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# Western Diocesan High School Feasibility Study

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**Diocese of Peoria**  
**Peoria, Illinois**

*June 30, 2019*



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# INTRODUCTION

Catholic schools have a strong tradition that supports the mission of the Diocese of Peoria. Having Catholic schools in the right place to serve future generations of Catholics is strategically important to the mission of the diocese.

The study was commissioned to help the diocese make future plans based on objective data. The primary focus that this study seeks to address is whether there is a need to open a new Catholic high school in the western area of the diocese, specifically Knox and Warren counties. Integral to the problem is what impact a new Catholic high school would have on the community and could a new school produce viable enrollment for the long term.

The area of study looked at Knox, Warren and Henry counties, along with the communities of Galesburg, Monmouth, Macomb and others that have some potential for sending students. The study area is sufficiently large that each community must be considered when evaluating the need for a Catholic high school.

The objectives of the study were as follows:

1. Research and evaluate populations and potential growth for the geographic area where a new high school could draw students in the future.
2. Conduct a market research survey of Catholic parents in the potential enrollment area to help determine potential for enrollment, willingness to pay tuition, reasons for choosing or not choosing a new Catholic high school, and decision-making factors in selecting a high school.
3. Consider the impact on existing schools.
4. Project the enrollment potential for a new Catholic high school based upon demographic and survey data.

The following dynamics were present at the start of the study: The only viable choices for Catholic secondary education if you live in the Galesburg-Monmouth area are 45 or more minutes away; specifically, Peoria Notre Dame High School in Peoria, Alleman High School in Rock Island, and Notre Dame Jr./Sr. High School in Burlington. The issue becomes how far families in the study area will travel for a Catholic high school, how great is the desire to enroll in a Catholic high school, and whether families for whom the distance is too great are missing an opportunity for a Catholic secondary education.

## METHODOLOGY

The following methodology was used in conducting the study:

1. The Western Diocesan Catholic High School Study Committee was formed to work with Meitler Consultants. Study committee members helped refine the study questions, interpret information giving local context, refine survey and focus group questions, review conclusions, and participate in developing recommendations.
2. The consultants collected demographic data from many sources including City of Monmouth, City of Galesburg, public school districts, IL Dept of Public Health, local experts, and other sources. The consultants also collected data from the diocese and from parishes and schools.
3. The consultants sought information about the areas public high schools, local private Christian schools, and Catholic elementary schools to understand who they serve in the marketplace and their future plans. The principals from Immaculate Conception Catholic School and Costa Catholic Academy served on the Western Diocesan Catholic High School Study Committee.

4. Focus groups were conducted in both Galesburg and Monmouth. Interested parents and parishioners participated in three focus group opportunities conducted in these two communities. Open invitation was provided to families of St. Paul in Macomb and Visitation in Kewanee.
5. A communications plan and strategy were developed and executed. Because the proposed high school was new to the community, an effort was made to raise awareness about the study and inform parents about the possibility of a new educational option for their children. Communications included website, email, bulletin announcements, announcements for schools, Facebook, media, and word of mouth.
6. A survey was developed. Focus group input helped sharpen survey questions. The survey instrument was reviewed and tested with the Western Diocesan Catholic High School Study Committee.
7. All data was analyzed and synthesized into this report. More data was collected than is presented here. This report contains the most relevant facts for the findings that follow.

# VISION FOR A PROPOSED DIOCESAN CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL TO SERVE THE WESTERN DIOCESAN REGION

*The following vision for a new high school was conceived with the Study Committee and tested in various ways through the study. The vision in its entirety is as follows:*

A new Catholic high school is being proposed for Galesburg, IL or Monmouth, IL. The learning experience will be unique because Catholic faith and values will be woven throughout the entire curriculum and life of the school. This school will be attractive to parents and students seeking strong academics in a supportive learning environment that is personalized for all students to succeed. The proposed school will be small to mid-size. Students will have enriched learning opportunities in areas where the school chooses to specialize.

## **The faith life of the school will:**

1. Develop in students a personal relationship with Jesus and an understanding of God's plan from the creation to the end of time.
2. Teach students how to live as disciples of Jesus. To this end they will participate in the sacraments, actively engage in service, be formed in prayer, learn the devotions and practices of the church, and be guided to walk through life humbly with God.
3. Establish an understanding of social responsibility and educate students on social issues with a Catholic perspective.
4. Prepare students who may desire to pursue religious vocations.
5. Function as a Christ-centered community with strong support for families.

## **The core academic programs for students will:**

1. Follow the best practices for 21<sup>st</sup> century education in critical thinking, creativity, collaboration and communication while utilizing technology to individualize the learning experience and enhance the curriculum.
2. Offer a unique partnership with colleges in the region to expand learning opportunities with classes in vocational trades and specialized courses that can enhance the student experience to try new things.
3. Prepare students who want to go to college and give them exceptional guidance and support for their educational career.
4. In partnership with local colleges, possibly provide the option of an associate degree and offer access to many advanced classes that accelerate students with their college plans.

## **The co-curricular programs for students will:**

1. Excel at select sports and create opportunities for all students to participate in athletics.
2. Offer clubs and programming that build on interests of students.
3. Provide offerings in music, visual arts, and performing arts.

Partnerships will be formed outside the school that extend the capabilities of faculty and give students different opportunities than a traditional high school.

The school could select a distinct area for special emphasis. Examples include: advanced manufacturing, health, transportation, information technology, agriculture, STEM (science/technology/engineering/math), art, music, and leadership.

The full development of body, mind and spirit through a spiritual and educational approach will provide a well-rounded student experience. Parents and local parish communities are to be valued partners and encouraged to get involved in the education and formation, social and co-curricular programs of the school.

Professional teachers and school leaders will be caring, skilled and accredited educators who are deeply rooted in the faith and committed to the values of the Church and the highest educational standards. Professional development will be offered and encouraged for every administrator, teacher and staff member to provide for the suitable implementation of innovative and research-based strategies and techniques.

# COMMUNITY DEMOGRAPHICS

**Figure 1**  
**Total Population Projection to 2025 by County**

County	Census	Projections			Change 2020 to 2025	
	2010	2015	2020	2025	Number	Percent
Henderson	7,331	7,048	6,792	6,526	-266	-3.9%
Henry	50,486	49,243	48,234	47,250	-984	-2.0%
Knox	52,919	51,625	50,492	49,329	-1,163	-2.3%
McDonough	32,612	33,089	33,824	34,565	741	2.2%
Mercer	16,434	16,144	15,897	15,652	-245	-1.5%
Peoria	186,494	184,638	183,593	182,671	-922	-0.5%
Rock Island	147,546	145,010	143,037	141,317	-1,720	-1.2%
Stark	5,994	5,744	5,586	5,439	-147	-2.6%
Warren	17,707	17,376	17,218	17,069	-149	-0.9%

Source: Illinois Department of Public Health, 2014 Edition revised February 2015

**Figure 2**  
**Live Birth Trend: 2005-2011**

9th Grade Class of	Birth Year	County							Subtotal	Subtotal w/o Peoria and Stark
		Henry	Henderson	Knox	Mercer	Peoria	Stark	Warren		
2019-20	2005	555	55	559	180	2,582	66	213	4,210	1,562
2020-21	2006	597	59	538	164	2,690	55	225	4,328	1,583
2021-22	2007	575	77	551	188	2,828	71	188	4,478	1,579
2022-23	2008	575	75	545	159	2,709	52	204	4,319	1,558
2023-24	2009	537	55	544	166	2,806	50	192	4,350	1,494
2024-25	2010	556	58	494	166	2,565	72	207	4,118	1,481
2025-26	2011	532	69	540	156	2,643	60	207	4,207	1,504

Source: Illinois Department of Public Health

**Figure 3**  
**School Age Population (15-19 years) Projection to 2030**

15-19 years						Change 2020 to 2030	
County	Census	Projections				Number	Percent
	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030		
Henderson	489	523	524	551	570	46	8.8%
Henry	3,153	3,033	3,355	3,344	3,411	56	1.7%
Knox	3,695	3,484	3,602	3,530	3,658	56	1.6%
McDonough	3,190	3,121	3,395	3,471	3,599	204	6.0%
Mercer	1,202	1,157	1,148	1,179	1,247	99	8.6%
Peoria	12,807	12,085	12,227	12,611	12,764	537	4.4%
Rock Island	9,246	8,958	8,810	9,182	9,364	554	6.3%
Stark	472	461	446	476	507	61	13.7%
Warren	1,337	1,348	1,302	1,495	1,685	383	29.4%

Source: Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity, October 2017

**Figure 4**  
**Total Population 5-year Projection by Place**

Place	2010	2019	2024	Change 2019 to 2024	
				Number	Percent
<b>Henry Co.</b>	<b>50,486</b>	<b>49,079</b>	<b>48,600</b>	<b>-479</b>	<b>-0.00976</b>
Kewanee	12,916	12,395	12,235	-160	-1.3%
Galva	2,589	2,431	2,383	-48	-2.0%
Woodhull	811	784	775	-9	-1.1%
<b>Henderson Co.</b>	<b>7,331</b>	<b>6,690</b>	<b>6,464</b>	<b>-226</b>	<b>-3.4%</b>
<b>Knox Co.</b>	<b>52,919</b>	<b>50,126</b>	<b>49,068</b>	<b>-1,058</b>	<b>-2.1%</b>
Abingdon	3,319	3,065	2,984	-81	-2.6%
E. Galesburg	812	621	605	-16	-2.6%
Galesburg	32,195	30,588	29,914	-674	-2.2%
Knoxville	2,911	2,661	2,592	-69	-2.6%
<b>Mercer Co.</b>	<b>16,434</b>	<b>15,482</b>	<b>15,174</b>	<b>-308</b>	<b>-2.0%</b>
Aledo	3,640	3,416	3,346	-70	-2.0%
<b>Peoria Co.</b>	<b>186,494</b>	<b>181,121</b>	<b>178,170</b>	<b>-2,951</b>	<b>-1.6%</b>
Brimfield	868	717	690	-27	-3.8%
<b>Stark Co.</b>	<b>5,994</b>	<b>5,340</b>	<b>5,124</b>	<b>-216</b>	<b>-4.0%</b>
<b>Warren Co.</b>	<b>17,707</b>	<b>16,991</b>	<b>16,674</b>	<b>-317</b>	<b>-1.9%</b>
Monmouth	9,444	9,023	8,828	-195	-2.2%
Roseville	989	957	939	-18	-1.9%

Source: Claritas - Pop-Facts Premier 2019

**Figure 5**  
**School Age Population (10 to 14 years) 5-year Projection by Place**

Place	10 to 14 years			Change 2019 to 2024	
	2010	2019	2024	Number	Percent
<b>Henry Co.</b>	<b>3,430</b>	<b>3,117</b>	<b>2,807</b>	<b>-310</b>	<b>-9.9%</b>
Kewanee	893	843	759	-84	-10.0%
Galva	180	157	136	-21	-13.4%
Woodhull	47	52	47	-5	-9.6%
<b>Henderson Co.</b>	<b>468</b>	<b>343</b>	<b>329</b>	<b>-14</b>	<b>-4.1%</b>
<b>Knox Co.</b>	<b>3,057</b>	<b>2,690</b>	<b>2,518</b>	<b>-172</b>	<b>-6.4%</b>
Abingdon	232	187	179	-8	-4.3%
E. Galesburg	41	32	28	-4	-12.5%
Galesburg	1,685	1,653	1,554	-99	-6.0%
Knoxville	213	144	123	-21	-14.6%
<b>Mercer Co.</b>	<b>1,117</b>	<b>943</b>	<b>816</b>	<b>-127</b>	<b>-13.5%</b>
Aledo	206	214	186	-28	-13.1%
<b>Peoria Co.</b>	<b>12,306</b>	<b>11,700</b>	<b>11,767</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>0.6%</b>
Brimfield	70	52	45	-7	-13.5%
<b>Stark Co.</b>	<b>431</b>	<b>305</b>	<b>277</b>	<b>-28</b>	<b>-9.2%</b>
<b>Warren Co.</b>	<b>1,131</b>	<b>1,025</b>	<b>974</b>	<b>-51</b>	<b>-5.0%</b>
Monmouth	601	583	554	-29	-5.0%
Roseville	51	55	51	-4	-7.3%

Source: Claritas - Pop-Facts Premier 2019.



