



Frequently Asked Questions about Gehlen Catholic PK-12 School

1. Why is Gehlen Catholic School a good choice? Gehlen Catholic offers a quality Catholic-faith based education by:

- Daily instruction in the Catholic Church's doctrine & practices.
- Weekly liturgies, prayer, & opportunities for service.
- Gospel values infused across all curriculums, providing moral & spiritual dimensions to all learning.
- Assessment of Catechesis Religious Education (administered to grades 5, 8 & 11): Measures knowledge & understanding of the "How" & "Why" so students exemplify daily the Catholic faith & 4 pillars of Catechism.

2. How are students prepared to succeed in today's competitive society? Colleges, universities, & employers are looking for qualified candidates. Gehlen Catholic provides 4 key advantages:

- a. **Values.** *"I care about people here."* (2018 ACRE: 100%-5th, 8th, & 11th graders responses).
- b. **Solid academic education.** 7 of 9 grades (3rd-11th) had a class composite in the 90%-ile+ compared to their counterparts nationally (2017 Fall Iowa Assessments). *(See also #4).*
- c. **Leadership.** 90%+ of 7-12th grade students are involved in 1+ activities. *(See also #10).*
- d. **Service.** *"I am responsible to make the world a better place."* (2018 ACRE: 100%-8th graders & 97%-11th graders).

3. What types of careers are alumni pursuing?

- a. **Kay Nuebel-Shimek ('67):** Twin Cities upscale restaurant owner.
- b. **Desiree Langel-Plorde ('77):** Sioux Falls, South Dakota physician.
- c. **Brian Singer ('89):** Business & Community Economic Development Program Director, CAMBA Economic Development Corporation, Brooklyn, NY; founder, Project Zwada (aids children in Africa).
- d. **Shaun Huls ('96):** Sports Science Coordinator, Philadelphia Eagles, Fall 2013.
- e. **Rick Herbst ('00):** Yale law degree; studied - Cambridge; Cinema Program Director, University of Notre Dame, DeBartolo Performing Arts Center.
- f. **Derek Probst ('13)** entered the seminary.

4. What is the teacher/student ratio average? Average 1/11-19 (preK-12); 17-20:1 (preK-6).

5. What about financial, religious, racial & ethnic diversity?

- Approximately 72% (3 out of 4) students are eligible for financial aid. Need to do yet.
- 8.5% of our students are non-Catholic.
- Nearly 12% of our students are Asian, African American, Hispanic/Latino, or American Indian.
- On average, 12-16 high schools students are international students, who enroll 1-4 years.

6. How is technology integrated?

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|-----------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| • "Google School" | • iPad stations | • iMac for music editing |
| • 4 computer labs | • Mobi tablets | • Chromebooks |
| • SMART Boards & projectors | • Mobile lab with laptops | |
| | • Finale & SMART Music | |

7. What special education opportunities are available?

- **Elementary:** Title I Reading Program, Success Center, limited special education services, & English as a Second Language (ESL). Contact Mrs. Lorie Nussbaum (PK-6 Principal) at ext. 228.
- **7th-12th grade:** JAYS (daily intervention program for all 7th-12th grade students), Success Center, & ESL. Contact Mr. Jeff Alesch (7-12 Principal) at ext. 223.

8. What talented & gifted offerings are available? Beyond the classrooms, programs include:

- a. Quiz Bowl (grades 7-12);
- b. Special Contests (i.e.: Spelling Bees, Math Club, Opus, Peace & Poppy Posters, etc.);

- c. Banking program; &
- d. “Treasures” Literary Curriculum (a differentiated instructional program in grades TK-6).

9. What expanded electives are available? Ag Science, Business, Consumer Math, dual college credit & online offerings.

10. What college classes are offered?

- Qualifying high school students can earn both **high school & college credits** through partnerships with local colleges & LeMars Community School (LCS).
- **Online classes** through Western Iowa Tech Community College (WITCC) are offered each semester to junior & senior students who are proficient on the Iowa Assessments.
- **Contact:** Mrs. Kristin Hausmann (7-12 School Psychologist) at ext. 245 or Mr. Jeff Alesch (7-12 Principal) at ext. 223.
- **Fees:** Some are free. Others have an additional fee.

11. What about classes such as Trades & Industries, Health Occupations, or College Western Civilization? Contact Mrs. Kristin Hausmann (7-12 School Psychologist) at ext. 245 regarding our partnership with LCS & WITCC.

12. How do students compare academically to Iowa &/or nationally?

- **Iowa Assessment 2017 fall highlights:** 7 out of 9 grades (3rd – 11th) had a class composite in the 90% -ile+ compared to their counterparts nationally.
- **ACT average composite (2018 graduates):** 24.3 (Gehlen); 21.9 (Iowa); & 21.0 (nation).

13. What activities & leadership opportunities are offered?

- **Elementary:** Clover Kids (4-H), art competitions, 5th & 6th grade band, OPUS Honor Choir, junior cheerleading & dance camps, writing contests, KC Spelling Bee & Free Throw Contests.
- **90%+ of 7th-12th graders involved in 1+ activities:** Banking program, Christian Leadership Team, Students 4 Life, Honor Society, Student Council, newspaper, yearbook, Quiz Bowl, math team, athletics, cheerleading, dance, & fine arts.
- **A few highlights of our honor winners:**
 - **2004-2005:** 1st Class 1A School in Iowa to have all 4 fall sports teams compete for a state title in the same year.
 - **2012-2013:** Marching Band - 1st Place in Class 1A at the Holiday Bowl. Elementary - PBIS Honor School.
 - **2015-2016:** Senior, Megan Kellen - Legion Auxiliary Girls’ State – State Citizen of the Year.
 - **2017-2018:** Volleyball – 2nd Place in Class 1A at State.

14. What percentage of graduates pursue a higher education? Nearly 100% of graduates (past 11 years) have pursued a post-secondary education, entered the military, or returned to their home country to further their education.

15. What financial assistance opportunities are available?

- **1+ tuition assistance streams** (dependent upon each student’s grade): See Financial Assistance Form for details. Contact Mrs. Lisa Niebuhr (Development Director) at ext. 237.
- **Busing & lunch:** Contact Mrs. Jackie Sitzmann (Asst. Business Manager) at ext. 250.
- **Tuition tax credits:** Contact your professional adviser.
- **2 Year Welcome Tuition Scholarship:** Grades 1-12, as space permits, from a public, home, private or non-Catholic School. \$1,000 off tuition in year 1; \$500 off tuition in year 2; & no deduction for years 3+ (per student). *Restrictions may apply.* Contact Mrs. Jackie Sitzmann (Asst. Business Manager) at ext. 250.

16. What kind of a meal program is provided? The federally funded lunch program provides nutritious breakfast & lunch each day. Daily selections include hot entrée, a sub sandwich, &/or salad bar. Contact Mrs. Liz McDougall (Admin. Asst.) at ext. 225 for free & reduced applications.

17. What kind of transportation is available?

- **LCS District:** In-town (available for a fee) & rural. Call LCS Bus Garage at 546-6801 for pick up locations & route times.
- **Outside the LCS District:** May petition your resident district for reimbursement of transportation costs as determined by state law. Contact your resident district for details.
- **7th -12th grade students who have been promoted from Spalding PK-6:** Contact Mr. Jeff Alesch (7-12 Principal) at ext. 223 for pick up times & locations.