Did you attend Catholic school when you were young? If you did, you participated in a subculture that shaped you and how you see the world — hopefully, in a very positive way. This Catholic formation has been celebrated in plays that run the gamut from *Do Patent Leather Shoes Really Reflect Up?* to *Doubt*.

Catholic schools are known for their academic standards, but schooling is more than the acquisition of knowledge. Religious teaching is integrated into the Catholic school curriculum that cannot be obtained in other settings. The quality in Catholic education that stands out most to me is the molding of boys and girls into well-rounded Christian men and women. Ideally, this formation activates Gospel teachings into a habit of being. Graduates of Catholic schools should be so steeped in Christ’s message that they mostly go about Christian living without having to think about it.

Let it be known that all these qualities are alive and well at the School of the Madeleine. As a testament to our academic standing, Catholic high schools actively recruit our eighth-graders. The students regularly participate in the worship life of the school and parish, and they engage in apostolic work for the larger community. Finally, there is an *esprit de corps* among our student body that comes from a renewed sense of discipline. Madeleine students are taking the first steps necessary in becoming the professionals of tomorrow.

It can be said without exaggeration that this academic year has been the most challenging in our school’s existence. Yet we have thrived in spite of livestream classes, distance learning, and disrupted schedules. Our administration, faculty and staff have had to relearn everything they knew about pedagogy, and are better and more resourceful on account of it. Further, our students and their families have been extraordinarily flexible as they have adapted to learning under the pandemic. Let us hope that life will return to ‘normal’ soon, but that we will be the better for having lived through these trying times.

If you have school-aged children or grandchildren, consider sending them to the School of the Madeleine. We offer a preparation for life that goes far beyond knowledge. If your children are no longer school-aged, consider volunteering your time to promote our school. You’ll be furthering a fine tradition that makes our society a better place to live and promotes the message of Jesus Christ.