



# BISHOP CARROLL

## CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

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### ***A Summary of Bishop Carroll Catholic High School***

Located in west Wichita, Bishop Carroll Catholic High School is the largest school in the Catholic Diocese of Wichita, serving approximately 1,200 students in grades nine through twelve. The student body is co-ed with 99% of the students being sponsored by their Catholic parish. The remaining 1% of students represent other faith traditions. Bishop Carroll Catholic High School serves students from twenty-five different parishes.

The Mission of Bishop Carroll Catholic High School is to assist parents in forming disciples of Christ who enrich the culture as stewards of God's gifts. The formation of students as disciples

of Jesus occurs during the sacred liturgy, in the classroom, on the playing field, on the performance stage, and everywhere a Bishop Carroll student interacts with the community. The Eucharist is the source and summit of all that happens in the school. Students and faculty participate in holy Mass, the sacrament of confession, Eucharistic adoration, retreats, prayer throughout the day, and stewardship to family, parish, and community. Religion classes are taken every semester and taught with great fidelity to our Holy Mother Church. Those in the school strive to build up the Body of Christ by forming disciples to carry out the New Evangelization.

The faculty and staff are comprised of ninety-nine employees, including administrators, teachers, and classified staff. Many are alumni of Bishop Carroll Catholic High School. This number also includes three Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary and two priests. In addition, there are over twenty-five additional employees who assist as Rule-10 coaches. There is a balance of individuals with longevity combined with those just beginning their career. The school has been led by the president-principal administrative model successfully since 2007.

The school offers a wide variety of academic courses and areas of study, as well as, special academies which include the St. Catherine of Bologna Fine Arts Academy, the St. Joseph Construction Science and Trade Academy, the St. Benedict Project Lead the Way Engineering Academy, the St. Gianna Health Academy, and the Tom Seiler Teaching Academy. There is a long list of clubs and activities for student involvement. The Performing Arts is well recognized for sold-out performances of band, choir, and theater. In the athletic realm, Bishop Carroll Catholic High School competes in the Greater Wichita City League and has had tremendous success year after year accumulating many city league, regional, and state championships.

A unique feature of Bishop Carroll is the Community System. The Community System provides a vehicle for strong bonds among all members of the school community, promotes the development of relationships, and encourages the development of each student's faith and leadership skills. Through the Community system, the students in communities and houses are ministered to as complex individuals with spiritual, physical, emotional, relational, and intellectual needs. Time is allotted to building relationships through fun activities, games, and competitions. This assists in developing the relational, emotional, and physical needs of our students by making a large school of 1200 students feel smaller.

The main source of funding for the school is stewardship in the form of direct support as paid by area parishes on a per student basis, and subsidy payments from all nearby parishes based on a long-standing formula of the Catholic Diocese of Wichita. In addition, school families each pay a registration fee. The remainder of funds to run the school comes from development. Annually, the advancement office is charged with raising around \$600,000.

The history of Bishop Carroll Catholic High School begins in the 1960's with the opening of two single gender high schools, Notre Dame and Madonna. In the spring of 1971, Madonna High School building was sold to the Wichita Public Schools and the girls joined the boys of Notre

Dame at the current location. The newly combined schools were renamed Bishop Carroll Catholic High School. Over the years continual upgrades have been completed, both to expand the campus and to improve facilities. Most recently the theater was renovated.

Bishop Carroll Catholic High School Website: <https://www.bcchs.org>

## ***A Time of Renewal: Announcement of School Leadership***

### **Faithful Discernment for the Future**

Since the announcement of Mrs. Tish Nielsen's retirement in September 2025, a group of dedicated Bishop Carroll Catholic High School stakeholders under the direction of Mrs. Janet Eaton, Superintendent of the Catholic Diocese, have been prayerfully engaged in a discernment process to reflect on the future of Bishop Carroll Catholic High School. While any one person is difficult to replace, the retirement of Mrs. Nielsen, after forty-one years of service, is a point in time where we first, extend our immense gratitude for her strong and enduring leadership and second, we acknowledge the large shoes that a new leader will be confronted with filling.

