

10 YEARS OF SUSTAINING CATHOLIC EDUCATION IN SOUTHEAST OMAHA

IMPACT REPORT 2022-2023



OMAHA CATHOLIC SCHOOL
CONSORTIUM

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



Dual Language Academy • Holy Cross • Our Lady of Lourdes • St. Bernadette • Sts. Peter and Paul • St. Thomas More



MISSION

We provide an excellent academic and faith-filled Catholic education in southeast Omaha that is affordable and will be sustainable for generations to come.



LEADERSHIP

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

- Archbishop George Lucas
- Tammy Blossom - Chair
- Rev. William Bond
- Shannan Brommer - Development Committee Chair
- Mike Goetz
- Vickie Kauffold - Superintendent of Catholic Schools
- Paula Kehm - parent
- Rev. Jeffrey Mollner
- Rev. John Pietremale
- Jay Vankat
- John Wilhelm - Finance Committee Chair

CONSORTIUM STAFF:

- Michelle Arlen - Development Associate, new in 2023
- Andrew Bauer - Education Director
- Olga Casillas - HR Director
- Ben Connealy - Business Manager
- Chris Feuerbach - Business Office
- Mike Goetz - Executive Director
- Paulina Macias - Tuition Administrator, new in 2023
- Ann Rasmussen - Assistant Principal



Dear Consortium community,

It is with great joy that I share with you all the magnificent work that has been accomplished in our schools this past year. From the smallest actions of kindness to the biggest accomplishments in academic and spiritual growth, we have seen the Holy Spirit at work in all six of our schools.

It is truly humbling to witness the growth and development of our students, staff and families, as they continue to flourish in a Catholic educational

environment. We are blessed to have such dedicated educators who are committed to instilling our Catholic values in our students and creating disciples of Christ.

As we look to the next 10 years, I am filled with excitement and anticipation for what God has in store for our schools. Our mission to provide an exceptional Catholic education to our students remains as strong as ever, and we are committed to a tradition of excellence. With that, we are expanding our leadership team to better support our schools. We are delighted that Shannan Brommer will become the Consortium's new executive director, as Mike Goetz

assumes the newly created role of Director of Finance and Operations. Earlier this year, Andrew Bauer, our veteran principal at Sts. Peter and Paul stepped into the role of Education Director.



"I am deeply honored to have the privilege to lead the Consortium, whose students and mission are dear to my heart. I look forward to the opportunity to work with the Consortium's talented educators, principals, staff, Board of Directors and supporters to secure an even brighter future for our innovative schools." - **Shannan Brommer**

We are well poised to continue to foster a community of faith, fellowship and service, preparing our young people for a rapidly changing world. Thank you for your prayers and your continued support of the Omaha Catholic School Consortium.

Sincerely,

Tammy Blossom, Board Chair

"The Consortium schools have a strong tradition of exceptional education and formation of students in the Catholic faith. I remain confident this tradition will continue to bless families in southeast Omaha for generations to come." - **Archbishop George J. Lucas**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



The Omaha Catholic School Consortium was launched 10 years ago with one of its key objectives being to keep Catholic education in southeast Omaha affordable and sustainable for generations to come. Much has been accomplished during those 10 years including continued support from the 16 Consortium parishes, growing enrollment from just over 1,400 to nearly 1,700, refreshing nearly all of our curriculum, opening the Dual Language Academy, weathering the impact of the pandemic and launching our *Creating Bright Futures in Christ* campaign.

The Campaign's primary objective is to solidify the future of our Consortium schools. The goals of the campaign are threefold: increasing salaries for our dedicated teachers and staff, establishing a fund to support maintaining our character filled but aging buildings and providing for further tuition assistance. Catholic education in Omaha was initiated by

immigrants over 100 years ago. They were supported by religious sisters who simply are not present any longer. This campaign will help to keep Catholic education in southeast Omaha alive and thriving for the current wave of immigrants for another 100 years.

This will be my last letter to you as the Consortium's Executive Director. The Consortium Board is honoring my request to spend less time in the office and is affording me the opportunity to step back into a part time role focused on Operations and Finance. I will continue to be engaged and as committed as ever to the success of the Consortium. Please show our incoming Executive Director, Shannan Brommer, support, by supporting the success of our *Creating Bright Futures in Christ* campaign and our *Together in Christ* Annual Fund.

Mike Goetz

Executive Director, Omaha Catholic School Consortium

SUPPORTING PARISHES

1. **Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Our Lady of Guadalupe Church**
5438 S 22nd St. • 402-731-2196
2. **Holy Cross Catholic Church**
4810 Woolworth Ave. • 402-553-7500
3. **Holy Ghost Catholic Church**
5219 S 53rd St • 402-731-3176
4. **Immaculate Conception Catholic Church**
2708 S 24th Street • 402-342-1074
5. **Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church**
2706 Leavenworth St • 402-341-4560 x103
6. **Our Lady of Lourdes**
St. Adalbert Catholic Church
2110 S 32nd Ave. • 402-346-0900
7. **St. Andrew Kim Taegon Catholic Community**
2617 S 31st Street • 402-345-1621
8. **St. Bernadette Catholic Church**
7600 S 42nd Street • 402-731-4694
9. **St. Bridget - St. Rose Catholic Church**
4112 S 26th Street • 402-733-8811
10. **St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church**
4513 S 32nd Street • 402-733-8811
11. **St. Mary Catholic Church**
3529 Q Street • 402-731-0204
12. **St. Mary Magdalene Catholic Church**
109 S 19th Street • 402-342-4807
13. **St. Peter Catholic Church**
2706 Leavenworth Street • 402-341-4560
14. **St. Stanislaus Catholic Church**
4002 J Street • 402-731-4152
15. **St. Thomas More Catholic Church**
4804 Grover Street • 402-556-1456
16. **Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church**
5912 S 36th Street • 402-731-4578

FIND THE SCHOOL THAT'S RIGHT FOR YOU.



1. **Holy Cross**
holycrossomaha.com
1502 So. 48th Street
402-551-3773
*Hospitality. Faith in action.
Inclusiveness.*
2. **Our Lady of Lourdes**
ollomaha.org
2124 S 32nd Ave
402-341-5604
*Committed to faith.
Dedicated to academics.
Connected to Community.*
3. **St. Bernadette**
stbernadetteschool.net
7600 South 42nd Street
402-731-3033
*Encouraging Disciples to
Serve, Learn and Pray.*
4. **Sts. Peter and Paul**
sppomaha.com
3619 X Street
402-731-4713
Prayer. Service. Love.
5. **St. Thomas More**
stmbengals.org
3515 S. 48th Ave.
402-551-9504
*St. Thomas More, a man
for all seasons, a school for
all children.*
6. **Dual Language Academy**
OmahaDLA.org
402-991-3400
7430 Hascall Street
*Somos Familia.
We Are Family.*



