



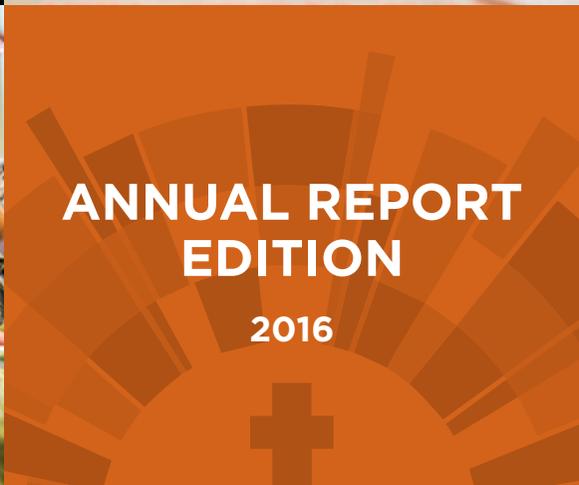
OMAHA CATHOLIC SCHOOL
CONSORTIUM

HOLY CROSS
SAINT BERNADETTE
SAINT THOMAS MORE
SAINTS PETER & PAUL
OUR LADY OF LOURDES

*A Collaboration of
Parishes, Schools, Parents and
Community Partners*

MAKING THE GRADE

NEWS FROM THE OMAHA CATHOLIC SCHOOL CONSORTIUM



**ANNUAL REPORT
EDITION**

2016





“Sts. Peter and Paul really helped me prepare for my high school experience. I felt that the academics were strong and that the teachers were organized and supportive.”

*Eden Placzek
Sts. Peter and Paul School
Class of 2012*

OUR STORY

Formed in 2012, the Omaha Catholic Consortium is a community of parishes, schools, parents and community partners working together to support Catholic education in southeast Omaha. Together we can achieve benefits beyond what any one school can achieve alone. Implemented as part of the Archdiocese of Omaha's Promise 2020 plan, it is a new collaborative model for Catholic education and the first of its kind in Omaha.



Mission

The Omaha Catholic School Consortium provides academic, administrative and financial support to its member schools to ensure students have access to an exceptional education in a nurturing and culturally unique environment, where they are encouraged to explore their Catholic faith and become Disciples of Christ. We are committed to Catholic education that will thrive in our community for generations to come.

Vision

We will be recognized as a sustainable model for Catholic education with schools that challenge students of all abilities to excel and become faith-filled leaders in service to God and others.

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE



In just a few short years our schools have made great strides in enrollment gains, technology updates and a blended learning model that has helped our consortium of schools become leaders in Catholic education. Our work will continue to be guided by a deep commitment to Catholic faith and values that have defined our mission and traditions. We must also willingly embrace bold thinking and change as we address the challenges facing urban Catholic education.

The mission of every Catholic school in our archdiocese is to awaken the God-given greatness in each child we teach. We uniquely achieve this by teaching to a student's mind and a student's heart.

Although the term "well-rounded education" may seem cliché, it truly means something different in Catholic education. Faith development and teaching Gospel values to our students is at the heart of everything we do. Add to that our excellent academic outcomes where the data shows that students are coming into our Consortium schools and are learning and far out performing their public school counterparts in state averages in all categories. Whether we're looking at faith development, emotional development, character development or academic achievement, our

Consortium schools do an excellent job educating the whole child.

In the last year the momentum created at our five Consortium schools has been both exciting and gratifying. Yet, we all know there is still much work to be done. Our path to sustainable urban Catholic education is not finished, and we face a number of challenges ahead in our effort to create long-term, viable urban Catholic schools. To that end, in October we held a day-long visioning session to better identify and understand these challenges and to help shape our strategic direction, and define our organization's priorities and goals. We are grateful for the input from community leaders, school administrators, parents, parish representatives and experts in education who participated in this enlightening session where we identified specific areas of focus for our schools. In the coming months, we will share some of the initiatives that we will put forth to help our Consortium schools continue to thrive.

I look forward to our work ahead as we continue to strengthen our schools. I thank you for your continued support of the Omaha Catholic School Consortium and your commitment to Catholic education.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patrick Slattery".

