



## **Attachment P – Enrollment Trends at Visitation School**

### **Number of Students Enrolled (K-8)**

The overall enrollment at Visitation School has declined over the last nine years. Since 2016, the number of students enrolled in 2023 and anticipated in 2024 is down nearly 18% (*see enrollment charts below*). While the overall trend is down, the 2023-24 Kindergarten enrollment has increased significantly (+53%) as has the number of anticipated 8<sup>th</sup> Grade graduates (+25%) – an uptick that aligns more closely with trends reported by the National Catholic Education Association (NCEA).

### **Enrollment Trends: National and Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph**

A variety of factors have led to a recent increase in Catholic school enrollment according to the National Catholic Education Association. These contributing factors include instability due to the COVID-19 pandemic, decreasing test scores, and increasing violence.

Many of these challenges in K-12 education have caused parents to seek alternative learning environments to better prepare their students for college and a competitive workforce, while developing their spiritual growth.

The National Catholic Education Association reports that Catholic school enrollment increased by 3.8 percent in the 2021-22 academic year - the first increase in two decades and the largest ever recorded.

In the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph, similar trends are being recorded. Enrollment in the 2021-22 school (which includes pre-K through 12th grade) rose 3.6 percent over the previous year. For 2022-23, enrollment grew by 9 percent.

The increase for the 2022-2023 school year is small but follows a trend of several years of growth that began after the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. Enrollment dropped sharply in the early stages of the pandemic, falling 6.4% from 2019-2020 to 2020-2021 — the largest decline in the 50 years since the NCEA started collecting enrollment data.

The numbers recovered in the 2021-2022 school year, rising to record levels in some dioceses. Nationwide, Catholic enrollment jumped from 1.63 million to 1.69 million, an increase of more than 3.5%. Though the statistics show that enrollment has not yet reached pre-pandemic levels — 1.74 million students enrolled in 2019 — the reversal is notable, as before the pandemic enrollment was trending down by 2% to 3% each year.

### **Early Education and Kindergarten Trends**

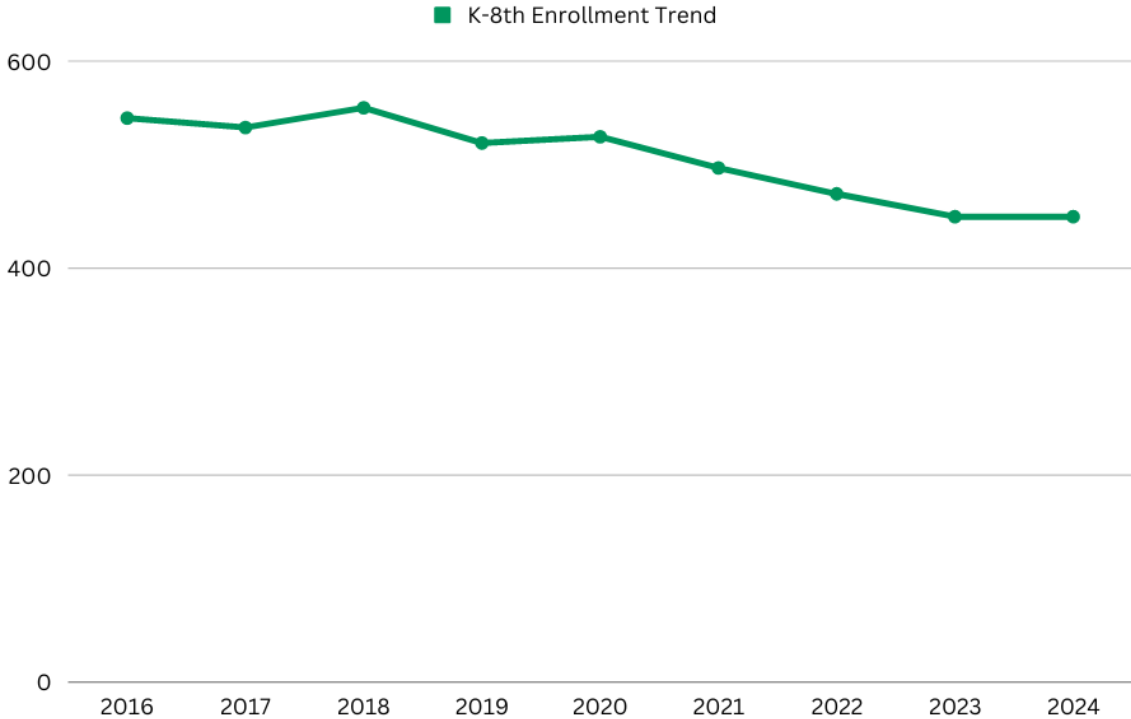
Additionally, the NCEA reports kindergarten enrollment is up by 1% compared with before the pandemic. The organization reports that kindergarten enrollment is a predictor of future Catholic school growth.

