



OMAHA CATHOLIC SCHOOL
CONSORTIUM

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

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

ANNUAL REPORT

NEWS FROM THE OMAHA CATHOLIC SCHOOL CONSORTIUM



2020-2021





OUR STORY

9 YEARS OF COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY

The Omaha Catholic School Consortium was formed in 2012 as a collaboration of parishes, schools, parents and community partners working together to support Catholic education in southeast Omaha.

6 SCHOOLS

Holy Cross

Our Lady of Lourdes

St. Bernadette

Sts. Peter and Paul

St. Thomas More

Dual Language Academy

Mission

We provide academic, administrative and financial support to our 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.

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

BOARD CHAIR MESSAGE



Friends of the Consortium:

The moving photo below was posted on the Consortium Facebook page on January 24 as it captures the essence of what it means to go to a Consortium school. This post went viral quickly, reaching more than 16,000 people with more than 100 people sharing this photo of Jonathan, a student at **Our Lady of Lourdes**, as he paused during recess to drop to his knees and pray. Our Catholic schools are special places.



At the Consortium, we help our children learn what is good, holy and beautiful in our world. Our schools prepare our students academically and to think critically. But what sets the Consortium schools apart is that they teach our students to learn how to love, to be kind, to pray and to trust in the Lord.

The challenges of the past year caused all of us to take pause, much like Jonathan did that day on the playground. We owe a great deal of gratitude to our teachers and administrators for finding a way to keep our schools open and safe while also keeping students focused and learning. Our teachers went above and beyond - remote options were

offered, safety measures were taken and all six of our buildings were open for learning the entire school year.

Today, we are stronger and more resilient, and we move forward with confidence as we focus on the 2021-2022 school year.

We plan to continue to:

- Challenge our students academically with new curriculum plans for reading and math and improved instructional practices, as well as increased opportunities for students to grow in their relationship with Jesus
- Improve our operational efficiencies by cost sharing, streamlining business processes and being good stewards of our charitable gifts so more money goes to teaching and learning
- Support our teachers as we greatly increase our efforts to provide improved and competitive compensation
- Enhance our governance model by diversifying our board and creating plans for a parent advisory group to offer more input from our largest group of stakeholders
- Deepen our relationship with our 16 supporting parishes and pastors to offer stronger spiritual guidance and support to our students and families
- Increase early childhood enrollment in our schools, offering the opportunity of a Catholic education to more families, as we energize our retreat programs

Thank you for supporting the Consortium schools in South Omaha and providing our children with the opportunity to have a relationship with Jesus in a safe, faith-filled learning environment surrounded by kind and caring friends and teachers.

On behalf of the Board of Directors,

Tammy Blossom
Board Chair

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



Friends of the Consortium,

To say this year was a phenomenal year for the Omaha Catholic School Consortium would be quite an understatement.

The first phenomena was being in-school for in person learning all school year long for all six of our schools, while offering a remote learning option. This was due to excellent work by our teachers, staff and administrators combined with strong support from our students and their families. Everyone worked together to cooperate with many new procedures, including taking temperatures, new drop off and pickup procedures, lots of hand washing, spreading out in classrooms and the cafeteria and the biggest adjustment of all - everyone wearing masks. This diligence and cooperation along with lots of prayers worked, as we had minimal virus cases. Even though many families decided to keep their preschoolers, prekindergartners and even kindergartners home, resulting in a noticeable enrollment decline, we were truly blessed!

The second phenomena was the federal government providing our schools with significant funding focused on improving health and safety and addressing the learning gap. We used a portion of these funds to purchase cleaning equipment and supplies. The bulk of these funds are being utilized to update our curriculum materials for math, science and social studies with some updates to our already current reading curriculum. Our Education Director, Chris Nelson, is leading the effort with participation from our teachers and administrators to select new curricula that will be purposefully implemented over the

next few years. We fully expect these curriculum updates to have a positive impact on our standardized test scores.

The third phenomena we encountered was the increased challenge of income instability that many of our families encountered due to the pandemic. Whether it be job loss, illness or other related factors, many of our families stepped forward and asked for additional tuition assistance. Our Consortium team takes great pride in not turning students away due to the inability to pay. Growing support from donors helped to ease the strain this additional tuition assistance placed on the Consortium budget.

One of our big challenges is to replace the federal funds that were available the last two years. We are focused on growing our development efforts along with working with our families to continue growing the strong support they provide.