Patrick Slattery

Superintendent of Schools
Archdiocese of Omaha

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



On behalf of the Consortium team, our faculty members, staff and principals, I am pleased to share with you the Omaha Catholic School Consortium 2015 - 2016 Annual Report. I am grateful to you for joining in our efforts to help sustain this new model for Catholic education. Whether you are a parent, volunteer, alum, friend or donor, your ongoing support helps us ensure the future success of Catholic education in southeast Omaha.

As I look back on my first year as executive director, I am humbled by all that we have accomplished together. I am also grateful that I have been given this opportunity to share my experience and passion for Catholic education with each of the Consortium schools.

Although we have achieved much in our first four years, we still face a number of challenges. Be assured that our team is dedicated to addressing those challenges and helping our students and schools thrive. Through this collaborative community of schools, we are achieving more efficient cost management, curriculum enhancements, staff development and classroom innovations. Your support makes this consortium of schools not only possible, but also successful.

I hope that you will take the time to review our accomplishments from the past year. The dedication of our staff, students, parents, pastors and supporting parishes makes the Omaha Catholic School Consortium a great place to learn and grow. I am proud of the effort put forth by our teachers, administrators, students and school families.

Should you have any questions or comments about the Consortium schools or the information contained in our Annual Report, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at 402.556.5700.

Again, I am grateful to each of you for your continued support and look forward to what is yet to be accomplished.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Donna Bishop". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Donna Bishop

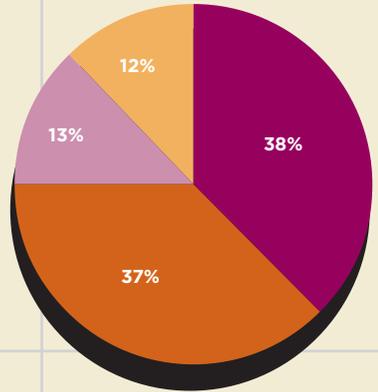
Executive Director
Omaha Catholic School Consortium

OPERATING STATEMENT

for the Fiscal Year Ending 6/30/2016
Omaha Catholic School Consortium

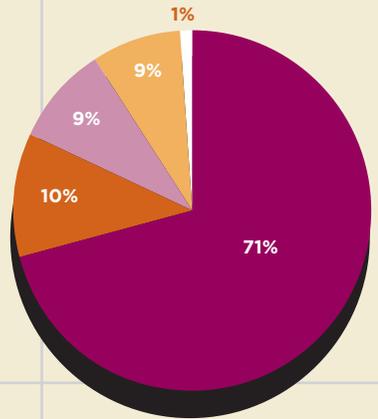
OPERATING REVENUES:

Tuition and Fees	\$2,523,532	38%
Parish Support	\$2,517,899	37%
Financial Aid & Scholarships - External Sources	\$854,212	13%
Auxiliary Programs	\$811,971	12%
Total Operating Revenues	\$6,707,614	



OPERATING EXPENSES:

Instructional	\$4,931,749	71%
General Administrative	\$716,593	10%
Plant Operations and Maintenance	\$618,889	9%
Auxiliary Programs	\$593,576	9%
Tuition Assistance - Internal	\$79,015	1%
Total Operating Expenses	\$6,939,822	



NON-OPERATING REVENUE, SUPPORT & EXPENSES:

Grant, Development & Fundraising Income	\$242,840
* Includes \$150,000 from Archbishop's Annual Appeal	
Received from <i>Ignite the Faith</i>	\$400,000
* Improvements funded by Ignite the Faith Funds	
	\$(362,660)
Total Non-operating Revenue, Support & Expenses	\$280,180

Net Surplus (Deficit) \$47,972

ACADEMIC INITIATIVES

Consortium schools are emerging leaders in best practices and innovation in elementary education. The Omaha Catholic School Consortium identified several areas of focus for the 2015-2016 school year in an effort to improve academic achievement for all our students. Focus areas included differentiated instruction in reading, implementation of a guided reading program, effective use of Student Assistance Teams, and professional development opportunities for our staff.

