

# VALUE OF A CATHOLIC EDUCATION

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The 2025-26 school year marks my 40th year in Catholic education, 30+ years as an administrator. From that vantage point, allow me to share my perspective on the **value** of a Catholic education. With free public education nearby, there may be some who are taking a hard look at the cost of educating their child(ren) at a Catholic school. My hope is that consideration is given to **value** rather than cost alone.

As an example, this is my lived experience at Guerin Catholic:

**Faith**—The Catholic faith permeates every aspect of the school. We instruct in the faith through the work of our Theology Department. We celebrate daily Mass in the St. Joseph chapel and all-school Masses in our gymnasium once or twice per month. We pray - at the beginning of each day, at the beginning of each class, at the end of each day. Every meeting begins with prayer. We offer Adoration weekly and the Sacrament of Reconciliation is available three days per week. The staff participates in monthly faith formation sessions. All members of the school community are experiencing ongoing faith formation simply by being in the building.

We feel God's presence in the building at all times because we invite Him in. We strive to be **intentional disciples**, living our faith and sharing our faith with others as the baptized are called to do. We take care to treat one another with kindness and charity and look to serve others through ministry activities and outreach programs. We are not perfect, but we work to hold ourselves accountable and seek forgiveness when we fail. Faith is **alive**. What dollar figure do you put on that? What value do you place on it?

**Accountability**—Each of us are blessed with God-given abilities. *“Nor do they light a lamp and then put it under a bushel basket; it is set on the lampstand, where it gives light to all in the house”* (Matthew 5:15). It is the goal of every member of the faculty, staff, and administration to help our students reach their full potential—to shine their light. We do this by helping them maximize their God-given ability. We challenge them, call them to task, guide them, and affirm them. We LOVE them. At Guerin Catholic, we include that sentiment in our *Promise Statement*, using the words of St. Theodore Guerin herself: *“Love the children first, then teach them.”*

Also, we expect our students to hold both themselves and others accountable. Great things happen when young people realize their potential and help others do the same. What dollar figure do you put on that? What value do you place on it?

**Community**—An active community that genuinely cares about one another can accomplish amazing things. Guerin Catholic students are not simply one of 800+ ‘consumers’ in the building. They are not GPA’s or SAT scores. They are young people with unique gifts and individualized needs. They carry around baggage of self-doubt, struggling relationships, the pressure to succeed and quite simply, the pressure to be a good kid when there are so many avenues of destruction available in our culture. However, everywhere they turn they find support. At home or at school (their other home), they have people dedicated to keeping them on the right path and loving them, even at those times when they are not all that lovable. What does that cost? What value do you place on that?

In one word, a Guerin Catholic education is **priceless**. It will continue to pay dividends for many years to come. *That’s* value.



## GUERIN CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

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