FOUNDATION FOR THE

ADVANCEMENT OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

WE CHANGE LIVES.

ANNUAL REPORT 2026

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

The lasting impact of a FACS Scholarship

Every FACS scholarship is an investment in a child's future.

Today, we're proud to share the story of Brianna, a former FACS scholarship recipient, whose Catholic education prepared her to thrive at Boston College.

Her journey is a powerful reminder that a scholarship is more than tuition assistance. It is an investment in a lifetime opportunity.

> *" My time at Boston College would not have been possible without the FACS scholarship."*

Read Brianna's inspiring story on page 9.



Brianna

Former FACS Scholarship Recipient

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

2026 - 2027 scholarship awards transforming lives through Catholic education

Celebrating our Students The Class of 2026 is ready to shine!

VOICES of Gratitude Thank you notes from our FACS families

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Patricia A. Teufel

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WE CHANGE LIVES.™

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Greetings to all our FACS Friends,

As I reflect on the past year, I am filled with gratitude for the many donors, volunteers, schools, and friends who make the mission of the Foundation for the Advancement of Catholic Schools possible.

Every scholarship awarded through FACS represents far more than financial assistance. It represents opportunity, faith, and hope. It is an investment not only in a student's education today, but in the generations that will follow. Time and again, we hear from scholarship recipients whose Catholic education has shaped their values, strengthened their faith, and prepared them to make meaningful contributions to their communities.

Yet the need continues to grow. This year, FACS awarded more than $580,000 in scholarships, helping students and families across the Archdiocese of Hartford access the life-changing benefits of a Catholic education. While we are proud of this impact, the reality is that nearly two-thirds of scholarship applicants remain unfunded due to limited resources.

The gratitude expressed by our families reminds us why this work matters:

"This scholarship has helped my daughter attend a school that provides challenging academics along with Christian morals and values."

"To have both of our children in Catholic education is an honor and something so very close to our hearts. Thank you for supporting us in this way."

These stories inspire us to do more.

We are also excited to welcome Beth Grambo (Pritchard) as FACS' new Executive Director. Beth brings tremendous energy, leadership, and a deep commitment to our mission as we continue strengthening the Foundation and expanding opportunities for students in need.

As we look ahead, we remain focused on growing our impact, broadening support for Catholic education, and ensuring that more families have access to the opportunities that a Catholic school education provides.

Thank you for your continued generosity, partnership, and belief in our mission. Together, we are changing lives and creating a lasting legacy for future generations.

Warm regards,

Patricia A. Teufel



26th Annual St. Patrick's Day Breakfast

Celebrates the Impact of Catholic Education

Nearly 400 supporters gathered for the 26th Annual St. Patrick's Day Breakfast to celebrate faith, community, and the life-changing impact of Catholic education.

One of the morning's most memorable moments came from student speaker and FACS scholarship recipient Gabriel P. '28 of Saint Paul Catholic High School, who shared how Catholic education has shaped his faith, leadership, and future.

Reflecting on his journey, Gabriel spoke about the opportunities Catholic schools have provided, from being an altar server to participating in school Masses and service projects. He also shared the importance of scholarship support for his family.



> *"Without scholarships such as this one, I would not have been able to attend a Catholic high school. I am very blessed for the opportunities they have given me through your support."*

Gabriel's words served as a powerful reminder of FACS' mission: making a Catholic education accessible to students and families who otherwise could not afford it.

The Foundation looks forward to welcoming Timothy Shriver, recipient of the University of Notre Dame's prestigious 2026 Laetare Medal, at the 27th Annual St. Patrick's Day Breakfast on March 17, 2027. Shriver is widely recognized for his lifelong commitment to education, philanthropy, human dignity, and building a more compassionate and inclusive society.

Reserve your tickets today! We expect to sell out.

ARCHDIOCESE OF HARTFORD

Office of Catholic Schools

FOUNDATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

WE CHANGE LIVES.

There's *something* greater here.

Catholic schools across the Archdiocese of Hartford are growing, building on a strong tradition of faith, learning and opportunity.



FAITH | EXCELLENCE | COMPASSION | COMMUNITY | SERVICE | LEADERSHIP

Catholic Identity

Students contribute over 100,000 hours of community service each year, while faith, worship and service are woven throughout the curriculum, forming compassionate leaders.

