



COLUMBUS CATHOLIC SCHOOLS HISTORY

- ***Scotus Central Catholic:*** For more than thirteen decades, Scotus Central Catholic has proudly served the needs of Catholic education in the Columbus, Nebraska area. First established by Franciscan Sisters on November 4, 1878 and given the name, St. Francis Academy in 1884, the school initially served primary through 10th grades. By 1910, the school offered 12 years of study and in 1915 the first organized Alumni Association for the school was established. Ten years later (1925), St. Bonaventure parish purchased St. Francis Academy and the school's name was changed to St. Bonaventure School. It was a free school serving both elementary and high school grades. St. Bonaventure High School received accreditation from the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools in 1941 and in 1952 the elementary classes were moved to a new grade school building. The last class of seniors graduated from St. Bonaventure H.S. in 1965.
- On November 25, 1964, a corporation was formed to establish a central Catholic high school supported by nine Columbus area parishes. A new 20 multi-purpose classroom and administrative facility was constructed and July 1, 1965, the school's name became Scotus Central Catholic High School. St. Bonaventure parish joined with eight other Columbus area parishes to form Scotus Central Catholic on July 1, 1965. The name for the high school was chosen to commemorate the Franciscan scholar, John Duns Scotus, and in tribute to the Franciscan tradition of the school.
- Today, Scotus Central Catholic is supported directly by the three parishes in Columbus and serves students in grades 7-12.

- ***St. Anthony's Elementary:*** St. Anthony's School and Church were founded in September 1913. For over 100 years our teachers have educated students to learn and live with Christ. The purpose of Catholic education is to provide young people with a strong religious foundation upon which to build the rest of their lives. St. Anthony's forms students in traditional values to build their lives on the message of the Gospel by proclaiming the "good news" in word and action.
- ***St. Bonaventure Elementary:*** Almost immediately after establishing a Catholic church in 1877, Columbus Catholic residents began planning to build a parish school. In 1878, that became a reality when the first Catholic school in Columbus was opened where the current Scotus Central Catholic High School is located. As the school grew and expanded, there was a need for a new elementary school to be built. On June 26, 1950, the first spade of earth was turned for the new St. Bonaventure Elementary School as well as a new convent building to house the sisters in this area. In 1990, a preschool program was started, which began in a small part of the convent building. As the preschool program grew, more room was needed. In 2004, a new preschool and childcare addition was added to the west end of the current elementary building.
- ***St. Isidore Elementary:*** St. Isidore School was established in 1965 by the late Father Francis Price, the founding pastor of St. Isidore Parish. The school experienced growth over the 1980's & 1990's. Then, in 2007, a new church was constructed adjacent to the school. In 2017, St. Isidore's Early Childhood Education facility was relocated to the renovated convent building on the southeast side of the property. This allowed our Early Childhood enrollment to increase by over 20%. The ability to continuously improve our school facilities has allowed for our school population to increase over the last 10 years. We are proud to be a growing parish and Catholic school in Columbus.