

Diocese & University of Scranton sign admissions agreement

SCRANTON – Graduates of the Diocese of Scranton's four Catholic high schools have another reason to consider The University of Scranton if they are planning to attend college.

The University of Scranton and the Diocese of Scranton signed a memorandum of understanding on Thursday, Feb. 6, 2020, that will guarantee admission to the University and minimum scholarships of \$15,000 or more for graduates who meet eligibility requirements.

"We're grateful for the University's commitment to the Diocese and our students," Jason W.S. Morrison, Diocesan Secretary of Catholic Education and Chief Executive Officer, said during a signing ceremony held on the University of Scranton campus.

The memorandum will grant admission to most majors at the University to graduates of Holy Cross High School in Dunmore, Holy Redeemer High School in Wilkes-Barre, Notre Dame Junior/Senior High School in East Stroudsburg, and Saint John Neumann Junior/Senior High School in Williamsport. Graduates must have a minimum GPA (Grade Point Average) of 3.0 and either a 1080 SAT or a 21 ACT composite score or higher, and meet other criteria.

"For us, this is a chance to recognize something that we've always known, that the Diocesan System of schools in the Diocese of Scranton is outstanding and the families who make that investment to have their children go through that, we really wanted to reward that," Gerry Zaboski, Vice President for Enrollment Management and External Affairs at the University of Scranton, said. "While we've always enrolled students from the Diocesan schools, we were looking for a way to expand that, to be able to help them understand the opportunities that we have here."



The Diocese of Scranton and The University of Scranton have signed a memorandum of understanding that guarantees admission and minimum scholarships to the University for graduates of the four Diocesan high schools who meet eligibility requirements. Gathered for the signing ceremony are, front row, from left: Jason W.S. Morrison, Diocesan Secretary of Catholic Education and Chief Executive Officer, Diocese of Scranton; Rebekah Bernard, Information and Technology Specialist for Admissions and Enrollment, University of Scranton; Gerry Zaboski, Vice President for Enrollment Management and External Affairs, University of Scranton. Second row: Joseph Roback, Associate Vice Provost for Admissions and Enrollment, University of Scranton; Benjamin Tolerico, Principal, Holy Cross High School; Jeffrey Lyons, Principal, Notre Dame Jr./Sr. High School; Alisia McNamee, Principal, Saint John Neumann Jr./Sr. High School; Kristen Donohue, Superintendent of Catholic Schools, Diocese of Scranton; Doreen Dougherty, Principal, Holy Redeemer High School; Mary Kay Aston, Assistant Vice Provost for Admissions and Enrollment, University of Scranton.

Students who meet eligibility requirements will receive, at minimum, an annual \$15,000 scholarship to the University with a total value of \$60,000. The agreement will take effect for most majors beginning with the 2020-21 academic year.

Graduates of Diocese of Scranton high schools wishing to enroll in the University's entry-level programs for occupational therapy (five-year master's program), nursing (bachelor's degree) and Doctor of Physical Therapy (guaranteed seat for seven-year program) must have a minimum GPA of 3.50 and either a 1270 SAT or a

27 ACT composite score, and meet other criteria. Students who meet the eligibility requirements will receive, at minimum, an annual \$18,000 scholarship to the University with a total value of \$72,000. The agreement for these majors will take effect beginning with the 2021-22 academic year.

The principals of all four Diocesan high schools attended the signing ceremony.

"Many of our kids look at the University of Scranton. It's one of the first places and one of the more popular places they come to," Jeff Lyons, principal of Notre Dame Junior/Senior High School, said.

"I'm ecstatic. I've been talking about it non-stop since I heard about it myself. What a wonderful opportunity to create that interest for the students, after giving you that four years of a Catholic education, we're going to help you raise that level just a little bit more and here's what you're already guaranteed for continuing your education," Alisia McNamee, principal of Saint John Neumann Junior/Senior High School, said. "I'm ecstatic to share the news. I really can't wait. I think the families and the students will also be as excited and energized as I am about this new venture."

Last fall's incoming class at The University of Scranton included 29 graduates from the four Catholic high schools in the Diocese of Scranton.

"As a lot of our students are already beginning or are well into the process of looking at colleges and universities, we think this will be a game changer for them," Morrison said. "It allows them the opportunity to think about the programs that the university is offering to them in a different way and it allows them to think about staying here in our local community which is really important."

While The University of Scranton is proud to enroll students from all over the world, the largest number of its students are natives of northeastern Pennsylvania.

"This is serving the students that we really want to serve and were founded to serve," Zaboski added.

For more information about the memorandum of understanding, contact Diocese of Scranton Catholic Schools Office at (570) 207-2251, or Rebekah Bernard, Information and Technology Specialist for Admissions and Enrollment at The University of Scranton, at Rebekah. bernard@scranton.edu or (570) 941-5918.

Bishop Bambera visits Nativity Miguel School



Bishop Joseph C. Bambera visited the Nativity Miguel School of Scranton on Wednesday, Feb. 12, 2020. The Bishop spent time meeting and talking with students. Nativity Miguel School of Scranton is an independent Catholic, co-educational school that empowers its students to reach their full potential as students, leaders and role models in their families and community.

