Louisiana Catholic School Student of the Year

Diocese of Alexandria

Diocese of Baton Rouge

Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux

Diocese of Lafayette

Diocese of Lake Charles

Diocese of Shreveport

Archdiocese of New Orleans

2026-2027

OVERVIEW:

The Louisiana Catholic Student of the Year program is open to students attending all Louisiana Catholic schools in each of the respective grades 5, 8, and 12 that meet the criteria for eligibility.

The Louisiana Catholic School Student of the Year program is designed to recognize outstanding students who have demonstrated excellence in discipleship, leadership, service, citizenship, and academic achievement.

GENERAL PROCESS:

Each diocese submits an information form to the Louisiana Catholic School Student of the Year coordinator, which includes diocesan SOY facilitator contact information and process dates and descriptions. Each diocese is responsible for determining a student nomination process for schools that is universally consistent and equitable. At the diocesan level, each must adhere to the guidelines outlined for determining the nomination for the state level.

By deadlines set forth by each individual diocese, schools are to submit portfolios and applications. From there, the diocesan facilitator coordinates a diverse panel of judges, made up of representatives from various ethnic and racial groups, as well as representatives from various areas of the diocese. None of the judges shall at present be directly affiliated with a particular school, but all should possess the skills to evaluate writing and conduct interviews. The panel of judges will review portfolios according to criteria, and conduct interviews.

Once the judging is completed, winning portfolios and applications (one per each of the three grade levels) are to be sent to the Louisiana Catholic School Student of the Year coordinator via email or in a shared drive by the established deadline.

On a preannounced date, all diocesan student of the year winners (21 students total) will report to a predetermined location for the writing assessment and interview to be conducted by a panel of judges chosen by the superintendents or designees. Following that day, the state winners will be determined.

In the spring, a reception will be held for all diocesan students of the year, and winners will be announced.

Winners will be submitted to the Louisiana BESE board for announcement.

STUDENT ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

-At least a 3.2 grade point average during the past three years and 1st grading period of the current year. (For example, a 5th grader would consider 2nd, 3rd, 4th grade years and most recent grading period)

-Notable activity in areas of leadership, service, discipleship, and citizenship

LOUSIANA CATHOLIC SCHOOL
STUDENT OF THE YEAR

Diocesan Intent to Participate

(to be emailed to Nicole Jefferson, nolaocs@gmail.com by October 12, 2026)

(Arch)Diocese:_____

Superintendent:_____

Name of Student of Year Facilitator for the Diocese:

_____

Position:_____

Email Address:_____

Phone Number:_____

LOUSIANA CATHOLIC SCHOOL

STUDENT OF THE YEAR

Diocesan Winners and Judges Information
(Email to Nicole Jefferson, nolaocs@gmail.com **by February 15, 2027)**

(Arch)Diocese:_____

Superintendent:_____

Name of Student of Year Facilitator for the Diocese:

_____

List below the diocesan student of the year winners.

Upload a copy of each portfolio in its entirety and send via Google link to nolaocs@gmail.com by February 15, 2027

5th grade Student of the Year Name:_____

School:_____

8th grade Student of the Year Name:_____

School:_____

12th grade Student of the Year Name:_____

School:_____

Each diocese is to select two impartial judges to spend the day on March 5, 2027, in New Orleans where the state judging will take place through writing assessments and interviews.

Judges who will represent the Diocese on March 5th (each diocese is to send two):

1. Name:_____

Position/Occupation:_____

Address:_____

City:_____ State:_____ Zip:_____

Email Address:_____

Cell Phone:_____

2.Name:_____

Position/Occupation:_____

Address:_____

City:_____ State:_____ Zip:_____

Email Address:_____

Cell Phone:_____

LOUISIANA CATHOLIC SCHOOL
STUDENT OF THE YEAR
Student Guidelines and Application

PORTFOLIO REQUIREMENTS:

