

MAKING THE GRADE

NEWS FROM THE OMAHA CATHOLIC SCHOOL CONSORTIUM

MARCH 2018

Transitional Kindergarten: a unique program to meet your child's needs



At the Consortium, we value the Catholic tradition of educational excellence and are dedicated to the development of the whole child. Our early childhood education programs are designed to enhance the spiritual, social and academic growth of each child and set students on a path to success.

Spots in pre-school, pre-kindergarten and kindergarten are available and we are currently enrolling in all five of our schools. Additionally, Holy Cross and St. Thomas More also offer transitional kindergarten (TK).

Transitional kindergarten is a two-year kindergarten program meant to support students who are eligible for kindergarten but who have either just missed the Nebraska age guideline or are needing additional support to be academically and/or socially ready to be successful in a traditional kindergarten setting.

Teachers in these classrooms help children develop social skills through interactive activities that build self-confidence, while exposing children to reading and math

in exciting, interactive ways as well. Here, learning happens naturally, working with teachers in both small and large groups, while still having opportunities for independent play. TK students attend a full school day each week day and participate in all kindergarten activities, such as music and extra-curricular art, as well as receive an introduction to Catholicism. Our principals are proud to offer this environment, which helps best meet the academic, social and emotional needs of younger children. Those in the program are given the time to ensure they are prepared for success in kindergarten and beyond.

Tours are available each school day at Holy Cross and St. Thomas More. Visit HolyCrossOmaha.com or STMbengals.org to learn more.



Together in Christ Annual Fund

Donor Spotlight

Roy Neneman
St. Thomas More, class of 1965

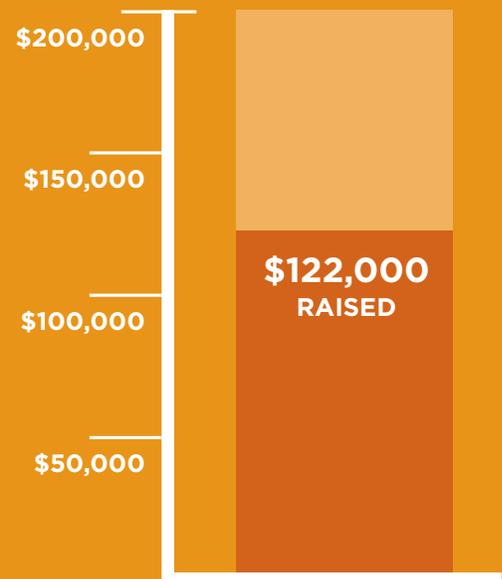
Recently retired and residing in Doniphan, Neb., Roy Neneman has many wonderful memories about his time at St. Thomas More. He is a Consortium donor because he feels St. Thomas More in particular, and now the Consortium as a whole, are vital to the community at large. "They're doing fantastic work. It can be difficult to be able to provide a private, Catholic education for families. I'm happy to be able to help."

Roy believes strongly that contributing to Catholic schools like the Consortium schools will, more than anything, continue to allow for children to be raised to follow Jesus, allowing them to become future solid citizens of our communities.

An investment in one of our schools can mean so much for a family and create a life-long foundation of faith – and friends. "I'm still friends with many of my classmates," he said.



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



Why I give?

"A Catholic education gives you a perspective that life is bigger than yourself, and that has really helped me. I've been fortunate in my business and family life and I thank God for that."

Roy Neneman

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 \$122,000 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!

 **Follow us on Facebook**

Enrolling Now!

DUAL LANGUAGE ACADEMY

Reminder:

**Dual Language Academy
Opening Fall 2018**

Enrolling now:

Pre-school, pre-kindergarten
and kindergarten students



In partnership with Our Lady of Lourdes and Sts. Peter and Paul schools, classes will be held at the Early Childhood Education Center located at St. Stanislaus, 41st and J Streets.

Native English and native Spanish speakers will come together to serve as language models for each other.

Curriculum will include all subject areas and will remain true to our Catholic identity.

Students who attend the Academy will become bilingual and biliterate.

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

READ ONE FAMILY'S STORY ABOUT WHY THEY'RE PASSIONATE ABOUT THIS NEW PROGRAM.

"As our oldest son started reaching preschool age, my wife and I had already decided that Catholic education was the option we were going to choose for our children. As registration dates started to near, we found out about the dual language program. For us, this program is the best of both worlds. My wife and I have the understanding about the opportunities our children will be afforded by knowing another language.