Teens take part in winter ISLI program



More than 65 teenagers from across the Diocese of Scranton took part in the International Student Leadership Institute from Friday, Feb. 14 - Sunday, Feb. 16, 2020 at the Holy Transfiguration Retreat Center in Dalton. Bishop Bambera celebrated the closing Mass, posing with the students afterward. ISLI is open to teens who wish to learn about leadership and improve their already existing decision-making and problem-solving skills through the teachings of the Catholic faith.

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The Diocese of Scranton is committed to educating our students in an environment that is academically excellent and facilitates the development of moral judgment and Christian decision-making. We are proud to share the following successes of our students in the classroom and in their service to others. Each day, our schools are fulfilling their mission of preparing today's youth and young adults to become tomorrow's faith-filled leaders.



All Saints Academy in Scranton



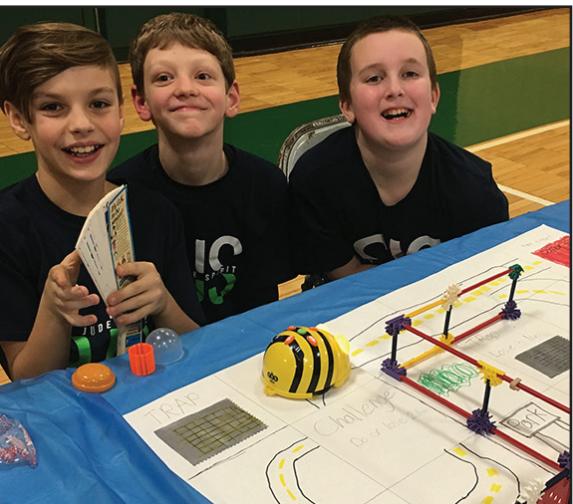
Addison Nat, a sixth grade student at **Monsignor McHugh School in Cresco**, makes her own rosary beads with the help of Pocono Central Catholic High School alumnae Mrs. Patt Fitzhugh.



Saint Agnes School in Towanda



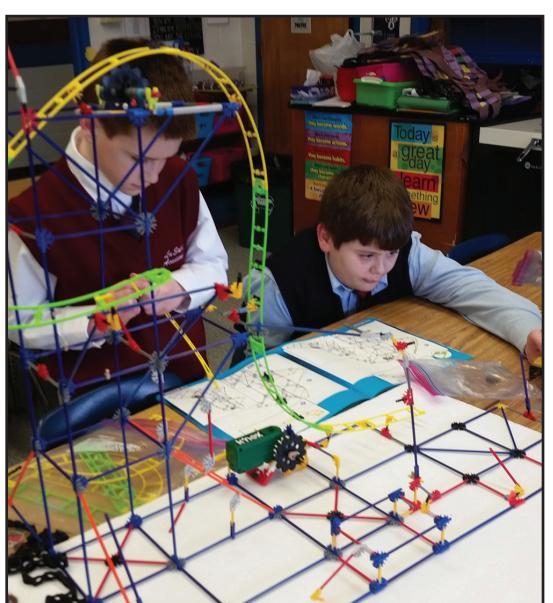
The students and faculty of **Good Shepherd Academy in Kingston** concluded Catholic Schools Week with a liturgy celebrated by Msgr. David L. Tressler, Pastor of Saint Ignatius Church in Kingston, and attended by Assistant Superintendent of Catholic Schools, Ms. Kathleen Gilmartin.



Saint Jude School in Mountain Top



Our Lady of Peace School in Clarks Green



La Salle Academy in Jessup



Students at **Holy Family Academy in Hazleton** show off their certificates after learning they won the "Keep Christ in Christmas" coloring contest sponsored by the Knights of Columbus.



First grade students at **Holy Rosary School in Duryea** are learning about the importance of dental health. They created tooth puppets and received a toothbrush from the Colgate Palmolive Bright Smiles/Bright Future Program.



Fifth and sixth grade students at **Epiphany School in Sayre** studied the human body systems and then put “bodies” together according to their patient’s medical chart and their knowledge of the human anatomy.



During Catholic Schools Week, students and faculty at **Saint Mary of Mount Carmel School in Dunmore** made “Socks-n-Snack Bags” to donate to Saint Francis of Assisi Kitchen in Scranton with hopes of keeping everyone’s stomach full and feet warm.



Students from **Holy Cross High School in Dunmore** will be spending time in New Jersey participating in the GISTS Summer Service trip to work with St. Bernard Project, helping rebuild damaged areas impacted by Super Storm Sandy. The St. Bernard Project is a national organization involved with rebuilding houses after natural disasters.



Saint John Neumann Jr./Sr. High School in Williamsport



Students from **Notre Dame Elementary School in East Stroudsburg** proudly display their second-quarter achievement awards.



Father Donald Williams, Diocesan Director of Vocations and Seminarians, opened Catholic Schools Week at **Wyoming Area Catholic School in Exeter** by celebrating a liturgy with the school community.



Saint Clare/Saint Paul School in Scranton