



CATHOLIC TUTOR CORPS

HELPING HEARTS, HELPING MINDS

FALL NEWSLETTER



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

by: Richard McGuire

President of Catholic Tutor Corps

The tragic shooting at Annunciation School in September cast a dark shadow over the beginning of the school year not only for the entire Twin Cities but also the State of Minnesota and the entire country. The Catholic Tutor Corps has had tutors working at Annunciation for the past two years. Several tutors were lined up and ready to return to Annunciation when life for everyone associated with Annunciation was upended.

Everyone sees grief through their own lens. Everything that can be written or said about that day has been offered up. I will share some thoughts on this tragedy through the lens of a tutor, which I think are probably shared by the 75+ CTC tutors that work in 12 schools in St. Paul and Minneapolis. Each year as tutors enter dozens of classrooms around the city, their thoughts initially go to helping young children learn to read a story, learn how to understand the plot behind a story, become competent in putting their own ideas on paper, figure out addition, multiplication, algebra. And all of this they do and do quite well. But tutors also quickly realize that the connections they are making with these students transcends the academic work they are involved in with these young people. The tutors are building personal relationships with kids, learning about them, sometimes their families, at times their future aspirations. They are teaching not only by going through the lesson plan each day but by the example they are giving the students. They are teaching the students that there are adults out there whom they never before met that care deeply about their success in life, what their future can hold, that there are people in addition to their parents that care about them, that will show up week after week to be there for them. This is all reinforced when a tutor shows up in year 2, 3, 4 ..., in the hallway and is met by a high five, a fist bump, a smile from a student they worked with in past years. So, when kids' lives are wracked by such trauma as was seen at Annunciation, particularly the students at Annunciation, but also kids in every school, the presence of tutors can provide one more small piece of stability and tranquility to help kids rebuild the cocoon of safety that they all should grow up in. Matt DeBoer, the principal at Annunciation, has quoted that old African proverb, "When you pray, move your feet". Tutors are doing just that. Every day, every week, every year that they walk into the classroom they are moving their feet...and praying.

This has been a busy recruiting season for the CTC. We have added a number of new tutors and picked some up from places we have not recruited from in the past; the Cathedral of St. Paul, St. Catherines University, and some suburban parishes that word has spread to. Good luck to all the new tutors. We look forward to having you with us for many years.

The CTC still needs tutors at

Risen Christ School

[1120 East 37th Street, Minneapolis];

St. Helena

[3200 East 44th Street, Minneapolis]

Pascal Regional School

[1757 Conway Street, St. Paul];

Immaculate Conception

[4030 Jackson Street NE, Columbia Heights]

Please contact us if you are interested in learning more about opportunities at these schools.

**Thank you,
Richard McGuire**



In Memoriam

The Catholic Tutor Corps sadly notes the passing of John Kightlinger [Kite]. Kite tutored at Sacred Heart School for 12 years. He worked with dozens of students over those years and was famous for occasionally showing up at school with lunch for Karen Bursey, the principal, and her staff, on school workshop days. Donations in Kite's honor have been directed to the Sacred Heart scholarship fund. He will be missed.





Catholic Schools
OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF
SAINT PAUL AND MINNEAPOLIS

WHO ARE THE DREXEL MISSION SCHOOLS?

Drexel Mission Schools

A strategic priority of the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis is to support Catholic schools that serve the highest concentration of children and families who could benefit from additional resources. Named for the great American patroness of Catholic schools, Saint Katharine Drexel, the Drexel Mission Schools Initiative provides that extra support to these schools serving as transformational partners with families.

Drexel Mission Schools serve more than 1,800 students among these schools:

- [Ascension Catholic School](#)
- [Blessed Trinity Catholic School](#)
- [Community of Saints Regional Catholic School](#)
- [Immaculate Conception Catholic School](#)
- [Risen Christ Catholic School](#)
- [Saint Helena Catholic School](#)
- [Saint Jerome Catholic School](#)
- [Saint John Paul II Catholic School](#)
- [Saint Pascal Regional Catholic School](#)
- [Saint Peter Claver Catholic School](#)

Our Partners

- [Aim Higher Foundation](#)
- [Catholic Community Foundation](#)
- [GHR Foundation](#)

Partner Impact

Catholic schools receive grants from the Drexel Mission School Fund to provide a variety of social services to Catholic school families, including those who might be experiencing housing and food insecurity, or might lack access to medical care and mental health resources.

200

Community Partners

17,200

Services provided

Services provided

Supporting Our School Leaders

Because talent management and appreciation are vital to sustaining strong leadership in our Catholic schools, the Drexel Mission Schools Initiative invests in school leaders through: Principal Compensation Grants, which help ensure just and equitable pay for these valued Catholic school leaders. Retreats with priests and foundation leaders support, affirm and spiritually care for school leaders. Retreats encourage school leaders in their mission, help them address challenges collaboratively and provide professional development in government programs and succession planning.

How You Can Help

Drexel Mission Schools rely on the generosity of donors and foundations to support their students and families.

Please pray for our Catholic schools and the Drexel Mission Schools Initiative. For more information about the Drexel Mission School Fund at the Catholic Community Foundation, visit: ccf-mn.org/drexel





Since 2015, the Catholic Schools Center of Excellence (CSCOE) has raised and distributed millions of dollars to preschool-8th grade Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis, and in 2022, we started working with every preschool-8th grade Catholic school in Minnesota.



Minnesota
Catholic Schools

15% Enrollment
Growth

VERSUS

14% National
Decline

CSCOE invests in professional development for principals and teachers, literacy, math, STEM and arts programing for students, technology, preschools, teacher compensation, and marketing and development activities in the schools, among other important initiatives.

We love supporting Catholic elementary schools! Thank you for helping Catholic schools survive and thrive for generations to come – through your prayers, volunteer efforts, and financial support.



83%

of Third Graders Read at or Above Grade Level Thanks to Believe and Read, students are thriving as confident, capable readers.





Mission

Our mission at the Catholic Schools Center of Excellence (CSCOE) is to enhance excellence and increase enrollment in preschool-8th grade Catholic schools in Minnesota.



Vision

Our vision is to transform education through an innovative and entrepreneurial approach that produces a sustainable, “best-in-class” model for preschool-8th grade education.



Our Story

In the two decades before CSCOE’s founding, more than 20 Minneapolis–St. Paul area Catholic schools closed their doors. Others teetered on the brink of closure.

Many more were fast losing the funds to invest in their classrooms. The conversation was one of decline. We wanted to help change that narrative to one of hope, possibility, growth and thinking big for Catholic schools.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS
**CENTER OF
EXCELLENCE**



In 2014, we conducted an extensive school survey and personally visited every preschool-8th grade school in the Archdiocese of Saint Paul & Minneapolis to understand their challenges and our opportunities to support them. Armed with the survey results, CSCOE was formed as an independent nonprofit composed of lay people who love Catholic schools and work tirelessly to see them thrive. The vision and generosity of our key funder, Dick Schulze and the Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation launched us, and today, a whole community of Catholic school supporters make our mission possible.

How We Work

We are entrepreneurial and driven. We relentlessly pursue excellence. We keep our promises. And we honor and respect partner schools.

Our approach is bottom-up. We listen to principals and teachers and implement the best ideas that will have the greatest impact. We are 100% opt-in and are proud that every preschool-8th grade Catholic school in Minnesota has chosen to join us.

When looking for solutions, we seek out the best of the best to provide world-class partners and top resources for our schools. And we recognize the local experts within the walls of our schools. Thus, we fund solutions that increase excellence in the system as a whole, while still respecting the uniqueness of each school.