Thanks to our donors and friends for your financial support and prayers. Please continue to keep the Omaha Catholic School Consortium in your prayers as we strive to fulfill our mission of **bringing an affordable and sustainable Catholic education to the community through nurturing and culturally diverse school environments.**

Mike Goetz

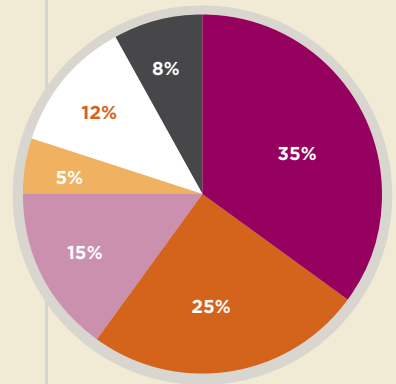
Executive Director,
Omaha Catholic School Consortium

OPERATING STATEMENT

for the Fiscal Year Ending 6/30/2021
Omaha Catholic School Consortium

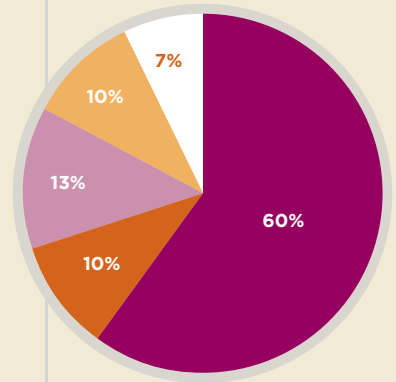
OPERATING REVENUES:

Tuition and Fees	\$3,584,700	35%
Parish Support	\$2,543,341	25%
Financial Aid & Scholarships - External Sources	\$1,544,556	15%
Auxiliary Programs	\$551,826	5%
* Preschool, Extended Care, Cafeteria & School Events		
Grant, Development & Fundraising Income	\$1,229,384	12%
* Grant - Payroll Protection Program, Cares Act, ITF	\$ 777,543	8%
Total Operating Revenues	\$10,231,349	



OPERATING EXPENSES:

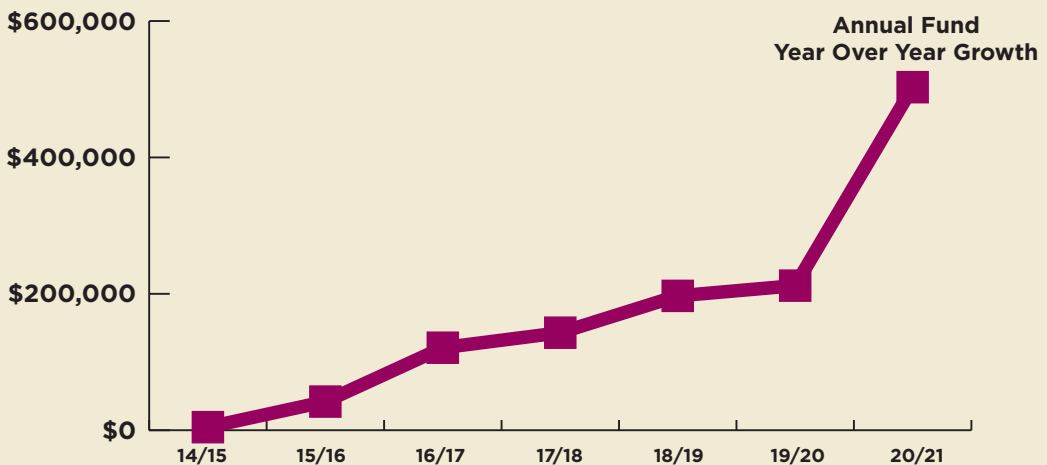
* Instructional	\$6,105,990	60%
General Administrative	\$990,813	10%
Plant Operations and Maintenance	\$1,331,554	13%
Auxiliary Programs	\$1,042,299	10%
Tuition Assistance - Internal	\$681,988	7%
Total Operating Expenses	\$10,152,644	



Net Revenue \$78,706

* Per federal guidelines, PPP funds were utilized to fund payroll to provide continued employment for school and Consortium staff. COVID Appeal contributions and other donations are now available to fund continued operations.

