

AdvancED Executive Summary for Trenton Catholic Academy

Describe the school's size, community/communities, location, and changes it has experienced in the last three years. Include demographic information about the students, staff, and community at large. What unique features and challenges are associated with the community/communities the school serves?

Located on a beautiful, quiet 64-acre campus in suburban Hamilton, NJ, Trenton Catholic Academy serves as the regional PreK-12 school for the Diocese of Trenton. The campus is just minutes away from downtown Trenton. With a demanding preparatory curriculum, TCA prepares a universal population to succeed now, as well as in college and beyond. The PreK thru 8th Lower School and 9th thru 12th Upper School are located in separate wings. Students share a chapel, gymnasium and cafeteria. This affords opportunities for partnerships that enhance our school family and growth within a nurturing, faith filled environment. Competitive TCA athletic teams play in top-notch facilities. The gymnasium, baseball, track & field, and soccer fields have received extensive renovations over the last five years. TCA's affordable tuition for private school is considered even a greater value considering generous financial assistance received by more than 85% of families. Class sizes are kept small to allow teachers to provide individual attention and support. The demographics of our school are reflective of the area we serve. As our local parish communities increase in Hispanic population, so has the school. We have also broadened our outreach to include a growing international student body to add to our diversity. Our students come from many backgrounds and many faiths. We continue to plan for our school of tomorrow by developing programs that meet the diverse needs of our student population as well as their families as a whole.

Provide the school's purpose statement and ancillary content such as mission, vision, values, and/or beliefs. Describe how the school embodies its purpose through its program offerings and expectations for students.

The intrinsic purpose of Trenton Catholic Academy can best be described by our founder, Monsignor Michael McCorristin, "Serve the youth, to whom God gives tomorrow." We are a mission driven school that strives to create systemic change through the children and parents we service. We are responsible for fostering faith development, building Christian community and promoting the moral and ethical development of the "family" that is TCA. The mission that drives us here at TCA is clear and reflected throughout our facility and more importantly in our actions day after day and year over year. TCA's mission is to educate a diverse Pre-K to 12 student body to be responsible citizens of a global society through challenging and relevant curriculum centered in Catholic tradition and values. Trenton Catholic Academy is a place where students believe, dream and succeed. At TCA we believe that our primary responsibility is to create a learning environment where the integration of faith and life are centered in Christ. We believe that by meeting the learning needs of our students and by challenging their potential, they will grow in social responsibility and will actively participate in the transformation of the world. Our core values are embodied in our staff and the way we interact within TCA and with the

community at large. They consist of : spirituality -it is our Christian tradition of faith in God and the living out of the Gospel message that will lead our students to the continued development of a personal relationship with Jesus; education - through the collaboration of parents, faculty and administration, our students will continue to progress in a challenging environment and develop the skills needed for success in the future; service - Continuing the Franciscan tradition in which we were founded, we seek to grow in service by sharing both spiritual and material goods with those in need; responsibility - we are committed to the diocesan vision of creating a learning community that fulfills its mission, is strong in Catholic identity, is academically excellent, and is financially viable. At TCA we "Expect the Exceptional," from our teachers and administrators as well as our students. Our experience shows that when you set high expectations for students, they will work to meet them. We strive to develop the whole child into mature young men and women.

Describe the school's notable achievements and areas of improvement in the last three years. Additionally, describe areas for improvement that the school is striving to achieve in the next three years.

We have invested well over 200k dollars in our Upper School in areas related to Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics(STEM). The two major areas of note include our new state of the art science room as well as extending our 1:1 laptop initiative to grades 4-9. At TCA technology is integrated into our school curriculum and prepares our students for the 21st Century. STEM will continue to be a major area of focus for TCA in the coming years.

Also related to STEM, the school has a very successful Robotics Program. This program provides our students with a great opportunity to explore engineering concepts and technology areas that are outside of the normal classroom environment. The Lower School participates in the FIRST LEGO League and the Upper School participates in the FIRST Robotics Competition where they received a Rookie Team Award as well as placing overall in district regional competition.

Continuous planning and review of relevant curriculum drive our improvement plan. Daily concentrated emphasis is placed on improving our standardized test score. Of equal importance is recognizing the diverse learning styles of our students since both are germane to school success. Teachers keep current on alternate means of assessment to monitor student success. The result is Upper School graduation and college acceptance rate is routinely 100%. The average amount of college scholarships/grants extended that graduates receive range from\$50-\$70K.

Provide any additional information you would like to share with the public and community that were not prompted in the previous sections.

With a concerted effort designed to build community relationships, a variety of new programs and connections also enhance the school's mission. We have valued relationships with neighboring colleges and universities such as TCNJ, Rider, Rutgers, Princeton, St. Joseph's, Seton Hall, Georgian Court and the Latino Enrollment Institute at Notre Dame University to support and enhance our school wide initiatives. Our ties in the community include partnerships with St. Francis Hospital, National Junior Tennis League Ace Education Program, the Mercer County Bar Association, Big Brothers-Big Sisters, and the Boys &

Girls Club of Trenton are just a sampling of the many organizations we continue to foster relationships with to enhance our student achievement. We continue to improve our extra-curricular and co-curricular clubs in both the Lower School and the Upper School, which assists us in our school wide goal of achieving student success. We also explore corporate partnerships that enable our school to keep costs to our student's family manageable. In addition to after school activities, the Lower School provides a before and after school program to assist the needs of working families.