**Figure 6**  
**School Age Population (15 to 17) 5-year Projection by Place**

Place	15 to 17 years			Change 2019 to 2024	
	2010	2019	2024	Number	Percent
<b>Henry Co.</b>	<b>2,343</b>	<b>2,013</b>	<b>2,003</b>	<b>-10</b>	<b>-0.5%</b>
Kewanee	660	600	611	11	1.8%
Galva	98	98	94	-4	-4.1%
Woodhull	27	29	32	3	10.3%
<b>Henderson Co.</b>	<b>298</b>	<b>221</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>-11</b>	<b>-5.0%</b>
<b>Knox Co.</b>	<b>1,929</b>	<b>1,762</b>	<b>1,672</b>	<b>-90</b>	<b>-5.1%</b>
Abingdon	159	109	114	5	4.6%
E. Galesburg	21	19	19	0	0.0%
Galesburg	1,105	1,032	1,030	-2	-0.2%
Knoxville	124	113	86	-27	-23.9%
<b>Mercer Co.</b>	<b>626</b>	<b>619</b>	<b>579</b>	<b>-40</b>	<b>-6.5%</b>
Aledo	136	123	130	7	5.7%
<b>Peoria Co.</b>	<b>7,668</b>	<b>6,866</b>	<b>7,054</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>2.7%</b>
Brimfield	36	31	29	-2	-6.5%
<b>Stark Co.</b>	<b>281</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>-16</b>	<b>-8.2%</b>
<b>Warren Co.</b>	<b>686</b>	<b>638</b>	<b>639</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0.2%</b>
Monmouth	353	356	367	11	3.1%
Roseville	43	31	34	3	9.7%

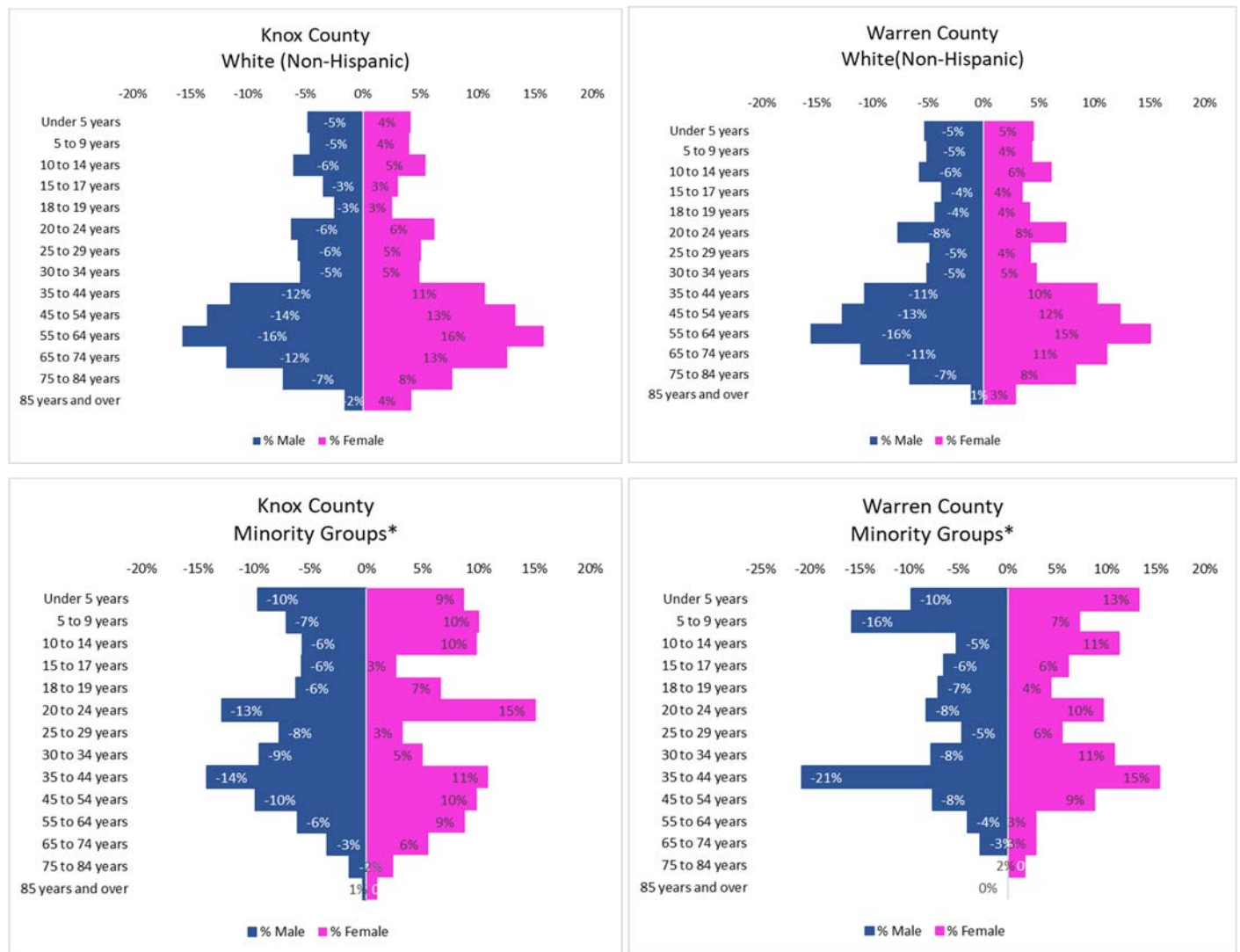
Source: Claritas - Pop-Facts Premier 2019.

**Figure 7**  
**Race and Ethnicity by Place for school age population 10 to 17 years**

Place	Pop. 10 to 17 yrs		Asian		Black/Af. Am		White		Other		Hispanic/Latino	
	2019	2024	2019	2024	2019	2024	2019	2024	2019	2024	2019	2024
<b>Henry Co.</b>	5,637	5,380	0.5%	0.6%	3.8%	4.1%	79.0%	76.4%	7.3%	8.4%	9.4%	10.7%
Kewanee	1,733	1,674	0.5%	0.5%	9.7%	10.3%	59.5%	55.1%	13.4%	15.3%	16.9%	18.8%
Galva	264	244	1.1%	0.8%	3.0%	2.5%	87.5%	85.7%	3.8%	5.3%	4.5%	5.7%
Woodhull	86	89	0.0%	0.0%	3.5%	3.4%	87.2%	83.1%	4.7%	5.6%	4.7%	7.9%
<b>Henderson Co.</b>	585	559	0.2%	0.0%	0.5%	0.2%	93.7%	92.8%	2.7%	3.4%	2.9%	3.6%
<b>Knox Co.</b>	4,870	4,633	0.9%	1.2%	8.6%	9.0%	72.9%	70.3%	8.7%	9.7%	9.0%	9.7%
Abingdon	307	302	1.6%	2.3%	2.6%	3.0%	87.3%	86.4%	5.2%	5.3%	3.3%	3.0%
E. Galesburg	54	51	5.6%	2.0%	0.0%	0.0%	87.0%	90.2%	1.9%	2.0%	5.6%	5.9%
Galesburg	3,032	2,964	1.1%	1.5%	13.0%	13.1%	62.4%	59.8%	11.5%	12.7%	12.0%	13.0%
Knoxville	266	220	1.1%	0.9%	0.0%	0.9%	90.2%	86.8%	6.0%	7.3%	2.6%	4.1%
<b>Mercer Co.</b>	1,636	1,486	0.7%	0.8%	1.2%	1.8%	90.3%	87.6%	3.2%	4.4%	4.6%	5.4%
Aledo	349	334	0.6%	0.9%	0.6%	1.2%	93.4%	91.6%	1.4%	2.1%	4.0%	4.2%
<b>Peoria Co.</b>	19,833	20,302	3.5%	4.2%	25.2%	25.3%	54.5%	51.8%	10.3%	11.3%	6.5%	7.4%
Brimfield	79	73	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	93.7%	94.5%	5.1%	5.5%	1.3%	0.0%
<b>Stark Co.</b>	507	467	1.0%	0.9%	1.4%	1.7%	91.7%	89.1%	4.3%	6.4%	1.6%	1.9%
<b>Warren Co.</b>	1,897	1,879	2.2%	2.9%	3.0%	4.2%	69.8%	65.6%	12.3%	13.5%	12.8%	13.8%
Monmouth	1,150	1,154	2.1%	3.1%	3.9%	4.9%	57.3%	52.3%	18.0%	19.7%	18.7%	19.9%
Roseville	86	87	0.0%	1.1%	0.0%	0.0%	98.8%	97.7%	0.0%	0.0%	1.2%	1.1%

Source: Claritas - Pop-Facts Premier 2019.

**Figure 8**  
**2017 Population Distribution of White (non-Hispanic) compared to Minority Groups**



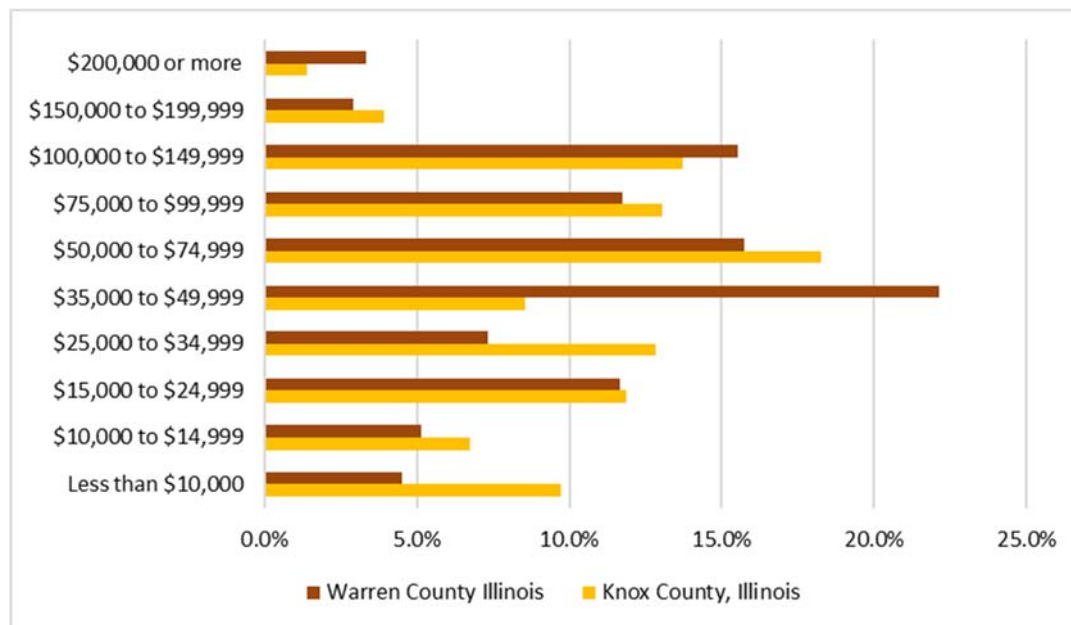
Note: \*Minority groups includes all options except White (non-Hispanic) group.  
Source: 2013-17 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

**Figure 9**  
**Median Family Household Income with presence of own children under 18 years**

Place	2017	5%	8%	10%	12%	15%
<b>Henderson Co.</b>	<b>\$48,681</b>	<b>\$2,434</b>	<b>\$3,894</b>	<b>\$4,868</b>	<b>\$5,842</b>	<b>\$7,302</b>
<b>Henry Co.</b>	<b>\$72,250</b>	<b>\$3,613</b>	<b>\$5,780</b>	<b>\$7,225</b>	<b>\$8,670</b>	<b>\$10,838</b>
Kewanee	\$41,250	\$2,063	\$3,300	\$4,125	\$4,950	\$6,188
Galva	\$40,588	\$2,029	\$3,247	\$4,059	\$4,871	\$6,088
Woodhull	\$79,375	\$3,969	\$6,350	\$7,938	\$9,525	\$11,906
<b>Knox Co.</b>	<b>\$48,796</b>	<b>\$2,440</b>	<b>\$3,904</b>	<b>\$4,880</b>	<b>\$5,856</b>	<b>\$7,319</b>
Abingdon	\$33,839	\$1,692	\$2,707	\$3,384	\$4,061	\$5,076
E. Galesburg	\$62,222	\$3,111	\$4,978	\$6,222	\$7,467	\$9,333
Galesburg	\$34,806	\$1,740	\$2,784	\$3,481	\$4,177	\$5,221
Knoxville	\$56,154	\$2,808	\$4,492	\$5,615	\$6,738	\$8,423
<b>Mercer Co.</b>	<b>\$67,664</b>	<b>\$3,383</b>	<b>\$5,413</b>	<b>\$6,766</b>	<b>\$8,120</b>	<b>\$10,150</b>
Aledo	\$62,262	\$3,113	\$4,981	\$6,226	\$7,471	\$9,339
<b>Peoria Co.</b>	<b>\$62,459</b>	<b>\$3,123</b>	<b>\$4,997</b>	<b>\$6,246</b>	<b>\$7,495</b>	<b>\$9,369</b>
Brimfield	\$77,969	\$3,898	\$6,238	\$7,797	\$9,356	\$11,695
<b>Stark Co.</b>	<b>\$58,333</b>	<b>\$2,917</b>	<b>\$4,667</b>	<b>\$5,833</b>	<b>\$7,000</b>	<b>\$8,750</b>
<b>Warren Co.</b>	<b>\$49,097</b>	<b>\$2,455</b>	<b>\$3,928</b>	<b>\$4,910</b>	<b>\$5,892</b>	<b>\$7,365</b>
Monmouth	\$39,196	\$1,960	\$3,136	\$3,920	\$4,704	\$5,879
Roseville	\$41,304	\$2,065	\$3,304	\$4,130	\$4,956	\$6,196