OMAHA CATHOLIC SCHOOL
CONSORTIUM



WHO WE SERVE

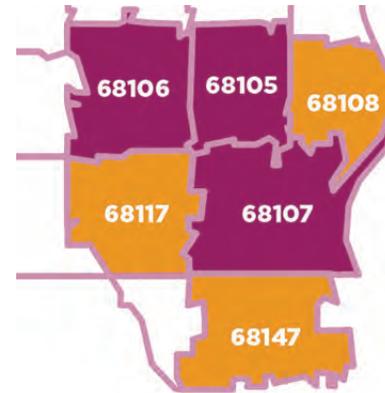
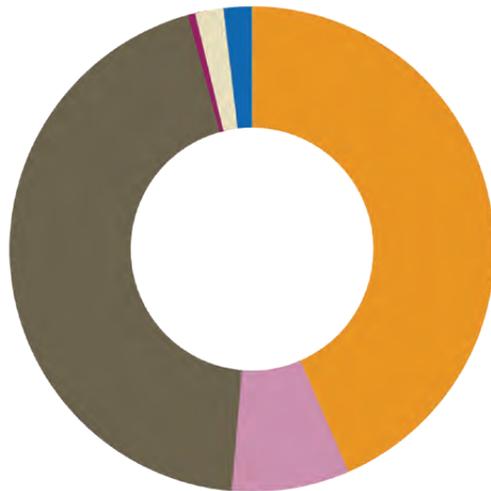
The southeast Omaha community we serve has a rich history of diversity. Our Consortium schools respond with an unwavering commitment to inclusivity, where students from various faiths, backgrounds and abilities come together to learn from and alongside each other. In a world often divided by differences, our schools teach the value of unity and the strength that comes from embracing diversity.

Our Schools use **Remind** to communicate with families, which is available in **90 languages**



1,657 STUDENTS

- Caucasian (non-Hispanic) 43.49%
- Black/African American 7.85%
- Hispanic/Latino 44.4%
- Hawaiian/Pacific Islander .49%
- American Indian 1.89%
- Asian 1.89%



41%

of Consortium students come from 3 primary zip codes: **68105, 68106, 68107**

These three zip codes have a child poverty rate more than two times higher than the rest of Douglas and Sarpy counties.

Families living in Consortium primary zip codes **pay 35% or more of their income on rent or a mortgage**, stressing their often limited financial resources.

ENROLLMENT AT A GLANCE

(BASED ON 2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR DATA)



86%

Catholic

We welcome children of all faith backgrounds



47%

of students qualify for free or reduced lunch



56.5%

diversity rate



43%

of students receive tuition assistance

SCHOOL SNAPSHOTS



Dual Language Academy

Established 2018



PRINCIPAL:
ANGIE SMITH



NUMBER OF STUDENTS: 189

- The DLA is home to 11 bilingual staff members, from multiple different countries. The school has been successful working with the Nebraska Department of Education to help visiting teachers from other countries obtain a Nebraska teaching certificate. This has helped maintain the 90:10 immersion model, in which 90% of the day's instruction is completed in Spanish, with the remainder in English for preschool through fourth grade.
- A House system was established last year, with 8 different houses to which students belong. A House system empowers all students to lead and belong. Everyone got to play and pray together in a multi-grade community, fostering positive peer-to-peer growth - academically, socially and spiritually.



Holy Cross

Established 1936



PRINCIPAL:
JAMES LAVILLE



NUMBER OF STUDENTS: 307

- The Outdoor Spaces Committee worked hard last year, including the construction and upkeep of a pollinator garden as well as securing over \$25,000 in donated materials, labor and plants to renovate outdoor spaces and completely renovate the interior courtyard. Parents and others in the community also came together to help with the demolition and repair of the gym when the bleachers and other areas were damaged by a storm.
- Faith-based activities abound at Holy Cross! Each grade celebrates a weekly Mass and enjoys prayers in their classrooms to start the day, at lunch and at the end of the day. Each classroom also features a prayer corner that students can utilize to build their relationship with Jesus.



Our Lady of Lourdes

Established 1954



PRINCIPAL:
MEG SEARL



NUMBER OF STUDENTS: 241

- The entire OLL school community, including students, teachers and parents participated in an all-school book program.
- OLL teachers make accommodations to classroom instruction to meet the educational needs of all students. While much of the differentiation happens at the classroom level, Title 1 teachers also assist students who qualify for additional help in the areas of math and reading K-8th. Ten percent of OLL students received Title 1 support last year.



St. Bernadette

Established 1965



PRINCIPAL:
LYNN SCHULTZ



NUMBER OF STUDENTS: 237

- Middle school grades 5-8 account for 41% of the total student enrollment, and continue to serve as role models for younger grades through their leadership and service. In particular, 22 of the eighth graders received scholarships for Catholic high school.
- SBS spent another year, 12 years running, supporting the ArchOmaha seminarians through special projects and prayers. Last year, one seminarian even sent a video message to students from St. Peter's Square in Rome!



Sts. Peter and Paul

Established 1926



PRINCIPAL: NEW FOR 2023-2024
SARAH NOMMENSEN



NUMBER OF STUDENTS: 278

- The school community is thrilled to welcome new principal, Mrs. Sarah Nommensen, for the 2023-2024 school year as former principal, Andrew Bauer, became Education Director for the Consortium.
- Last year, SPP implemented a new C.A.S.A.S Middle School Homeroom program for grades 6-8. The C.A.S.A.S system builds a sense of spirit, belonging and personal relationships. Each house grouping is named after a Saint and has its own motto and t-shirt. Every month there is a "House Competition" to challenge the students' knowledge, creativity, problem solving skills and teamwork. Students also plan and complete service projects.



St. Thomas More

Established 1959



PRINCIPAL:
GARY DAVIS



NUMBER OF STUDENTS: 405

- Of the 45 eighth grade graduates from the class of 2023, 78% of the students moved on to local Catholic high schools! A special shout out goes to Maia Arlen for achieving the highest score on the 8th Grade Entrance Exam, earning a scholarship to Skutt Catholic High School! We know you will do great things!
- The STM Summer Camp program expanded to include students PreK-7th grade. Students and their families chose between various weekly themes to receive continued learning in areas such as: science, cooking, art, nature, photography, theater, STEM and more.



ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

New Math Curriculum Will Make a Big Difference

Our schools are filled with all types of learners from zip codes all across the Metro. We were proud to introduce a new math curriculum in the 2022-2023 school year, which we believe will help students succeed academically and thrive as critical thinkers in their future endeavors.

ABOUT THE CURRICULUM

After a selection process that included a group of math teachers and school administrators, IntoMATH was selected as the new K-5 curriculum and Carnegie Math for the middle school grades. These two were selected because they align with current math education standards and because materials are based on the science about how we learn.

Two math coaches helped teachers at each school implement the new materials and supported them with the best instructional practices, making sure what we're doing aligns with current standards.

WHAT'S DIFFERENT

In the classroom, students learn together in a collaborative classroom model where teachers act as guides as students actively and critically think, reason mathematically and learn from each other.

Fewer math drills and step-by-step instruction happens now, and the students experience an approach that helps them truly learn and understand math concepts more deeply, rather than simply memorizing.

