

GRACE Schools & Programs Receive Packers Foundation Grants



The Green Bay Packers Foundation distributed \$1 million in grants funds to 274 civic and charitable groups throughout Wisconsin. The 2021 grant cycle focused on organizations that directed funds toward the areas of arts, culture, athletics, and education.

GRACE was blessed, honored, and Lambeau-Leaping with joy that the Green Bay Packers Foundation generously awarded five grants totaling \$20,000 to educational initiatives at Holy Cross, Holy Family, Father Allouez, and Our Lady of Lourdes schools as well as the Little Saints Childcare Program.

GRACE wholeheartedly thanks the Green Bay Packers Foundation for their continued support and commitment to education and our GRACE school system.

Drew Mulloy Awarded Current Young Professionals Future 15

Principal Drew Mulloy of St. John the Baptist School was recognized as one of 15 finalists for the 2022 Future 15 and Young Professionals Awards. This distinction and honor comes from the Current Young Professionals (CYP) division at the Greater Green Bay Chamber, which aims at providing networking opportunities and a collaborative platform for impactful young professionals in the Green Bay area. The Future 15 recognizes outstanding individuals in the area for their leadership, dedication and hard work strengthening the community. These individuals are seen as impactful young leaders who will continue to innovate and strengthen the area in years to come.

We could not be more proud of Mr. Mulloy for the strong vision, leadership and positivity he brings every day to St. John the Baptist School. Join us in offering him the warmest of congratulations!



President Welcome



Greetings and peace-filled blessings!

This edition of the GRACE Newsletter provides timely updates and stories regarding our GRACE schools. All these stories truly represent what is called the 'Catholic school advantage' right here in the greater Green Bay area!

Recently Forbes magazine reported that there are significant educational outcomes present in private schools and elaborated on the 'Catholic school advantage.' The research states, "Students who attend Catholic schools perform better academically." The study found a consistent Catholic school advantage across varied factors such as household size, income, family make-up, ethnic background and gender. The advantage, in this study, focused on academic test scores as the outcome. In addition, the Journal of Catholic Education indicates that students who attend Catholic schools have higher college GPAs and are more likely to graduate from college compared to their counterparts. Again, evidence of the Catholic school advantage.

In our GRACE schools, we witness the positive outcomes of this advantage. Outcomes that align with scholarly research indicating that daily exposure to our Catholic faith is significantly important to development of a strong religious foundation. Daily lessons, such as those taught in our classrooms, create a strong foundation for children as they grow in faith. Research indicates graduates of Catholic schools are statistically more likely to continue church involvement as an adult- another Catholic school advantage outcome. In addition, those who attend Catholic school are more likely to feel a social responsibility to the needy and become more civically engaged.

Excellent academics, increased graduation rates, practicing Catholics and increased service to others are certainly reasons, backed by research, to validate the investment in Catholic education! We are proud to witness these outcomes daily in each one of our nine GRACE schools- demonstrating the Catholic school advantage!

In His service,

Kimberly A. Desotell
President, GRACE



CHESTERTON ACADEMY OF ST. JOHN PAUL II CLASSICAL SCHOOL

Headmaster: Mr. Patrick McKeown
920-617-9542

[sjpclassicalschoolgreenbay.org/
chestertonacademy/chesterton-1](http://sjpclassicalschoolgreenbay.org/chestertonacademy/chesterton-1)

FATHER ALLOUEZ CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Principal: Mrs. Kay Franz
920-432-5223 (Elementary)
920-336-3230 (Middle)

www.fatherallouezschool.org

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Principal: Mrs. Kari Peterson
920-468-0625

www.holycrossfamily.org

HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Principal: Mr. Jere Kubuske
920-494-1931

www.holyfamilygreenbay.com

NOTRE DAME OF DE PERE

Principal: Mrs. Molly Mares
920-337-1115

www.notredameofdepere.com

OUR LADY OF LOURDES CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Principal: Mr. Jeff Young
920-336-3091

www.lourdesschooldepere.org

ST. BERNARD CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Principal: Mrs. Crystal Blahnik
920-468-5026

www.saintbernardgb.com

ST. JOHN PAUL II CLASSICAL SCHOOL

Headmaster: Mr. Alex Wolf
920-617-9542

www.sjpclassicalschoolgreenbay.org

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST SCHOOL

Principal: Mr. Drew Mulloy
920-434-3822

www.sjbhschool.org

ST. THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Principal: Dr. Jamie Froh Tyrrell
920-432-8242

www.stmoregb.com

2021-2022 GRACE Snapshot Reports

The GRACE school system has posted 2021-2022 Snapshot Reports on the GRACE schools' websites (under the Resources tabs). These Snapshot Reports feature a variety of annual information, including student demographics, eighth-grade MAP scores for math and reading, extracurricular and sports listings, numbers relating to staffing, and more. We encourage you to take a look. Here is the overall GRACE Snapshot Report, which can be found at gracesystem.org/about-us/snapshot-report