Source: 2013-17 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

**Figure 10**  
**2017 Estimated Family Income Distribution with presence of own children (of householder)**



Source: 2013-17 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

**Figure 11**  
**Public School Enrollment Trend**

District Name	County	K to 8						Change 2013-2018	
		2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	Number	Percent
West Central CUSD 235	Henderson	550	565	548	523	515	487	-63	-11.5%
Colona SD 190	Henry	429	426	408	392	385	408	-21	-4.9%
Orion CUSD 223	Henry	720	733	718	701	686	675	-45	-6.3%
Galva CUSD 224	Henry	365	370	342	340	325	311	-54	-14.8%
AIWood CUSD 225	Henry	262	263	259	244	254	247	-15	-5.7%
Annawan CUSD 226	Henry	234	242	221	220	218	219	-15	-6.4%
Cambridge CUSD 227	Henry	327	329	311	298	296	290	-37	-11.3%
Geneseo CUSD 228	Henry	1,749	1,719	1,692	1,710	1,732	1,702	-47	-2.7%
Kewanee CUSD 229	Henry	1,244	1,223	1,242	1,249	1,274	1,237	-7	-0.6%
Wethersfield CUSD 230	Henry	419	404	368	360	367	361	-58	-13.8%
<b>Henry County Districts Subtotal</b>		<b>5,749</b>	<b>5,709</b>	<b>5,561</b>	<b>5,514</b>	<b>5,537</b>	<b>5,450</b>	<b>-299</b>	<b>-5.2%</b>
Knoxville CUSD 202	Knox	778	769	742	700	693	655	-123	-15.8%
Galesburg CUSD 205	Knox	3,084	3,085	3,039	2,962	2,928	2,879	-205	-6.6%
R O W V A CUSD 208	Knox	426	421	404	387	386	375	-51	-12.0%
Williamsfield CUSD 210	Knox	178	182	178	177	177	160	-18	-10.1%
Abingdon CUSD 217	Knox	461	632	651	634	637	656	195	42.3%
<b>Knox County Districts Subtotal</b>		<b>4,927</b>	<b>5,089</b>	<b>5,014</b>	<b>4,860</b>	<b>4,821</b>	<b>4,725</b>	<b>-202</b>	<b>-4.1%</b>
Mercer County School District 404 Mercer		880	900	896	904	872	859	-21	-2.4%
Monmouth-Roseville CUSD 238	Warren	1,098	1,090	1,086	1,093	1,070	1,041	-57	-5.2%
United CUSD 304	Warren	623	591	571	600	626	625	2	0.3%
<b>Warren County Districts Subtotal</b>		<b>1,721</b>	<b>1,681</b>	<b>1,657</b>	<b>1,693</b>	<b>1,696</b>	<b>1,666</b>	<b>-55</b>	<b>-3.2%</b>

Source: Illinois Department of Education

District Name	County	9 to 12						Change 2013-2018	
		2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	Number	Percent
West Central CUSD 235	Henderson	291	298	268	270	255	241	-50	-17.2%
Colona SD 190	Henry	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Orion CUSD 223	Henry	307	310	305	336	344	342	35	11.4%
Galva CUSD 224	Henry	172	167	173	179	177	163	-9	-5.2%
AIWood CUSD 225	Henry	128	123	121	116	102	114	-14	-10.9%
Annawan CUSD 226	Henry	118	131	122	120	104	108	-10	-8.5%
Cambridge CUSD 227	Henry	120	121	141	146	147	142	22	18.3%
Geneseo CUSD 228	Henry	858	832	814	827	812	843	-15	-1.7%
Kewanee CUSD 229	Henry	493	532	539	536	551	561	68	13.8%
Wethersfield CUSD 230	Henry	218	195	209	189	180	186	-32	-14.7%
<b>Henry County Districts Subtotal</b>		<b>2,414</b>	<b>2,411</b>	<b>2,424</b>	<b>2,449</b>	<b>2,417</b>	<b>2,459</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>1.9%</b>
Knoxville CUSD 202	Knox	335	326	322	361	330	386	51	15.2%
Galesburg CUSD 205	Knox	1,324	1,353	1,347	1,344	1,302	1,277	-47	-3.5%
R O W V A CUSD 208	Knox	229	219	212	191	191	182	-47	-20.5%
Williamsfield CUSD 210	Knox	94	95	93	86	87	79	-15	-16.0%
Abingdon CUSD 217	Knox	219	278	274	264	264	245	26	11.9%
<b>Knox County Districts Subtotal</b>		<b>2,201</b>	<b>2,271</b>	<b>2,248</b>	<b>2,246</b>	<b>2,174</b>	<b>2,169</b>	<b>-32</b>	<b>-1.5%</b>
Mercer County School District 404 Mercer		392	393	408	395	385	396	4	1.0%
Monmouth-Roseville CUSD 238	Warren	533	528	539	505	516	532	-1	-0.2%
United CUSD 304	Warren	295	308	331	321	293	258	-37	-12.5%
<b>Warren County Districts Subtotal</b>		<b>828</b>	<b>836</b>	<b>870</b>	<b>826</b>	<b>809</b>	<b>790</b>	<b>-38</b>	<b>-4.6%</b>

Source: Illinois Department of Education

**Figure 12**  
**Public High School Enrollment by Race and Low Income**

School Data	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
<b>Galesburg High School</b>				
<b>Enrollment</b>	<b>1,350</b>	<b>1,364</b>	<b>1,296</b>	<b>1,271</b>
% White	66%	65%	66%	66%
% Black	12%	13%	11%	11%
% Hispanic	12%	13%	13%	13%
% Asian	1%	1%	1%	1%
% Amer. Indian	0%	0%	0%	0%
% 2+ races	8%	9%	9%	9%
% Pacific Isl.	0%	0%	0%	0%
% Low Income	59%	54%	53%	53%
<b>Monmouth-Roseville High School</b>				
<b>Enrollment</b>	<b>537</b>	<b>521</b>	<b>515</b>	<b>530</b>
% White	69%	69%	66%	61%
% Black	4%	4%	5%	5%
% Hispanic	18%	19%	22%	25%
% Asian	3%	2%	2%	4%
% Amer. Indian	0%	0%	0%	0%
% 2+ races	6%	5%	4%	6%
% Pacific Isl.	0%	0%	0%	0%
% Low Income	59%	43%	47%	50%
<b>United High School</b>				
<b>Enrollment</b>	<b>338</b>	<b>324</b>	<b>293</b>	<b>282</b>
% White	92%	90%	88%	91%
% Black	2%	2%	2%	1%
% Hispanic	3%	3%	6%	6%
% Asian	0%	1%	1%	1%
% Amer. Indian	1%	0%	0%	0%
% 2+ races	1%	3%	3%	1%
% Pacific Isl.	1%	0%	0%	0%
% Low Income	46%	38%	40%	38%

Source: Illinois Department of Education, At-A-Glance Report Card

## PARISH DATA

**Figure 13**  
**Registered Parish Families**

Parish	Location	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Change 2012-18	
									Number	Percent
Corpus Christi	Galesburg	514	523	516	499	486	499	456	-58	-11.3%
Immaculate Heart of Mary	Galesburg	453	456	443	425	398	378	366	-87	-19.2%
St. Patrick	Galesburg	181	170	162	160	156	149	141	-40	-22.1%
<b>Subtotal of Galesburg parishes</b>		<b>1,148</b>	<b>1,149</b>	<b>1,121</b>	<b>1,084</b>	<b>1,040</b>	<b>1,026</b>	<b>963</b>	<b>-185</b>	<b>-16.1%</b>
Immaculate Conception	Monmouth	422	422	411	441	442	436	433	11	2.6%
St. Patrick	Raritan	94	93	93	88	92	92	90	-4	-4.3%
St. John Paul II	Kewanee	612	620	595	562	544	510	413	-199	-32.5%
St. Francis of Assisi	Kewanee	252	266	266						
St. Mary	Kewanee	360	354	329						
St. John	Woodhull	82	81	81	81	63	64	74	-8	-9.8%
St. John	Galva	115	115	118	123	115	120	106	-9	-7.8%
St. John	Cambridge	78	78	81	81	75	77	68	-10	-12.8%
St. Joseph	Brimfield	136	130	131	115	113	115	95	-41	-30.1%
St. James	Williamsfield	43	39	43	38	38	42	40	-3	-7.0%
St. Paul	Macomb	576	571	571	572	514	467	459	-117	-20.3%
St. Augustine	St. Augustine	47	49	43	48	46	46	45	-2	-4.3%
St. Bernard	Bushnell	106	99	101	99	92	91	91	-15	-14.2%
St. Catherine	Aledo	167	171	169	158	142	118	109	-58	-34.7%
St. John	Viola	46	46	46	44	41	33	32	-14	-30.4%
St. Anthony	Matherville	89	90	94	93	91	87	89	0	0.0%
<b>Total Registered Families</b>		<b>3,761</b>	<b>3,753</b>	<b>3,698</b>	<b>3,627</b>	<b>3,448</b>	<b>3,324</b>	<b>3,107</b>	<b>-654</b>	<b>-17.4%</b>

Source: Diocese of Peoria

**Figure 14**  
**First Communions Trend (3-yr average of selected parishes)**

Parish	Location	2012	2015	2018	Average
Corpus Christi	Galesburg	14	23	13	17
Immaculate Heart of Mary	Galesburg	23	13	8	15
St. Patrick	Galesburg	7	6	5	6
Immaculate Conception	Monmouth	39	73	48	54
St. John Paul II	Kewanee	33	33	27	31
St. John	Woodhull	3	4	1	3
St. John	Galva	4	4	9	6
St. Joseph	Brimfield	5			5
St. Paul	Macomb	28	22	24	25
St. Augustine	St. Augustine	1			1
St. Bernard	Bushnell	7	4		6
St. Catherine	Aledo		2	7	5
<b>Total First Communions</b>		<b>164</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>174</b>

Source: Diocese of Peoria

**Figure 15**  
**Confirmation Trend (3-yr average of selected parishes)**

Parish	Location	2012	2015	2018	Average
Corpus Christi	Galesburg	14	16	10	14
Immaculate Heart of Mary	Galesburg	4	17	8	10
St. Patrick	Galesburg	4	8	6	6
Immaculate Conception	Monmouth	69	74	36	60
St. John	Woodhull	8	2	7	6
St. John	Galva	11	2	4	6
St. Joseph	Brimfield	18	8		13
St. Paul	Macomb		36	34	35
St. Bernard	Bushnell	1	13		7
St. Catherine	Aledo	6	1	6	5
<b>Total Confirmations</b>		<b>135</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>162</b>

