Archdiocese of Omaha

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 25, 2026

Archbishop McGovern Announces New Career and Technical Education Initiative for Archdiocese of Omaha Catholic Schools

New associate superintendent position and multi-school pilot will expand hands-on career pathways for students across northeast Nebraska

OMAHA, Neb. — Archbishop Michael McGovern today announced a new Career and Technical Education initiative for Archdiocese of Omaha Catholic Schools, a multi-year effort to expand hands-on, career-connected learning opportunities for thousands of Catholic school students across northeast Nebraska.

"I believe every young person needs the opportunity to make a living, so that they can make a good life," said Archbishop McGovern. "This initiative will empower every student — no matter what field he or she is ultimately called to pursue — to discover and develop the God-given abilities that will shape their future. A Catholic education is for every child."

The K-12 initiative is the first such effort by a diocesan school system in the United States and will begin with a pilot phase in the 2027-2028 school year, bringing early exposure in career and technical education to six Catholic schools:

- **Norfolk Catholic Junior and High School** - Norfolk,
- **St. Joseph Elementary School** – Atkinson,
- **Christ the King Catholic School** - Omaha,
- **Skutt Catholic High School** - Omaha,
- **All Saints Catholic School** - Omaha
- **And Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic School -** Omaha

These schools will offer hands-on learning experiences, career exploration activities, and early partnerships with local employers and technical institutes tailored to the student's age levels with the goal of applying those lessons as the program expands to additional Catholic schools across the archdiocese in future years.

A newly created position, the associate superintendent for career and technical education, will oversee the initiative across our Catholic schools system, working directly with school leaders to

assist in implementation and to build relationships with local businesses, industry groups, and higher education partners.

"This initiative will broaden students' understanding of the possibilities for their future while helping them apply what they learn in meaningful, real-world settings," said the Archdiocese of Omaha's Superintendent of Catholic Schools Vickie Kauffold. "In the years ahead, Catholic school students will have expanded opportunities for exploratory, hands-on learning through specialized lessons, tabletop exercises, in-field experiences, apprenticeships and more."

"Expanding access to Career and Technical Education in our Catholic schools will not only meet workforce development needs in northeast Nebraska, but this initiative will also help more families to choose a Catholic education," said Rick Bettger, owner of Omaha Car Care and a member of the archdiocese's Career and Technical Education Viability Task Force.

Informed by the work of the Career and Technical Education Viability task force, this initiative reflects the Archdiocese of Omaha's belief that Catholic education forms the whole person — mind, body, and spirit — and that college and career readiness and spiritual and academic formation go hand in hand. Additional details, including how families and community partners can get involved, are available at **schools.archomaha.org**.

About Archdiocese of Omaha Catholic Schools

Archdiocese of Omaha Catholic Schools is comprised of 63 elementary and high schools across the 23 counties of the Archdiocese of Omaha, responsible for the instruction of approximately 19,000 students. Rooted in the Catholic faith, the schools form students in mind, body, and spirit and prepare them for lives of purpose, service, and leadership.

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