Green Bay Area Catholic Education 2021-22 Snapshot Report

**WE ARE:
GRACE:**

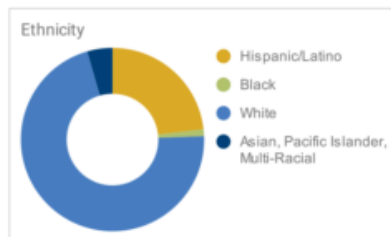
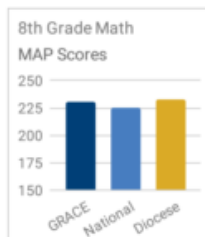
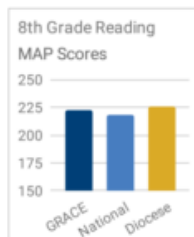
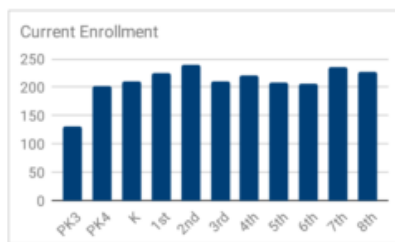
Web: www.gracesystem.org
President: Kimberly Desotell
Phone: 920-499-7330

Students

2,335
Students

90%
Catholic

88%
Parishioners



Extra-Curriculars

Opportunities vary at each school. All of our schools have multiple music opportunities, faith-based groups and a variety of extra academic experiences.

Sports

GRACE partners with our parishes and local athletic associations to provide a rich array of athletic opportunities for all students.

Staff & Classrooms

**Professional
Staff** **173**

**Student:Teacher
Ratio** **13:1**

Tuition & Support

Affiliated Parishes
**GRACE is supported by 23
parishes in the Green Bay area**

Tuition
K-5: \$3,150
6-8: \$3,262
9: \$5,700

Total Cost per Pupil
\$7,360

Building academic excellence and life skills while growing in our Catholic faith.

GRACE Financial Status Remains Solid

By Gerard Faller, GRACE Director of Finance and Strategic Operations

As a GRACE community, we are blessed with so many resources, including our partnership with our parishes, our teachers, and staff, and of course, our families and supporters.

This solid foundation allows us to continue to be in a healthy and sustainable position to support our growth and commitment to provide safe and healthy faith-filled learning environments.

Revenue sources continue to be tuition, parish investment, Choice tuition, development, investments, fundraising and food service. In addition, we have explored, obtained and expanded additional sources of revenue, ranging from the generosity of donors to pandemic related funding. This has enabled us to implement programs, services and technology to help our students and staff navigate the pandemic and position for the future.

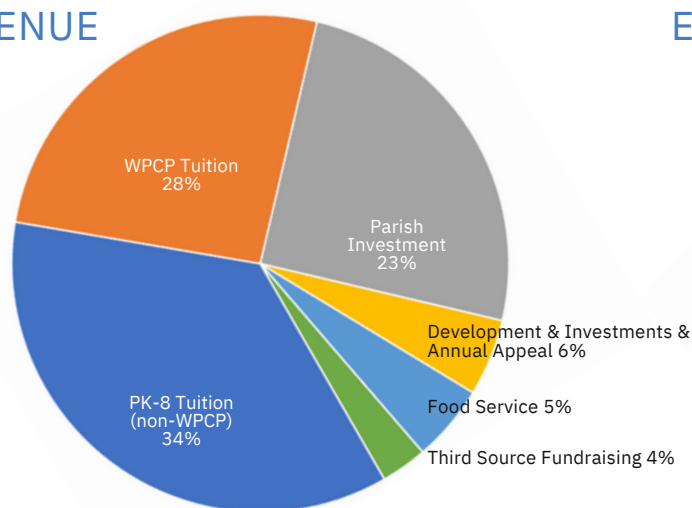
Adjacent to this article are charts depicting our primary revenue and expense categories. Our audited financial statements for 2020-2021 demonstrate our integrity and continued commitment to financial balance and sustainability.

As a total GRACE community, consisting of our 24 supporting parishes and our 9 schools, we are fully engaged in providing a strong financial position, one that can support our shared ministry today, and long into the future.

