

Beckman Catholic High School Among Nation's Top 50 Catholic High Schools for 2010-2011.

The [National Catholic High School Honor Roll](#) announced its sixth selection of the best 50 Catholic secondary schools in the United States. Beckman Catholic High School in Dyersville, Iowa was selected as one of the 50 top Catholic high schools across the country. Principal Pat Meade says, "This type of recognition is appreciated by our families, staff, and communities who devote so much time and energy into making Beckman Catholic an excellent place to receive a Catholic education."

The purpose of the Honor Roll is to recognize and encourage excellence in Catholic secondary education and serve as a resource for parents, schools, donors, and colleges. It is a critical resource for parents and educators that distinguishes those schools that excel in three categories: academic excellence, Catholic identity, and civic education.

Academically Beckman Catholic offers an honors program, advanced placement course work, concurrent postsecondary options through NICC and a resource program to assure academic success. Of Beckman's graduating class of 2010, 67% earned honors and scholarships. "Through daily prayer and weekly Mass, Adoration, and morning rosary the academic day at Beckman Catholic is centered on the identity and tradition of Catholic faith. At Beckman Catholic we have a unique opportunity to educate the whole person and prepare our students academically and spiritually to meet the challenges of the 21st century," notes Pat Lehmann, assistant principal. According to one alumni respondent on Beckman's annual alumni survey, "Beckman Catholic High School is a great institution founded on solid principles. The religious dimension of the school provides that foundation."

The Honor Roll is an independent project of the Acton Institute, an international research and educational organization. It is produced in consultation with an advisory board comprised of Catholic college presidents and scholars. Advisory board member Very Rev. David M. O'Connell, President of Catholic University of America, said the Honor Roll's evaluation method is indispensable. "Catholic schools must examine themselves on a regular basis using a well-rounded approach that assesses adherence to the Church's educational calling," he said. "The Honor Roll strengthens schools by encouraging high standards and vibrant Catholicism."

The Honor Roll, which is published every two years, has seen over 50 percent of America's nearly 1,300 Catholic high schools participate at least once. The best schools demonstrate a balanced excellence, which includes an active Catholic culture, sound college preparation and integration of Church teaching in all departments. These schools also display sound moral, catechetical and civic formation that prepares students for vocations in the world as political, religious, scientific, and business leaders.

To see a list of the top 50 schools, as well as lists of the 10 honorable mention schools in each category, visit www.chshonor.org.