Proven Outcomes

100%

High School Graduation Rate

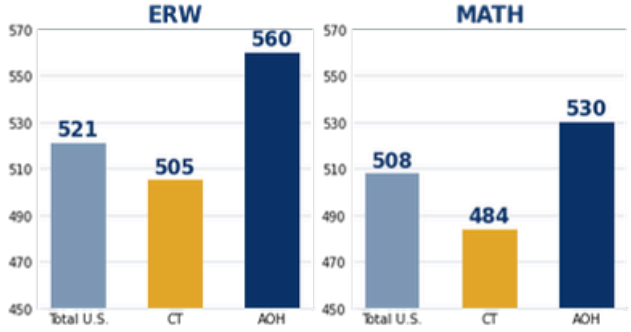
Empowering Education

Advanced technology builds on strong foundations in reading, writing and mathematics.

Student/Faculty Ratio **11:1** Overall

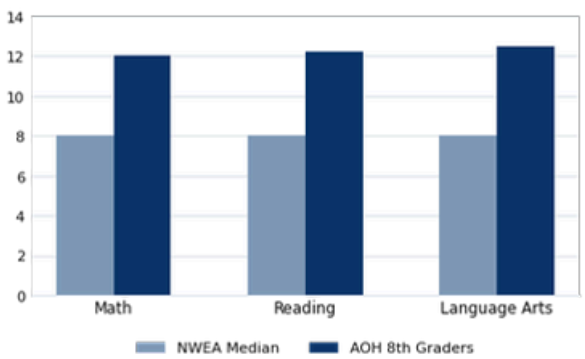
Academic Excellence

SAT 2025



NWEA MAP

Grade Equivalent Median Scores



Gratitude & Call to Action

Beth Grambo (Pritchard), Executive Director



Dear Friends, Benefactors & Collaborative Partners,

Children deserve the opportunity to discover their God-given potential through a values-based Catholic education. For more than 43 years, the **Foundation for the Advancement of Catholic Schools (FACS)** has helped make that dream a reality. Thanks to your generous support, at last count FACS has awarded **more than $10 million in scholarships** to **over 7,300 students**. Your generosity doesn't just build brighter futures; it creates generational impact.

Thank you for all that you have done and will continue to do. On behalf of the children and families we serve, I offer my heartfelt gratitude.

It is with great enthusiasm and unwavering faith that I (along with our Trustees) lead FACS into a new era. One marked by collaboration and significant growth. With four *new* Catholic schools opening in the Archdiocese of Hartford and a surging interest in Catholic education throughout the state, the need has never been greater.

Nearly 40% of school-age children who reside in Hartford, CT live below the federal poverty line. In 2026, FACS received **637 scholarship applications**. Due to limited financial resources, FACS was unable to help **59%** of children who raised their hand in need. A need we are determined to meet. We can and must do better. However, we cannot do it alone, we need your help! The **NEED is REAL**. The **IMPACT is GENERATIONAL**. The time to act is **NOW**.

The Kids Are Counting On Us!

Kids like Anna, whose life was transformed through the gift of a Catholic Education after fleeing the war in Ukraine and landing in Connecticut. "Catholic School Changed my life." Stories like hers remind us that a scholarship is far mor than tuition assistance. It is hope, healing, and a sense of belonging in a nurturing faith-based community. It is the chance to achieve beyond what was once thought possible.

I warmly invite you to meet with me to learn more about FACS and discover how you can amplify your philanthropic impact. Your generosity will do more than provide scholarships, it will strengthen families, develop values-based future leaders, and transform communities for generations to come.

Together, we can ensure that more children have the opportunity to receive a life-changing Catholic education. I would be honored to visit with you, learn about your philanthropic goals, and explore how we can make an enduring difference together.

I look forward to hearing from you!