TOGETHER IN CHRIST - SUSTAINING CATHOLIC EDUCATION IN SOUTHEAST OMAHA



\$2017

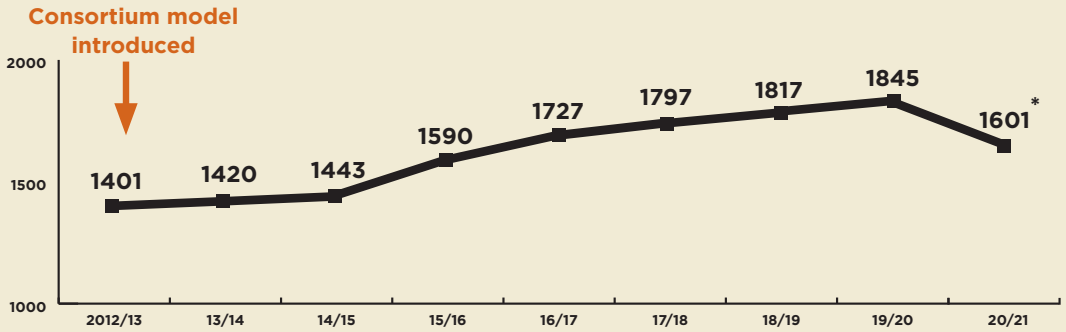
GAP BETWEEN TUITION AND FEES AND THE COST TO EDUCATE

There is a gap between the cost to educate and the full tuition rate per student. Families contribute 40% of our budget. All families receive a subsidized tuition amount. We are happy to make Catholic education accessible to families in our community, and we rely on support from parishioners, scholarship-providing organizations and donors to continue to offer affordable tuition.

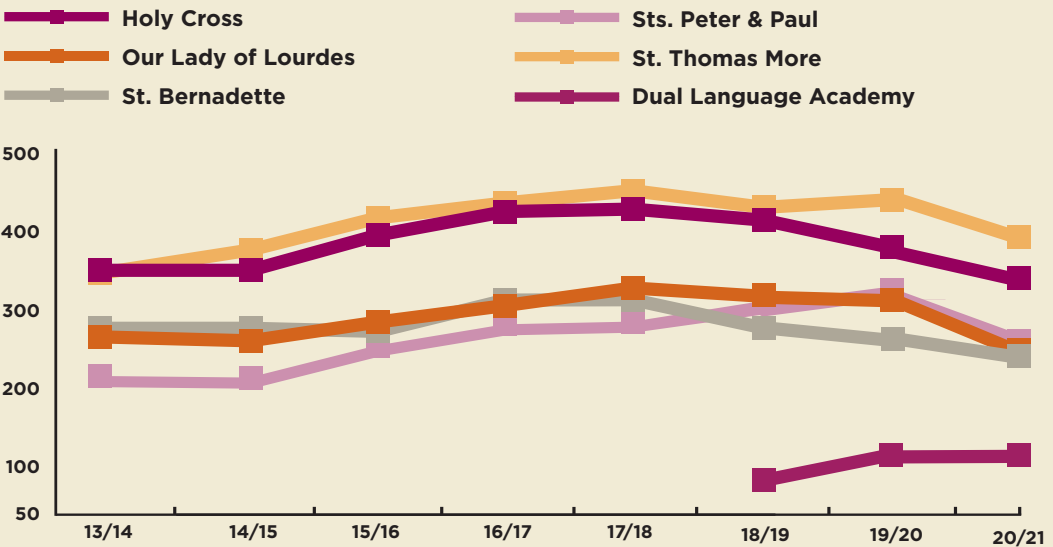


ENROLLMENT TRENDS

ENROLLMENT TOTALS - ALL CONSORTIUM SCHOOLS (PRE-SCHOOL THROUGH 8TH GRADE)



BY SCHOOL



ENROLLMENT AT A GLANCE

(BASED ON 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR DATA)



1,601*
preschool
- eighth
grade
students



88%
Catholic



49%
of students
qualify for
free or
reduced lunch



51%
of students
receive
tuition
assistance

* Enrollment decline due to pandemic, primarily in the early childhood grade levels, where many families elected to delay enrollment for their youngest children to a future year.

INNOVATIVE & SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENTS

Holy Cross

One beloved tradition at **Holy Cross** is the Field Day teams, which was kept alive even through the pandemic. Each eighth grader leads a team and has a team member from every grade, from transitional kindergarten to eighth grade. This allows for fellowship and camaraderie, in addition to all of the fun. This is one of many examples that demonstrate the sense of belonging and community that our Falcon families enjoy.