Differentiated Instruction

To continue to meet the educational needs of our students, we differentiated instruction in reading. Our school improvement goal was that every student would be reading at grade level by the end of third grade. To help our schools determine progress toward this goal, we used three methods of data collection including:

1. Benchmark assessments
2. TerraNova3 standardized test scores
3. Acuity scores

Students identified as reading below grade level were then monitored by the Student Assistance Team.

Guided Reading

Guided reading is an instructional approach that allows teachers to assess each child's reading abilities and then match books at a level that helps to develop reading skills at the student's own pace. Balanced literacy involves teaching whole language and phonics in an engaging way. The goal of a balanced literacy program is to guide students toward proficient and lifelong reading. Balanced literacy will continue to be the focus for professional development in the 2016-2017 school year.

Student Assistance Team (SAT)

The Student Assistance Team includes the school administrator and a group of teachers who monitor and evaluate student growth goals that are established throughout the year. Classroom assessments help determine if instructional strategies are effective in improving student growth. Areas of need are identified and individual attention is given to a student to help him or her improve deficient skill(s). The student is assessed each week to ensure skill mastery.

Professional Development

Professional development involves ongoing educational opportunities offered to our staff to help build their competencies in the evolving world of elementary education. Administrators, teachers and staff from all five Consortium schools participate in the same professional development sessions throughout the school year. During the 2015 - 2016 school year, over 20 hours of professional development was provided on guided reading as one component of our balanced literacy program.

What's ahead for 2016-2017?

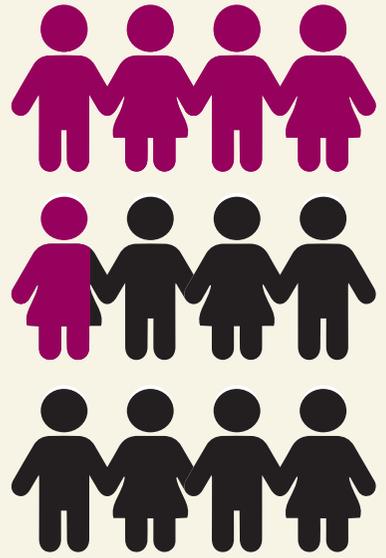
We will continue to emphasize faith-based initiatives for all students and academic achievement will be at the forefront of our educational efforts. To address student achievement, we will implement a Multi-tiered System of Support (MTSS) during the 2016 -2017 school year. This system uses evidence-based interventions to help eliminate academic achievement gaps. Our teachers will continue to provide exceptional initial instruction for every student and when appropriate, provide further instructional support to students who are not meeting the standards in each subject area.

ENROLLMENT AT A GLANCE

(based on 2015-2016 school year data)

- 1,375** K - 8 students
- 215** Pre-K students
- 40** percent minority
- 91.2** percent Catholic
- 36** percent of our students qualify for free or reduced lunch
- 40** percent of our students receive tuition assistance, however all families pay a portion of their child's tuition
- 14:1** student to staff ratio*

*Ratio is based on staff in the building who work directly with students including: teachers, resource staff, paraprofessionals, and administrators. This is not a representation of class size.



40%

of Consortium students receive tuition assistance

COST TO EDUCATE PER STUDENT (K-EIGHTH GRADE)

\$5,060

\$2,100

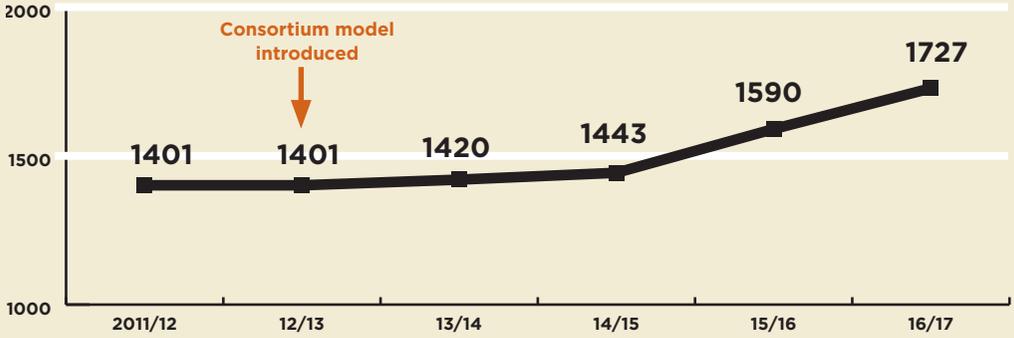
Average tuition per student paid with our tiered tuition structure