With gratitude,

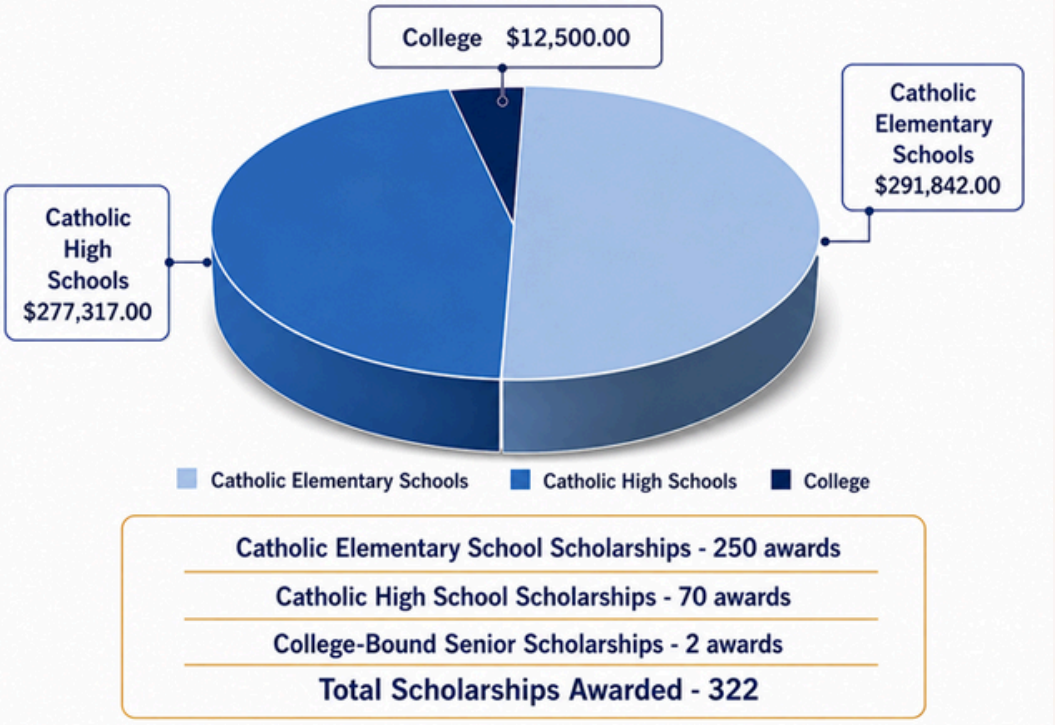
Beth Grambo (Pritchard), MA
Executive Director
Foundation for the Advancement of Catholic Schools



SCHOLARSHIP IMPACT

FOUNDATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS
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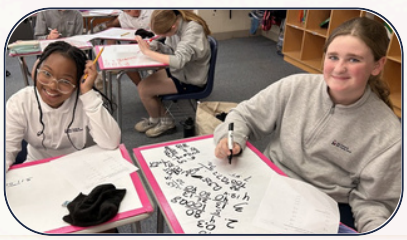
2026-2027 FACS SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS TOTAL $581,659



Catholic Elementary School Scholarships - 250 awards
Catholic High School Scholarships - 70 awards
College-Bound Senior Scholarships - 2 awards
Total Scholarships Awarded - 322

We are grateful to the donors and partners whose generosity makes these scholarships possible. Your support changes lives and strengthens Catholic education across our community.

- Bank of America Fund
- Minnie F. Bartolucci Fund
- Jo and Gus Berkes Fund
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- Reverend Henry P. Cody
- Michele and Donald D'Amour Fund Elementary and High School
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- Bruce Torrell Fund
- Salvatore Robert Verrillo Fund
- Waterbury Fund



FACES *of* FACS

- Student Spotlight!



Anabel — East Catholic High School

What are your plans after graduation? I am thrilled to attend Central Connecticut State University to major in pre-nursing, and later be admitted into the nursing program.

Is there a teacher, coach, or staff member who inspired you? How? My physics teacher, Mr. Roberts, has been such a significant person in my life while at East. He was always there to talk whenever I needed help with anything, and he made my experience at East so much better. He was also the coach of the powder puff team, and seeing him so excited and dedicated to the team was truly wonderful to see. He is such a kind soul and cares deeply about his students, and that is something I will never forget.

What will you miss most, or what is a favorite memory from East? I will miss the small and family-like community of East the most. Since it is a smaller school, we were able to relate with people so much quicker and create such meaningful connections with each other. I made so many friends even by just having one class or sharing small interests with them. We were especially close during sports games, where we would all come together and cheer on our teams. The family-like community and inclusiveness were definitely the best parts of East for me.

How has your Catholic school education impacted your life or blessed your family? My Catholic school education not only helped me grow academically, but also as a person. It has taught me so much about my faith, kindness, and supporting others. Being part of this community has given me priceless memories, and people I can look up to for guidance. It has blessed my family by giving us a supportive environment to deepen my relationship with God and others, and also gave us a place where we feel encouraged and supported by all of the staff and faculty.

