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

APRIL 2016

NEW INSTRUCTIONAL APPROACH TO READING POSITIONS STUDENTS FOR ACADEMIC SUCCESS

Challenging students to become avid, strong and passionate readers for life is a priority at the Omaha Catholic School Consortium. Reading is at the core of learning any new subject and when taught at a young age it can have a profound impact on a student's future success in school.

To help ensure the continued academic success of our students, all of the Consortium schools recently implemented a guided reading program and added a new book room in each building. The new book rooms provide books that are tailored to the students' specific reading levels and offer a variety of subjects and interests.

Guided reading is an instructional approach that assesses each child's reading abilities and then matches books at a level that helps to develop reading skills at the student's own pace. The books are challenging enough for the student to progress but not so difficult that the student loses interest or gives up. This approach to reading instruction is research-based and shown to help all students become stronger and more confident readers, spurring them to explore high-quality, grade-level books across a spectrum of subjects and literary genres.

Each book room will contain more than 3,000 books that are organized by levels of difficulty ranging from easy books for the new or emerging reader to longer and more complex books that advanced readers will select. The book rooms will have multiple copies of leveled books so students can select from a wide selection of reading materials.

The goal is to have all students at or above grade level for reading by third grade. By using guided reading instruction, teachers can help students become good readers who not only read well, but who also enjoy reading now and for a lifetime.

Our teachers have already seen tremendous growth in reading ability and enthusiasm among students. According to Principal Gary Davis of St. Thomas More School, "Guided reading is a program that will be beneficial in pinpointing areas of growth in each student as well as allowing them to share their knowledge with their fellow students."

We thank the Home and School Associations at each of our five member schools for providing a generous gift that helped make the new book rooms possible. For more information on this new instructional approach to reading, please contact one of our school principals.

Welcome Tuition Grants

At Catholic schools, our mission is to awaken the God-given greatness in each child by teaching the heart as well as the mind. We created the Welcome Tuition Grant program to bring this mission to as many children as possible.

The Omaha Catholic School Consortium has welcome tuition grants available for certain grade levels to any public, private (non-Catholic) or home school student who transfers into one of our participating schools - Holy Cross, Our Lady of Lourdes, St. Bernadette or St. Thomas More.

Visit lovemyschool.com/welcomegrants/ or a participating Consortium school for more information.

Join Our Team!

The Omaha Catholic School Consortium is now accepting applications at all five member schools for the 2016-2017 school year. Visit omahacsc.org/about/career-opportunities/ to see available job postings.

Like Us on Facebook!

Like

Be sure to check out the new Omaha Catholic School Consortium page on Facebook for updates, events and information from our member schools!

COOL NEWS FROM OUR SCHOOLS

Multimedia Centers Provide a Modern Approach to Education

Sts. Peter and Paul has taken a leap into the digital age with a new multimedia center. Multimedia centers enable students to discover technology and become more engaged in their learning experience.

"Our staff members are so proud of the multimedia center and all the opportunities it has given to our school community," said Sts. Peter and Paul Principal Cory Sepich. "What I love most is that our staff has been given this wonderful tool and they are using it daily."

The school has two multimedia specialists, Mrs. Dibleka and Mrs. Hagerty, who work with each grade Wednesday through Friday on teaching modern lessons that support the work students are taught during core classes.

Students use MacBook Air laptops to create multimedia presentations, videos and other class projects.

Students also produce live newscasts and play learning games with their peers. Additionally, by using MacBook Air laptops, students have the opportunity to access thousands of reading resources, which supports the guided reading program.

On the days that Mrs. Dibleka and Mrs. Hagery are not in the school, the homeroom and specials teachers implement use of the technology into their classrooms.

The multimedia center has allowed for a new level of dynamic and active learning experience within Sts. Peter and Paul.

Multimedia Centers cont.

All five of the Consortium schools are actively planning to implement multimedia centers into their buildings in order to provide a modern learning experience for students. The multimedia center and access to 21st century technology is changing the way students are taught for the better, and this first step is only scratching the surface.

As for the future, technology is ever-changing. The success of the multimedia centers in our member schools will be determined by how students adapt and grow with the technology. The multimedia centers are designed to be flexible, and change with the endless progress of technology.

