



## 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.** The installation of values such as respect, honesty, & integrity correlating with business practices. Graduates proven to have a record of effective decision making based on moral & ethical standards.
- b. **Solid academic education.** The ability to access, evaluate, & apply obtained information, problem solving, work force & 21<sup>st</sup> Century skills. Every student becomes a productive contributor to the world. (*See also #4*).
- c. **Leadership.** 90%+ of 7-12<sup>th</sup> grade students are involved in 1+ activities. (*See also #10*).
- d. **Service.** Stewardship is instilled at an early age through the gifts of time, talents, & treasures to local & international missions. Graduates serve in the church, civic organizations, school, community, & the less fortunate.

**3. What types of careers are alumni pursuing?**

- a. **Fr. Robert Gralapp ('56):** retired priest.
- b. **Kay Nuebel-Shimek ('67):** Twin Cities upscale restaurant owner.
- c. **Desiree Langel-Plorde ('77):** Sioux Falls, South Dakota physician.
- d. **Brian Singer ('89):** Business & Community Economic Development Program Director, CAMBA Economic Development Corporation, Brooklyn, NY; founder, Project Zwada (aids children in Africa).
- e. **Shaun Huls ('96):** Sports Science Coordinator, Philadelphia Eagles, Fall 2013.
- f. **Rick Herbst ('00):** Yale law degree; studied - Cambridge; Assistant Director for Public Interest, Notre Dame Law School.

**4. What is the student/teacher ratio average?** Average 16:1 (preK-12); 18-20:1 (preK-6).

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

- 72% (or 3 out of 4) students are eligible for financial aid.
- 10.6% of our faculty, staff, & 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?**

- |                             |                           |                          |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| • "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 (Principal) at ext. 228.
- **7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade:** JAYS (daily intervention program for all 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade students), Success Center, & ESL. Contact Mr. Jeff Alesch (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.

- **On-campus courses (through Briar Cliff University):** College English, Human Biology, Calculus, & Statistics.
- **Other courses:** Available at Gehlen Catholic & LCS.
- **Contact:** Mrs. Hausmann (7-12 School Psychologist) at ext. 245.
- **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 LeMars Community (LCS) & Western Iowa Tech (WIT).

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

- **Iowa Assessment 2015 fall highlights:** 7 out of 9 grades (3<sup>rd</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup>) had a class composite in the 90%-ile+ compared to their counterparts nationally.
- **ACT average composite (2016 graduates):** 22.3 (Gehlen); 22.0 (Iowa); & 21.0 (nation).

**13. What activities & leadership opportunities are offered?**

- **Elementary:** Clover Kids (4-H), art competitions, 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> grade band, OPUS Honor Choir, junior cheerleading & dance camps, KC Spelling Bee & Free Throw Contests, & writing contests.
- **90%+ of 7th-12th graders involved in 1+ activities:** Banking program, Christian Leadership Team, Students 4 Life, Youth Eucharistic Adorers, 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 - 1<sup>st</sup> Place in Class 1A at the Holiday Bowl. Elementary - PBIS Honor School.
  - **2014-2015:** Junior High DIY'ers - named the Verizon App Best in the State. 7<sup>th</sup> grader Sydney Livermore - national honors, American Legion Auxiliary Poppy Poster Contest. Quiz Bowl team - National Academic Champs, Small School Division. Senior, Michaela Bretey - National Merit Scholar. Senior, Aaron Britt - Iowa House Speaker Page.
  - **2015-2016:** Senior, Megan Kellen - Legion Auxiliary Girls' State – State Citizen of the Year. 7-peat at State - volleyball!

**14. What percentage of graduates pursue a higher education?** Nearly 100% of graduates (past 8 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. \$1,500 off tuition in year 1; \$750 off tuition in year 2; & no deduction for years 3+ (per student). *Restrictions may apply.* Contact Mr. Jeff Alesch (Principal) at ext. 223.

**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. Jackie Sitzmann (Asst. Business Manager) at ext. 250 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.
- **9<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> grade students who have been promoted from Spalding PK-8:** Contact Mr. Jeff Alesch (7-12 Principal) at ext. 223 for pick up times & locations.