- All information must be contained in order in a 1" binder no larger than 11.5"X12"
- Pages may be encased in page protectors, but it is not required, and is **not to exceed 30 pages** total.
- Contents:
    - Cover page with the name of school and grade
    - Application/Signed consent forms – note that application must be typed
    - Academic records:
        - Transcripts
        - Report cards for the past three years and the current grade report
        - Most recent standardized test results
    - Attendance record
    - Autobiographical sketch (see instructions below)
    - Information about activities, awards, discipleship, etc.
    - Any additional information- student choice
    - Archdiocesan finalists will be asked to submit a digital copy prior to the statewide Louisiana Catholic School Student of the Year Competition. **Please do not include any photographs in your protfolio.**

INSTRUCTIONS FOR AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

The autobiographical sketch should be written in essay form and provides students with the opportunity to share their story, personality, and values while also demonstrating their writing ability.

Students should thoughtfully reflect on their life experiences and express who they are as individuals and disciples. The essay should be well-organized, engaging, and clearly written in the student's own voice.

The autobiographical sketch should include:

- Basic family background and personal interests
- Church involvement and faith life
- Extracurricular activities, leadership roles, and community service
- Career aspirations or future goals
- At least three things that inspire, motivate, or are important to the student

This essay is not simply a list of accomplishments—it should **tell a story** about who the student is, what they value, and how their Catholic faith has shaped their growth and actions.

Formatting note:

- Must be typed and easy to read (use a clear, standard font and size)
- Should reflect appropriate grammar, spelling, and organization

LOUISIANA CATHOLIC SCHOOL

STUDENT OF THE YEAR

STUDENT APPLICATION

All information on the application must be clearly typed:

Name of Applicant:

_____

(First) (Middle) (Last)

Grade:_____

Home Address:_____

City_____ State_____ Zip_____

Name of Parent/Guardian:

_____

(First) (Middle) (Last)

Email:_____

_____ _____ _____

Home Phone Cell Phone Work Phone

Name of School:

_____

(Arch) Diocese:_____

School Address:_____

City_____ State_____ Zip_____ Phone:_____

Name of School Principal/Head of School:_____

Email Address:_____

Parent/Guardian Statement:
I hereby grant permission for my child to participate in the Louisiana Catholic School Student of the Year program. I authorize access and use of any school records and demographic information necessary for this competition and any subsequent press release of information about the competition with regard to my child to the Louisiana Conference of Catholic Bishops, Louisiana State Department of Education and the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE), universities, and news media.

Printed Name of Parent/Guardian:_____

Signature:_____

Date:_____

Student Statement:
I certify that the information on this application is correct and that all work submitted is indeed mine.

Printed Name of Student:_____

Signature:_____

Date:_____

Video Consent

I, _____, as the parent or legal guardian of _____, do hereby perpetually and irrevocably grant to the Louisiana State Catholic School Student of the Year coordinator and designees permission to record his or her likeness and/or voice with media of coordinators' choice, and to reproduce, display, and/or make derivative works for purposes of this program.

I do hereby waive any right to inspect or approve the images and/or recordings that may be used. I further waive any claim that I may have with respect to the eventual use to which any of them may be applied.

Name:_____

Signature:_____

Date:_____

List of Activities, Recognition, and Awards

Leadership: List all elected or appointed leadership positions in the school, community, or church. Number or bullet each position.

School Leadership Positions	Year	Activity or Organization

Extra-Curricular Leadership Positions	Year	Activity or Organization

Community Leadership Positions	Year	Activity or Organization

Church Leadership Positions	Year	Activity or Organization

Service, Discipleship, Citizenship: List all activities in the school, community, or church. Number or bullet each activity.

Description of Activity	Year	Service, Discipleship, or Citizenship

Awards and Accolades: List any honors or recognitions that you have received in the school, community, or church. Number or bullet each entry.