Anthony — St. Paul Catholic High School



How has your Catholic education impacted your life? Having a Catholic education has taught me more about Jesus, helped me instill morals which have helped me be a better person and treat people with kindness.

How has receiving scholarship assistance helped you or your family? It allowed me to receive quality education without putting additional financial stress on my family.

Is there a teacher, coach or staff member who inspired you? My middle school religion teacher, Mr. John Grant has been a great inspiration to me by helping me become closer to God, be kind to others and appreciate my family.

Why would you encourage another family to choose Catholic education? Families should choose Catholic education because of the values that are instilled in you and guide you each day. A Catholic education teaches students respect, trust, and responsibility. The rigorous curriculum prepares students for future success!

FACES of FACS

- Student Spotlight!



Jaden — Northwest Catholic High School

What are your plans after graduation? My plans after graduation are to attend college for fours years to earn my bachelors degree. I'm looking to stay in my home state but if God has different plans for me I will go wherever that path takes me.

What do you hope to study after college? I hope to study Environmental Engineering because of my interests in the behind the scenes of how things work, while still working in the outdoors. My dream career is to join in water resources or as a Treatment Engineer.

How has your Catholic school education impacted your life? My Catholic school experience has impacted my life by helping to shape my character, morals , and values in many ways. It has shown me the importance of a community as well as service outside our school and the desire to be academically successful.

What blessings have you received from attending Catholic school? The greatest blessings I have received from Catholic schools are the scholarships which gave me the opportunity to continue to attend them along with friends that have turned into family and a community where you can grow in every aspect of life.

Is there a teacher, coach, or staff member who has inspired you? How? My sophomore year Religion teacher inspired me to push myself not just in my academics but in my beliefs as a Christian and to grow spiritually with God as well as with those around me. The love and care he had was deeper than just academics. It is something that will stay with me for a long time.

What is something you will miss most about your school? I will miss my friends most of all, many of them I've been going to school with since pre-K and up and realizing that we'll soon be going our own ways is something that will be hard for me. My favorite memories of school are those laughs and I appreciate all the good times we had in and out of school.

What would you like FACS donors to know about the impact of scholarships? I would like donors to know that their generosity is far deeper than just helping to pay for tuition. It invests time in one's faith, values, and future.

Congratulations to the Class of 2026 — we can't wait to see where your journey takes you next!
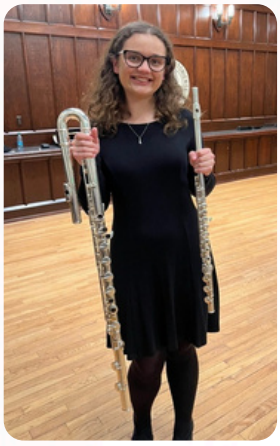






FACS Alumni Spotlight: Brianna







Tell us about yourself.

I am a junior Mathematics major and Music minor at Boston College. Originally from Bristol, Connecticut, I enjoy playing the flute, reading, ringing handbells, volunteering, and participating in musical theatre.

What's been your favorite part of your Boston College experience?

My favorite part of my Boston College experience, besides the academics, has been the opportunity to continue growing in faith! A major extracurricular commitment of mine has been participating in the Liturgy Arts Group, a group that provides the music for the school's weekly Masses! Through this program, I have been able to play the flute and sing, using my God-given talents to aid others in worship and prayer. Furthermore, I serve as the President for the Handbell Choir subset of the Liturgy Arts Group. Under my leadership, we have produced our program's first ever handbell concert as well as perform in our first ever elementary school visit. In addition, I also work as the music librarian, ensuring each musician has all their music for Sundays and maintaining the hymn library. I have learned how important music is for my faith life.

How did Catholic school prepare you for college?

My Catholic education helped guide me to choose my college! During the decision process, my top schools all ended up being institutions rooted in faith! While at BC, everyone knows me for my smile and positive attitude, which I attribute to my family, my strong sense of faith, and the supportive community I have been surrounded by growing up in a Catholic school! Furthermore, the rigorous and vast curriculum built a strong foundation for me. Whether it is essay writing, learning through discussion, collaborating on STEM projects, test preparation skills, and more, the skills I built throughout my time at Catholic School helped me to excel in my academics. In addition, I developed a strong passion for service and giving back to the community, which I continue today by teaching flute lessons at a local elementary.

What has receiving a FACS scholarship meant for you?

