



OMAHA CATHOLIC SCHOOL
CONSORTIUM

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

A Collaboration of Parishes, Schools, Parents and Community Partners

**CASE
STATEMENT
FOR
SUPPORT**





OUR STORY

Formed in 2012, the Omaha Catholic School Consortium is a collaboration of parishes, schools, parents and community partners working together to support Catholic education in southeast Omaha. United we can achieve benefits beyond what any one member school can achieve alone. Implemented as part of the Archdiocese's Promise 2020 plan, it is a new model for sustainable Catholic education and the first of its kind in Omaha.

"The teachers benefit from networking and collaboration with various teachers in the Consortium system. The parish benefits because we get various types of support, financial and otherwise, from the Archdiocese through the Consortium. The students benefit because the Consortium really elevates the level of instruction."

*- Fr. Harold Buse,
pastor,
St. Bernadette
Parish and School*



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 many abilities to excel and become faith-filled leaders in service to God and others.

OUR SCHOOLS

The Omaha Catholic School Consortium includes five member schools – Holy Cross, Our Lady of Lourdes, St. Bernadette, St. Thomas More, Sts. Peter and Paul – serving over 1,500 students in pre-Kindergarten through eighth-grade. We are proud to say our community also includes a team of 110 dedicated administrators, educators, paraprofessionals, resource, and support staff.

Enrollment at a glance

(based on 2015-2016 school year data)

1,368 K – 8 students

216 Pre-K students

40 percent minority

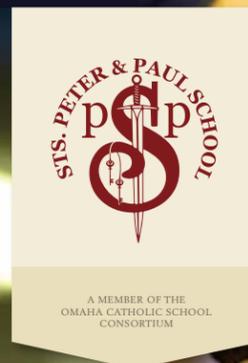
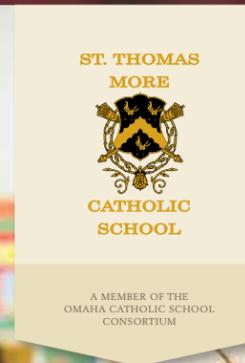
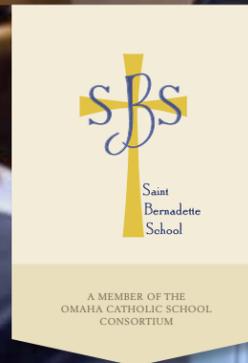
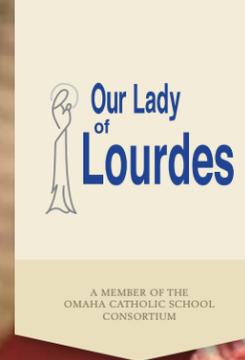
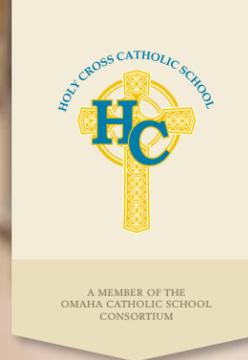
91.2 percent Catholic

36 percent of our students qualify for free or reduced lunch

40 percent of our students receive tuition assistance, however all families pay a portion of their child's tuition

14:1 student to staff ratio*

*Ratio is based on staff in the building who work directly with students including: teachers, resource staff, paraprofessionals, and administrators. This is not a representation of class size.



“I really enjoy teaching at a Catholic school because I like the emphasis on character development. It’s not enough that the kids follow my directions because it’s the rule. It’s the respect that they show each other, and it’s the way that they act all the time, not just when they’re in my class.”

*– Shelley Brown, science teacher,
Our Lady of Lourdes School*



At St. Bernadette, teachers help you become a better person. My teachers don't just tell you how to become a better person; they show it in their daily lives. They are great examples of how to live in the spirit of Jesus. They show you how to become a better person."