Mass buddies are another way the school builds relationships between students of all grade levels. Younger students are partnered with older students who sit next to them at Mass. The older students act as role models and examples of our faith. Students stay connected to their Mass buddies long after they have changed grades which helps develop those positive relationships in the building.

Sts. Peter and Paul

Sts. Peter and Paul continued year two of its program in partnership with the National Center for Families to support and improve literacy outcomes for English language learners. This past year, 20 families were enrolled between two cohorts who commit seven hours per week. Parents/guardians have the opportunity to attend English classes and parenting classes at no charge, as well as receive additional support in navigating local community resources available to them.

Parent participants also get to attend occasional classes with their children to improve literacy.



Many of our families create spiritual goals as well as academic and family goals. One common goal is to pray the rosary daily as a family. Another family is working toward reading the Bible more with their children. Still another is to learn the Our Father, the Hail Mary, and the Glory Be in English, as a step toward being able to participate in Mass in English.

“The community that has developed is close, supportive and unique,” says Vickie Hecker, Family Enrichment Coordinator at SPP.

Dual Language Academy

Dual Language Academy students reside in 29 different zip codes. Celebrating and honoring the many cultures our students come from is an important part of the school community.

Pictured here with school and Consortium staff members is Mexican Consul Maria Guadalupe Sanchez. She visited the school



INNOVATIVE & SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENTS

this spring to read to students and gifted them books as part of Día del Niño. Annually celebrated at the end of April by Mexico and other Latin countries, this is a special day to celebrate children.

We look forward to making new memories in our new building, as DLA moved into St. Joan of Arc School as of July 2021. More information about the move and our bilingual curriculum can be found at OmahaDLA.org/newlocation2021.



Our Lady of Lourdes

OLL is home to Mrs. JC Weaver, third grade teacher who also acts as the school's Lighthouse Teacher. As such, she provides ongoing coaching to new and veteran teachers throughout the year. The program is in year three and is facilitated by the Catholic Schools Office. Last year, teachers recorded themselves in the classroom and Mrs. Weaver used her training to guide fellow teachers through self-reflection based upon the Jim Knight coaching principles for effective instruction. This is one way OLL stays focused on continuous improvement.

St. Thomas More

This past summer, STM was excited to offer a Summer Day Camp program to families with half- or full-day options. Running from early June through late July, weekly themes for students to enjoy included: Ocean and Water Week, Gardening, Cooking, Science, Art, Nature and more. Unsurprisingly with the heat, water week was the most popular! Feedback from the families served through this summer program was full of gratitude for the school providing these fun-filled, safe and affordable care options for the community.



St. Bernadette

The twenty eight students in the Class of 2021 from **St. Bernadette** earned 16 different scholarships. Eighty two percent of SBS eighth graders matriculated to a local Catholic high school.



Academic growth and love of learning are main focuses. For the second year, **St. Bernadette** continued a 1:1 technology program in grades 5-8, with each middle schooler receiving a Chromebook. Previously, teachers were sharing devices, which limited their ability to do more innovative projects. With readily accessible technology, teachers continued to differentiate and personalize instruction. This is one of many ways in which Consortium students become prepared for success in high school.

SPECIAL THANKS TO THESE SUPPORTERS

GIFTS PROVIDED TO THE OMAHA CATHOLIC SCHOOL CONSORTIUM FROM JULY 1, 2020-JUNE 30, 2021

Annual Report of gifts – these gifts include Gifts in Kind, Gifts designated for a specific purpose, as well as gifts shared with our Together In Christ Annual Fund.

Anchor Alliance

(alumni are bold, parents/grandparents/parents of alumni italicized)

Hebrews 6:18-20 tells us that our hope in Jesus is like an anchor for our souls, holding us secure and safe. You can join our Anchor Alliance by making a gift of \$1,000 or above to support our mission.

