

# MAKING THE GRADE

NEWS FROM THE OMAHA CATHOLIC SCHOOL CONSORTIUM

JUNE 2018

## Welcome Back, Chris Nelson!



We are happy to announce that Chris Nelson, a former principal of Holy Cross School, has been named executive director of the Omaha Catholic Schools Consortium.

Nelson had been serving as coordinator of professional development for the Catholic Schools Office. She replaces Donna Bishop, who has taken a new position at FACTS Education Solutions.

Nelson has 26 years of experience in Catholic education as an administrator and teacher. She holds a bachelor's degree in arts and education from Doane College, a master's degree in

education from the University of Nebraska at Omaha and a certification in Catholic school leadership from Creighton University.

"Chris has dedicated a lifetime to Catholic education and it shows in her daily actions," said Michael Ashton, superintendent of Catholic Schools. "Her experience and skills perfectly match the tasks required for leading the Consortium."

Nelson said she looks forward to working with pastors, administrators, teachers and families to continue "the great work that is happening in our consortium schools."

"We want to build on our efforts to support the whole child, both spiritually and academically, as we work to help them grow," she said. "I am honored and excited to help shape our path forward."

## WE'RE MOVING!

The Consortium Business Office will now be located at St. Stanislaus School, where the new Dual Language Academy will open this fall. Please update your records to reflect our new address:

**4501 S. 41st Street Omaha, NE 68107**

You are welcome to visit the office and schedule a tour of one of the Dual Language Academy classrooms. The office phone number will remain **402-590-2810**.



# COOL NEWS FROM OUR SCHOOLS



Our Lady of Lourdes

**Above:** A fun tradition at Our Lady of Lourdes is the eighth grade “Clap Out” where the entire school gathers to congratulate and “high five” the graduating class on their last day of school.

**Right:** The Consortium held its annual Pastor Appreciation Luncheon in May, with a special appearance by Archbishop George Lucas. In attendance were the Consortium Business Office staff, principals from all of our schools, members of the Consortium Board of Directors and many of the priests from the 16 different parishes that support the Consortium. As part of the event, each priest was presented with a bundle of thank-you cards from students.



Holy Cross

**Left:** After teaching more than 40 years at Holy Cross, Mrs. Carolyn Taylor is retiring and the school wants to shower her with cards. If you know Mrs. Taylor, please mail your memories and best wishes to **Holy Cross School, 1502 S 48th St., Omaha, NE 68106**. Thank you, Mrs. Taylor, for your influence on so many children in our community!

**Below:** Dia de las Madres – Mother’s Day – is very important to Mexican families. Sts. Peter and Paul hosted a large celebration May 10 to honor mothers and grandmothers.



Sts. Peter and Paul



## SEEKING ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

The Archdiocese of Omaha seeks a leader in Catholic education to join our dedicated, impassioned and visionary team. We serve, support and advance a diverse, progressive and expanding school system of 71 schools, rich in the tradition of deep Catholic identity and high expectations. The preferred candidate will continue the work of the apostolate, widening the doors to our Church through robust, sustainable and vital, Christ-filled school communities. Learn more about our Archdiocese and schools at <http://archomaha.org> and <http://lovemyschool.com>

Applicants must apply through <http://careers.archomaha.org>

# GET TO KNOW...

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



## Connor Foster, St. Thomas More

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

**A:** It makes me feel grateful because I know it's not like that at all schools.

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

**A:** Helping people in school with questions on schoolwork or being kind to others at recess. I help my family by taking care of the dogs and helping cook meals. I like to be host when we have people over to our house.

**Q: What do you like most about St. Thomas More and why?**

**A:** Angel of God Club. In the club, we learn how to be kind to others.

**Q: What is your favorite class? Why?**

**A:** Science. We get to do fun experiments. My favorite topic was severe weather. Our teachers taught us how to be safe during storms.

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

**A:** I will probably go to Mt. Michael because my older brother will be starting there in the fall. I am excited to study chemistry in high school.

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

**A:** I have an identical twin brother. I love art, cooking, reading, and science.

**Thank you for sharing, Connor!**

This month, we invited a member of the Consortium community to share more about himself and why he supports the Consortium mission.

## Jeff Poepppe, Omaha

**Q: Why did you choose to enroll your child(ren) at St. Bernadette?**

**A:** As a St. Bernadette alum myself, we felt having our kids go through the same experience would help them with their spirituality and self-discipline for life's challenges.

**“Children learn the value of giving and helping others through their experiences at the Consortium schools.”**

**Q: What has been your favorite part of your child's school experience this year?**

**A:** Watching our first-grade son, Elijah, develop his reading skills, along with seeing his progression both spiritually and academically at St. Bernadette.

**Q: Why do you choose to make financial donations to the Consortium?**

**A:** Donations to the Consortium as a collective group of schools helps minimize tuition increases. As a side bonus, some corporations will match donations to the Consortium and/or particular school of your choice.

**Q: How do you feel the Consortium makes a difference for others in the community?**

**A:** Children learn the value of giving and helping others through their experiences at the Consortium schools. This value system continues as they work and interact in communities.

# Together in Christ Annual Fund

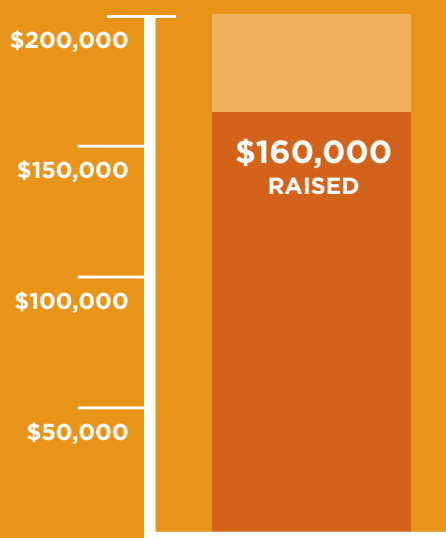
## Did you know?

- Tuition covers less than half of the cost to educate a child. The remaining amount is covered by parish support and development efforts. 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.
- We have an approximate \$3,000 annual “tuition gap” per student. Your donation can help close that gap.
- Our goal is to raise \$200,000 by June 30 to support not only tuition assistance, but technology upgrades, professional development opportunities for our staff and enhanced instructional materials for our classrooms, including supplies for our new Dual Language Academy.

To make your gift today, contact the Development Office at 402-590-2810 or visit [www.omahacsc.org](http://www.omahacsc.org) to make a secure online donation. Thank you for your support!



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



## THANK YOU, OMAHAGIVES DONORS!

On May 23, the Omaha community came together once again and made a real difference for metro-area nonprofits, including the Omaha Catholic School Consortium. Because of your support we were able to raise \$2,485 this year.

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:bbonczynski@archomaha.org)

Visit our website at: [Omahacsc.org](http://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.