Source: Diocese of Peoria

**Figure 16**  
**Religious Education Enrollment**

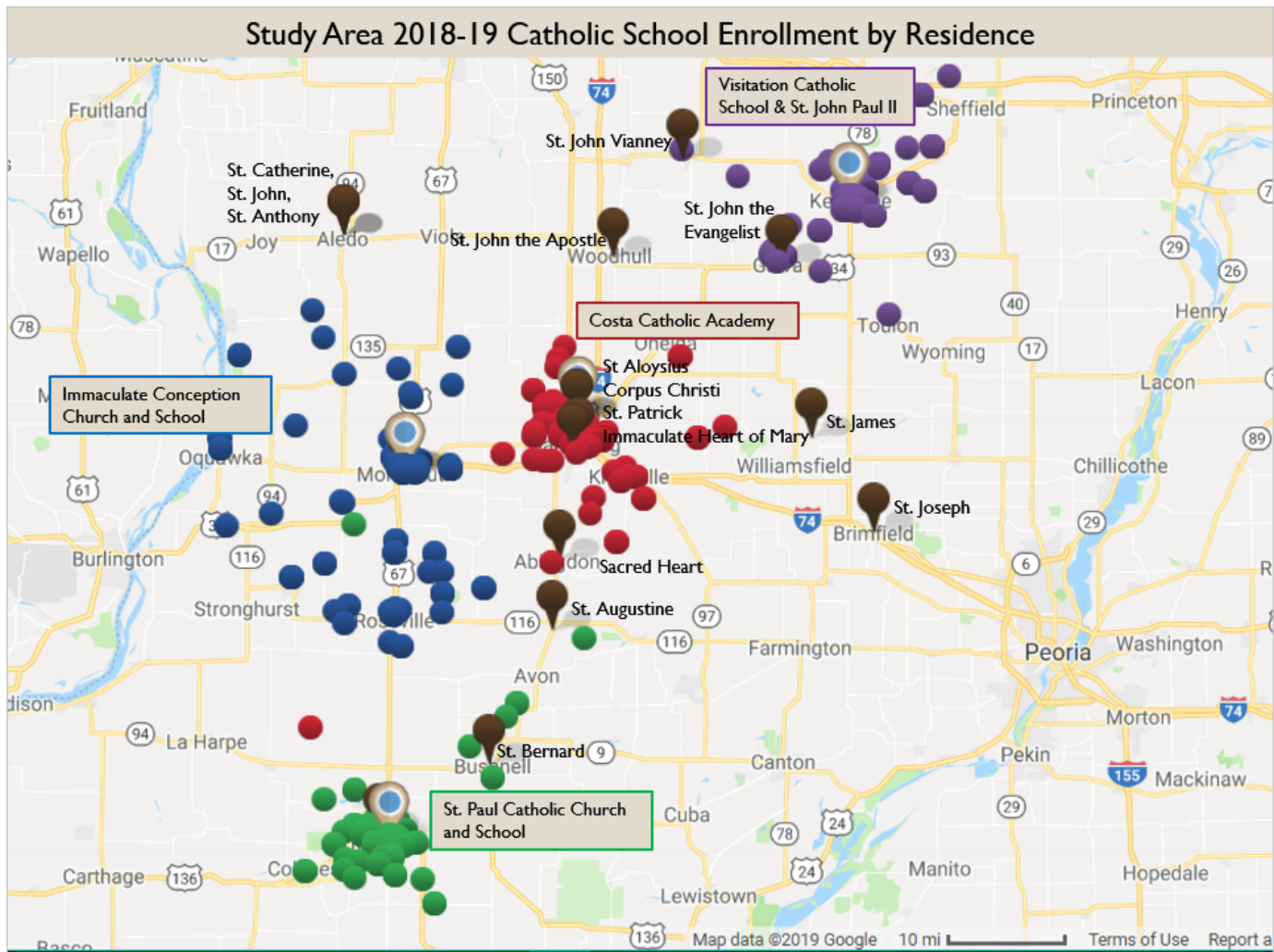
Parish	Location	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Average
Corpus Christi	Galesburg	117	118	<b>118</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>118</b>	99
Immaculate Heart of Mary	Galesburg	54	61	62	52	47	47
St. Patrick	Galesburg	24	35	<b>22</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>22</b>	21
Immaculate Conception	Monmouth	63	84	84	103	113	75
St. John Paul II	Kewanee	<b>70</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>51</b>	70	70	59
St. John	Woodhull	22	14	58	32	<b>32</b>	27
St. John	Galva	35	30	43	33	44	31
St. Joseph	Brimfield	74	41	42	<b>37</b>	33	38
St. Paul	Macomb	34	52	73	32	36	38
St. Catherine	Aledo	107	27	28	30	24	37
<b>Total CCD - Grade School</b>		<b>600</b>	<b>551</b>	<b>581</b>	<b>529</b>	<b>539</b>	<b>494</b>

Source: Diocese of Peoria

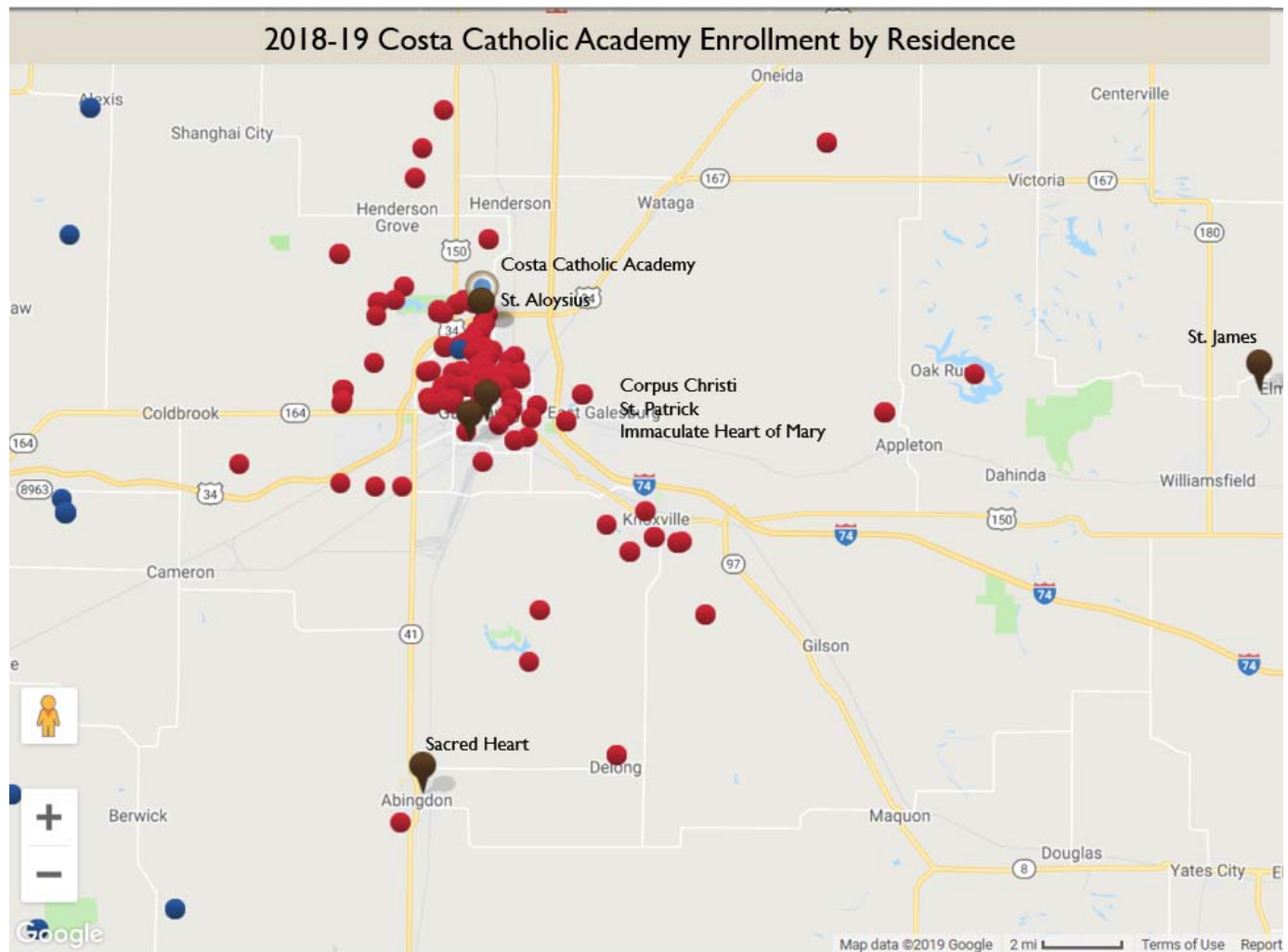
Note: 2014 through 2016 contain estimated numbers from 3 parishes in their sum totals.



**Figure 17**  
**Study Area 2018-19 Catholic School Enrollment by Residence**

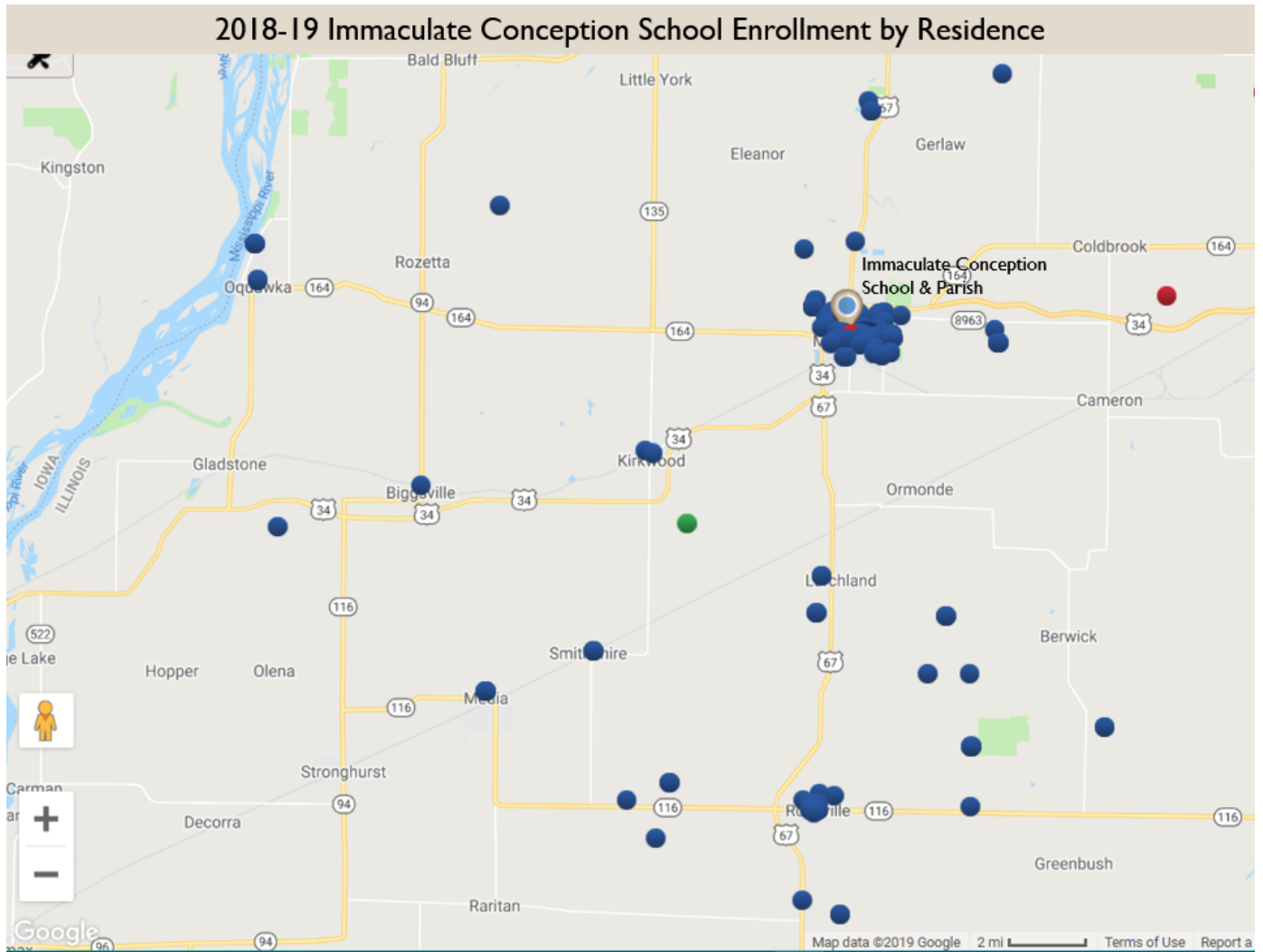


**Figure 17 (continued) - Galesburg Area – Costa Catholic Academy**



*Note: Blue dots indicate students at Immaculate Conception (Monmouth) and Red dots indicate students at Costa Catholic Academy*

**Figure 17 (continued) - Monmouth Area – Immaculate Conception School**



*Note: Blue dots indicate students at Immaculate Conception (Monmouth) and Red dots indicate students at Costa Catholic Academy*

**Figure 18**  
**Enrollment Trend for Costa Catholic Academy and Immaculate Conception Catholic School**

By Grade	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	Change 2013 to 2018	
							Number	Percent
PK	56	79	82	76	75	68	12	21%
K	42	35	32	31	36	28	-14	-33%
1	36	39	37	30	27	36	0	0%
2	35	31	38	32	29	26	-9	-26%
3	39	29	30	35	32	31	-8	-21%
4	39	37	29	30	35	37	-2	-5%
5	36	35	41	29	27	36	0	0%
6	43	33	33	39	28	28	-15	-35%
7	45	38	33	34	35	30	-15	-33%
8	31	42	39	33	27	32	1	3%
<b>K to 8 Total</b>	<b>346</b>	<b>319</b>	<b>312</b>	<b>293</b>	<b>276</b>	<b>284</b>	<b>-62</b>	<b>-17.9%</b>
<b>PK to 8 Total</b>	<b>402</b>	<b>398</b>	<b>394</b>	<b>369</b>	<b>351</b>	<b>352</b>	<b>-50</b>	<b>-12.4%</b>

By Race	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Asian	14	14	21	21	15	14
Black	8	5	6	7	10	9
White	328	290	345	313	307	293
Multi-Racial and All Others	52	89	22	28	19	36
<b>Total</b>	<b>402</b>	<b>398</b>	<b>394</b>	<b>369</b>	<b>351</b>	<b>352</b>
<b>Percent Hispanic</b>	<b>16.2%</b>	<b>22.6%</b>	<b>15.5%</b>	<b>15.4%</b>	<b>14.0%</b>	<b>13.1%</b>

By Religion	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Catholic	307	299	291	277	254	252
Percent Catholic	76%	75%	74%	75%	72%	72%
Non-Catholic	95	99	103	92	97	100
<b>Total</b>	<b>402</b>	<b>398</b>	<b>394</b>	<b>369</b>	<b>351</b>	<b>352</b>

*Note: Includes Costa Catholic Academy and Immaculate Conception Catholic Schools only.*