Crown (\$25,000+)

Anonymous

Cheri and Tom Hassenstab
Carol and John Maginn
Mammel Family Foundation
Suzie and Mike Lawler
James Kineen

Cross (\$24,999-15,000)

Nancy and Michael McCarthy
Mary and James Czyz

Gold (\$14,999-10,000)

Heider Family Foundation

Silver (\$9,999-\$7,500)

Iron (\$7,499-\$5,000)

Anonymous
Marilyn and Robert Czerwinski
Ann Kineen

Copper (\$4,999-\$2,500)

Tammy and Drew Blossom
Cynthia and Patrick Brennan
Mimi and Matt Miller
LAM Support Services
Amy and Jay Vankat

Bronze (\$2,499-\$1,000)

Anonymous (2)
Notre Dame Sisters
Jean and James Ambrose
Peg and Chris Berens
Marilyn and Jerold Buresh
Dr. Jane Carnazzo and Robert Stutzman
Amy and Todd Foje
Diane and Dave Fucinaro
Cindy and Mike Glassman
Lauren and Michael Hupp
Kathy & William Kizer

Amy and Bradley Knuth
Katie and Coleman Naughton

Anne and Dr. Stephen Raynor

Susanne Shore and The Honorable J. Peter Ricketts
Wendy and David Treinen
Gayle and Michael Goetz
JoAnn and Alex Willits
Chris and Scott Nelson
Leanne and Donald Gifford
Our Lady of Lourdes – St. Adalbert Catholic Church
Rev. John Pietramale
Dr. Amy Haddad and Steven Martin
Michaela and Shane Smith
Vera and Roman Uhing

Tributes:

In Memory of Bernyce Wagman

Mary and Terence Zach
Ellen and Greg Jackson

In Honor of Blasé CardinalIn

James Kineen

In Honor of Bob and Pam Voboril

Mlada and Charles Hill

In Honor of Raymond Vega, Theodore Vega, Jr, and Theodore Vega, Sr

Brenda and Theodore Vega

In Memory of “Papa” Harold Gifford

Anonymous (2)
Sue and Dennis Francis
Jana Moore
Beverly and Joseph Hrdy
Cyndee and Patrick McVay
Elizabeth and David Szymanski
Barbara and Allen Branco
Joanna and Eugene Meinders
Sophie and Michael Purdy
Maureen and Raymond Meinders
Melissa Sindelar
Barbara and Elson Paquette
Kathleen and Michael Yeshnowski
Thomas Yeshnowski
Marisa Rybar
Susan and Dean Aurand

Kacey Francis
Bellevue Fire IAFF Local # 4906
Marlene and Gary Machal
Heather Addison
Rita Gifford
Charles Begay
Linda and Craig Schneider
Gertrude and Frank Perrone
Leanne and Donald Gifford
Donna and Robert Kubiak
Nathan Gifford

In Memory of Denis Buse

Rev. Harold Buse

In Memory of Helen Patane

Nicole and John Jesse

In Memory of John and Phyllis Martin

Michael Martin

In Memory of Joseph J. Borghoff, IV

Ingrid Borghoff

In Memory of Kathryn Jindra

Rev. John Pietramale

In Memory of Nicholas Fisher

Phaedra and Joseph Fisher

In Memory of Richard Iaffaldano

Roberta and James Williams

In Memory of Shirley Kemp

Carole and Daniel Steier

In Memory of Sue Wiehl and Ruth Bussey

Theresa and Christopher Wiehl

In Memory of Thomas Hermanek

John Pakiz

In Honor of Luciana's Graduation from Holy Cross

Julia and Jeffrey Palzer

In Memory of M. David and Arlene Steier

Sue and Nick Steier

In Honor of Msgr. Gilg

Emily and Patrick Leahy

SPECIAL THANKS TO THESE SUPPORTERS

GIFTS PROVIDED TO THE OMAHA CATHOLIC SCHOOL CONSORTIUM FROM JULY 1, 2020-JUNE 30, 2021

Parents

(**alumni are bold**, *parents of alumni are italicized*)

Liesl and Stephen Alvey
 Veronica and Jesus Amaya
Michelle and Jayme Arlen
Gicela Ayala
 Sara and Ben Barada
 Jamie and Allen Berglund
 Roxana and Jose Bonilla
Elaine and Brian Buescher
 Andrea Carbonell and Daniel Fuller
Mary and Ben Carrick
 Nicky Clark
Angela and James Conn
 Catherine and Rafael Cruz-Montes
Jennifer and Richard Cunningham
 Alexandra and David Daro
Carmin and Sean Fogarty
Jena and Ryan Fogarty
Mandi and Patrick Foster
 Elizabeth and Russell Francis
 Stephanie and Chris Gates
 Karen and Steve Godfroy
 Amanda and Bryan Hackfort
Monica Mora-Handlos and David Handlos
Elizabeth and Pat Harding
 Melody Horn
 Amber Jimenez and Samuel