*- Trey Powers,
St. Bernadette,
Class of 2015*

Outcomes

- Nationally, Catholic elementary school enrollment has declined by 30 percent in urban dioceses and by 20.4 percent in other dioceses (NCEA, 2015). The Omaha Catholic School Consortium schools are bucking this national trend with an enrollment increase of 144 students for the 2015-2016 school year. Since 2012, our member schools have grown from 1,420 pre-Kindergarten through eighth-grade students to 1,584 pre-Kindergarten through eighth-grade students.
- Thanks to a grant from the Archdiocese of Omaha's Ignite the Faith capital campaign, more than \$1.5 million to date has been provided to the Consortium schools to help update facilities. All five schools now have air conditioning, providing a more comfortable learning environment for students. A comprehensive technology initiative was completed to improve wireless infrastructure so that every classroom has wireless capability. Administrators and teachers are being trained to more effectively use technology as an important part of the curriculum.
- Our member schools are equipped with state-of-the-art technology resources. We combine traditional classroom instruction with technology-based activities to help us reach and teach students more effectively. Moreover, by integrating technology into the classroom, our educators are given additional tools to help assess each student's ability so they can customize instruction based on a child's individual needs.
- One-third of our teaching staff hold a master's degree or higher.
- All our member schools are fully accredited by the Nebraska Department of Education and serve students in pre-school through eighth grade.
- In 2016, 78 percent of our graduating eighth-grade class went on to attend Catholic high schools, and 12 percent received academic scholarships.
- Our students consistently perform in the top 25 percent of the nation for core subjects like math, language arts, reading, social studies and science.



"Sts. Peter and Paul helped me prepare for high school and for what is ahead for me in life. It was a place that made me feel welcome as it was like a second home to me, and I will always have a special place in my heart for Sts. Peter and Paul. My advice to the students of Sts. Peter and Paul is to listen to what your teachers have to say, learn good study habits because Sts. Peter and Paul will prepare you for high school. Now at Gross High School, those study habits I learned have helped me so much."

*- Diana Cortez,
Sts. Peter and Paul
graduate,
Class of 2014*

OUR CHALLENGE

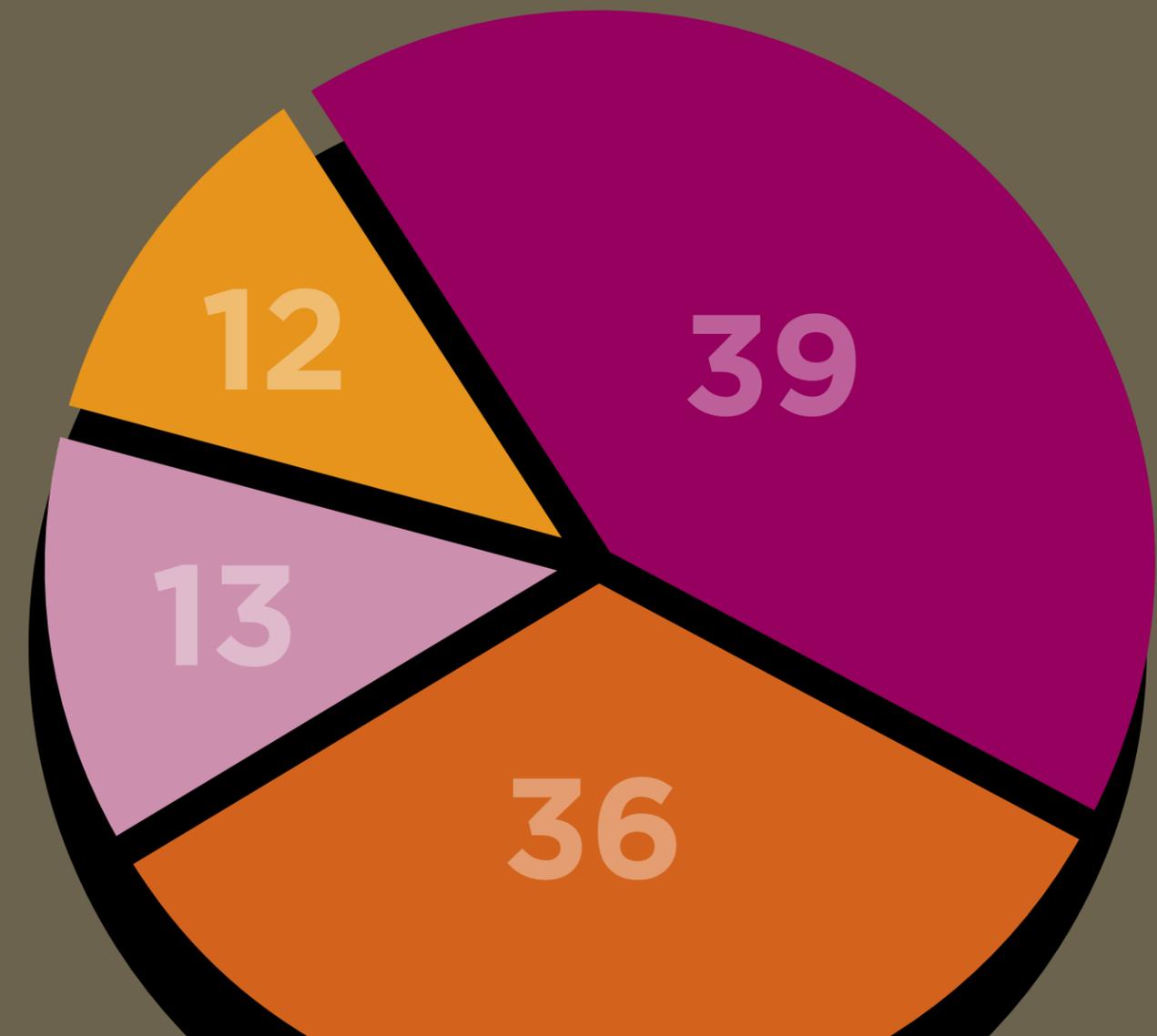
Our goal is to provide quality Catholic schools for children and families in southeast Omaha. To help achieve this goal, we must sustain our schools financially, continue our tradition of academic excellence, and maintain affordable tuition.