\$2,960

Tuition gap per student

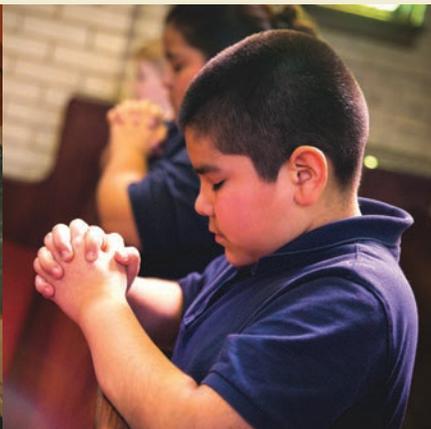
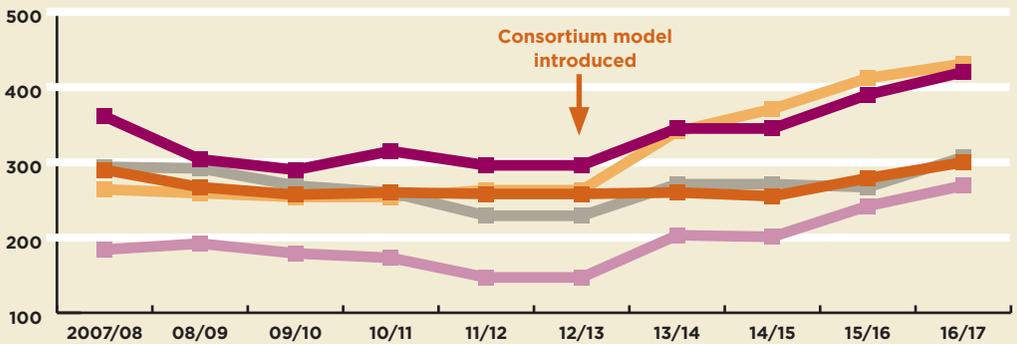
ENROLLMENT TRENDS

ENROLLMENT TOTALS - ALL CONSORTIUM SCHOOLS



BY SCHOOL

-  Holy Cross
-  Our Lady of Lourdes
-  St. Bernadette
-  Sts. Peter & Paul
-  St. Thomas More



SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

Each and every day something wonderful is happening in our schools. Our students are reaching new heights in academics, living their faith more fully and sharing their gifts with the community. Here are just a few highlights from the 2015 - 2016 school year:

Holy Cross

- The school increased enrollment by 13 percent and had one of the largest enrollment gains of the entire archdiocese.
- Use of classroom technology and individualized instruction was enhanced to support each student in achieving his or her personal best.



- Maker's Space, an after-school program that provides kindergarten through eighth-grade students with an opportunity to imagine, innovate and create with guided fabrication and tinker activities, was introduced (pictured above).

Our Lady of Lourdes

- All students in fifth through eighth grade discovered online Computer-Aided Design (CAD) and 3D printing as part of the science curriculum.



- For one hour each week, kindergarten through eighth-grade students participate in a self-guided program where they determine for themselves what they want to learn. Genius Hour is specific time set aside weekly for students to explore a subject of their own choosing and then present what they've learned to other students.
- Our Lady of Lourdes students participated in a two-mile Walk for the Homeless to help raise awareness and money for the Stephen Center of Omaha. Student government leaders presented a check for more than \$2,000 to the Stephen Center during the school's Thanksgiving Mass.