Description of Honor	Year	Organization

LOUSIANA CATHOLIC SCHOOL

STUDENT OF THE YEAR

Scoring Rubric

FIFTH GRADE:

I. Application Portfolio
- a. Leadership/Discipleship/Service/Citizenship ____/34 points
- b. Recognitions/Awards ____/10 points

TOTAL: ____/44 points

II. Academic Evaluation
- a. Grade Point Average ____/3 points
- b. Assessments ____/3 points

TOTAL: ____/6 points

III. Writing Sample Evaluation
- a. Clarity and Continuity of Thought ____/5 points
- b. Relevance to Topic/Originality/Engagement level ____/5 points
- c. Organization, Elaboration, Detail support ____/5 points
- d. Sentence Structure ____/5 points
- e. Grammar, Capitalization, Punctuation and Spelling ____/5 points

TOTAL: ____/25 points

IV. Interview
- a. Poise/ Confidence ____/2 points
- b. Ability to Convey Ideas ____/2 points
- c. Verbal Fluency ____/2 points
- d. Voice Projection ____/2 points
- e. Focus on Topic ____/2 points
- f. Use of facts to support response ____/2 points
- g. Flexibility in Response to Questions ____/2 points
- h. Correct Grammar ____/2 points
- i. Relevance of Answers/Explanations ____/2 points
- j. Appropriate Body Language and Eye Contact ____/2 points
- k. Scope and Breadth of the Reponses ____/5 points

TOTAL: ____/25 points

TOTAL POINTS FOR I-IV: ____/100 points

LOUSIANA CATHOLIC SCHOOL

STUDENT OF THE YEAR

Scoring Rubric

EIGHTH GRADE:

I. Application Portfolio

a.	Leadership	____/12 points
b.	Activities/Discipleship/Service/Citizenship	____/20 points
c.	Recognitions/Awards	____/10 points

TOTAL: ____/42 points

II. Academic Evaluation

a.	Grade Point Average	____/4 points
b.	Assessments	____/4 points

TOTAL: ____/8 points

III. Writing Sample Evaluation

a.	Clarity and Continuity of Thought	____/5 points
b.	Relevance to Topic/Originality/Engagement level	____/5 points
c.	Organization, Elaboration, Detail support	____/5 points
d.	Sentence Structure	____/5 points
e.	Grammar, Capitalization, Punctuation and Spelling	____/5 points

TOTAL: ____/25 points

IV. Interview

a.	Poise/ Confidence	____/2 points
b.	Ability to Convey Ideas	____/2 points
c.	Verbal Fluency	____/2 points
d.	Voice Projection	____/2 points
e.	Focus on Topic	____/2 points
f.	Use of facts to support response	____/2 points
g.	Flexibility in Response to Questions	____/2 points
h.	Correct Grammar	____/2 points
i.	Relevance of Answers/Explanations	____/2 points
j.	Appropriate Body Language and Eye Contact	____/2 points
k.	Scope and Breadth of the Reponses	____/5 points

TOTAL: ____/25 points

TOTAL POINTS FOR I-IV: ____/100 points

LOUSIANA CATHOLIC SCHOOL

STUDENT OF THE YEAR

Scoring Rubric

TWELFTH GRADE:

I. Application Portfolio

a. Leadership	/8 points
b. Activities/Discipleship/Service/Citizenship	/20 points
c. Recognitions/Awards	/10 points
TOTAL:	**/38 points**

II. Academic Evaluation

a. Grade Point Average	/3 points
b. Difficulty level of courses	/6 points
c. Test Scores	/3 points
TOTAL:	**/12 points**

III. Writing Sample Evaluation

a. Clarity and Continuity of Thought	/5 points
b. Relevance to Topic/Originality/Engagement level	/5 points
c. Organization, Elaboration, Detail support	/5 points
d. Sentence Structure	/5 points
e. Grammar, Capitalization, Punctuation and Spelling	/5 points
TOTAL:	**/25 points**

IV. Interview

a. Poise/ Confidence	/2 points
b. Ability to Convey Ideas	/2 points
c. Verbal Fluency	/2 points
d. Voice Projection	/2 points
e. Focus on Topic	/2 points
f. Use of facts to support response	/2 points
g. Flexibility in Response to Questions	/2 points
h. Correct Grammar	/2 points
i. Relevance of Answers/Explanations	/2 points
j. Appropriate Body Language and Eye Contact	/2 points
k. Scope and Breadth of the Reponses	/5 points
TOTAL:	**/25 points**

TOTAL POINTS FOR I-IV: /100 points