My time at Boston College would not have been possible without the FACS scholarship. This generous support has enabled me to pursue my dreams and continue my Catholic education. My family and I are forever grateful.

What are your future goals?

I am considering a professorship in mathematics after graduation! I was able to determine this by following my passions and heart. When things may be challenging, never give up—find a positive outlook and a new approach. One of my favorite quotes is said by Eleanor Roosevelt— "The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams."

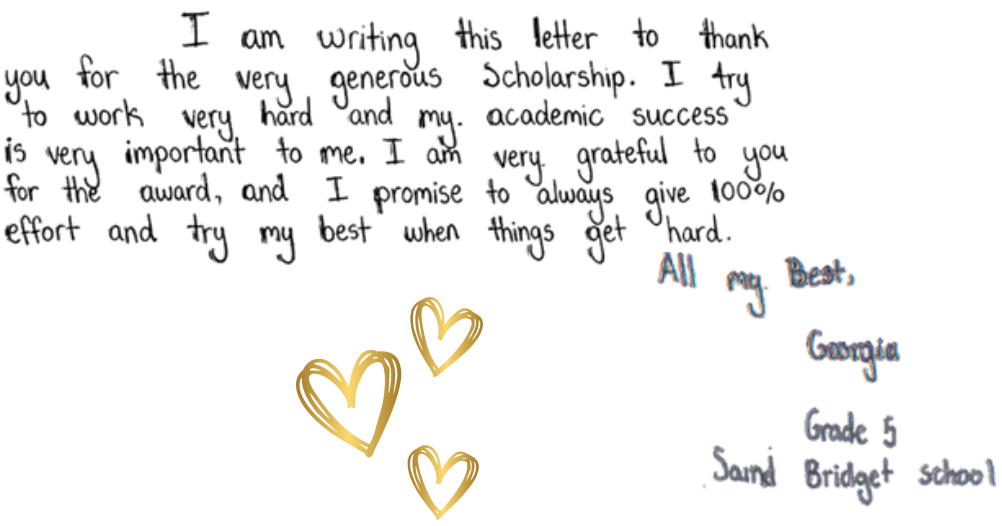
See Where Their *Journeys Continue*

Academy Di Capelli
Albertus Magnus College
American University
Assumption University
Austin Peay State University
Baylor University
Bentley University
Boston College
Brown University
Bryant University
Bucknell University
Central CT State University
Christendom College
Clarkson University
CLI Conservatory
Clemson University
College of Charleston
College of the Holy Cross
College of Our Lady of the Elms
CT St. Comm. College
Columbia University
Construction Education Ctr
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Emmanuel College
Fairfield University
Florida Commercial Driving Inst.
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Fordham University
Gordon University
Haverford College
High Point University
Howard University
Iona University
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James Madison University
Johns Hopkins University
Johnson & Wales University
Keene State College
La Salle University
Lafayette College
Lees-Mcale College
Lehigh University
Lincoln Technical Institute
Loyola University Maryland
Manchester Community College
Marist University
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Morgan State University
Nichols College
Northeastern University
Norwich University
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Plymouth State University
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William & Mary
Wingate University
Worcester Polytechnic Institute

FOUNDATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS
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The Impact of Your Generosity

Voices of Gratitude



I am writing this letter to thank you for the very generous Scholarship. I try to work very hard and my academic success is very important to me. I am very grateful to you for the award, and I promise to always give 100% effort and try my best when things get hard.

All my Best,

Georgia

Grade 5

Saint Bridget school



My name is Jessie and I am a parent of a student recipient of a FACS scholarship. I had the privilege to attend Catholic school from Kindergarten, all the way through college and saw first hand how beneficial and meaningful a Catholic education can be. From the morals and values that are instilled, the individualization of education for each child and the many other benefits. I knew, when I became a parent, this was the environment and experience I wanted my son to be able to have, too. Sending him to a Catholic school has already proven beneficial. His love for his faith has grown immensely, the care his teachers take to meet his needs and instill the values and morals that help shape the whole person are visible each day in his words and actions.