*Source: Catholic Schools Office, Diocese of Peoria*

**Figure 19**  
**2018-19 Catholic School Tuition**

Study Area		One	Two	Percent	Three	Percent
Town	School	Catholic Child	Catholic	of 1st	Catholic	of 1st
		2018-19	2018-19	Catholic	2018-19	Catholic
<b>Area PK to 8 Schools</b>						
Galesburg	Costa	3,670	6,244	70.1%	8,522	62.1%
Kewanee	Visitation	3,035	4,835	59.3%	4,835	
Macomb	St. Paul*	4,125	5,160	25.1%	6,195	25.1%
Monmouth	Imm. Conception	3,301	4,615	39.8%	5,506	27.0%
<b>Diocesan High Schools</b>						
Bloomington	CCHS	7,800	15,600	100%	23,400	100.0%
Champaign	STMHS	7,300	14,381	97.0%	21,243	94.0%
Danville	Schlarman	5,336	10,172	90.6%	14,508	81.3%
Ottawa	Marquette (H.S.)	6,425	12,350	92.2%	17,775	84.4%

*\*St. Paul Catholic School is PKto6*

*Source: Diocese of Peoria, Office of Catholic Schools*

## DATA OBSERVATIONS

### DEMOGRAPHIC OBSERVATIONS

1. All counties show some contraction in population. Knox and Warren Counties could lose 1% to 2% population over the five year projection period. (Figure 1) According to the Illinois Department of Commerce, Warren County could show growth for 15 to 19 year olds after 2020, but other sources do not confirm this projection. (Figure 3) Monmouth and Galesburg are contracting in population over the next 5 years according to Claritas projections. (Figure 4)
2. The company Smithfield is one of the major employers affecting employment opportunities for an immigrant population. The economic trend is stronger for lower income jobs while there are fewer higher paying jobs. The survey tended to favor people with higher incomes.
3. Historically little new housing has been added in Monmouth. Only 41 housing units were added from 2010 to 2017, offset by 19 uninhabitable. Galesburg has a few subdivisions under construction or in the planning stages, but housing activity remains relatively low.
4. There is a trend for people to not live where they work. Traveling in or out of the region for employment is common. And over the past decade many professional jobs have moved out.
5. Monmouth has welcomed a number of immigrants from Africa, Asia, and Latin America in recent years. Minority populations are highest in Galesburg, Kewanee, and Monmouth. (Figure 7)
6. When considering public school and Catholic school enrollment for kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade exclusively, Catholic schools have a 5.6% share of the market within the region from Monmouth to Galesburg, and only a 4% share of market when all enrollment of surrounding districts in Warren and Knox County are taken into account. (Figure 11 and 18)
7. Public school enrollments are shrinking at the elementary level, and are holding more steady at the high school level. (Figure 11 and Figure 12). In public schools, Hispanic enrollment has grown more in Monmouth than in Galesburg. The percent of public school students categorized as low income is 50% to 53% for Monmouth and Galesburg. For public high schools, enrollment is slightly smaller at Monmouth-Roseville, lower at Galesburg, and lower at United in 2017-18 than in 2012-13.
8. Galesburg Christian School is the only private high school in the region. The school has enrollment of 155 students and charges tuition of \$4,500 for 1<sup>st</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> grade and \$4,750 for 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade for the 2019-2020 school year. The school offers loyalty discounts for students with continued enrollment (1% discount for each year a student is enrolled continuously) along with a “fair share” tuition program that transfers fundraising and volunteer points (1 point = \$1) off your future school year’s tuition bill up to 600 points.
9. The estimated median family household income for Knox County in 2017 was \$48,796. Warren County was just above Knox County at \$49,097. The cities/towns of East Galesburg, Knoxville were above the Knox county median. All other counties/places ranged from \$33,839 to \$79,375 for median family household income. (Figure 9) Median family household income is one of the ways to “measure” tuition affordability and the level of financial assistance need. In the experience of Meitler, tuition rates in the 8% to 12% of median family household income ranges could be considered affordable for families with children in high school. In a more rural or inner-city urban area, those percentages could be between 5% and 8% of median family household income. Generally, in a more middle-class population, the percentage of tuition to median family household income would be approximately 8% to 10%. (Figure 9) The challenge is half of families are above and half below the median, leaving a wide range. (Figure 10). The tuition model will be most successful if it is aligned with the ability of families to afford tuition.

10. The distribution of income for families with own children present for 2017 shows how the median only tells part of the story. Warren County had the largest group of families in the \$35,000 to \$49,999 category, 22.1% of households. Knox County had the largest group of families in the \$50,000 to \$74,999 category, 18.9% of households. (Figure 10)

## PARISH AND CATHOLIC SCHOOL DATA OBSERVATIONS

11. Catholic school enrollment has improved at Costa Catholic in 2018-19 to 185 students. However, enrollment at Costa is much lower than the last enrollment peak of 230 in 2012-13 six years ago. Eighth grade has been 10 to 15 students. At Immaculate Conception, enrollment has been fairly steady at 167 for 2018-19. Eighth grade has been 17 to 21 students. Together the schools have had eighth grade graduating classes of 27 to 33 the past three years.
12. With 92 children receiving first communion in an average year in Galesburg and Monmouth, we can roughly estimate 34.7% (*Avg 32 2<sup>nd</sup> grade/ 92 avg first communion*) of Catholic children are enrolling in Catholic schools. The number of Catholic children in the parishes and schools have experienced relative stability in recent years as seen in the sacramental participation trends.
13. If we take in a wider area of parishes and include all four Catholic schools in Galesburg, Monmouth, Kewanee, and Macomb, there are 174 children receiving first communion in an average year. We can roughly estimate 36.2% (*Avg 63 2<sup>nd</sup> grade/ 174 avg first communion all parishes*) of Catholic children are enrolling in Catholic schools. While there are more children available than Catholic schools enroll, the statistic illustrates the challenge of getting Catholic families into Catholic schools.
14. Enrollment in religious education programs has been fairly steady in the parishes over the 5 year period, with the exception of Immaculate Conception where there is some increase. Average enrollment is 494 for all the parishes. (Figure 16) Looking at only Galesburg and Monmouth, average enrollment has been 242. There are some students in this group who could choose to enter a Catholic school at the 9<sup>th</sup> grade.



# SURVEY RESULTS AND ANALYSIS

## A. SURVEY METHODOLOGY

A market research survey was specifically designed for the Western Diocesan Catholic high school study. All materials and the survey instrument were reviewed in printed form and online by the client prior to distribution. Area parishes and elementary school parents in Galesburg and Kewanee vicariates were invited to participate, Costa Catholic Academy, Corpus Christi, Immaculate Heart of Mary, St. Patrick in Galesburg, Immaculate Conception Parish and School in Monmouth, St. Paul in Macomb, St. John Paul II in Kewanee. The survey process had the following elements:

1. The survey was shared online with families in the area through parish and school communications. It is estimated these communications reached 1,085 households. Communications were directed to families with children 14 years of age and younger. The estimate is that 35% of 3,101 households have children in the target group.
2. Public relations regarding the feasibility study included news articles to the public, a series of announcements about the survey process to diocesan families via the diocesan website and other parish and school communications. In addition, an ad was placed on Facebook to reach households outside of the parish communities within the region. We estimate 2,155 people read the ad and about 7.6% started the survey.
3. The survey hyperlink was shared through direct communications to the target parishes and elementary schools in the study area and in a Facebook ad to initiate the start of the survey.
4. Follow-up announcements and survey reminders were distributed in parish and school bulletins and the diocesan website and social media accounts to encourage greater participation in the survey process.
5. All electronic invitations directed families to access the survey online, where they first read information about the proposed school along with a confidentiality statement prior to starting the survey.

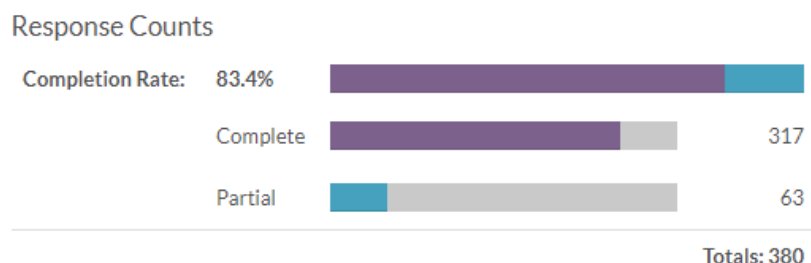
*Percentages in the figures may not always add to 100% due to rounding. Also, the number of respondents is not always the same in every question because not every respondent answers every question. Some figures report the number of respondents or percentage of respondents to a specific question, while others report the number of children. These distinctions will be delineated throughout the report. Many figures in this survey results section are self-explanatory.*

*Note 'R=' is the total respondents count to the specific question or cross sort.*

## B. SURVEY RESPONSE RATE

Survey invitations reached an estimated total of 891 households with children enrolled in parish religious education programs or a Catholic elementary school in the targeted study area. The response rate to the survey invitations and announcements is estimated at 22.4% (200/891). Figure 20 shows the breakdown of surveys, completed, partially completed which also includes responses with no children in target age group. Overall community participation is estimated at 7.2% (380/5,256), this includes parish household count plus the number of interactions through the Facebook ad in the community.

**Figure 20**  
**Overall survey response**



To finalize the response database, disqualified responses were first removed, then all responses were checked for duplicate residence address. Where duplicates existed, responses were checked for potential duplication of a household or a multigenerational household which may contain multiple family units through review of key characteristics (respondent relationship to children, ages of children, etc.). Where mother and father of same address completed the survey, the newest or most complete survey was kept. Finally, any remaining partial responses were checked for eligibility based on answering to at least the certainty of enrollment in a new school question.

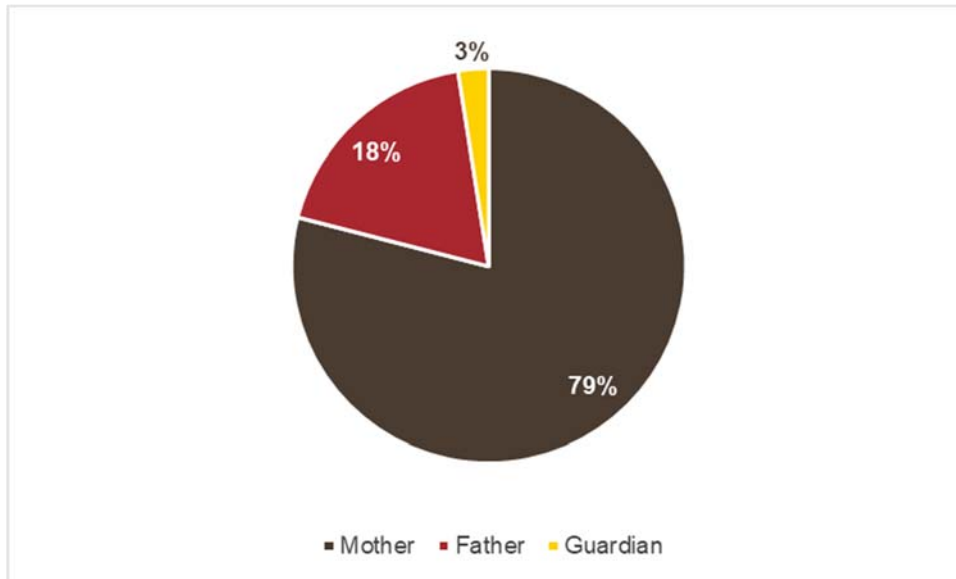
**The final database includes 200 individual households with children 0-14 years old**, following duplicate removal and database finalization. A total number of 86 children ages 0 to 3 years and 312 children ages 4 to 14 years are represented in the survey results.

The response rate to the survey is considered satisfactory for this type of survey.