St. Bernadette

- Administrators and staff began the process of expanding the school's preschool program for the 2016-2017 school year. This will allow St. Bernadette to increase its capacity to serve more than twice as many preschool students.
- Eighth-graders created a recycled art project to help raise awareness about the importance of recycling. The students teamed with Keep Omaha Beautiful, Conservation Fusion, and University of Nebraska at Omaha on this collaborative service-learning project that was designed to help students understand the link between populations and resource availability, ways that environmental degradation can happen locally and globally, and to learn more about energy consumption.
- A book drive for needy kids collected over 2,000 books as part of the school's literacy celebration during Catholic Schools Week.

School Highlights continued



- Eighth-graders let go of a 100-foot-long helium-filled balloon rosary in October to celebrate the Month of the Holy Rosary and Respect Life Month. St. Bernadette's Home and School Association sponsored the event, where the eighth-grade class led the faculty, staff and 272 students in a rosary, then let the balloons float into the air.

Sts. Peter and Paul

- As part of its modern approach to education, the school added a new multi-media center featuring MacBook Air laptops to aid students in creating multi-media presentations, live newscasts, videos and classroom projects.



- The school made outstanding strides in improving students' reading scores and performances, especially among its very large, English Language Learner (ELL) population. Teachers worked to improve the reading and literacy program for all Sts. Peter and Paul students.

- The school hosted its annual food carnival – called a Kermes – as not only a fundraiser for the school, but as a community event where school and parish families come together to play games and enjoy delicious homemade Mexican, Salvadorian and Central American food.

St. Thomas More

- St. Thomas More Parish and School experienced many updates including installation of a new elevator, gym floor and bleachers, a fire detection system, new classroom projectors and school office.



- Students reached 85 percent on Bengal Reader, its reading incentive program. To celebrate this accomplishment, Principal Gary Davis read to students from the roof of the school.
- To celebrate Catholic Schools Week, students raised over \$1,400 for the Bethlehem House.

"Catholic education has impacted me greatly. I have learned cooperation, kindness, respect, and the ability to share with others the gifts God has given me. The things you learn at Catholic School extend way outside the classroom, and for that I am thankful."

*Corey Callahan,
eighth-grade student,
Holy Cross School*

DONORS

GIFTS PROVIDED TO THE OMAHA CATHOLIC SCHOOL CONSORTIUM FROM JULY 1, 2015 - JUNE 30, 2016

Anonymous

Archdiocese of Omaha -
Ignite the Faith

Kaye and The Honorable Peter
Bataillon

Jerry Becker

Sharon and Robert Beduhn

Erin and Greg Beninato

Ingrid Borghoff

Connie and John Buscher

Dr. Jane Carnazzo and Robert
Stutzman

Mary and Ben Carrick

Children's Scholarship Fund
of Omaha

Gina and John Coffey

Jodie and Nate Curran

Margie and Don Eckley

Deborah Fortina

Mandi and Patrick Foster

Meghan and Bennett Gerken

Karen and Cal German

Linda and Charles Golden

Peggy and Terry Grennan

Elaine Heaston

Jacque and John Herdzina

Maureen and Brian Hiatt

Home and School Associations:

- Holy Cross
- Our Lady of Lourdes
- St. Bernadette
- St. Thomas More
- Sts. Peter and Paul

Taylor Horton

Ruth Hunter-Handy

Katie and Brian Jarrett

Mary Kenny

Mary and Dave Kirchofer

Connie and Thomas Klamt

Susie and Don Klosterman

Connie and Randy Kollasch

Wende and John Kotouc

Kristy and Bob Krupa

Elizabeth Langan

Latino Catholic Scholarship Fund
of Omaha

Suzie and Mike Lawler

Karrie and John Lingo

Maureen and Dan Maher

Dee and Kevin McCoy

Colleen McQuillan

Leia Mendoza

Katie and Coleman Naughton

Debbie and Mark Novotny

Kelly Nystrom

Joyce and John Passarelli

Carrie and Timothy Powers

The Honorable Don Preister

Julie and Mike Radil

Vickie and Dan Ramaekers

Rose and Ed Regan

Reisinger, Booth & Associates

Kim and Terry Root

Ed Rose

Rose and Daniel Schneider

Donita Schrad

Nick Schreck

Tina Shogrin

Jennifer and Erik Skulstad

Beth and Patrick Slattery

Joanne Stewart

The Soener Foundation

Wells Fargo Bank

The Omaha Catholic School Consortium Development Office made every effort to ensure the accuracy of the information contained in this report. Please accept our apology if we have omitted anyone who contributed to our schools or misspelled a name. If you notice such an error, please notify our office so we may correct our records.