Parents have found this new instructional approach to be different from what they are used to, but it's all for the good.

Typically it is too early to see results after one year, but we are excited for the future. There has been demonstrated growth after the past several years working on reading improvement and now the data leads us to focus on math.

Science and social studies revisions are now underway.



“The biggest difference for me is all of the manipulatives that came with the curriculum. My teaching can be so much more hands-on now, which helps them to logically break down each problem and helps toward many different learning styles.”

“I liked the old curriculum and was not sure what getting something new would feel like, but after a full year with the materials, I am all in. Beyond the great assessment scores, it's making them think differently.”

- Betsy Harding, 2nd grade teacher
St. Bernadette



“The new curriculum changes the look and feel of a classroom. Especially at the middle school level, it's not 'sit and get.' Kids are actively grappling with problems and discussing how they came to conclusions.”

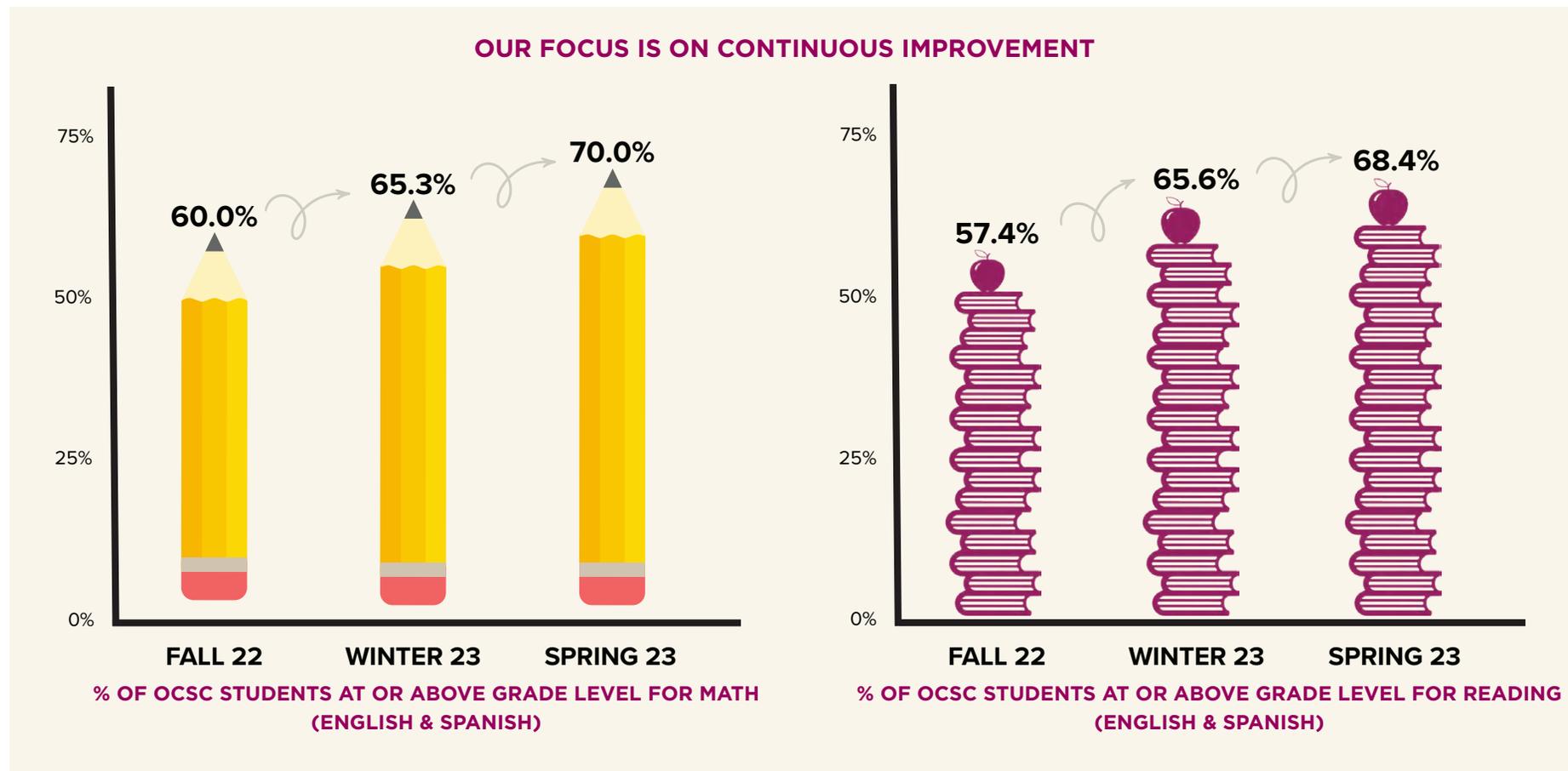
- Andrew Bauer, Education Director



ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Our schools utilize STAR Assessments, administered multiple times per year, to pinpoint skills that each student is ready to learn next, allowing teachers to personalize learning for each student's unique educational needs.

Test score averages across all schools show growth in the areas of both reading and math.



**10% GROWTH IN
MATH & READING
IN 2022-2023**

The number of students at or above grade level increased by at least 10% -- evidence that our excellent teachers are making stellar use of new curriculum materials.

FAMILY FEATURES

FOUR IN ONE FAMILY FIND FAITH, COMMUNITY AT ST. BERNADETTE

Holly Inserra is now in her second year as preschool teacher at **St. Bernadette**. Last school year is one that she will never forget, and a time that she says has God's fingerprints all over it.

She and her family were in a tough spot around that time parenting two boys at home. Her youngest son, Perry, struggled with mental health and other issues. Holly decided that a change in school setting could be the answer.

The family was not Catholic, but they had recently moved to the Bellevue area near **St. Bernadette**, and after meeting Lynn Schultz, school principal, they felt it would be the perfect place for Perry.

Holly says Perry struggled at first, and the staff response was amazing.



“The entire school welcomed him and loved him. It was a lot different from our former school...just a different form of care.”

- Holly Inserra

It didn't take long after that for Perry to come home saying how much he loved spending time with God and going to Mass. That's when Holly realized that was what the whole family was missing.

As soon as she could, she enrolled herself and Perry, along with her husband and Perry's older brother, Ramon, in RCIA at St. Bernadette. When it came time to choose a sponsor for herself, Lynn Schultz came to mind immediately.

Last Spring, Ramon was able to be baptized and confirmed with his eighth grade class at an all-school Mass.

Then, at the Easter Vigil, she says members of her husband's extended family with whom they had lost contact showed up in support, and the occasion helped reconnect them.

“The beauty and peace of the day we entered the Church served as a first step in reconciling as a family. We felt God wanted us to move forward.”

Reflecting on her experience, Holly wants to remind everyone that everything happens in God's timing. “Just stop, take time to listen, and you will know what God wants for you. For so many years, I was listening to everything else but that.”

For Holly, part of God's plan included her hearing about a preschool teacher job opening at SBS. She worked as a para at other school districts previously and felt this was a good time to transition.

We asked Holly about her experience as a teacher in our schools.