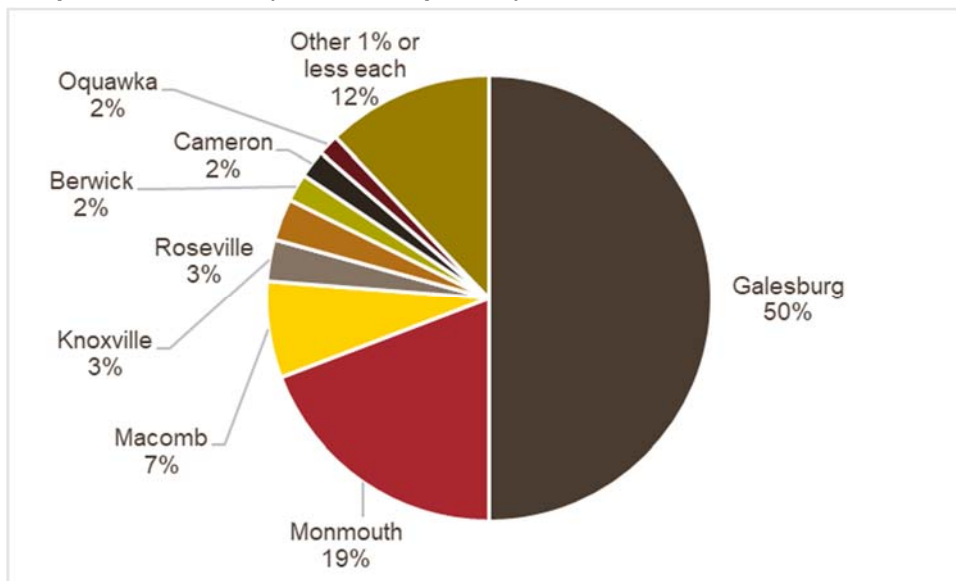
## C. ABOUT RESPONDENTS

**Figure 21**  
**Respondents are:**

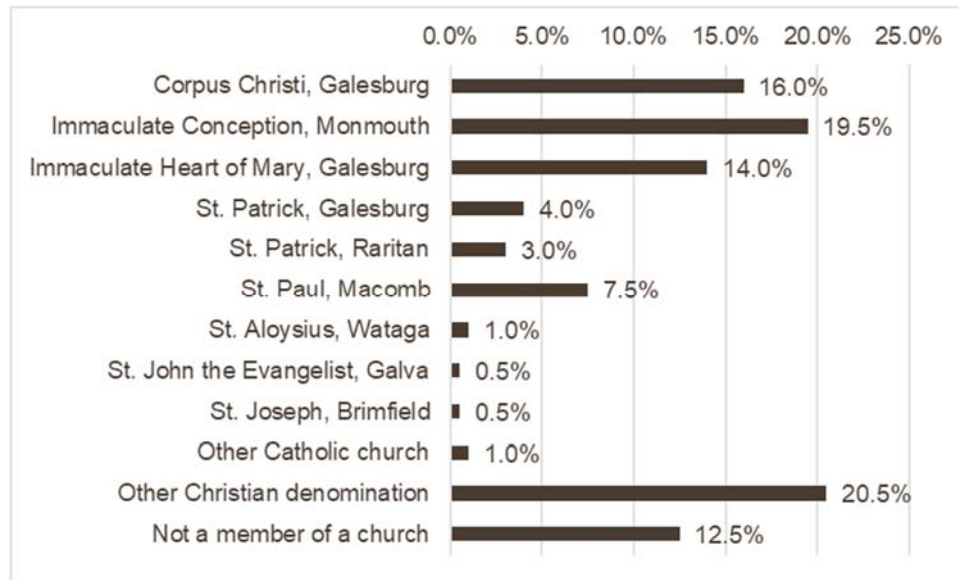


*R=200; Does not include community member participants (with no children in target ages)*

**Figure 22**  
**Respondents live in (based on Zip Code):**



*R= 200*

**Figure 23****Respondents are registered parishioners (members) at:***R= 200*

## D. ENROLLMENT ANALYSIS: NINTH GRADE

**Figure 24****Children 0 to 14 years**

Age	Count	Percent
Less than 1 year	23	5.8%
1 year	17	4.3%
2 years	15	3.8%
3 years	31	7.8%
4 years	32	8.0%
5 years	26	6.5%
6 years	26	6.5%
7 years	28	7.0%
8 years	22	5.5%
9 years	26	6.5%
10 years	45	11.3%
11 years	32	8.0%
12 years	27	6.8%
13 years	28	7.0%
14 years	20	5.0%
0-3 years subtotal	86	21.6%
4-14 years subtotal	312	78.4%
<b>Count of Children</b>	<b>398</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

*\*Includes count of twins**R= 200*

**Figure 25**  
**Current PK-8 school enrolled**

Answer	Respondent	Children 4-14 years	
	Count	Count	Percent
Costa Catholic Academy	80	131	39.1%
Immaculate Conception School	42	82	24.5%
St. Paul Catholic School	16	30	9.0%
Visitation Catholic School	0	0	0.0%
Notre Dame Jr./Sr. High School (Burlington IA)	2	2	0.6%
Galesburg Christian School	3	6	1.8%
Other private	2	2	0.6%
Galesburg Public Schools #205	20	41	12.2%
Knoxville Public Schools #202	3	5	1.5%
Monmouth-Roseville Public Schools #238	9	11	3.3%
United Public Schools #304	3	9	2.7%
Other public school	5	7	2.1%
Homeschool	6	9	2.7%

R=200

*\*Respondents could answer up to two responses*

**Figure 26**  
**Interest in a 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade in Macomb**

Answer	Child Age												Total	
	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14		Children 4-14	Respondents
Yes	4	3	3	3	0	4	3	3	2	1	2		28	14
No	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0		2	2

**Figure 27**  
**1<sup>st</sup> choice for 9<sup>th</sup> grade (current options) by selected age group**

Answer	Respondents		Children 4 to 14 years	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Alleman Catholic High School, Rock Island	2	1.0%	5	1.6%
Peoria Notre Dame High School, Peoria	1	0.5%	2	0.6%
Notre Dame Jr./Sr. High School, Burlington (IA)	4	2.0%	5	1.6%
Other Catholic high school	11	5.5%	15	4.8%
Galesburg Christian School	7	3.5%	10	3.2%
Other private high school	1	0.5%	1	0.3%
Galesburg High School - CUSD 205	80	40.0%	127	40.7%
Knoxville High School - CUSD 202	14	7.0%	19	6.1%
Monmouth-Roseville High School - CUSD 238	31	15.5%	46	14.7%
United High School - CUSD 304	14	7.0%	24	7.7%
West Central High School - CUSD 235	2	1.0%	3	1.0%
Other public high school	22	11.0%	33	10.6%
Homeschool	11	5.5%	22	7.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>312</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

R = 200

**Figure 28**  
**1<sup>st</sup> choice for 9<sup>th</sup> grade if new Catholic high school is available**

Answer	Age (Years)												Children 4-14 yrs	Average Per Age
	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14			
New Catholic high school	20	17	15	22	16	14	30	18	12	16	13	193	18	
% of children by age	63%	65%	58%	79%	73%	58%	70%	56%	50%	64%	68%	64%	58%	
Alleman Catholic High School, Rock Island	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Peoria Notre Dame High School, Peoria	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Notre Dame Jr./Sr. High School, Burlington (IA)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	
Other Catholic high school	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Galesburg Christian School	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	5	1	
Other private high school	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Galesburg High School - CUSD 205	3	5	6	3	4	3	6	9	9	8	3	59	6	
Knoxville High School - CUSD 202	3	0	2	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	8	1	
Monmouth-Roseville High School - CUSD 238	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	1	0	0	1	6	1	
United High School - CUSD 304	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
West Central High School - CUSD 235	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Other public high school	4	3	1	2	0	3	2	4	0	1	1	21	2	
Homeschool	1	0	1	1	1	0	2	0	2	0	0	8	1	
Total by School Age	32	26	26	28	22	24	43	32	24	25	19	301	31	

R = 180

**Figure 29**  
**9<sup>th</sup> grade high school choice comparing current option to option if new Catholic high school is available**

School Choice for 9th Grade	Current Options		Options if New School	% to New School
	Children (4-14 yrs) Count	Percent	Children (4-14 yrs) New Count	
Alleman Catholic High School, Rock Island	5	1.6%	0	100.0%
Peoria Notre Dame High School, Peoria	2	0.6%	0	100.0%
Notre Dame Jr./Sr. High School, Burlington (IA)	5	1.6%	1	80.0%
Other Catholic high school	15	4.8%	0	100.0%
Galesburg Christian School	10	3.2%	5	50.0%
Other private high school	1	0.3%	0	100.0%
Galesburg High School - CUSD 205	127	40.7%	59	53.5%
Knoxville High School - CUSD 202	19	6.1%	8	57.9%
Monmouth-Roseville High School - CUSD 238	46	14.7%	6	87.0%
United High School - CUSD 304	24	7.7%	11	54.2%
West Central High School - CUSD 235	3	1.0%	0	100.0%
Other public high school	33	10.6%	21	36.4%
Homeschool	22	7.1%	8	63.6%
<b>New Catholic High School</b>			<b>193</b>	
<b>Total Children (4 to 14 years) by Response</b>	<b>312</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>312</b>	

R = 180

**Figure 30**  
**Certainty to enroll for 9<sup>th</sup> grade at new Catholic high school**

9th Grade Certainty to Enroll	Children by Age (Years)											Average 4 to 14 yrs
	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
Definitely would enroll	11	11	8	13	11	9	17	11	6	6	0	10
Likely would enroll	9	5	7	8	4	5	12	6	6	8	11	8
Uncertain about enrolling	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	2	2	1

R=112; Filtered for respondents with children 4 to 14 years, which answered New Catholic High School in previous question.

**Figure 31**  
**Certainty to transfer at 10<sup>th</sup> grade to new Catholic high school**

10th Grade Certainty to Transfer	Children by Age (Years)										Average 4 to 14 yrs
	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
Definitely would transfer	8	6	11	8	6	12	9	4	3	0	7
Likely would transfer	5	3	7	2	5	9	4	5	8	5	6
Uncertain about transferring	8	10	5	5	5	14	8	7	13	9	9

Certainty to Transfer	Children by Age (Years)				Average per Age
	11	12	13	14	
Definitely would transfer	9	4	3	0	4
Likely would transfer	4	5	8	5	6
Uncertain about transferring	8	7	13	9	10
Likely would not transfer	9	6	4	3	6
Definitely would not transfer	2	5	0	3	3

R= 178, Filtered for respondents with children 4 to 14 years.

**Figure 32**  
**Certainty of enrollment (ages 4-14) if located on northside of Galesburg**

Location: Northside Galesburg	Children by Age (Years)											Children 4-14 yrs	Average per Age
	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14		
Definitely would enroll	8	8	6	13	9	5	13	10	2	5	1	80	8
Likely would enroll	8	6	4	3	5	6	12	3	8	6	6	67	7
Uncertain about enrolling	4	3	3	5	2	2	4	4	1	2	5	35	4
Likely would not enroll	0	0	2	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	8	1
Definitely would not enroll	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	1	5	1

R=114, Filtered for respondents with children 4 to 14 years.

**Figure 33**  
**Certainty of enrollment (ages 4-14) if located on eastside of Monmouth**

Location: Eastside of Monmouth	Children by Age (Years)											Children 0-14 yrs	Average per Age
	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14		
Definitely would enroll	8	7	5	7	7	5	12	5	3	4	1	64	6
Likely would enroll	3	3	5	9	1	5	7	8	4	5	4	54	5
Uncertain about enrolling	4	2	4	2	3	0	7	1	2	5	5	35	4
Likely would not enroll	1	4	0	4	3	2	3	1	0	1	2	21	2
Definitely would not enroll	4	1	2	0	3	2	1	3	3	1	1	21	2

R=114, Filtered for respondents with children 4 to 14 years.

## E. COST OF EDUCATION

**Figure 34**  
**Family household income of respondents**

Answer	Number	Percent
Under \$30,000	7	5.0%
\$30,000 to \$44,999	10	7.2%
\$45,000 to \$59,999	22	15.8%
\$60,000 to \$79,999	33	23.7%
\$80,000 to \$99,999	29	20.9%
\$100,000 or more	38	27.3%
<b>Total Responses</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

*prefer not to answer = 15*

*R= 154; Skipped/Prefer Not to Answer Option = 15*

*Note: Filtered for respondents that are interested (DWE/LWE/Uncertain) in new Catholic high school*

**Figure 35**  
**Tuition willing and able to pay of respondents**

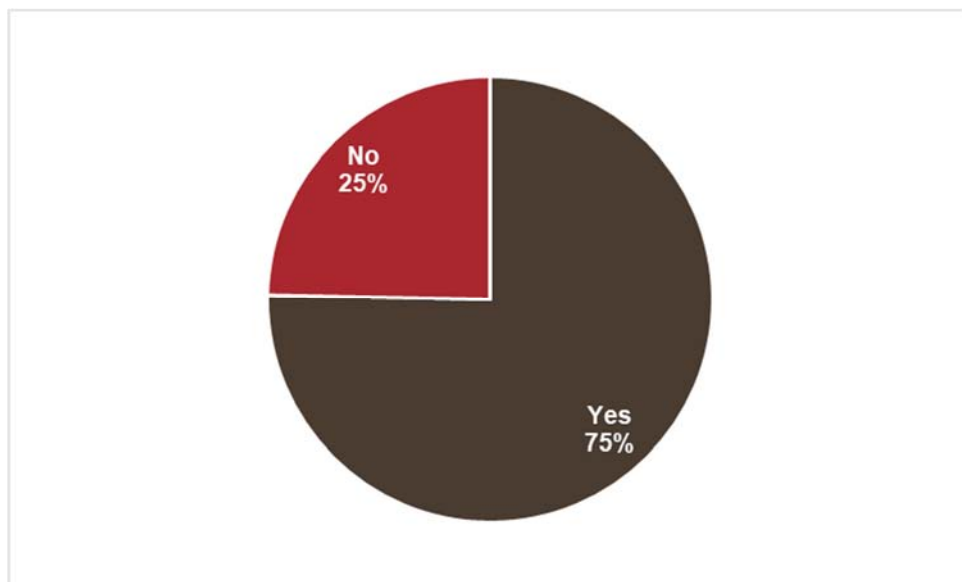
Households	9th Grade/10th Grade		
Answer	DWE	LWE	Uncertain
\$9,000 or more	4	6	0
\$8,000 - \$8,999	0	6	6
\$7,000 - \$7,999	23	12	10
\$6,000 - \$6,999	38	36	21
\$5,000 - \$5,999	15	14	16
Less than \$5,000	22	22	45
<b>Total Children 4-14 years</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>98</b>