As a single parent, being able to afford a Catholic Education is difficult. Scholarships that FACS has provided my family, have allowed me to not only be able to afford to send my son to this wonderful school, but allowed me the financial ability to also invest in extracurricular activities for him. My son loves martial arts, he learns self-discipline, focus, integrity and so much more here. He recently had a ceremony where his teacher came to attend and supported him-what a beautiful sight! How excited my son was that his teacher took time out of her day to come see him do something he loves. I would not find that kind of support and interest anywhere but our Catholic Schools. Thanks to scholarships like this, I am able to continue to nurture my son's growth and development in this beautiful environment. I am sincerely grateful to all who generously donate and contribute to these scholarships to help families like mine help develop the whole child through Catholic Education. Please know how impactful your donations are, and how grateful I am to have the privilege to have received your generosity.

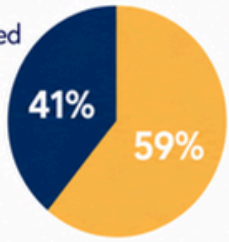
The Next Chapter Begins with YOU

The impact of FACS reaches far beyond a single school year. Together, we are providing hope, opportunity, and a faith-filled education to students who might not otherwise have the chance. Your continued support ensures that more children can experience the life-changing gift of a Catholic education.

THE NEED HAS NEVER BEEN GREATER

During the 2026–2027 Award Cycle, FACS awarded **$581,659** in scholarships to **263** students with demonstrated financial need.

FACS received **637** scholarship applications.



41% RECEIVED SCHOLARSHIP

59% UNABLE TO RECEIVE SCHOLARSHIP

59% of qualified scholarship applicants could not receive financial assistance because available funding was exhausted.

WAYS TO GIVE

The Foundation for the Advancement of Catholic Schools (FACS) is an *independent* 501(c)(3): There are many ways to support FACS' mission and potentially create meaningful tax advantages for yourself:

Give Online

Make a secure gift in just minutes through the FACS website. FACSHartford.org

Mail Your Gift

Checks can be made payable to:
Foundation for the Advancement of Catholic Schools (FACS)
92 Hopmeadow St.
Weatogue, CT 06089

Wire Transfer or Gifts of Securities

To make a wire transfer or donate appreciated stock or other securities, please contact the FACS office for transfer instructions.
Phone: (860) 325-5096

Champion for Children

Become a **Champion for Children** by making an automatic monthly gift.
Your recurring support provides dependable funding throughout the year.
"A small monthly gift creates a lifetime of impact."

Legacy & Planned Giving

Create a legacy that will live on for generations.
Include FACS in your:

- Will or Trust
- Retirement Account (IRA/401(k)) RMDs / Beneficiary
- Life Insurance Beneficiary
- Gifts of Appreciated Securities or Real Estate
- Charitable Gift Annuity/Charitable Remainder Trusts/ Donor Advised Fund



Establish an endowed scholarship in your name or in memory of a loved one. Minimum gift invested in the FACS Endowment is $50,000.

I hope you've seen the extraordinary impact your generosity has on the lives of our students and their families. Thank you for believing in our mission and making a Catholic education possible for deserving children.

Your kindness leaves a lasting legacy. A legacy that will continue to shape lives for generations to come.

Together, we can change lives!

Beth Grambo (Pritchard)

Executive Director



Scan to Change a Life

FORE FACS Golf Classic 2026: Driving Change, One Student at a Time!

FOUNDATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS
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Teeing Up Brighter Futures



The Annual FORE FACS Golf Classic was a tremendous success! Held on August 24th at the TPC River Highlands, the tournament brought together a full field of golfers, sponsors, donors and friends for a beautiful day in support of the mission of FACS.

Thanks to the generosity of our FACS community, this year's tournament was a record-breaking success, raising vital funds to power our mission and provide scholarships to students attending Catholic schools throughout the Archdiocese of Hartford. We are especially grateful that the tournament raised $25,000 for the Archbishop Henry J. Mansell Scholarship Fund, honoring his legacy and commitment to Catholic education.

We were privileged to welcome Bishop Juan Miguel Betancourt, who joined us for the day and offered a blessing of the golfers and a blessing before dinner. Ben Thomas of WTNH News 8 served as our emcee, helping make the evening program especially memorable.





For more than four decades, FACS has helped students of all faiths access the exceptional education provided by Catholic schools. We are deeply grateful to our sponsors, golfers, donors, volunteers and friends whose generosity continues to make this important work possible.

We look forward to another great FORE FACS Golf Classic on Monday, August 23, 2027! Reserve your spot early - we expect spots to fill quickly!





Special Thank You to our Presenting Title Sponsor!

CAPTRUST

Visit our website for more photos from this memorable day!

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