

In 2004, the Catholic Education Honor Roll initiated its national recognition of secondary schools. Since then, St. Joseph's has been included on this list of schools recognized for their strong commitment to academic excellence and for providing a truly faithful Catholic education across all disciplines and in all areas of student activities.

According to the Honor Roll, the nation's best Catholic schools share several common traits:

Strong Catholic identity: The best schools develop and maintain policies and programs to ensure the continued expression, preservation, and enhancement of the school's Catholic identity.

Clear mission: Essential to their strong Catholic identity, the best schools know their purpose, and demonstrate in their mission, policies, teaching, actions, and associations a commitment to Catholic ideals, attitudes, and teaching.

Localized responsibility: The best schools are responsible for themselves; autonomy gives each school the ability and readiness to make any necessary changes that would enable the school to adapt, as needed, to uphold the school's mission in a diverse school population.

Wise personnel practices: Committed to maintaining their Catholic identity, every administrator, faculty member, and employee is evaluated for a sincere commitment to this identity when recruited, retained, and promoted.

Successful teaching philosophy: Bolstered by the proven effectiveness of a century and a half of Catholic education, the best schools implement a successful framework for educating and forming students in the faith.

Active sacramental life: The best Catholic schools work to incorporate the Catholic faith into their daily life, including Catholic practice, prayer, and tradition.

Sound preparation: To prepare students for vocations in the world, these schools provide solid academic preparation and bring the truth taught by the Catholic Church to bear on areas of civic, professional, scientific, and social concern.

Integration of Church teaching: The best schools demonstrate the integration of the faith in all that a school does, not just in its religion classes.

Balanced excellence: The best schools offer more than the strong academic preparation that is the hallmark of Catholic education; they have vibrant Catholic identities that extend into the community at large, offering opportunities for charitable work and civic training to prepare students to live their faith in the world.