In every region except the Mideast and Great Lakes, early childhood enrollment increased from the 2019-2020 to 2022-2023 school years. This growth is a positive sign of the long-term viability of Catholic schools should they retain these students in kindergarten and beyond.

### Visitation School: K-8 Enrollment

Year	Number of Students	Percentage Change
2015-16	545	
2016-17	536	- 1.7%
2017-18	555	+3.5%
2018-19	521	-6%
2019-20	527	+1%
2020-21	497	-5.7%
2021-22	472	-5%
2022-23	450	-4.7%
2023-24	447	-.6%

### Visitation School Kindergarten thru 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Enrollment Trend 2016-2024



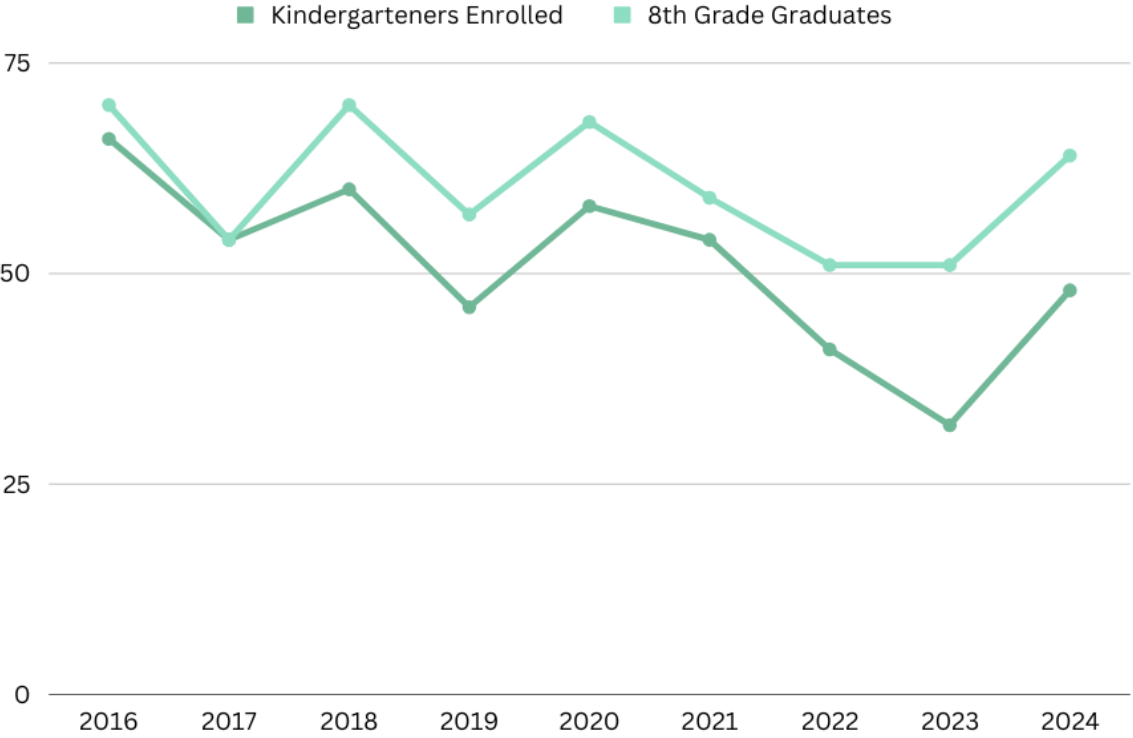
### Visitation School: Kindergarten Enrollment

Year	Number of Students	Percentage Change
2015-16	66	
2016-17	54	-18%
2017-18	60	+11%
2018-19	46	-23%
2019-20	58	+26%
2020-21	54	-7%
2021-22	41	-24%
2022-23	32	-22%
2023-24	49	+53%

### Visitation School: Number of 8th Grade Graduates

Year	Number of Students	Percentage Change
2015-16	70	
2016-17	54	-23%
2017-18	70	+30%
2018-19	57	-18%
2019-20	68	+19%
2020-21	59	-13%
2021-22	51	-13%
2022-23	51	0%
2023-24	64 (anticipated)	+25%

# Visitation School: Kindergarten Enrollment and 8th<sup>th</sup> Grade Graduates Trend 2016-2024



**Sources:** National Catholic Education Association (NCEA), Visitation School, Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph.