



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
November 12, 2015

CONTACT: Annalise Kransz
akransz@dioceseofgrandrapids.org
616-551-5629 office, 616-307-3474 cell

Welcome Scholarships Return for the 2016-17 School Year
Inviting New Families to Experience the Catholic School Difference

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. – After great initial success last year, Catholic schools in the Diocese of Grand Rapids are offering the Welcome Scholarship once again. This scholarship is part of Bishop Walkowiak’s three-year initiative to make Catholic schools accessible to all families in West Michigan.

The Welcome Scholarship offers a one-time scholarship regardless of financial need to preschool through 11th grade students who were not enrolled during the 2015-2016 school year. In order to be eligible, families must be registered at a parish in the Diocese of Grand Rapids and the student cannot have a sibling currently attending a Catholic school in the Diocese of Grand Rapids.

Preschoolers will be awarded \$250 per student; kindergarten through eighth graders will be given \$750 per student, while freshman, sophomores, and juniors in high school will receive \$1,000 per student.

Last year more than 500 students applied for the Welcome Scholarship. “I am pleased to offer this opportunity again to families in West Michigan,” said Bishop Walkowiak. “Catholic schools play a vital role in a child’s life. Children learn to grow in the faith along with their academics; it’s an education for the whole child which nourishes the mind, body, and soul.”

The Welcome Scholarship is one part of Bishop Walkowiak’s three-year initiative to grow enrollment. Other elements of the initiative included the announcement in November 2014 that he was quadrupling scholarships for current families and the hiring of additional professional staff to support all 29 schools in the diocese in December 2014.

Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Grand Rapids serve more than 6,000 students within a six county area of West Michigan. The diocese includes 25 elementary and four high schools. Connect with the Office of Catholic Schools on [Facebook](#) (Catholic Schools - Diocese of Grand Rapids) and [Twitter](#) (@dogrschools). For additional information, visit the website, www.CatholicSchools4U.org.

###