



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

March 5, 2024

Tuesday of the Third Week of Lent

Dear Brothers in Christ,

It is with great joy that we announce St. Isidore of Seville Catholic Virtual School is now accepting applications for K-12 Catholic education set to begin this August.

St. Isidore of Seville Catholic Virtual School is a duly formed charter school under Oklahoma law and is also a privately operated Catholic school. It is fully Catholic in its curriculum and mission. It is the first religious charter school in the nation and will allow us to bring Catholic education to Catholic and non-Catholic students across Oklahoma **at no cost to the families**. There is no tuition to attend St. Isidore.

This new education opportunity will give us the ability to reach families in all corners of our state, especially in rural areas of Oklahoma, which have limited or no Catholic educational options. St. Isidore welcomes both Catholic and non-Catholic students who believe this model of education will be a great benefit to them.

For our Catholic families, this is a tremendous pastoral opportunity to assist them in passing on the Catholic faith to their children. For all students, it is an opportunity to be formed in what is true, good, and beautiful.

Please direct parents to visit the St. Isidore website at <https://stisidorevirtualschool.org/>.

Will there be faith formation and a Sacramental life?

Yes. The faith formation and sacramental life program of the school are intended to support and reinforce both the domestic church and the local parish community. Once the geographic information of students is known, the school will begin to seek out partner parishes willing to serve as hubs for occasional gatherings of local students. These are spaces where a small group of students, parents and educators can gather for Mass, confession, academic electives, tutoring, or extracurricular activities once or twice a month.

Two all-school Masses will be offered each year – one in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City and one in the Diocese of Tulsa – giving students, faculty, and families an opportunity to come together and pray as a part of the larger church. All other Masses will be served through a family's local parish or parishes willing to serve as hub locations.



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

Online prayer services, scripture study through *Lectio Divina Visio Divina*, the Rosary, theology classes, study of the saints, virtue development, and service to family and community will round out the catechetical formation and sacramental life of our Catholic students. Non-Catholic students are also welcome to participate in this formation.

Any efforts to accommodate requests for Mass, confession or to serve as guest speakers will be much appreciated. Lara Schuler, lschuler@sisevs.org or Misty Smith, msmith@sisevs.org can be contacted to discuss potential parish hub opportunities.

What is the academic program?

St. Isidore of Seville Catholic Virtual School will be a K-12 Catholic academic program steeped in the richness of the Catholic intellectual tradition with an integrated curriculum where goodness, truth, and beauty are infused throughout all subjects.

Curriculum resources will be chosen in all subjects to enlighten and strengthen the intellectual capacity of children to seek truth through faith and reason. To this end, great care is being taken to ensure proper alignment in the curriculum is maintained.

Catholic liberal education is rooted in the study of the seven liberal arts broken into two overarching categories: the Trivium or the Art of Language; and the Quadrivium or the Art of Number.

Joy in learning comes from an alignment of the humanities, the art of language, that allows for discovery of truth through the integrated study of history, literature, and theology. This combined with the art of number, the study of God's well-ordered universe in math and sciences – earth, physical, biology, chemistry, astronomy, technology, music, and architecture – are all wrapped in the beauty of the fine arts which span both categories.

Internet technology via Chromebooks as well as hands-on materials will be the tool in which we bring these timeless treasures to our young people. Our program, while uniquely Catholic, will meet or exceed the requirements of the state charter agreement as well as graduation requirements for seniors.

St. Isidore of Seville Catholic Virtual School will also be able to meet the special needs of most students within the capacity of a virtual model, allowing a Catholic education for exceptional learners.



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

What can you do to help?

We encourage you to make families aware of this new educational opportunity in your bulletins, social media, and personal conversations. A flier explaining the program and announcing the application process is enclosed. Interested families can visit the school's website at siscvs.org or specifically Admissions - St. Isidore of Seville Catholic Virtual School - Oklahoma City, OK (stisidorevirtualschool.org) and apply or enter information into the interest form to receive more information.

Bulletin Announcement:

A new Oklahoma Catholic school that is online and tuition free! St. Isidore of Seville Catholic Virtual School is now accepting applications for K-12 Catholic education set to begin this August.

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Families who have already expressed interest are in the process of being contacted.

St. Isidore will be a tremendous blessing to those in Oklahoma who would otherwise not have access to a Catholic education. Legal challenges still exist, but we remain strong in our pursuit of this worthy endeavor. We ask for your prayers and will continue to pray for you and your parishes.

St. Isidore of Seville, pray for us.

Yours in Christ,

Most Rev. David A. Konderla
Bishop of Tulsa & Eastern Oklahoma