Dominguez
 Paula and Joseph Kehm
 Rachel and Evan Kraft
Agnes and Luke Lenagh
Kelly and Brent Linder
Samantha and Jacob Ludacka
 Amanda Mahoney
Kari and Michael Mansour
Sara and Scott McCandless
 Elizabeth and Jacob Moore
Karen and Thomas O'Donnell
 Evelyn Ortega
Julia and Jeffrey Palzer
Jennifer and Jeff Poepe
Maureen and Jon Roberts
Kara and Doug Schmidt
 Stefanie and Shawn Shanahan
Jamie Elsener-Sharp and Alan Sharp
 Keri Ann Shimerdla
Abby and James Skradski
 Lauren and Josh Slepser
 Michaela and Shane Smith
Amy and Jesse Stull
 Rose and James Sullivan
 Kendra Turner
 Jennifer and Matt Van Haitsma
 Sarah and Michael Vanek
 Paula and Joe Vazzano
 Brenda and Theodore Vega, III
 Amy and Andrew Wellwood
 Joan and Nathan Willis

Jill and Evan Young
 Lori and Michael Zadina

Grandparents

(**alumni are bold**, *parents of alumni are italicized*)

Marilyn and Robert Czerwinski
Patricia and Bill Dworak
 Debra and John Fahrer
Karen and Michael Fogarty
Liz and David Fox
 Leanne and Donald Gifford
 Dianne Gill
 Mary and John Hauschild
 Margo Juarez
Christine and Christopher Kenny
 Patty and Ray Neppel
Mary Pat and Laurence Raynor
 Dorothy and James Riha
Mary Beth and Joe Skradski
 Molly and Ray Swiercek
 Kathy and Jim Welniak

Parents of Alumni

(**alumni are bold**)

Erica Medina and Oscar Ahumada
 Christine and Gary Davis
Patricia and William Dworak
Phaedra and Joseph Fisher
 Tamyra and William Hower
Betty and Joseph Jasnowski

