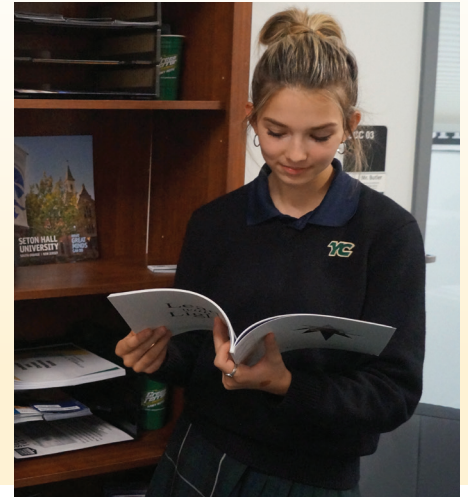


# The Truth About Catholic Schools: Busting 7 Myths

Essential Facts to Debunk Some Common Misconceptions You May Have Heard

Private Catholic schools have long held a vital place in the fabric of America's educational system, yet despite their enduring presence, myths and misunderstandings continue to shape the public's perception. Many people have never experienced the transformative atmosphere within the classrooms and hallways of a welcoming learning community like ours at York Catholic, so they make incorrect assumptions about everything from academic quality to questions around inclusivity. As a result, Catholic schools often find themselves under a cloud of misconceptions that are far from the truth.

We hope this myth-busting journey into tackling seven of the most common myths about Catholic schools and providing the real facts behind each offers a fresh perspective on what Catholic education truly entails.



## **MYTH #1** Catholic school is too expensive/ unaffordable for families.

*The Truth: Many Catholic educational institutions offer a range of financial assistance options that make them accessible to families from diverse economic backgrounds.*

Like other types of private schools, Catholic schools require tuition to cover a portion of the costs of educating each student. However, many programs exist that address concerns of affordability. According to the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA), the majority of Catholic schools provide some form of tuition assistance, including scholarships and personalized tuition contributions. Additionally, many Catholic schools benefit from parish support and donations that help make tuition more manageable for families. York Catholic offers an innovative Family Customized Tuition program, designed to tailor tuition contributions to each family's unique financial situation.

## **MYTH #2** Catholic school teachers aren't certified or can't get jobs elsewhere.

*The Truth: Catholic school teachers are incredibly passionate, highly qualified, and among the top in their fields.*

Catholic schools across the U.S. employ certified teachers who meet rigorous standards set by both the state and their diocese, often going beyond state requirements through advanced degrees and specialized training to meet the specific needs of Catholic education. YC teachers hold Pennsylvania state certification, and the faculty's credentials are impressive: many teachers have earned master's degrees, some hold doctorates, and two are even college professors.



Have Questions? **We are Here to Help.**

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**MYTH #3 Catholic school is only for people of the Catholic faith.**

*The Truth: While rooted in Catholic values, these schools welcome students from all backgrounds, embracing a community that mirrors the diversity of our society.*

While Catholic schools are rooted in Catholic values and traditions, they are far from exclusive to students of the Catholic faith. In fact, these schools actively welcome students from a wide range of religious, cultural, and socioeconomic backgrounds, embracing a diverse student body that reflects the communities around them. Families who prioritize a values-based education, regardless of their faith or background, often find Catholic schools to be an ideal environment where academic excellence is combined with character development and community service. This inclusive approach not only fosters respect for different beliefs but also prepares students to thrive in a multicultural world by emphasizing shared values like kindness, integrity, and compassion. At YC, we simply say **You Belong**.



**MYTH #4 Catholic school is where kids go when kicked out of public school.**

*The Truth: Catholic schools give serious consideration to behavioral records from a student's previous school in the admissions process.*

The misconception that Catholic schools serve as a “last resort” for students removed from other schools does not reflect the reality of Catholic education. Catholic schools have a long-standing tradition of high academic and behavioral standards, with clear codes of conduct and strict admissions processes that assess prospective students based on commitment to learning and character. Far from being a place for “problem” students, Catholic schools boast some of the highest graduation and college enrollment rates in the country. We invite you to explore the details of the YC Admissions Process as a key example! Visit [YorkCatholic.org/admissions/admissions-process](http://YorkCatholic.org/admissions/admissions-process) to learn more.

**MYTH #5 Catholic schools don't administer standardized tests.**

*The Truth: Catholic schools not only administer standardized tests but often excel in academic rigor, preparing students thoroughly for college and future careers.*

Catholic schools, including York Catholic, place a strong emphasis on academic achievement and college readiness, and standardized testing is an integral part of this commitment. Students in Catholic schools participate in a range of standardized assessments. Catholic schools frequently surpass national averages on these tests, demonstrating the strength of their curriculum and the quality of their teaching. At YC, students are prepared not only through classroom instruction but also through resources and support designed to maximize their test and college readiness.

**Have Questions? We are Here to Help. Keep Reading! —>**

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**MYTH #6 Catholic schools recruit athletes/only care about sports.**

*The Truth: While Catholic schools often have robust athletic programs, their primary focus is on holistic student development, emphasizing academics, character, and inclusivity across a range of extracurriculars.*

Athletics are valued among Catholic schools as an important part of student life, but they are by no means the singular focus. The misconception that Catholic schools recruit athletes or prioritize sports overlooks the well-rounded approach these schools take to education. Athletics are open to all students looking to be part of a team, make friends, and enjoy a balanced school experience. For example, York Catholic does not offer athletic scholarships and instead emphasizes inclusivity, encouraging students of all experience levels to participate in sports and develop valuable life skills like teamwork, resilience, and leadership.

**MYTH #7 Catholic schools have limited academic and extracurricular offerings.**

*The Truth: Catholic schools provide a wide range of academic and extracurricular opportunities, often rivaling or exceeding those at other schools, to ensure students can pursue their interests and excel.*

Catholic schools provide a rich array of academic programs, including advanced courses like Advanced Placement (AP) and college-credit classes. Catholic schools also have a wide selection of extracurricular activities, from athletics and performing arts to service clubs and more. At York Catholic, students have access to a robust curriculum that includes AP courses, College in the Classroom programs, and an extensive selection of classes through Virtual High School, offering over 230 online courses.



**Experience the YC Difference**

At York Catholic, we are committed to welcoming students with diverse talents, backgrounds, and interests, supporting their academic success, and empowering them for college and beyond. If you're curious about what YC can offer your family, we invite you to connect with our Admissions team to learn more and plan your personal campus visit. We look forward to helping answer any questions and welcoming you into our school community.

Have questions about our educational programs? **We invite you to get in touch.**