The conversations of the discernment group have centered on one essential question: How can Bishop Carroll Catholic High School best continue to live its mission *"to assist parents in forming disciples of Christ who enrich the culture as stewards of God's gifts"*?

Through prayer, reflection, interviews with other successful Catholic high schools from across the nation, five different survey groups (faculty/staff, pastors, school council, elementary principals, and parents), open-ended conversations with the faculty/staff, and honest dialogue with benefactors, several themes have consistently emerged:

- **The need for strong, faith-centered leadership that models discipleship.**
- **The critical need for a well-developed and comprehensive strategic plan.**
- **The desire for clear communication, collaboration, and unity across all areas of school life.**
- **The importance of supporting renewed stewardship in the parishes who sponsor students at Bishop Carroll Catholic High School.**
- **A call to build and strengthen community ties.**

The process of discernment has led us to believe and define that a season of renewal is at hand — one that honors our legacy and strengthens our ability to form young disciples who enrich our Church and community.

## **A Leadership Model Guided by Mission**

Rooted in our Catholic mission and the diocesan model of stewardship, Bishop Carroll Catholic High School will move forward with a renewed leadership structure designed to deepen faith, foster collaboration, ensure long-term vitality, and capitalize on the talents of those in the school and those yet to be hired. Moving forward it is recognized that attention to these five areas is paramount: faith-centered leadership, comprehensive strategic plan, clear communication, renewed stewardship, and strengthened community ties.

At the heart of this model will be the President, who will serve as strategic leader of Bishop Carroll Catholic High School. The President will be supported by a team of dedicated professionals. This team includes the Chaplain, Principal, and Advancement Director. Together they will ensure that every aspect of school life — evangelization and faith formation, academics, advancement, and community engagement — reflects our Catholic mission and stewardship way of life.

As part of this renewal, specific positions are being renamed, revised and/or realigned. Some of these positions include the Advancement and Communication Director, Finance Director, and the Advancement Administrative Assistant.

For many years, Bishop Carroll Catholic High School has been significantly under-staffed in comparison to other Catholic Schools of similar size. As the largest school in the diocese of Wichita, it is critical that the new leadership team, the teachers, and the students have the support needed to educate 1,200 students. In various prior years the school has had these positions, but for a variety of reasons the roles are not presently filled. For the 2026-27, these positions include: a third Assistant Principal and a Social/Emotional Counselor. In addition, it is the goal to add a second special needs coordinator. These roles will provide essential leadership in ministering to the students of Bishop Carroll Catholic High School.

## **Introducing the Leadership and Vision Council**

As part of this renewal, Bishop Carroll Catholic High School will also establish the Bishop Carroll Leadership and Vision Council, a consultative and mission-driven body that will replace the current School Council.

This new council will support the leadership team by providing insight and expertise in key areas such as faith formation, advancement, strategic planning, academics, and community partnership. It will include twelve to fourteen members representing diverse talents — in education, finance, alumni relations, leadership, business, and pastoral leadership.

The President, Principal, and Chaplain will participate with the council whose purpose will be advisory. Meeting five times each year, the Leadership and Vision Council will help ensure that Bishop Carroll Catholic High School continues to thrive as a community of faith, driven by evangelization and stewardship, while grounded in the mission entrusted to us by Christ.

### **Moving Forward Together**

The entire Bishop Carroll Catholic High School community – parents, students, alumni and friends – is invited to pray as the search begins for a new leader to guide Bishop Carroll Catholic High School into the future. Together, our prayers form a powerful spiritual support for this important time in our school's journey. May we unite our voices through Mary, trusting that she will lead us ever closer to her Son and to the right person to continue Bishop Carroll Catholic High School's mission. Please consider offering one hundred (100) Memorare prayers for this special intention.

In the months ahead, Bishop Carroll Catholic High School and the Catholic School Office will continue sharing updates about the appointment of the President, additional positions, and the formation of the Leadership and Vision Council.