*% children \$5,999 or less 36.3% 37.5% 62.2%*

*R=154*

*Note: Filtered for respondents that are interested in a new Catholic high school.*

**Figure 36**  
**Tuition assistance needed by respondents**



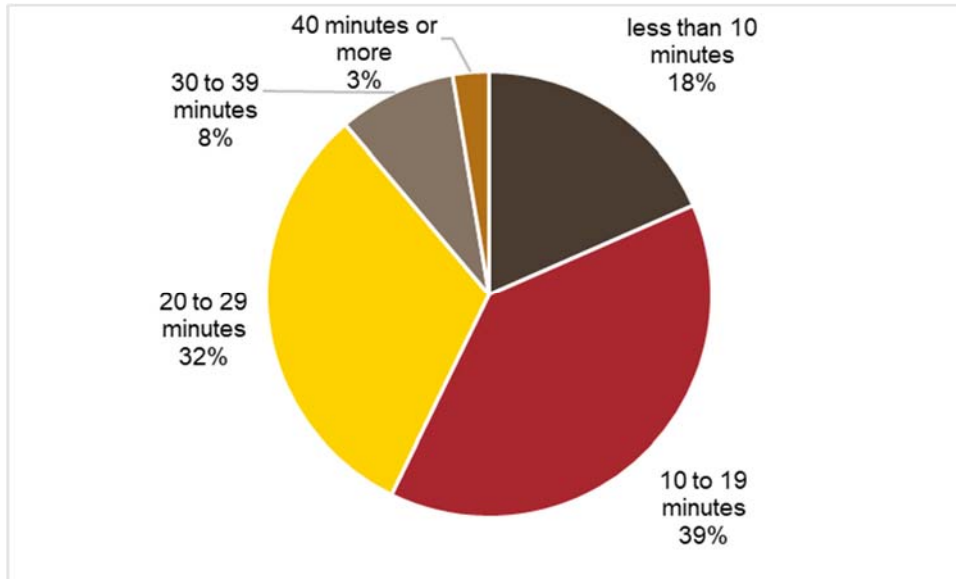
*R=154*

**How much financial assistance would you need to enroll?**

Answer	Count	Percent
A little (25%)	54	46.6%
Half of costs (50%)	40	34.5%
Most of the cost (75%)	17	14.7%
Full cost (100%)	5	4.3%
<b>Total Responses</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

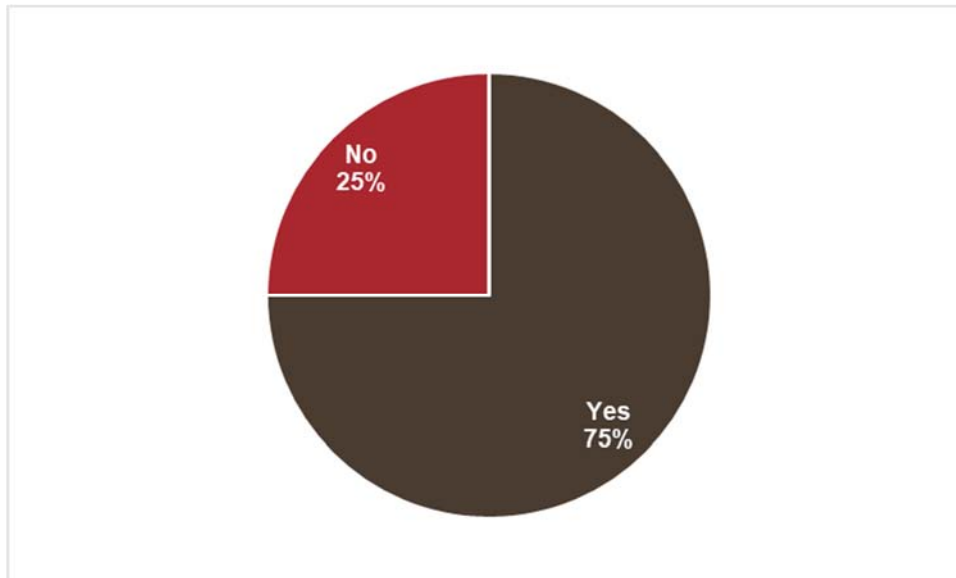
## F. TRAVEL TIME

**Figure 37**  
**Travel time**



R=152, 2 skipped. \*Filtered for Respondents that selected New High School as 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> Choice

**Figure 38**  
**Bus transportation need**



R=154

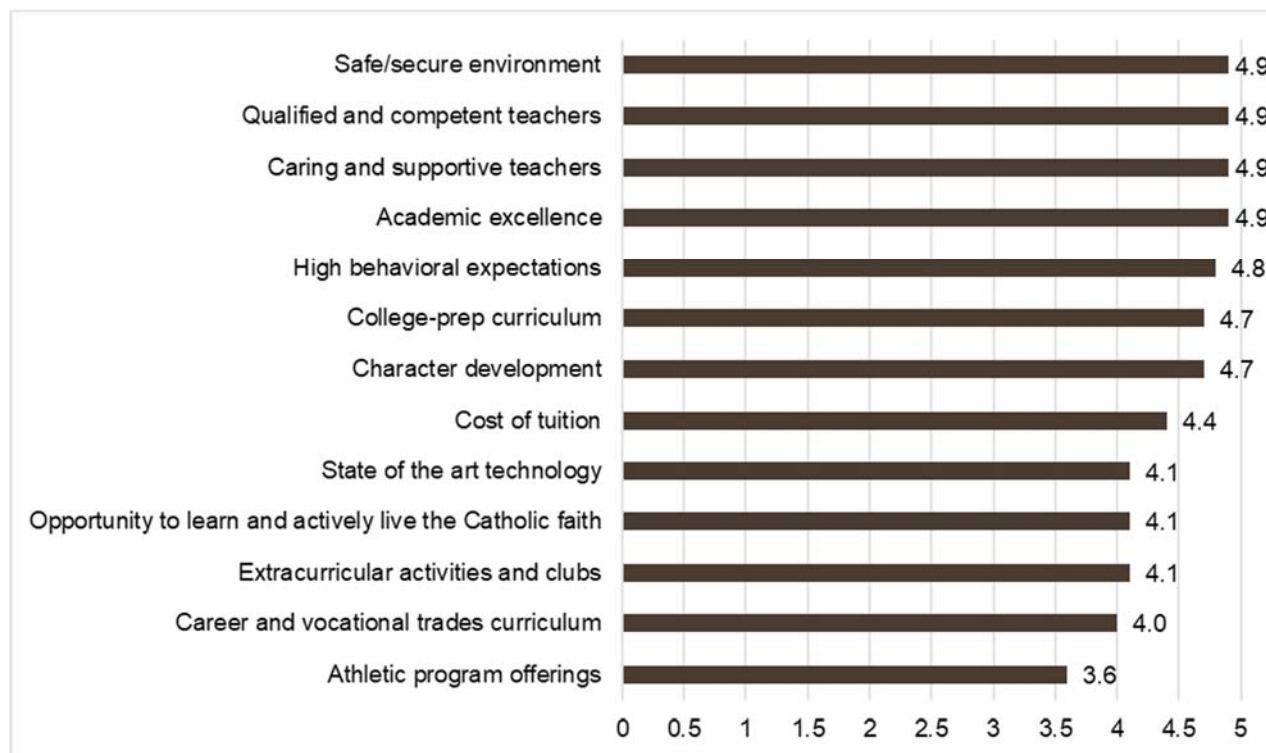


## G. DECISION MAKING FACTORS

**Figure 39**

**Decision factors by certainty to enroll**

*Q: When choosing a high school for your children, how important are these factors in your decision?  
Rate on a scale where 1 is 'Not Important' to 5 as 'Very Important'*



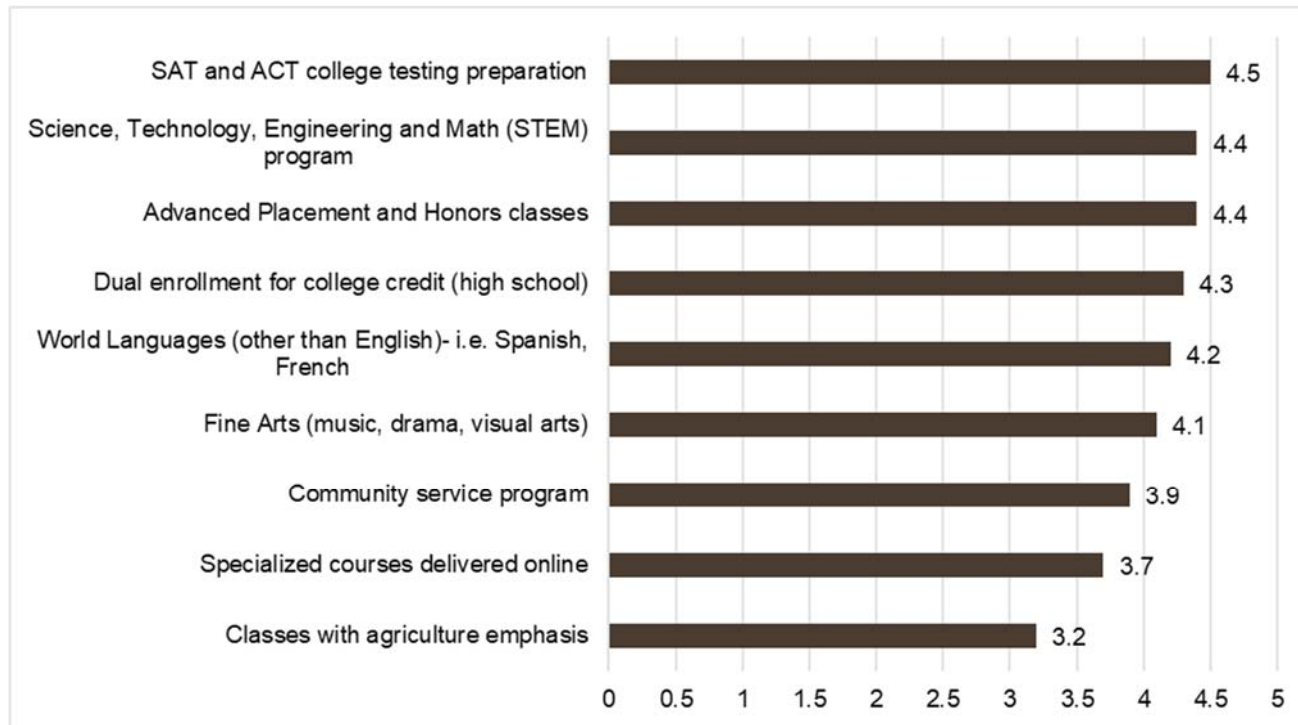
## H. PROGRAMS OF INTEREST

**Figure 40**

**Program importance by certainty to enroll**

*Q: How interested are you in the following education programs for your children if a new Catholic high school opens?*

*Rate on a scale were 1 is 'Less Desirable' to 5 as 'Very Desirable'.*



**Additional programs of interest:** Marching Band/Band (7), Orchestra/Strings (2), Accommodation for ASD/special learning needs (3), Financial literacy (2), Trades/experience driven program option to support local economy (3), FFA (1), Robotics (2), partnership of small interest clubs with local school clubs.

## LOCATION

If a high school were to open in Monmouth, focus groups suggested it has to be within quick reach of the bypass. This makes access from south and east easier.

If a high school were to open in Galesburg, and if a strong affiliation were made with Carl Sandburg College, it would have to be on the north side of the city, within quick reach highway 34, either the Henderson exit or the Main Street exit. New retail is going to this part of the city.