Congratulations to Our Scholarship Recipients!

Congratulations to the following eighth graders from our Consortium schools who were awarded academic scholarships and to those who will continue on to Catholic high school this fall! We commend you on all your hard work and dedication to your academic studies and Catholic education. These students represent 11 percent of our 2016 graduating class who took the Catholic high school placement exam. Blessings on your upcoming high school journey!

Holy Cross - Class of 2016 Scholarship Awards

- Mariesa Beal - Marian High School

- 77 percent of the Holy Cross 2016 graduating class will attend Catholic high school in the fall.

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 Our Lady of Lourdes 2016 graduating class will attend Catholic high school in the fall.

St. Bernadette - Class of 2016 Scholarship Awards

- Monserrat Mora - Duchesne Catholic Academy
- Kelly Tammen - Gross Catholic High School
- Erin Ruane - Gross Catholic High School

- 77 percent of St. Bernadette 2016 graduating class will attend Catholic high school in the fall.

St. Thomas More - Class of 2016 Scholarship Awards

- Blake McDowall - Gross Catholic High School
- Lauren McKenzie - Duchesne Catholic Academy

- 73 percent of the St. Thomas More 2016 graduating class will attend Catholic high school in the fall.

Sts. Peter and Paul - Class of 2016

- 80 percent of the Sts. Peter and Paul 2016 graduating class will attend Catholic high school in the fall.

Town Hall Meetings with Parents

Please join us for the next series of parent meetings with members from the Consortium team. We will provide updates on curriculum and technology, school enrollment, development activities, and more. Parents are valued partners in the success of the Consortium schools. Your input helps guide our team and we hope to see you there!

- St. Bernadette April 6 at 6:30 p.m.
- Sts. Peter and Paul April 11 at 6:30 p.m.
- Holy Cross April 12 at 7 p.m.
- St. Thomas More April 18 at 7 p.m.
- Our Lady of Lourdes April 28 at 7 p.m.

Please contact the school for more information!

Visit the Kermes Festival!

Visit Sts. Peter and Paul on Saturday, April 9 from 5 - 8 p.m. for the spring Kermes festival. This annual event brings the community together to enjoy games, prizes and delicious homemade Mexican, Salvadorian and Central American food. There will also be prizes and a lottery contest for students, games, bouncy castles and live music.

There is no fee to attend. Tickets for games and food may be purchased at the event. For more information contact: Cory Sepich, principal at 402-731-4713 or csepich@sppsaints.org.

Save the Date - Omaha Gives!

The Omaha Catholic School Consortium will participate in Omaha Gives! on May 25 and we need your help! Omaha Gives! is a one day event led by the Omaha Community Foundation designed to raise money for local nonprofits through online fundraising. The more money we raise, the more matching funds we will receive. The more donors who support us, the more additional prize money we can win for our schools.

To donate to our schools during Omaha Gives! Visit omahagives24.org and search for Omaha Catholic School Consortium. Click on our logo and follow the instructions to make your secure online donation. Thank you for your ongoing support of our member schools!

Alumni, We want to hear from you!

Attention alumni of Assumption, Holy Cross, Holy Ghost, Immaculate Conception, Our Lady of Lourdes, St. Agnes, St. Bernadette, St. Bridget, St. Francis of Assisi, St. Mary, St. Peter, St. Stanislaus, St. Thomas More, and Sts. Peter and Paul – we want to hear from you! Let us know where you are today and we'll keep you in the loop about what's happening at the Consortium schools. To register, go to omahacsc.org/stay-connected/alumni/.

Support Our Schools

It is through generous support from individuals, alumni, and area businesses that we are able to bring quality Catholic education to more than 1,500 students. To discover how you can help strengthen our schools by giving the gift of your time, talent or treasures, please contact Nicole Evans, director of Development at nlevans@archomaha.org or 402.590.2815.

This is a publication of the Omaha Catholic School Consortium

To submit a story idea contact: Nicole Evans, director of Development at nlevans@archomaha.org

Visit our website at: **Omahacsc.org**

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.

Omaha Catholic School Consortium

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