JOY OF GIVING DAY

Day of Giving Recap



JOY OF GIVING



1:1 MATCHING FUND



102 DONORS



\$29,210 RAISED



\$50 MEDIAN GIFT SIZE



33 FIRST-TIME DONORS



21 DONORS GAVE AN ADDITIONAL GIFT FOR THE YEAR



\$1,590 CAME FROM FACULTY AND STAFF GIFTS

SAVE THE DATE FOR 2022: MAY 18

SPECIAL THANKS TO THESE SUPPORTERS

GIFTS PROVIDED TO THE OMAHA CATHOLIC SCHOOL CONSORTIUM FROM JULY 1, 2020-JUNE 30, 2021

Jennifer and Chris Jerram

Nicole and John Jesse

Meg and Stephen Jones

Ursula Kalinowski

Kari and Michael Mansour

Julianne and Mark McNamara

Annie and Tom Messersmith

Kay and Jack Monzingo

Meghan O'Brien Gerken

Karen and Thomas O'Donnell

Catherine and Arman Pajnigar

Kari Pierson

Vera and Lee Pietramale

Ranny and Herb Povondra

Lucia Barrantes

John Wilhelm

Alumni

Anonymous

Connie and Larry Almgren

Beverly Anzalone

Kathleen Bassett

Daniel Beal

Ingrid Borghoff

Mary and Steve Boyles

Jackie and Richard Buchta

M. Gregory Burrows

Thomas Burton

Laura and Robert Callahan

Christina and Christopher Celio

Barb Chase

James Cobry

Warrine Coffey

Sr. Corrine Connelly, RSM

Patricia Connelly

Barbara and Tim Cunningham

Eileen and James Curran

Delores and Joseph Cvetas

Betty Eckley

Patrick Farho

Mark Fogarty

Deborah Fortina

Francia Frodyma

Kiley and John Gallagher

Christopher Gaul

Dr. Louis Halamek

Judith and Randy Haug

Sr. Judith Healy

Cara and John Hilgert

Margaret and Thomas Hoarty

Ellen and Greg Jackson

Karen Johnson

Elizabeth and Kevin Joyce

John Kennedy

Antoinette Kuhry

Patricia and Rex Leibert

Marlene and Gary Machal

Maureen and Dan Maher

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Michael McMillan

Mary and Thomas Morinelli

Rosanne and Kevin Mulcahy

Annette and Richard Murphy

Lucy and Roy Neneman

Kathleen and Mark Niebauer

Walter Noordam

Juliann and John O'Connor

Michael Odorisio

Bernadette Parys

Pamela and William Paschang

Patricia and Wilbur Pupkes

Bernadette and Mark Radachi

Corey Randone

Michael Scherr

Lynn and John Schultz

Marguerite and Dr. James

Smith

Judy Sorenson

James Spaustat

Mike Stahmer

Joanne Stewart

Carolyn Taylor

Joanne and Richard Tusa

Daniel VanMoorlegham

Delores and Richard Vaughn

Nancy Veasy

Kathleen and John Wilhelm

Rose Mary and Bernard Wilson

Mary Yandell

Jennifer Zielinski

Friends

Anonymous (17)

Rita and Scott Adams

Rachel and Rich Albers

Mary Joy Anderson

Ashley and Andrew Bauer

Rev. Frank Baumert

Reba and Benny Benschoter

Theresa and Duane Bland

Mary Blossom

Blair and Matt Bonczynski

Shannan and Bradley Brommer

Sharon and Dan Burns

Rev. Harold Buse

Patty and Jim Buser

Pamela and Lee Camenzind

Olga Casillas

Mary Jo and Dick Coffey

Alison and Dave Dibelka

Rev. Mr. Peter Digilio

Corinne and Dan Dineen

Susan and Mike Dobel

Kathy and Steve Dostal

Rebecca Duchman

Marva and Doug Dunning

Johna and Mark Duren

Stacey and David Fanciullo

Celeste Sully Feuerbach and
Chris Feuerbach

Nancy and Ed Fitzgerald

Msrgr. James Gilg

Jean and Ron Gordon

DeWayne Greim

Jeanette Griess

Kathlyn and Dr. R. Michael
Gross

Mary Ann Harding

Elaine Heath

Suzy and Matthew Heffron

Deb and James Herchenbach

Mary Anne and David Hoover

Barbara Jarnecic

Ken Kalkowski

Laura and Jeff Kilborn

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Alicia and Delbert Kroupa

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Gladys Raad

Michelle and Robert
Ramaekers

Betsy and Robert Reed

Patty and Kerry Rezek

Cynthia and Chrls Ring

Denise Rockwell

Mary and Dan Rommelfanger

Danielle Rommelfanger

SPECIAL THANKS TO THESE SUPPORTERS

GIFTS PROVIDED TO THE OMAHA CATHOLIC SCHOOL CONSORTIUM FROM JULY 1, 2020-JUNE 30, 2021

Heather and Mark Ronayne
Mary Frances and J. Emmet Root
Michael Root
Susan and Mel Schrader
Julie Schram
Diane and Joseph Schwaller
Kathy and Gene Schwarting
Angela and Leigh Smith
Mary and William Smith
Catherine Tierney
Maureen and James Waldron
Kathy Wamsley
Ellen and Herman Weist
Amanda and Jason Wesselman
Holly Wheeler
Taylor Wiester
Nanci Wildman
Mary and Dr. Terence Zach
Katie and Robert Zimmerman
U.S. Bank

FBG Service Corporation
Wheeler Contracting, Inc.
Bank of the West
Catholic Mutual Group
Our Lady of Lourdes Booster Club
Our Lady of Lourdes Home & School Association
Mutual of Omaha

Gifts-in-Kind

Anonymous
Red D Plumbing
Mullhall's

Grants & Scholarship Funds

Anonymous
Casey's General Stores
Creche Early Childhood Fund
Blasé and Mary Cupich Memorial Scholarship Endowment Fund*
John F. and Anne Marie Daly Endowment Fund*
Koch Foundation
Bishop Anthony Milone Tuition Assistance Fund*
Rita T. Star Education Fund

*These funds are held and professionally managed by the Catholic Futures Foundation. For more information about each fund or to make a contribution, please contact Tim Bogatz at tgbogatz@archomaha.org or 402-557-5650 ext. 1917.

This report is produced by the Omaha Catholic School Consortium. We 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.