## SURVEY OBSERVATIONS

1. The majority of survey respondents were mothers. (Figure 21)
2. A variety of cities and towns in the target study area were represented with the majority of respondents residing in Galesburg, Monmouth, and Macomb. (Figure 22)
3. The largest group of respondents are parishioners at Immaculate Conception (19.5%), Corpus Christi (16%), Immaculate Heart of Mary (14%). 20.5% selected other Christian denomination, and 12.5% claim to not be a member of a church. (Figure 23)
4. The majority of respondents with elementary age students (grades PK4-8) represented currently have children enrolled at Costa Catholic Academy (80), Immaculate Conception Catholic School (42), Galesburg public schools (20), and St. Paul Catholic School (16). (Figure 25)
5. Of the 16 respondents with children currently attending St. Paul Catholic School, 14 (87.5%) are interested in a 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade at their school. However promising, this averages out to the potential enrollment of 3 students per grade.
6. Among the current options for high school, first choices among survey respondents are:
  - a. Galesburg High School (80 respondents, 127 children)
  - b. Monmouth-Roseville High School (31 respondents, 46 children)
  - c. Alleman Catholic High School (2 respondents, 5 children)
  - d. Notre Dame Jr./Sr. High School (4 respondents, 5 children)
  - e. Galesburg Christian School (7 respondents, 10 children)
  - f. United High School (14 respondents, 24 children)
  - g. All other public high schools (38 respondents, 55 children) (Figure 27)
7. When the proposed Catholic high school is introduced as an option for high school, 193 children opt for the Catholic high school. The results and subsequent shifts in numbers, for children 4 to 14 years of age, from the #6 observation above are:
  - a. Alleman Catholic High School: 100% shift to the new high school
  - b. Notre Dame Jr/Sr High School: 80% shift to the new high school
  - c. Galesburg High School: 53.5% shift to the new high school
  - d. Monmouth-Roseville High School: 86.9% shift to the new high school
  - e. Galesburg Christian School: 50% shift to the new high school (Figures 28 & 29)
8. Reasons to enroll include (*first choice, second choice*) : Academic excellence (37.4%, 29%), Catholic faith formation and instruction (26%, 19.1%), high behavioral expectations (10.7%, 16%) and safe environment (9.9%, 9.2%).
9. Reasons would not enroll (*first choice, second choice*) include: Cannot afford the tuition (29.9%, 15.6%), Academic offerings may be limited (14.3%, 9.1%), Location of the high school (14.3%, 10.4%), Need more information about the school (7.8%, 18.2%), Transportation may be a problem (6.5%, 15.6%) and Other write in (14.3%, 11.7%). Other written in responses included the Catholic identity of the proposed school may not really be practiced – reflection of the current community school is more “private” community than practicing Catholics, decreasing enrollment for 8<sup>th</sup> grade in Galesburg would not sustain

a high school, and the long list of opportunities and activities through the public school would not be possible at new school.

10. Of respondents with children 4 to 14 years of age who may enroll at the new Catholic high school for 9<sup>th</sup> grade as first choice, 59 indicated Definitely Would Enroll, 46 Likely Would Enroll, and 7 Uncertain. (Figure 30)
11. In terms of respondents' family household income, 27.3% indicate a level of \$100,000 or more. A tuition rate of \$6,800 would range from 6% of income for those earning \$100,000 or more, 6 – 8% for those earning \$80,000-\$99,999, and 8% to 10% for those earning \$60,000-\$79,999 annually. (Figure 25)
12. A total of 54.5% of respondents indicate they would be willing and able to pay \$6,000 or more, and 45.5% selected a level less than \$6,000. (Figure 35)
13. 75% of respondent show they would need tuition assistance. Only 19% would need a level of Most to Full Cost. 47% indicate they would need a little tuition assistance (25%). (Figure 36)
14. The majority of respondents indicate they would travel, or have their child travel a maximum of 10 to 29 minutes to attend a quality Catholic high school. Only 11% would consider 30+ minutes of travel for their children. (Figure 37)
15. Bus transportation would be needed for either site. 75% overall would need transportation. (Figure 38)
16. In terms of decision-making factors for high school, respondents indicate their key factors (in rank order) as:
  - a. Safe and secure school environment
  - b. Qualified and competent teachers
  - c. Caring and supportive teachers
  - d. Academic excellence
  - e. College prep curriculum
  - f. High behavioral expectationsOpportunity to learn and actively live the Catholic faith was in the 10<sup>th</sup> position as a key decision-making factor. (Figure 39)
17. Programs respondents were interested in for their children include, in rank order:
  - a. SAT and ACT preparation
  - b. Science, Technology, Engineering and Math program
  - c. Advanced Placement and Honors classes
  - d. Dual enrollment for college credit (high school)
  - e. World Languages (Figure 40)
18. Responses to respondents one key question to enroll at the new school include:
  - a. Class size or Student:Teacher Ratio
  - b. Cost for one child and for multiple children
  - c. Would the school be in an older renovated facility or in a brand new facility?
  - d. What kind of elective courses would be offered?

- e. What kind of athletics or extra-curricular activities offered?
- f. Location of the school
- g. Would school be able to provide considerations/services for students with allergies? (Epi pens on site, Nurse onsite, Allergen policies, etc)
- h. What will set this school apart from public school options?
- i. Would there be opportunities for college prep or credits at the college level?
- j. Sustainability of a high school in area, desire to know school will stay open, not close short of 4 years.
- k. Availability and adequacy of financial assistance and support to enroll.

## ENROLLMENT POTENTIAL

Preparation of enrollment potential for a new Catholic high school involves analysis of the demographic and Catholic data plus some assumptions about the intentions of the survey respondents. Objective data has been compiled, but interpretation of the data involves some subjective and experiential judgment.

The enrollment potential presented in Figures 41 and 42 are based on a methodology that has been used by Meitler in all new school feasibility studies. There are several key assumptions that are integrated into this analysis: projections and forecasts of demographic data are reasonable; the new school will provide a high quality and competitive Catholic educational program; the mission of the school will be distinctively Catholic; the new school will have a strong recruitment program and be marketed well with strong brand recognition; an effective governing structure will be in place.

The following shows the analysis used to arrive at the potential 9<sup>th</sup> grade class at the proposed new school site:

- Data from Figures 30-33 were used to determine how many of their children respondents said they would enroll in the proposed new school for 9<sup>th</sup> grade and, of that number, how certain the respondents were about their choice (definitely would enroll, likely would enroll, or uncertain).
- A positive 20% factor was added for “non-respondents”: situations where families may have missed the survey, family was on vacation the week of the survey, family never responds to surveys, etc.
- The responses of those who answered Likely Would Enroll or Uncertain about enrolling were discounted by a percentage because they indicated that they may not be able to afford tuition or provided other reasons. Sometimes these are offsetting factors.

When respondents are analyzed by choice of location, the potential for enrollment is greater with the “northside of Galesburg”. Given the population in and around Galesburg is 2.5 times that of Monmouth, more enrollment was expected for the Galesburg site.

**Figure 41a**  
**9<sup>th</sup> Grade Enrollment Potential**  
**Broad overview by total number of children**

Potential 9th Grade Enrollment	Avg. # of Children Per Age 4-14
"Definitely Would Enroll" in New Catholic High School	10
Increase by 20% to adjust for "non-respondents"	1.2
	12
Reduce by 11% to adjust for potential non-enrollment (due to cost)	0.89
<b>Subtotal "Definitely Would Enroll" Catholic children</b>	<b>11</b>
"Likely To Enroll" in New Catholic High School	8
Increase by 20% to adjust for "non-respondents"	1.2
	9.6
Reduce by 12% to adjust for potential non-enrollment (due to cost)	0.88
<b>Subtotal "Likely to Enroll" Catholic children</b>	<b>9</b>
"Uncertain About Enrolling" in New Catholic High School	1
Increase by 20% to adjust for "non-respondents"	1.2
	1.2
Reduce by 35% to adjust for potential non-enrollment (due to cost)	0.65
<b>Subtotal "Uncertain About Enrolling" Catholic children</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Total Potential 9th Grade Enrollment</b>	<b>21</b>

**Figure 41b**  
**10<sup>th</sup> Grade Transfer Enrollment Potential**  
**Broad overview by total number of children**

Potential 10th Grade Enrollment	Avg. # of Children Per Age 11-14
"Definitely Would Enroll" in New Catholic High School	4
Increase by 20% to adjust for "non-respondents"	1.2
	4.8
Reduce by 11% to adjust for potential non-enrollment (due to cost)	0.89
<b>Subtotal "Definitely Would Enroll" Catholic children</b>	<b>5</b>
"Likely To Enroll" in New Catholic High School	6
Increase by 20% to adjust for "non-respondents"	1.2
	7.2
Reduce by 12% to adjust for potential non-enrollment (due to cost)	0.88
<b>Subtotal "Likely to Enroll" Catholic children</b>	<b>7</b>
"Uncertain About Enrolling" in New Catholic High School	10
Increase by 20% to adjust for "non-respondents"	1.2
	12
Reduce by 35% to adjust for potential non-enrollment (due to cost)	0.65
<b>Subtotal "Uncertain About Enrolling" Catholic children</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Total Potential 10th Grade Enrollment</b>	<b>20</b>

**Figure 42**  
**Enrollment Potential by Location**

9/10th grade Enrollment by Location	Northside of Galesburg	Eastside of Monmouth
Potential 9/10th Grade Enrollment	Avg. # of Children Per Age 4-14	Avg. # of Children Per Age 4-14
"Definitely Would Enroll" in New Catholic High School	8	6
Increase by 20% to adjust for "non-respondents"	1.2	1.2
	9.6	7.2
Reduce by 11% to adjust for potential non-enrollment (due to cost)	0.89	0.89
<b>Subtotal "Definitely Would Enroll" Catholic children</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>7</b>
"Likely To Enroll" in New Catholic High School	7	5
Increase by 20% to adjust for "non-respondents"	1.2	1.2
	8.4	6
Reduce by 12% to adjust for potential non-enrollment (due to cost)	0.88	0.88
<b>Subtotal "Likely to Enroll" Catholic children</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>6</b>
"Uncertain About Enrolling" in New Catholic High School	4	4
Increase by 20% to adjust for "non-respondents"	1.2	1.2
	4.8	4.8
Reduce by 35% to adjust for potential non-enrollment (due to cost)	0.65	0.65
<b>Subtotal "Uncertain About Enrolling" Catholic children</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Total Potential 9/10th Grade Enrollment</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>17</b>



## CONCLUSIONS

The purpose of this feasibility study was to assess the enrollment potential of a new Catholic high school in the western area of the diocese. The following conclusions emerge from the analysis of the community demographic, parish and Catholic school data, insights and experience of diocesan leaders, input from Catholic elementary school principals, insights gained at parent focus groups, and contributions of Western Diocesan High School Study Committee members.

1. The desire and call for a new Catholic high school in the study area was evident in the parent focus groups and the survey results. There is an opportunity to fill a niche among the few educational options available. A Catholic high school would provide a significant new opportunity for faith formation and evangelization among new generations of students.
2. Survey responses indicate that approximately 21 children could enroll at the proposed high school for 9<sup>th</sup> grade, and 20 children could enroll for 10<sup>th</sup> grade. These numbers are without regard to location. Lower enrollment should be expected if the school is in Monmouth versus Galesburg. These numbers translate into a high school of about 100 students. More optimistic scenarios could be considered
3. A Catholic high school with 100 students would represent 4.7% of the public high school base population <sup>[1]</sup>, or a school of 130 students would represent 6.2% of the high school market. Given Catholic elementary schools have only at 4% to 5.6% market share, the 100 enrollment seems more in line with elementary trends. <sup>[1]</sup>*Note: Limited to school districts of Galesburg, Monmouth-Roseville, United.*
4. After the initial years, the enrollment could grow based on an optimistic scenario of strong reputation, strong brand, and high-quality education. Growth is not going to be significantly helped by population demographics.
5. Selling a new school with a 9th grade to parents and students is a challenge. The “pioneer” class needs to understand that the “full” high school experience will take several years to develop. Some parents may sit on the sidelines until the new school is a known and trusted entity. The speed with which the new school can realize the enrollment potential measured here will depend on the trust it builds among parishioners and constituents to deliver on its promises in the early years and to provide a high-quality education that is worth the cost parents are willing to pay.
6. A key consideration for a new high school is the ability and willingness of parents to meet tuition expectations. Financial assistance will be a significant need as there was a significant percentage of survey respondents (79%) who indicated they were willing and able to pay \$6,999 or less. This is a significant challenge in a school with a small enrollment. In the survey, 53% of respondents indicated they needed financial assistance for half or more of the cost of tuition.
7. Empower Illinois Scholarship program has potential to increase the capability of a new high school to provide tuition assistance in order to enhance enrollment among lower income families. But success depends on developing a consistently reliable donor base, which in 2018 was only \$31,000 and 9 donors between Galesburg and Monmouth.
8. Consider the possibility of a different Catholic school model where the high school is established as part of a 7-12 model or a K-12 model for the region. Advantages are these models unify the case for Catholic education for fund raising and marketing, eliminate brand competition among Catholic schools, and avoid duplication of administrative and business functions. It is notable that Galesburg Public Schools is moving to a 7-12 model, not that Catholic schools should be imitators, but this model should be considered as the community is more familiar with the model and will now have natural transition points at 7<sup>th</sup> grade and 9<sup>th</sup> grade.

9. A significant number of respondents selected “Likely Would Enroll” as well as “Definitely Would Enroll”, however parents may wonder what the school will actually offer and have in place for their children. The new school will need to prove itself to realize the enrollment potential measured in this study. The speed with which the new school can realize the enrollment potential measured here will depend on the trust it builds among parishioners and constituents to deliver on its promises in the early years.
10. Creative programming and educational methods will have to be utilized to manage an effective cost and maintain a reasonable tuition. This cannot be a traditional high school. To succeed, it has to look and operate different educationally and financially, different from probably any other Catholic high school in the diocese today or any other local high school programs. Investigate possibilities for collaborative partnerships with local colleges: examples are Carl Sandburg College, Monmouth College, Knox College, University of Illinois.
11. Initiating and implementing effective marketing and recruitment initiatives along with a quality program, a clear mission, and strong leadership and faculty are imperative in order to increase or sustain market share and enrollment.