

MAKING THE GRADE

NEWS FROM THE OMAHA CATHOLIC SCHOOL CONSORTIUM

MARCH 2018

Enrolling Now!

DUAL LANGUAGE ACADEMY TO OPEN IN FALL

The Omaha Catholic School Consortium is now accepting applications for pre-school, pre-kindergarten and kindergarten students to attend its Dual Language Academy at St. Stanislaus Early Childhood Education Center opening this fall.

WHAT IS THE DUAL LANGUAGE ACADEMY?

- In partnership with Our Lady of Lourdes and Sts. Peter and Paul schools, the Dual Language Academy will begin at the start of the 2018-2019 school year and will be held at the Early Childhood Education Center located at St. Stanislaus School, 41st and J Streets.
- This innovative educational model brings together native English speakers and native Spanish speakers so they may learn together and serve as language models for one another.
- Dual Language classrooms include all subject areas as well keeping true to the Catholic identity.



- Dual Language curriculum will be implemented with inaugural pre-school, pre-kindergarten and kindergarten classes and each year will add one grade level, through eighth grade.

HOW WILL IT BENEFIT OUR STUDENTS?

- Students who attend the Academy will become bilingual and biliterate.
- Research shows students in dual language immersion programs begin to outperform their English-

only peers as early as third and fourth grade and continue to do so through high school.

- Consortium schools were chosen to be a part of a five-year partnership with Boston College's Two-Way Immersion Network for Catholic Schools—TWIN-CS, which has been successfully mentoring schools across the United States since 2012.

TUITION

Tiered tuition rates available based on a family's individual need.

LEARN MORE

Stop in to either Sts. Peter and Paul or Our Lady of Lourdes OR visit our website at Omahacsc.org for more information. You may also call 402-557-5600 (ask for Katie) or para hablar con alguien en Español, favor llamar 402-557-5570.

Together in Christ Annual Fund

Did you know that your gift to the *Together in Christ: Five Schools, One Mission* Annual Fund can be designated to a specific Consortium school, or to the area of greatest need?

The 2017-2018 Annual Fund campaign is a collaborative effort to sustain our schools financially, strengthen our tradition of academic excellence and ensure affordable tuition. Tuition covers less than half of the cost to educate a child at our schools. The remaining amount is covered by parish support and through development efforts like the *Together in Christ* Annual Fund.

Because of the generosity of several of our donors, we are proud to announce that we've already raised \$100,000 toward our \$200,000 goal. Help us keep the momentum going!

Please consider a gift to the *Together in Christ* Annual Fund. Your gift allows us to fulfill our mission and ensure that our students become Disciples of Christ. Every gift matters. To make your gift today, contact the Development Office at 402-590-2815 or visit www.omahacsc.org to make a secure online donation. Thank you for your support!



**ANNUAL
FUND GOAL
\$200,000**

\$200,000

\$150,000

\$100,000

\$50,000

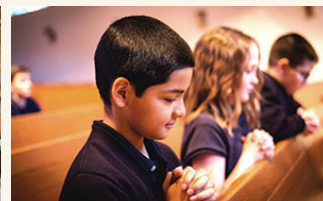
**\$100,000
RAISED**

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

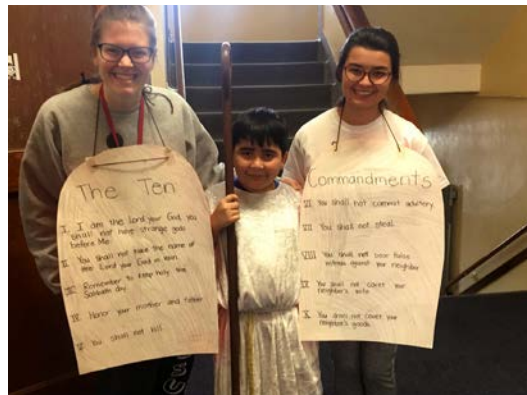
It is through generous support from individuals, alumni, and area businesses that we are able to bring quality Catholic education to nearly 1,800 students. To discover how you can help strengthen our schools by giving the gift of your time, talent or treasure, please contact Blair Bonczynski, Marketing & Communications coordinator at bbonczynski@archomaha.org or 402.590.2815.



COOL NEWS FROM OUR SCHOOLS

Celebrating Catholic Schools Week

Consortium schools celebrated Catholic Schools Week (CSW) Jan. 28 to Feb. 3 in a variety of fun and creative ways, all designed to highlight what makes Catholic schools so special. Events included dress up days – Dress as Your Favorite Teacher or Dress as Your Favorite Saint – spelling bees, students vs. teachers volleyball game, talent shows, pancake breakfasts, Crazy Hair Day, and fundraisers for causes important to each school. In addition, Consortium eighth graders joined eighth-grade students from area Catholic schools to participate in a special CSW Mass at St. Cecelia Cathedral celebrated by Archbishop Lucas.



Kayleigh Hofmann, a student at St. Bernadette, shared why she loves her school at a weekend Mass to kick off CSW.

I love going to a Catholic school because I feel the students here receive more opportunities. The teachers and staff prepare us for the difficult things that may happen in life. All the students

and staff are so kind and will do almost anything to help each other. Of course, we all have our ups and downs. We are humans after all, but as the teachers say, "through Jesus Christ we find hope."

Jesus and God are a huge part of our lives, and they do everything to teach us that when we feel alone in the world, look

up to God and we'll eventually find our way. Catholic schools give us opportunities public schools may not have. Catholic schools teach us that with God anything is possible. People get a second chance when they become Catholic. God forgives our sins. You just have to believe.

Get to Know: Gabriela Gandara, St. Bernadette Eighth Grader

In a continuing effort to get to know more about the students who attend our five Consortium schools, we ask students to tell us more about themselves and share what they love about their school.



Gabriela Gandara is in eighth grade at St. Bernadette. She enjoys being challenged in her classes, especially English, and learning more about her faith.

Q: How does learning and talking about your faith every day feel?

A: It feels good because I like that I learn about the history of my faith. It expands my knowledge of my faith so I am able to understand it more deeply.

Q: What do you enjoy most about learning and talking about your faith at school?

A: I enjoy what I learn and being able to input it into my daily life.

Q: What do you like most about St. Bernadette and why?

A: I like the teachers and how they take their time to teach us. How they teach makes it easy to learn. They also help us with behavior and struggles outside of school.

Q: What is your favorite class? Why?

A: English is my favorite class because it is hard. I'm not the best at English, so it is helping me become a better writer.

Q: Do you know where you are going to high school?

A: I will be attending Mercy High School.

Thank you for sharing, Gabriela!

This is a publication of the Omaha Catholic School Consortium

To submit a story idea contact:

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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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Para hablar con alguien en Español, favor llamar 402-557-5570.