“I love seeing students grow, from beginning to end of the year. I love their questions and their curiosity. I love being Catholic. I am able to share my faith at school and able to talk about Jesus and start every morning with prayer.”

Holly Inserra's experience is an example of God's work that occurs every day in our schools.



Perry is thriving as a current 7th grader at SBS. Raymond graduated SBS in 2023 and now attends Gross Catholic High School.



MEET ESTELA RANGEL

If Estela's name sounds familiar, it's because she has worked as a friendly face and voice on the phone inside the school office at **Sts. Peter and Paul** since 2013. Prior to SPP, she worked at Assumption and in many roles within Catholic schools dating back to 1996.

Estela was born in Mexico and immigrated to South Omaha in the 1990s, with only minimal English skills at the time. She was quickly welcomed by her neighbor, who helped her learn the language and who remains a friend today.

Now, Estela has four children and nine grandchildren. She is fortunate to see three of her grandchildren every day, as they not only live with her, they are also enrolled at the school.

But she didn't always think this could be a possibility.

She says the tuition assistance her family receives is the only reason it is. And she says she knows that to be true for many of the other families who attend SPP.

"I'm so glad for financial assistance. Catholic education is so important to me because of the values, respect and faith that the kids learn."

Now in her 28th year working in Catholic education, she is a staple and great resource to the Hispanic community at SPP and beyond. "I'm always thanking God because I love helping families," she says.

Thank you, Estela! Muchas gracias!

MEET THE TOOLEY FAMILY



Kelsea and Jake are the proud parents of two **Holy Cross** students. Although initially attracted to Holy Cross because of its convenient location, they decided to enroll after an impressive visit to the Early Childhood Education program in 2019.

"Our kids have thrived in their early education classes. Academically, both girls have impressed us with their abilities. Our youngest is already connecting letters and sounding out words she sees around her. I like that they aren't just regurgitating facts or memorizing instructions - they're being encouraged to think out their math problems or make connections in a science lesson."

Kelsea and Jake hold the strong sense of community at Holy Cross in high regard. This is also true for their daughters, one of whom, Maura, said, "My favorite thing about Holy Cross is all the different classes like Art and Library. My teacher and principal are very funny and make me smile."

"From the principal down to the volunteer lunch helpers, the community at Holy Cross is committed to the children entrusted in their care. It's a wonderful feeling knowing you're sending your kids to school at a place where they're cared for sincerely."

- Kelsea and Jake Tooley

Beyond the caring community, our early childhood educators use creative teaching methods, such as play-based learning, project-based learning and technology integration to nurture each child's innate curiosity and love for learning. As a result, the kindergarteners who were previously enrolled in our Pre-K programs consistently demonstrate higher academic performance and test scores when tested in Kindergarten, paving the way for their success from the start.

OUTSTANDING EDUCATORS



HONORING MRS. TAMYRA HOWER **2023 ARCHDIOCESE OF OMAHA METRO ELEMENTARY EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR**

Tamyra Hower is the Pre-K teacher and director of the Pawprints Preschool program at **St. Thomas More**. Before teaching early childhood education, Tamyra was a neonatal and labor and delivery nurse. She has been at STM now for 19 years. She says the biggest thing she wants to instill in the children she teaches is to treat others the way they want to be treated. "I love their laughter, their sincerity and just watching them grow," she says. About her, co-workers say her teaching ability is a gift from God. "Tamyra truly loves each student as her own, which drives her desire to see them succeed academically, socially and spiritually."



Scan the code to learn more about the growing St. Thomas More Pawprints Preschool program.

CELEBRATING 1 YEAR WITH MRS. MEG SEARL

We were thrilled to welcome Meg Searl as principal at **Our Lady of Lourdes** last year. She started her career as a fourth grade teacher for four years before spending 20 years as a school counselor and 8 years as an administrator in Omaha Public Schools.

Read the below Q&A with Mrs. Searl to learn more about how she's using her experience and faith to build up the OLL community.

Q: What's your favorite part of your job?

A: Building relationships with the kids is my favorite part, for sure. It has also been really exciting to hire more incredible teachers and build a powerful staff. Something that our community has been especially excited about is the addition of a full-time librarian, who is a great resource for all.

Q: What was something that surprised you about your first year?

A: Something I noticed right from the start was how well the kids behaved. I was impressed with their manners and how the students interacted with the adults in the building.

Q: Do you have a favorite memory from the 2022-2023 school year?

A: The eighth grade class of 2023 was a special group of kids. I had never worked in a school with junior high kids, and they proved themselves to be fun, responsible, respectful and FULL of faith. Our staff was able to trust them to help out with a lot of different things, including leading a Day of Service and being excellent role models in faith.

Q: What is something about the Consortium in particular you appreciate?

A: We have a strong leadership team. The principals collaborate, and I appreciate the instructional support from our Education Director and Math Coach. This past year, our organization experienced a huge jump in getting curriculum and strategies in place.

Q: What are you looking forward to about year two and beyond?

A: Watching our staff implement the new curriculum has been great and I look forward to more of that. I am also excited that I now have experience on showing the community how to keep God in every single day and use my role to help shepherd their faith. We developed a new spirituality committee this year, which will extend the messages from Mass and offer more opportunities to encourage students in their faith.



A LOOK INSIDE OUR SCHOOLS

More than half of our students are students of color, making our six schools among the most diverse in the archdiocese. We are proud of the fact that classrooms across our schools reflect the surrounding community outside of our schools.



#OCSCProud Of Our Teachers

Our collective teaching staff
has an average of
14 years experience.

Last year, staff across our schools
completed more than
1,200 hours
of professional development, as part
of our commitment to continuous
improvement.

Did you know?

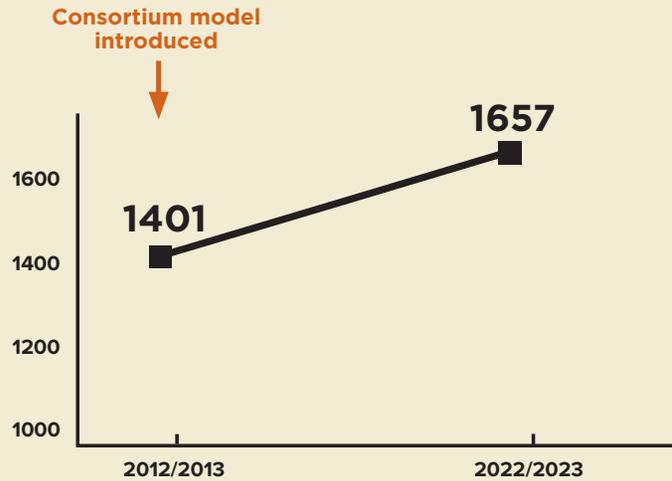
The Dual Language Academy, one of our six Catholic schools, has teachers from 6 different countries, including:

- Peru
- El Salvador
- Venezuela
- Mexico
- Spain
- United States

The school's paras also hail from 4 different countries:

- Colombia
- Panama
- Mexico
- Venezuela

ENROLLMENT TRENDS



ENROLLMENT TOTALS

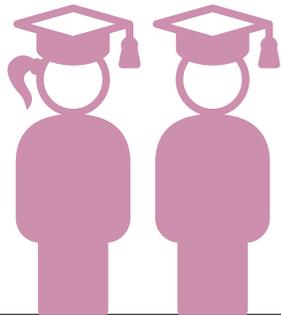
ALL CONSORTIUM SCHOOLS (PRE-SCHOOL THROUGH 8TH GRADE)

18%

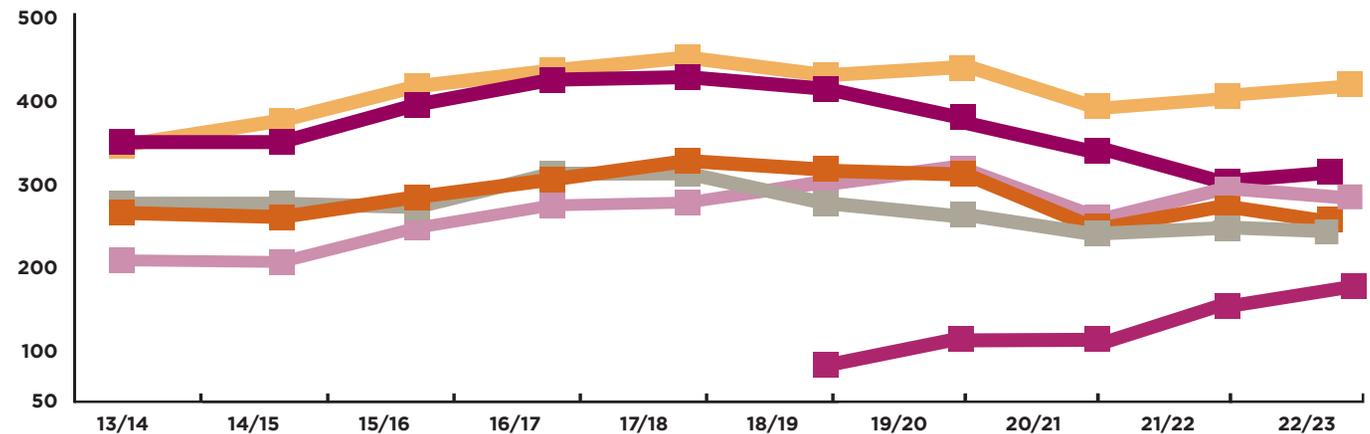
INCREASE IN ENROLLMENT
OVER THE PAST 10 YEARS

BY SCHOOL

(BASED ON 2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR DATA)



■ Holy Cross ■ St. Bernadette ■ St. Thomas More
■ Our Lady of Lourdes ■ Sts. Peter & Paul ■ Dual Language Academy



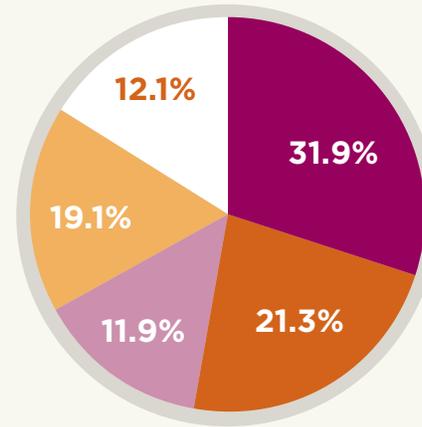
HOLY CROSS	307
OUR LADY OF LOURDES	241
ST. BERNADETTE	237
STS. PETER AND PAUL	278
ST. THOMAS MORE	405
DUAL LANGUAGE ACADEMY	189

OPERATING STATEMENT

FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING 6/30/2023 | OMAHA CATHOLIC SCHOOL CONSORTIUM

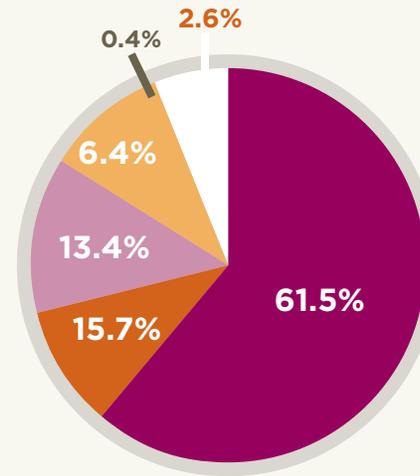
OPERATING REVENUES:

Tuition and Fees	\$3,364,099	■ 31.9%
Parish Support	\$2,243,069	■ 21.3%
Financial Aid & Scholarships - External Sources	\$1,257,415	■ 11.9%
Auxiliary Programs Preschool, Extended Care, Cafeteria & School Events	\$2,013,157	■ 19.1%
Grant, Development & Fundraising Income	\$1,276,404	■ 12.1%
Creating Bright Futures	\$399,010	■ 3.8%
Total Operating Revenues	\$10,553,154	

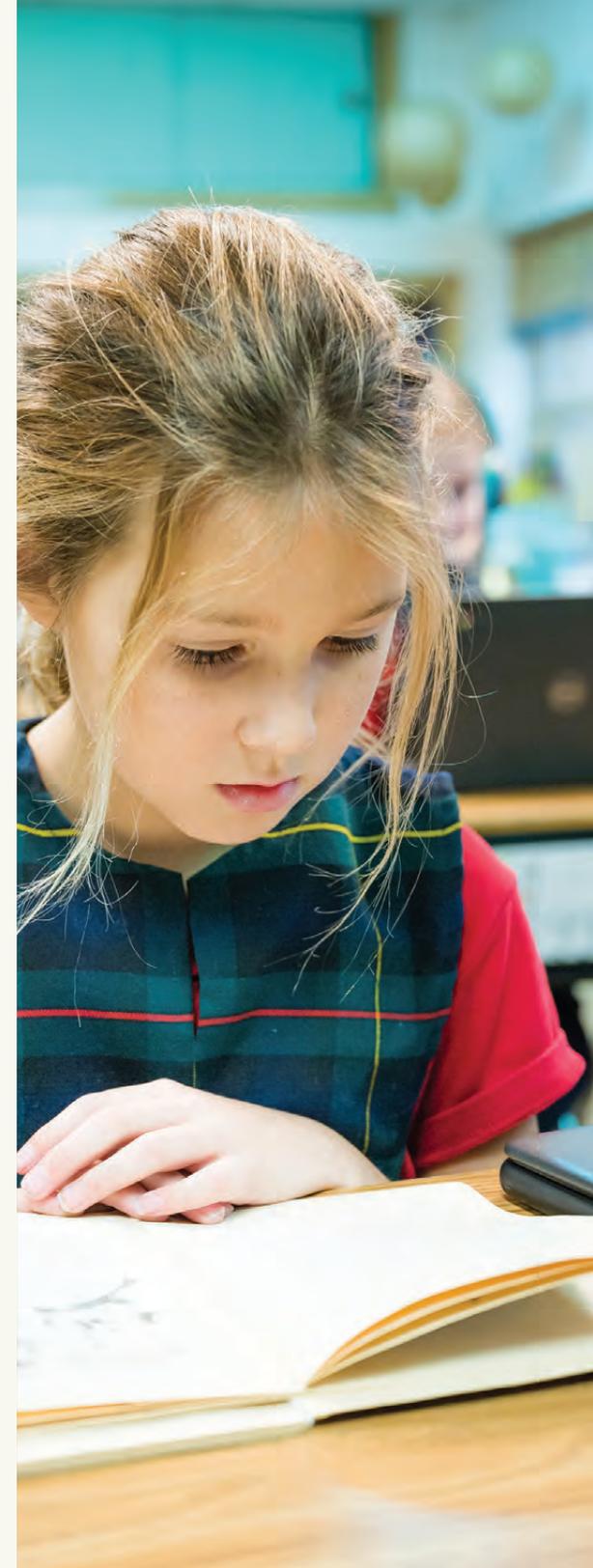


OPERATING EXPENSES:

Instructional	\$6,876,513	■ 61.5%
General Administrative	\$1,760,134	■ 15.7%
Plant Operations and Maintenance	\$1,501,930	■ 13.4%
Auxillary Programs	\$714,932	■ 6.4%
Tuition Assistance -Internal	\$293,938	■ 2.6%
Creating Bright Futures	\$42,900	■ 0.4%
Total Operating Expenses	\$11,190,347	
Net Revenue	\$(637,193)	



Federal funds in the form of Emergency Assistance to Non-Public Schools were paid directly to Consortium vendors and tracked as off income statement transactions. The amount received was \$1,897,585.91. Purchases included curriculum materials and school furniture.



SUSTAINING CATHOLIC EDUCATION IN SOUTHEAST OMAHA

TOGETHER IN CHRIST ANNUAL FUND
2022-2023

\$557,790

Established in 2014, the *Together in Christ Annual Fund* giving is a financial priority for our schools. It is a tax-deductible opportunity for donors to help make a difference in the future of the Consortium. Gifts are unrestricted and added to the budget for all six schools to meet operating expenses, enhance the programs and services offered to students and maintain the school building.

Ways the Annual Fund helped this year:

- **Operational dollars:** Offset the difference between the cost of tuition and the cost to educate each student. Each family contributes financially at a level appropriate to their situation, and a gap still remains.
- **Tuition Assistance:** Your generosity allows us to extend tuition discounts to families who demonstrate significant financial need. The tuition assistance program makes a direct impact on students' ability to continue to pursue their Catholic education with us. Forty-three percent of families enrolled in our schools receive some form of financial assistance.

Our schools bridge gaps and build bridges by offering tuition assistance so that every child has the opportunity to shine. Your support makes a positive impact for local families in the southeast Omaha community.

“Family support continued to be essential to the success of our school. Together, we helped our students grow in their love of God and neighbor.”

- Gary Davis, St. Thomas More Principal

Thank You!

**Support
Our Schools**

Scan QR Code
to donate online.



CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF THE CONSORTIUM

Happy Anniversary to Us!

In 2012, Archbishop George Lucas created the Consortium, with the goal of continuing excellent and affordable Catholic education in South Omaha.

The Consortium office is centrally located at 41st & J Streets, where staff handle administrative functions such as accounting, HR, payroll, tuition assistance and fundraising, which eliminates the burden at the school-level and creates efficiencies between schools.

16 different parishes support the Consortium, and a list can be found on page 4 of this report.



Students at **Holy Cross School** learned about how circuits work at their Maker Space club – back in 2016. You can see the same collaboration and creativity on display at the school now - with updated materials.

CREATING BRIGHT FUTURES IN CHRIST CAMPAIGN

Catholic education has been a part of southeast Omaha for over 100 years, and we are working to ensure that it stays for another 100 years.

The *Bright Futures* campaign addresses needs that go beyond the day-to-day operations. In addition to providing contingency funds, campaign supporters will allow us to address strategic objectives to help our schools flourish for generations to come.

The key campaign objectives are listed below, and we invite you to consider how you may become involved.

- **Increase teacher salaries**
- **Increase tuition assistance**
- **Building maintenance and improvements**

Our goal is to raise \$7 million, which helps ensure families in southeast Omaha who desire a Catholic education have affordable and accessible options.

Thank you to all who support our work. The Consortium community is unlike any other. We appreciate your financial and prayerful support now and in the future.

Scan the QR code for more information about this ongoing campaign:



Lord, Jesus, we thank you for all of the blessings in our lives and for the many gifts we have to share.

Please guide us as we go into the future with confidence and help us respond to Your call with faith and trust.

Send us your Spirit as we prepare for Your kingdom and strive to complete Your work in us.

Amen.

SPECIAL THANKS TO THESE SUPPORTERS

GIFTS PROVIDED TO THE OMAHA CATHOLIC SCHOOL CONSORTIUM FROM JULY 1, 2022-JUNE 30, 2023

We are thrilled to share the success of our 2022-2023 fundraising efforts. These gifts include Gifts in Kind, Gifts designated for a specific purpose, as well as gifts shared with our *Together in Christ* Annual Fund. Gifts to the *Creating Bright Futures in Christ* Campaign will be reported separately.

Anchor Alliance

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

Crown (\$25,000+)

Suzie and Michael Lawler
Mammel Family Foundation
Ryan Foundation

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

Carol and John Maginn

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

Marilyn and Robert Czerwinski
Nancy and Mike McCarthy

Teri and Ron Quinn

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

Steph and Bud Mushlitz

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

Tammy and Drew Blossom
Fr. Harold Buse
Mimi and Matt Miller
Katie and Coleman Naughton
Brian Timmerman
Pauline and Ron Wilwerding

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

Kristy and Paul Brannen

Rose and Robert Campney
Dr. Jane Carnazzo and Bob Stutzman
Scott Collins

Mary and James Czyz

Johna and Mark Duren

Mark Fogarty

Diane and Dave Fucinaro
Leanne and Donald Gifford
Cynthia and Mike Glassman
Gayle and Michael Goetz
Kathy and Michael Gross

Carol and Gerald Hassett

Joanne and Thomas Kerins
Dee and Kevin McCoy
Patty and Paul Mendlik
Natalie and Daniel Miller
Sigrid and Michael Moylan

Jennifer and Jeff Poepppe

Fr. John Pietramale

Joanne M. Stewart

Michael Timmins
Wendy and Dave Treinen
Vera and Roman Uhing

Amy and Jay Vankat

Kathy and Jim Welniak
Nanci Wildman

Parents - Past and Present

Rita and Scot Adams

Michelle and Jayme Arlen

Maggie and Ben Bauman
Roxana and Jose Bonilla

Gaylyn N. Boone

Anna Buckingham
Cristina Bueno
Maricruz and Daniel Cancino

Angela and Jamie Conn

Kathleen Conradson
Catherine and Rafael Cruz-Montes
Christine and Gary Davis
Erin Duchman
Ana Duran