Aside from the opportunities, the enrichment that comes from understanding another language along with its customs and cultures will be an invaluable life experience for them. Coming from a Mexican-American family deeply rooted in the South Omaha area, it is also an

opportunity to rebuild the bridge to a piece of the culture that we see as vital, the Spanish language. The language is a lost piece of the

Through our own education, my wife and I have recognized that the ability to speak multiple languages can open doors that otherwise might not be available.

culture in our family as there was not an emphasis on the need for it as the generations in our family grew.

Through our own education, my wife and I have recognized that the ability to speak multiple languages can



open doors that otherwise might not be available. So, while there is a very small amount of Spanish spoken in our home, we are excited that this program will provide an avenue for the language to become permanently entrenched in who we are as a family.

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We firmly believe a faith based education will provide the best foundation for our children to succeed. Our son will be joined by his brother in the program as well. Eventually they will be joined

by their sister. We are very active in our home parish and we anticipate the dual language program will further enhance our children's ability to serve God while sharing their abilities with others."

**Benjamin and
Andrea Robles**

Would you like to learn more about the Dual Language Academy or know someone who does?

Visit Omahacsc.org or call 402-557-5600 (ask for Katie). Para hablar con alguien en Espanol, favor llamar 402-557-5570.



DUAL LANGUAGE PUBLIC INFO SESSION & EASTER EGG HUNT

March 31 - 10 a.m.

College of St. Mary Campus

Warde Conference Center inside Mercy Hall

Free event open to all families currently enrolled in the Dual Language Academy as well as those interested in learning more.

Please RSVP to Blair at 402-590-2815 or BBonczynski@archomaha.org

COOL NEWS FROM OUR SCHOOLS



Above: March is Music in Catholic Schools month. A variety of concerts and events happened throughout the archdiocese during March. In our Consortium schools, the students took part in many celebrations such as singing the national anthem during daily announcements and participating in **Rock Star Hair Day**, pictured above.



Left: Dexter Shogrin, eighth grader at St. Thomas More, won the school's science fair for the second year in a row, to a room full of cheers. Dexter also qualified for the 2018 Nebraska National Geographic State Bee along with another Consortium student, Alex Buescher, also featured in this issue. Dexter will attend Creighton Prep next year.



Above: Holy Cross fifth-grade students presented the **Passion Play**.



Above: Sts. Peter and Paul students celebrated **Dr. Seuss' birthday** last month with special decorations and activities throughout the school

Get to Know: Alex Buescher, eighth grader at Our Lady of Lourdes

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.

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

A: Being able to learn and talk about my faith is important to me because I get to use my faith to help me figure out answers to life questions.

Q: What are some ways you express your faith in your life at school and at home?

A: At home I express my faith by taking care of my siblings and doing chores. At school, I try to help others as much as I can.

Q: What do you like most about Our Lady of Lourdes and why?

A: I like how the teachers are really understanding, we have a great principal, and the kids are friendly and helpful.

Q: What is your favorite class? Why?

A: My favorite class is math because I enjoy it. Math comes naturally to me.

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

A: Creighton Prep.

Q: Can you tell us a unique fact about yourself?

A: I like to play any sport I can get my hands on and I like to take on new challenges.

Thank you for sharing, Alex!



Speaking of challenges, Alex will take part in the 2018 Nebraska National Geographic State Bee on April 6 at the University of Nebraska-Omaha. Boesch was notified by the National Geographic Society that he is one of the

semifinalists for this competition, now in its 30th year. School Bees were held in schools with fourth- through eighth-grade students throughout the state to determine each school champion. School champions then took a qualifying test, which they submitted to the National Geographic Society. The National Geographic Society has invited up to 100 of the top-scoring students in each of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Department of Defense Dependents Schools and U.S. territories to compete in the State Bees.



Here, Alex is pictured with his geography teacher Mr. Jourdan.

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. Please contact Blair at 402-590-2815 or BBonczynski@archomaha.org with your exciting updates and to subscribe to future newsletter issues.

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.

This is a publication of the Omaha Catholic School Consortium

To submit a story idea contact:

Blair Bonczynski, Marketing & Communications Coordinator at bbonczynski@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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Para hablar con alguien en Español, favor llamar 402-557-5570.

