

Catholic Education...*Oh What a Gift!*



Elise DeCola

School: St. Mary Catholic, Pre-k thru 6th

Elise is from Ney, Ohio. She is engaged and attends The University of Findlay.

When I went to school at St. Mary's, I never really thought about the impact that it would have on my life. It wasn't until I was older that I appreciated the fact that I was able to go to a Catholic school where I practiced my faith every day and went to mass every week with my friends. I think one of the reasons that I am who I am today is because I went to a small school where things more than a curriculum were taught. Honesty, love, charity and many other values were instilled in me while I went to school there, and they are values I have carried with me all my life. I think that the reason for many of my successes is due to the fact that I went to St. Mary's. I don't think I would have as great of a relationship with my family or my fiancé if it weren't for what I was taught at school at such a young age. I think that Catholic education is wonderful! It gives a child so much more than an education. It truly is a fantastic gift that I wish more children had the chance to experience.



Sandy Diehl School: Delphos St. John's Catholic School, 1st-9th

Sandy is married to Dave; they have 2 grown daughters and reside in rural Defiance.

In grade school I loved hearing Bible stories, especially the story about Joseph and the coat of many colors. Fr. Hanascek's stories of life behind the iron curtain, May crowning, Lenten projects, sewing buttons on dresses to send to New Guinea in Sister Gregory's home-ec class, and spiritual bouquets, are some of my fondest memories.

I know that everything I learned and experienced at Delphos St. John's has made me sensitive to the needs of others. Jesus Christ is my personal friend and it makes me sad when I realize I haven't followed His rules and in other words, failed to be loving. I also know the healing power of His Sacraments.

I would want the same available for not only my children, but everyone possible. Kids have their attention pulled in so many directions these days; it can be difficult to know healthy alternatives. Catholic schools can make a lasting difference for our entire world. Excellent academics and a heart for God is a winning combination regardless what happens in our lives.

"Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it"

~Proverbs 22:6