



Diocese of Birmingham in Alabama
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Dear Catholic Schools Community and Supporters,

As we celebrate Catholic Schools Week, we ask for your participation in a process that began late last spring when Bishop Robert J. Baker commissioned a strategic planning process to revitalize and strengthen the Catholic schools across the Diocese of Birmingham. This year-long planning process will culminate in a special Convocation for Catholic Schools at the conclusion of Catholic Schools Week 2019.

At the Convocation, we will gather principals, pastors, teachers, parents, alumni, and others who are committed to ensuring a vital future for Catholic education in the Diocese of Birmingham. These stakeholders of Catholic education will lend their expertise and experience to propose solutions that will become part of a new Strategic Plan to carry our schools forward for the next 5+ years.

The half-day Convocation will be facilitated by a consultant from the Institute for School and Parish Development (ISPD) with breakout sessions led by Steering Committee members. The Convocation will be held on **February 2, 2019, 8:15 am–1:15 pm** at the **Cathedral of St. Paul**. The Convocation will begin with Holy Mass and conclude with lunch.

This Convocation will build upon input from over 3,500 members of our Catholic community including students, faculty, staff, school administrators, pastors, and diocesan leaders through surveys, focus groups, and planning teams. We ask for your sincere input on the tremendous amount of work that has been completed to date. You will be part of an excellent cross-section of faithful, talented people who will provide input to help us shape a bright future for Catholic education in the Diocese of Birmingham. Breakout sessions will address Mission and Catholic Identity, Academic Excellence, Governance & Leadership, Marketing & Development, and Financial Vitality.

Join us to help solve our challenges through innovative, impactful, and faithful approaches to ensure a vital Catholic education for generations to come! Please RSVP to this event by visiting our website www.bhmcatholicsschools.com.

We sincerely hope that you will be with us for this very exciting event. Thank you for your consideration of this invitation, and again please pray for the success of our Catholic schools.

Sincerely,

Julie Emory-Johnson

Director of Schools, *Pro Tempore*

Catholic Diocese of Birmingham in Alabama

The mission of the Diocese of Birmingham Catholic School System is to educate our students to seek God in Truth and for loving service by teaching the message of the Gospel, forming a community of faith, providing the whole child with a Catholic and Christ-centered environment, and inspiring all to reach their full academic and spiritual potential.