Through this collaborative community of schools, we are achieving more efficient cost management, curriculum enhancements, staff development, and classroom innovations.

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 first-class, Catholic education to over 1,500 pre-Kindergarten through eighth-grade students.

HOW OUR SCHOOLS ARE FUNDED

- 39% Parish Contributions
- 36% Tuition
- 13% Development and Gifts
- 12% Scholarships





Your gift will make a difference by:

- Increasing scholarship opportunities.
- Maintaining affordable tuition rates.
- Offering industry leading curriculum to prepare our students for future academic success in high school and beyond.
- Enhancing the use of technology and individualized instruction.
- Providing staff development opportunities to encourage professional growth and staff retention.
- Providing additional resources to meet the needs of our growing schools and diverse student population.
- Ensuring our budget remains balanced and operating at a cost of \$5,500 per student or less annually for a Consortium school education compared to more than \$11,000 annually per student for an Omaha Public School education (NDE, 2015).
- Reducing the financial contributions required from our supporting parishes so they can invest in additional ministries that benefit their parish and community.
- Demonstrating a sustainable model for Catholic education.
- Giving families a choice in their child's education.

To discover how you can help strengthen our schools by giving the gift of your time, talent or treasures, please contact our Development Office at 402.590.2815.

Sources:

National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA). (2015). United States Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools 2014-2015: The Annual Statistical Report on Schools, Enrollment, and Staffing. Retrieved October 13, 2015 from <https://www.ncea.org/data-information/catholic-school-data>.

Nebraska Department of Education (NDE). (2015). Annual Financial Report by School District. Retrieved April 10, 2016 from <https://www.education.ne.gov/FOS/Schoolfinance/AFR/PerPupil.html>

“Having been in education for more than 20 years and having worked with thousands of kids it has become quite apparent to me that while schools are in the business of academics, you will not truly maximize those academic outcomes if you don’t tend to the heart and soul of the child. Our students need to know that we care more about them than whether or not they scored a 95 on that math test or wrote the A-plus paper. And that’s at the heart and soul of Catholic education – that we put the spiritual needs and the heart of our children first.”

*– Patrick Slattery,
superintendent of Catholic Schools,
Archdiocese of Omaha*

“Our two children attended Our Lady of Lourdes School from kindergarten through eighth grade, each receiving a quality academic education as well as personal interest and guidance from the faculty and staff there. As a result, they qualified for academic scholarships and honors-level courses at the Catholic high schools they attended. We are grateful for Our Lady of Lourdes School and the faith-filled education that our children received during the most formative years of their lives.”

*– Jeanne and
John Lincoln,
parents,
Our Lady of
Lourdes School*



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