

News Release

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Siena Catholic Academy to offer 6th Grade next fall

Siena Catholic Academy in Brighton will become the Diocese of Rochester's only stand-alone middle school with the addition of a 6th Grade program in the 2015/16 school year. Siena, located on the campus of St. Thomas More Church in Brighton, currently serves 7th and 8th Grade students.

"We believe that a three-year experience at Siena will allow the faculty and staff to develop closer, longer-lasting and faith-filled relationships with students and their families during these particularly important years in a young person's formation," said Mr. Anthony Cook, diocesan director of Faith Formation Ministries and Superintendent of Catholic Schools.

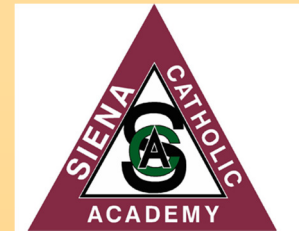
The decision to add a 6th Grade at Siena was approved by The Most Reverend Salvatore R. Matano, Bishop of Rochester, after consultation with pastors, school principals, and the Diocesan School Board.

Mr. Cook said the new offering at Siena strengthens the Diocese of Rochester's commitment to provide families with Catholic education from preK-8th Grade to prepare them for the area's Catholic high schools.

Siena recently initiated a strategic planning process that will now include planning for the 6th Grade under the direction of Mr. Martin Kilbridge, principal.

"As we move forward, we are overjoyed that we will be able to extend the rich academic, social, and athletic programs we offer to incoming 6th-graders," Mr. Kilbridge said.

"We are particularly hopeful that families who have not experienced Catholic education will look at our school as a place to send their middle-schoolers, a place where they can safely and confidently grow to be people of integrity who are ready to transform the world," he added.
(more)



OPEN HOUSE

Siena Catholic Academy will hold an Open House on November 5, 2014, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Prospective students and their families can tour the school and speak with faculty, current students, parents and alumni. All are welcome. For more information, visit sienacatholic.org or call 585-381-1220.

Mr. Kilbridge has enlisted the help of retired Siena Principal Tim Leahy, who served the school for many years, to develop an outstanding 6th Grade program.

Parish-run schools in Monroe County will determine whether to continue to offer a 6th Grade option in the 2015/16 academic year in addition to the offering at Siena.

Siena serves students from more than 20 public school districts and nearly 50 Catholic parishes. About 85 percent of graduates go on to attend a Catholic high school. Siena's mission is to educate a diverse student body spiritually, academically, and socially in a state-of-the-art setting that encourages growth in faith and moral responsibility rooted in the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church. Students and families of all faiths are welcome. For more information on Siena Catholic Academy, visit the school's website at www.sienacatholic.org. Ω