“We truly believe that a Catholic education is the basis for a better future and we want as many children as possible to experience this gift. The Consortium does an excellent job of efficiently providing a solid Catholic education for children in southeast Omaha at a cost those families can afford with the help of donor contributions. We wholeheartedly support the work they are doing.”

*Mike and Suzie Lawler,
Omaha Catholic School
Consortium supporters*



Our Supporting Parishes:

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary – Our Lady of Guadalupe Church

Holy Cross Catholic Church

Holy Ghost Catholic Church

Immaculate Conception Catholic Church

Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church

Our Lady of Lourdes – St. Adalbert Catholic Church

St. Andrew Kim Taegon Catholic Community

St. Bernadette Catholic Church

St. Bridget – St. Rose Catholic Church

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church

St. Mary Catholic Church

St. Mary Magdalene Catholic Church

St. Peter Catholic Church

St. Stanislaus Catholic Church

St. Thomas More Catholic Church

Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church

In Memory:

Nancy Becker

Leona Chereck

In-Kind Gifts:

Red D Plumbing

Wheatfields Catering

Tom's Engraving

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

We are grateful to our inaugural Board of Directors who provided leadership and guidance as we embarked on this new model of Catholic education. We are indebted to their service. Please pray for our leadership team in their efforts to recruit new members for the Board of Directors following our strategic planning and visioning session held in October.

Inaugural Board of Directors:

Rev. John Pietramale	Patrick Slattery
Rev. Ryan Lewis	Dr. Dorothy Ostrowski
Rev. Frank Jindra	Monsignor James E. Gilg
Dan Maher	Mark O'Brien, lead administrator

STAFF

We are so thankful to these office staff members and school administrators, as well as the 180 dedicated educators and staff at our five member schools who work tirelessly each day to make our schools outstanding learning environments.

2015-2016 Omaha Catholic School Consortium Staff

Donna Bishop	Executive Director
Nicole Evans	Director of Development
Debbie Novotny	Business Manager
Julie Goetzinger	Office Manager
Patricia Vasquez	Administrative Assistant/Bilingual Staff
Terry McWilliams	Director of Janitorial and Maintenance Services
Sara Hood	Technology Integration Specialist
David Ingraham	Technology Support

2015 - 2016 Omaha Catholic School Consortium Administrators

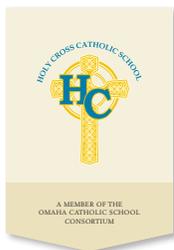
Chris Nelson	Principal – Holy Cross School
Bill Kelly	Principal – Our Lady of Lourdes School
Lynn Schultz	Principal – St. Bernadette School
Cory Sepich	Principal – Sts. Peter and Paul School
Gary Davis	Principal – St. Thomas More School

Special thanks to the following Catholic Schools Office staff who helped support the operational needs of our schools during the 2015 – 2016 school year:

Patrick Slattery	Superintendent
Beatriz Arellanes	Latino School Enrollment Coordinator
Patricia Olsen	Marketing Director
Doug Zauha	Technology Director

SCHOLARSHIP AND HONORS

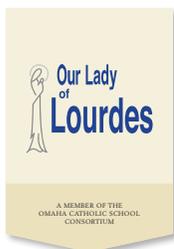
Last spring, 10 eighth-grade students from our schools were awarded academic scholarships to Omaha Catholic high schools. These students represented 11 percent of our 2016 graduating class who took the Catholic high school placement exam.



Holy Cross - Class of 2016 Scholarship Awards

Mariesa Beal Marian High School

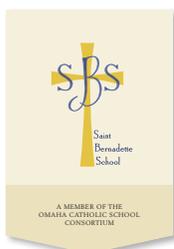
77 percent of the Holy Cross 2016 graduating class are attending Catholic high school.



