

Within each school, super finds himself on holy ground

Each Child is a Masterpiece of God, created with precision for a specific purpose

These words are so much more than a motto or a slogan for our Archdiocesan Catholic schools. These words summarize the mission and focus of the 42 schools, 13,823 students and 1,075 faculty members in our schools. These words guide us both in passing on our faith to our students and providing effective academic programs.

Since the beginning of the school year in the middle of August, I have visited 31 of the schools in the Archdiocese. As I walk into each of these schools, I am reminded of the song "This is Holy Ground." The first verse of the song goes as follows:

This is holy ground
We're standing on holy ground
For the Lord is present
And where He is, is holy
This is holy ground
We're standing on holy ground
For the Lord is present
And where He is, is holy.

The Lord is surely present in our schools. Our schools are holy spaces because our precious children are there to be formed in the faith and to help them to realize the specific purpose our Lord has for each one of them.

As I have toured each school, meeting teachers and students, I have seen so many wonderful things. I have been so impressed, from the student ambassadors at St. Patrick School who told their principal, Dr. Tim Conrad, that they wanted to have religion class more often, to the students at St. Agnes repairing bicycles for the poor, building rockets and developing their engineering skills as a part of their STREAM (Science, Technology, Religion, Engineering, Arts, Math) curriculum. I have been amazed, from the students attending adoration in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament to the students learning higher level math skills in math hubs at various schools.

I wish each of you had the opportunity to see the great things that are happening in our Archdiocesan schools. I wish you were able to meet, as I have, the dedicated school administrators and faculty members who strive on a daily basis to bring our children closer to our Lord while, at the same time, helping each child to realize and develop his/her skills. Our schools are charged with the goal of helping to lead our children to heaven. We are also charged with providing the most effective academic programs possible. We are doing this because:

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