LEADERSHIP

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS:

- James Laville, Holy Cross
- Lisa Linqvist, Our Lady of Lourdes
- Angie Smith, Dual Language Academy
- Lynn Schultz, St. Bernadette
- Andrew Bauer, Sts. Peter and Paul
- Gary Davis, St. Thomas More

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

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- Rev. Jeff Lorig
- John Maginn
- Dr. Sarah Kottich
- Jay Vankat
- Vickie Kauffold, Superintendent
- Shannan Brommer
- John Wilhelm
- Michael Goetz, Executive Director

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- Chris Nelson, Education Director
- Abby Skradski, Advancement Director
- Chris Feuerbach, Business Manager
- Olga Casillas, Business Operations
- Lucia Barrantes, Executive Assistant
- Sara Hood, Technology Integration Specialist
- Blair Bonczynski, Marketing and Communications Coordinator

“My brother and I transferred to **St. Bernadette** last year from public school. It’s new for us to be able to study Jesus. I especially liked learning stories about the apostles this year in Religion class.”

.....
Zahid, student at SBS

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

MINDING THE GAP: STUDENT PROGRESS THROUGH THE PANDEMIC

The school year looked very different with social distancing, masks, shields, temperature checks, self-screening and more. We are proud of how we kept staff and students from all six of our buildings safe. But we also know that all of the protocols take a toll on the social, emotional and academic well-being of all in our communities.



That's why administering assessments to both students and staff was important for us, to help understand where people were and what steps we needed to take.

Assessment data from Fall 2020 showed that students across our six schools, on average, started school behind where we would expect them to be in both math and reading, due to remote learning the prior spring.

However, students took the same assessments in spring 2021, and scores from all grades showed marked improvement in student achievement measuring at or above grade level.

READING

69% 

of kindergarten - eighth graders that showed typical to high growth

MATH

79% 

of second - eighth graders that showed typical to high growth

“My daughter attended preschool at **Our Lady of Lourdes** last year. I saw the attention the teacher paid to each student and the patience she had. I was very pleased at how everyone treated each other.”

.....
Oldalis Salgado, parent of OLL student

More than 100 teachers throughout our schools used this data, along with their collective years experience, new professional development training and blended learning tools to help close learning gaps and accelerate students' learning.

More than that, a separate assessment of students, staff and families at our schools in late spring 2021 showed us that progress was also made in terms of social and emotional needs. Most students who were surveyed reported feeling highly respected and cared for by their teachers.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Equipping Disciples



REV. JEFF LORIG

Current pastor of St. Joan of Arc and St. Thomas More, since July 2020. Alum of **St. Thomas More Catholic School** (grades 5-8) and Guardian Angels Central Catholic in West Point, Nebraska (grades 9-12), then named Central Catholic High School.

ABOUT FR. LORIG:

- Degree in Philosophy from University of St. Thomas, degree of Sacred Theology from the Gregorian University and a masters degree in Spirituality at the Angelicum, both in Rome, Italy
- Trained spiritual director with the Institute for Priestly Formation and a certified Gallup Strengths Coach
- Ordained to the priesthood in 2004
- Past assignments at the Chancery, St. Ludger and St. Ignatius in rural Nebraska
- Joined the Consortium Board of Directors in spring 2021

At STM, his favorite class was English literature, and he held the sit up record in P.E. for many years following his graduation. Another fun fact from his time at **St. Thomas More** is that he was voted “most likely to become a priest drummer” by his eighth grade class.

“I like working with people who want to achieve the same mission of reaching more people for Jesus Christ,” he said.

“It’s fun to be back here and see it in a different way. If I had kids, I’d love to send my kids here. **St. Thomas More** is a safe place. Staff really care...it’s a community.”

Outside of his role as priest, Father Lorig is a motorcycle enthusiast.



REV. JEFF MOLLNER

In July 2021, we also welcomed Fr. Jeff Mollner to **St. Bernadette**, following Fr. Buse’s retirement.

“I was blessed with many great teachers at **St. Thomas More**. I remember feeling like each one of them cared. I know I wouldn’t be where I am today without Catholic school.”



ABOUT FR. MOLLNER:

Fr. Mollner grew up with four siblings, all of whom attended Catholic school. He said he is grateful for the sacrifice and choices his family made. Now, he is on the other side of the classroom, which he enjoys.

“It doesn’t matter if we are at home, at school, on the basketball court, or just hanging out with friends, we are always giving witness to what we believe. I tell students that their lives may be the only Gospel that some people ever read. I always encourage the basics: prayer, following the commandments and striving every day to love God more.”

"We have been with **Dual Language Academy** since its inception. Watching our children's growth in faith, culture and language has been a gift. As educators ourselves, we have been continually impressed with the advanced curriculum and support of the loving and invested faculty and staff. DLA feels like an extension of our family."

- *Teryn Sedillo, parent of DLA students*



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