Jana Flaxbeard

Carmin and Sean Fogarty

Yadira Garcia
Margarita Garrido
Stephanie and Chris Gates
Haley and Ryan Haas
Mary and John Hauschild

Paula and Joseph Kehm

Francine Krause
Jennifer and Brandon Linnell
Elizabeth and Jacob Moore
Lindsey and Steven Nesselrotte

Kari Pierson

Amber and Paul Roberts

Abby and James Skradski

LeAnn Stoltenberg
Catherine L. Tierney

Grandparents

Beverly Anzalone

Veronica Brantz

Liz and David Fox

Dianne C. Gill
Ruth Handy
Margo Juarez
Christine and Christopher Kenny
Emily and Chad Liechti
Patty and Ray Neppel
Molly and Ray Swiercek

Alumni

Connie and Larry Almgren
Daniel Beal
Steven Brekel
Jackie and Richard Buchta
Sharon and Dan Burns
M Greg Burrows
Thomas Burton
Chrissy and Christopher Celio
Warrine Coffey
Sr. Corrine Connelly
Barbara Cunningham

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Michael Cunningham
Julie and Todd Eich
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Kiley and John Gallagher
Joseph Gasnick
Meghan O'Brien Gerken
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Judy and Randy Haug
Sr. Judith Healy
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John Mayhan
Michael McMillan
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Kathleen and Mark Niebauer
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Kelly Nystrom
Juliann and John O'Connor
Margaret and Donald Ojeski
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Pamela and Bill Paschang
Joshua Pfeifer
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Patricia and Wilbur Pupkes
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Jennifer Zielinski

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Arlene and Kirk Winkler
Mary and Terry Zach
Elizabeth Zdyb
Katie and Rob Zimmerman



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Archdiocese of Omaha

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Grants & Scholarship Funds

Archdiocese of Omaha

Bishop Anthony Milone Tuition Assistance Fund

Blase and Mary Cupich Memorial
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John F. and Anne Marie Daly Endowment Fund

Rita Starr Education Fund

Kathy and Gene Schwarting Endowed Scholarship

Msr. Richard A. Wolbach Tuition Assistance Fund

Gifts-in-Kind

FBG

BAE Systems

Red D Plumbing

Tributes:

In Memory of John R. Stolinski

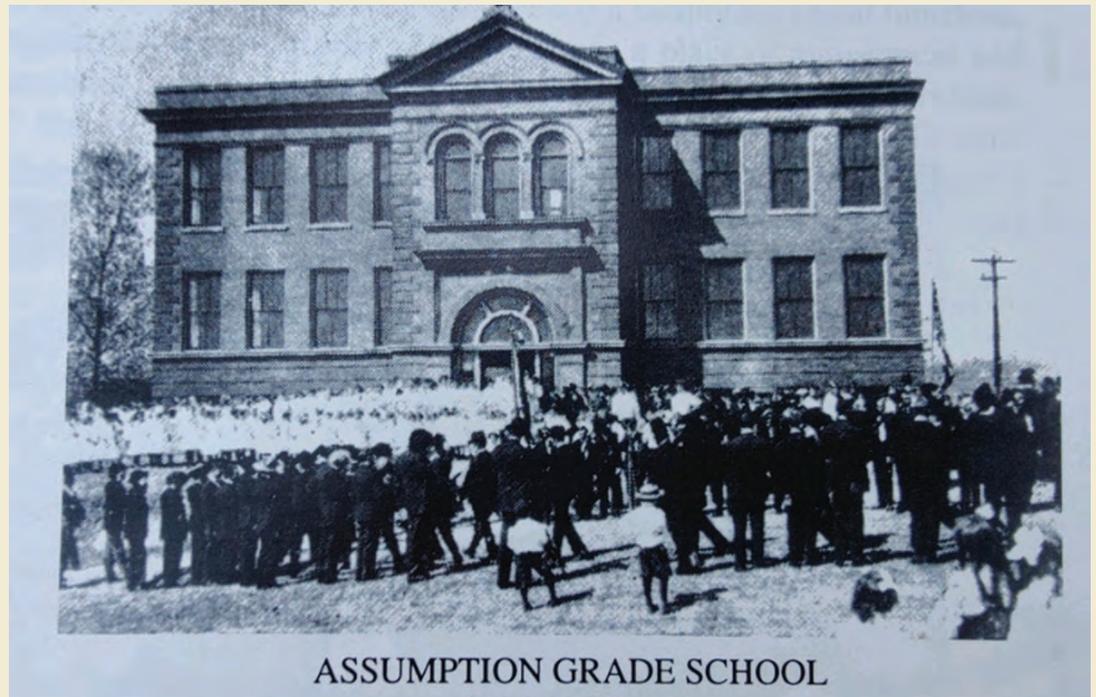
Karen and Tom Jacobi

In Memory of James R. Dorcy

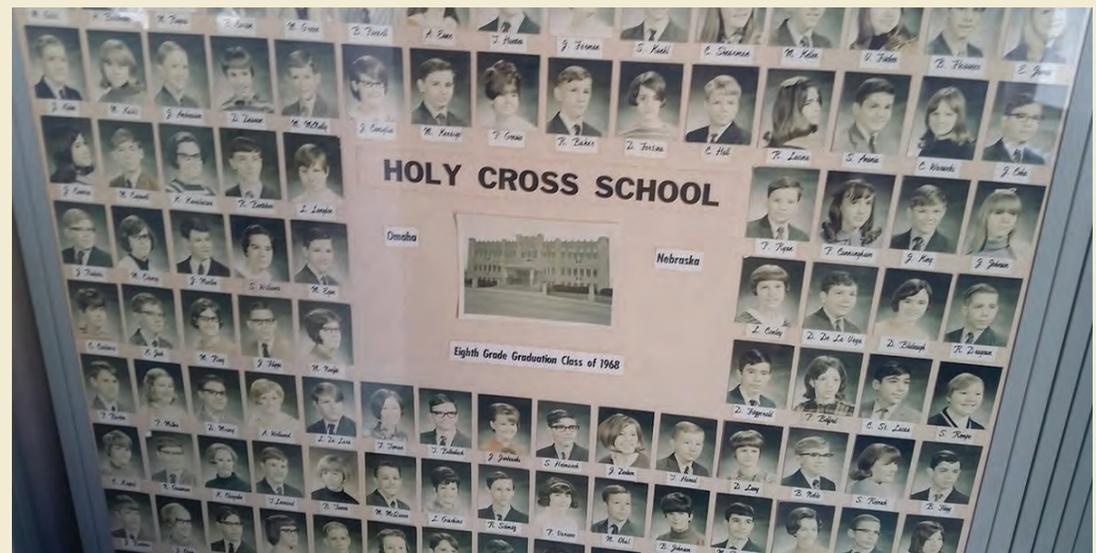
Gaylyn N. Boone

In Memory of Jack and Rose Marie Vankat

Jackie and Richard Buchta



Assumption Grade School opened in 1908. That was a time in South Omaha where the many Catholic churches were full of immigrant families, celebrating Mass in a variety of languages – Croatian, Czechoslovakian, German, Irish, Italian, Polish, Spanish and others. The ethnic nature of South Omaha now in 2023 has shifted to a Latino population, and the need for Catholic Mass and Catholic education remains.