Our Lady of Lourdes - Class of 2016 Scholarship Awards

Joe Connelly Gross Catholic High School
Triston Reuter Roncalli Catholic High School
Joe Truscott Roncalli Catholic High School
Brandon Villanueva Gross Catholic High School

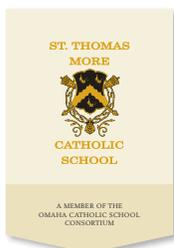
80 percent of the Our Lady of Lourdes 2016 graduating class are attending Catholic high school.



St. Bernadette - Class of 2016 Scholarship Awards

Monserrat Mora Duchesne Academy of the Sacred Heart
Kelly Tammen Gross Catholic High School
Erin Ruane Gross Catholic High School

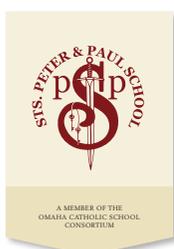
77 percent of the St. Bernadette 2016 graduating class are attending Catholic high school.



St. Thomas More - Class of 2016 Scholarship Awards

Blake McDowall Gross Catholic High School
Lauren McKenzie Duchesne Academy of the Sacred Heart

73 percent of the St. Thomas More 2016 graduating class are attending Catholic high school.



Sts. Peter and Paul - Class of 2016

80 percent of the Sts. Peter and Paul 2016 graduating class are attending Catholic high school.

WAYS TO GIVE

Your gifts are more important than ever to students of the Omaha Catholic School Consortium. Every gift is 100 percent tax deductible, and every dollar makes a difference.

TYPES OF GIFTS

MAKE A CASH GIFT:

- **Make Your Gift by Phone**

If you would like to speak to someone about your gift or pledge, please contact our Development Office (information below).

- **Make Your Gift Online**

Simply go to www.omahacsc.org and click the DONATE button in the left-hand corner to make a secure online gift through PayPal.

- **Make Your Gift by Mail**

Send your gift or pledge to:
Omaha Catholic School Consortium
2117 S. 33rd Street
Omaha, NE 68105

MAKE A MATCHING GIFT:

Your company may match gifts to the Omaha Catholic School Consortium. While each company has its specific stipulations and limits, some companies match every dollar you contribute with two corporate dollars. Your company's specific matching requirements are typically found on your company website.

MAKE AN IN-KIND GIFT:

A gift in kind is a non-cash, tangible gift or a gift of service. Some choose to donate various items or equipment that may be useful to our schools' educational programs. All in-kind gifts may be coordinated with our Development Office.

MAKE A GIFT OF ASSETS OR SECURITIES:

To learn how you can assist our schools with a gift of assets or securities, contact your attorney, financial advisor or our Development Office (information below).

MAKE A PLANNED GIFT:

You can remember the Omaha Catholic School Consortium and its member schools in your will with a planned gift. To discuss how you can assist our schools with a planned gift, contact your attorney, financial advisor or our Development Office (information below).

MAKE A GIFT OF YOUR TIME AND TALENT:

It takes more than amazing educators to make our schools great! We count on the kindness of enthusiastic volunteers who want to make a difference. Parents, grandparents, students, and community members are invited to share their time and talents with our schools.* For more information on volunteer opportunities, please contact our Development Office (information below).

*All volunteers must be Safe Environment Trained.

To discover how you can help strengthen our schools by giving the gift of your time, talent or treasure, please contact Nicole Evans, director of Development at 402.590.2815 or email nlevans@archomaha.org.

“I really enjoy teaching at a Catholic school because I like the emphasis on character development. It’s not enough that the kids follow my directions because it’s the rule. It’s the respect that they show each other, and it’s the way that they act all the time, not just when they’re in my class.”

*Shelley Brown
Science Teacher
Our Lady of Lourdes School*





OMAHA CATHOLIC SCHOOL
CONSORTIUM

2117 South 33rd Street
Omaha, NE 68105
Phone: 402.590.2810

Visit our website at **Omahacsc.org**