



Catholic Development Office

P.O. Box 654 † Hartington, NE 68739

(402) 254-3912

January 2025

Dear Cedar County Catholic School Parents & Students,

For the past twenty-nine years, the Cedar County Catholic Schools Gala has been essential support for our Catholic schools. In that time, the Gala has netted approximately \$6.31 million, which has truly been a remarkable accomplishment by all involved.

Gala 2024 netted over \$416,955., an average of over \$981.00 per Catholic school student in all three of our schools which saved parents that per student cost. The Gala provides budget assistance to our Catholic Schools to offset parents having to afford more tuition per student.

The Gala has had this success because of the hard work and generosity of many people. We are truly grateful for all the people that contribute to this effort to allow the tradition of Catholic education to continue.

An important component to the Gala is the Gala Raffle. The Raffle was started as a way for our students to contribute to the success of this event. In 2024, the Gala Raffle earned over \$41,448. The students did a fantastic job of reaching the student goal! Thank you in advance for making the 2025 Gala Raffle as successful.

Gala 2025 raffle ticket packets will be out to students soon. There are many rewarding incentives available to students again this year. [Please read the enclosed Gala Raffle Rules for more details outlining the great prizes and incentives students can win.](#) Gala Raffle Alumni letters will be mailed during Catholic Schools Week to add to student ticket goals.

It is very important for every student to sell all the ticket books assigned to them to reach the Gala Raffle goal of \$40,000. Every student selling the 6 books of tickets assigned makes it possible to make the Raffle successful and earn student incentives. The number of raffle tickets each student needs to sell has only changed once in 15 years of the Gala Raffle. So 6 books sold per student is realistic.

Selling all the tickets assigned can be a lot of responsibility on families especially with several children. But again, the benefit per student the Gala helps families, offsets selling or buying tickets. Families, alumni, and grandparents in our parish system, and neighboring areas are not mailed the student raffle letters that regional alumni receive. This gives students the opportunity to sell tickets to local friends and relatives.

[It is important to start selling your tickets as soon as you get your ticket packets.](#)

Reminders:

- Make sure your **full name AND grade** are on the back of each ticket sold to be counted toward student rewards. The Catholic Development Office and school secretaries will not track names on the back of sold tickets. **No student name on the back of sold tickets results in students not being eligible to win the prize money for selling a winning ticket.**
- **[All sold and unsold tickets must be returned.](#)** All tickets are tracked by number for which we have to account for state audit reports. [Unsold tickets must be returned or paid for as well as the sold tickets.](#) Read the raffle rules for details. We ask for everyone's cooperation with the tickets.
- The Eighth Grade, Freshmen, and Sophomore classes and parents are needed to help at the Gala (and Blitz.) The students help with clean up and as table servers and clearers. The parents will be table overseers and kitchen helpers. Parent helpers will not be needed for the entire evening pending the time you sign up for, but will also be able to enjoy part of the festivities. Letters with parent/student dinner helper assignments will be sent to all Eighth Grade, Freshmen, and Sophomore parents. Please refer to that letter for details.

Everyone doing our part shows appreciation to the many donors and buyers of Gala gifts. Thank you.

Chad Cattau

Cedar Catholic Jr.—Sr. High School Principal

Stacy Uttecht

Holy Trinity Elementary School Principal

Sonya Schroeder

East & West Catholic Elementary School Principal

Joani Potts

Cedar Co. Catholic Schools & Parishes
Development Director