Check out the 8th grade graduating class of 1968 from Holy Cross! If you or someone you know is an alum of any current or former Consortium school, we'd love to hear your updates! Simply email us at: ocsc_communications@omahacsc.org to stay in touch.



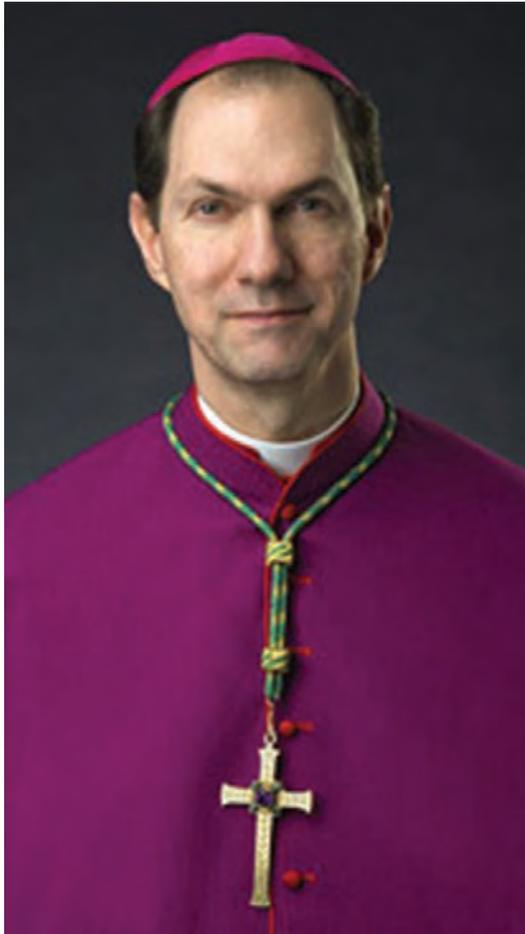
"We are genuinely blessed to have some of the finest educators at Our Lady of Lourdes. Their unwavering support, whether it's inviting me to share lunch with my child or igniting a passion for reading through innovative classroom programs, consistently leaves me in awe of the compassion, communication and leadership demonstrated by all the staff."

- Kristy Brannen

mother of five children who attend(ed) **Our Lady of Lourdes**



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



BISHOP JOHN FOLDA

**Diocese of Fargo
St. Thomas More Class of 1975**

He was ordained a priest in Lincoln, Nebraska on May 27, 1989, and as a bishop in Fargo, North Dakota on June 19, 2013. His family all live in the Midwest, and his brother and sister also graduated from **St. Thomas More.**

Bishop Folda says he loved Catholic school because it was entirely built around our Catholic faith. He said his teachers and friends were wonderful, and being a student at the school brought him more deeply into the life of the parish.

Speaking of the wonderful teachers, Bishop Folda especially remembered fourth-grade teacher, Mrs. Langenfeld. “She made me really want to learn. Her classroom was a joyful place!”

Schools attended:

- St. Thomas More School from 1st through 8th grades (1968 to 1975)
- Archbishop Ryan High School (1975 to 1979)
- University of Nebraska - Lincoln (1979 - 1983)
- St. Charles Seminary, Philadelphia (1983 - 1989)
- Pontifical University of St. Thomas, Rome (1991-1993)

“I received a wonderful education in our Catholic faith at St. Thomas More. Faith was always important to my family, and the faith formation at STM planted many of the seeds that led to my future vocation as a priest. Now that I am the Bishop of the Diocese of Fargo, I can speak from my own Catholic school experience to all of our students, families and teachers about the beauty and value of a Catholic education,” he says.

Fun fact: Bishop Folda was the first new bishop appointed by Pope Francis in the United States, after receiving notification on March 26, 2013, just two weeks after Pope Francis was elected.

He shares his gratitude for all who support St. Thomas More School saying, “I was blessed to be a student there, and I hope it continues to serve students and families for many years to come!”

Best wishes,

+Bishop John Folda

FAMILY LEGACY

Jay Vankat has been a Consortium Board Member since 2016 and is currently a member of the Finance Committee. His background in Catholic education extends far and wide:

- Assumption Catholic School Alum
- Gross Catholic High School Alum
- Archbishop's Committee for Development Member
- Former member of both Gross Catholic High School Endowment Foundation and Skutt Catholic High School Advisory Board
- Current parish: St. Vincent de Paul

Recently, Jay learned about just how far his family's legacy in South Omaha Catholic schools extends.

"It all started with my grandma Helen Bezousek Vankat who graduated from Assumption Grade School in 1918," he said.

From there, four generations have now attended and graduated from schools within the Consortium family.



Helen Bezousek Vankat



Jay, pictured with his sister, Jackie Buchta, who teaches at **Sts. Peter and Paul**.

Helen Bezousek Vankat's Descendants in Consortium Schools

Assumption Catholic School

Helen Bezousek Vankat 1918
Dorothy Vankat Luksa '37
Lucille Vankat Krupski '38
John L (Jack) Vankat '40
Bob Luksa '62
Sandy Luksa Yambor '66
Jackie Vankat Buchta '68
Mick Krupski '69
Gail Krupski Richards '70
Monica Vankat Brown '70
Sharon Luksa McNeil '71
Tom Krupski '71
Geri Vankat Tolbert '71
Bill Luksa '73
Lora Krupski Bitzes '73
Bonnie Vankat Beacom '73
Jay Vankat '74
Ray Vankat '76
Valerie Vankat Frahm '78
Karen Krupski Elftman '81
Dave Vankat '81
Dan Vankat '83
Jennifer Vankat '87
Jason Dworak '90
Matt Dworak '92
Melody Dworak '95
Greg Buchta '96
Ben Buchta '98
Andy Brown '00
Jack Luksa '01
Carrie Brown '03
Nate Luksa '04
Nick Buchta '06

Tim Brown '06
Dylan Tolbert '07
Zach Buchta '10
Rachel Tolbert '12
Isaiah Tolbert '15
Geanna Tolbert '17

Holy Ghost

Joe Yambor '94

Holy Cross

Emily Krupski '98
Lauren Krupski '00
Mickey Krupski '02
Rose Vankat '08
Hannah Vankat '10
Maggie Vankat '12
Molly Vankat '17
Jake Vankat '20

St. Bernadette

Aaron Beacom '03
Emmy Beacom '05
Jonah Beacom '08
Jesse Beacom '13

52

**total who attended
Consortium schools
over four generations.**



OMAHA CATHOLIC SCHOOL
CONSORTIUM

4501 S 41st Street
Omaha, NE 68107

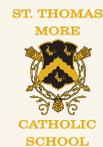
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Thank You

FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT.



OMAHA CATHOLIC SCHOOL
CONSORTIUM



Word of mouth continues to be the main catalyst for enrollment and fundraising growth.
Please invite others to check out our schools.