not to start until after Labor Day.

Our schools are accredited through AdvancED and the Michigan Non-Public School Accrediting Association (MNSAA) which requires us to be in session for 180 days and 1,098 hours each school year. If we start after Labor Day, we would only be able to reach this requirement by shortening other typical breaks during the school year (i.e. Thanksgiving, Christmas, Spring Break, etc.).

In recent years, public schools have not kept the same 180-day requirement; they have been able to count hours alone. However, these requirements have changed, and there is a transitional period underway to go back to 180 days by the 2016-17 school year. As a result, you may notice a change in the length of your public school district calendar providing more opportunity for the coordination of public and Catholic school calendars.

Thank you to those of you who expressed your concerns through my superintendent assessment. You are always welcome to contact our office at schooladmin@DioceseofGrandRapids.org or 616-246-0590.

Yours in Christ,

David A. Faber
Superintendent of Catholic Schools