

Cathedral School one of 17 in state cited for student achievement

Scores in math, English ranked
among top 15% in nation

St. Francis Cathedral School in Metuchen has been recognized as a 2017 National Blue Ribbon School by U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos.

The designation is based on a school's overall academic performance. Student achievement in mathematics and English at St. Francis Cathedral School, which serves kindergarten through 8th grade, is among the top 15 percent in the country, said Elaine Scull, director of development and marketing.

The Blue Ribbon program honors public and private elementary, middle and high schools where students achieve exemplary learning standards. St. Francis Cathedral was one of 17 schools in New Jersey honored.

St. Francis Cathedral School opened in 1928 and was staffed by the Sisters of Mercy, who administered the school until 2001.

The school employs a variety of academic strategies, such as cooperative learning, hands-on presentations and digital instruction and assessment, Scull said. The faculty incorporates 21st century learning through Google's G Suite for Education and uses iPads, laptops, netbooks and interactive white boards on a daily basis. STREAM activities integrated within the curriculum, as well as STEM Club projects, challenge students to think critically.

A strong Home and School Association supports the educational program, with parent volunteers assisting with a variety of school activities.

DeVos and the Department of Education will celebrate the Blue Ribbon recipients Nov. 6 and 7 at an awards ceremony in Washington.