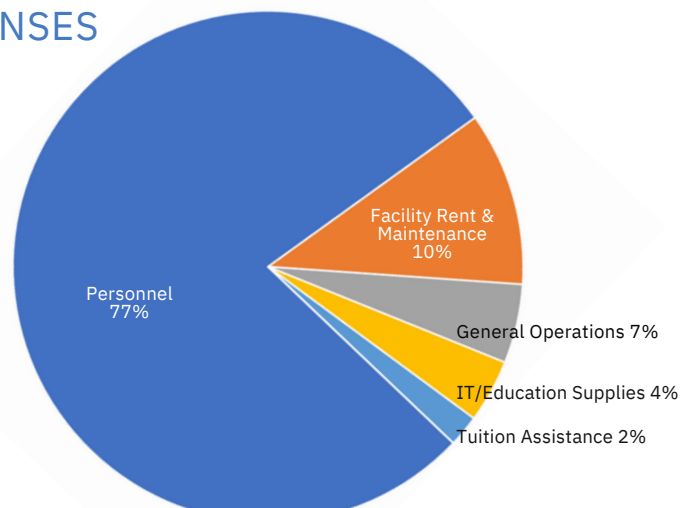
All our resources are focused on improving our ability to achieve our mission – **“building academic excellence and life skills while growing in our Catholic faith.”**

Audited Revenue and Expenses 2020-2021

REVENUE



EXPENSES



These graphics provide detail on the FY 2020-2021 GRACE actual audited financials that will assist in better understanding revenue sources and expenditures to support GRACE Catholic education.

TUITION TAX CREDIT

Wisconsin law established a tax deduction for private school tuition, and again, tuition tax credit information is available for the 2021 calendar year online via TADS. The TADS Household Paid Tuition Tax Report provides a breakdown of payments made for the specified household's tuition account during the tax year. When you are gathering your information for 2021 tax preparation, go online to your TADS account and select Billing | Billing Account Number | Reports | Household Paid Tuition Tax Report | enter the year 2021 and submit. If you have questions or require assistance, please call TADS Parent Support at 800-477-8237.

EIGHTH GRADE TUITION POLICY

The efforts of families to stay current with tuition payments as agreed upon via the TADS tuition payment plan are greatly appreciated. Review of eighth grade tuition, fees and lunch accounts is completed each January of the eighth grade year. In the case of accounts that are not up to date for families with eighth grade students, students will not be eligible to participate in eighth grade trips, parties and graduation events. The only exception is the eighth grade retreat as long as the retreat fee (if required) is paid. Families are encouraged to contact the GRACE Business Services office at any time with questions or to address payment plans and arrangements.



Why Not School Choice?

By Edgar Zaragoza, GRACE Outreach Administrator

Wisconsin's Private School Choice Program has benefited my family and—through my work at GRACE—I've personally seen it change the lives of hundreds of families for the better. Why not bring the blessing of choice to more families?

About a decade ago, I worked at a public school, but hoped for a different quality of education and faith-based environment for my oldest daughter. By asking many questions about our options, I learned about Wisconsin's School Choice Program (a private school voucher program) and applied for it through GRACE. When we received a voucher, I thought the benefit of it was so great, it must just be for a single year. Upon learning we could renew the voucher until my daughter graduated, I was amazed.

What I thought a decade ago, I still think today: All families deserve to know about this Choice program's benefits. To respond to that need, I started volunteering in a bilingual capacity, and eventually working full-time with GRACE, to share information with families who felt they couldn't afford to choose the learning environment they desired.

It gives me chills to think of the lives in my community I've seen changed through Choice. For example, one immigrant family from Puerto Rico came to the U.S. hoping for better opportunities for their children but didn't find a nurturing learning environment in their assigned school. They nervously applied for vouchers through GRACE. When I called to share that their children had received vouchers, they began to cry from joy. Access to a school of their choice meant so much that the parents bought balloons to surprise their children with a celebration of the good news.

I am proud of our work to raise community awareness of Choice, and I believe GRACE's growth can serve as a model for any learning community. At heart, the key to success is attentiveness and responsiveness to parents. We meet moms and dads where it's best for them, whether that's in the language they are most comfortable in or the communication medium, like texting, they most prefer. We exist to walk the journey of education with parents—seeing their needs and advocating for them.

We are a close-knit community. As I work with all of GRACE's nine schools and 23 parishes, I'm blessed to talk with principals and parents, kitchen staff and custodians, educators and students, sometimes all on the same day. Our close community allows us to be uniquely involved in our families' lives—even inviting parents to apply if there are open jobs at our schools they are a good fit for.

GRACE News Format

GRACE News is published three times during the academic year: Fall, Winter and Spring. All GRACE News archives are available at gracesystem.org/about-us/newsletter.

Looking Ahead...

Check out the complete 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 Academic Calendars online for important dates. It is available at gracesystem.org/about-us/calendar. In addition, please visit our schools' websites for dates and information about fundraising events.

Academic Calendar

April 8, 2022.....	Early Dismissal; Teacher In-Service
April 15, 2022.....	No School – Good Friday
April 18, 2022.....	No School – Easter Monday
May 13, 2022.....	No School – Teacher Work Day (Weather Make-Up Day If Needed)
May 30, 2022.....	No School – Memorial Day
June 2, 2022.....	Early Dismissal – Last Day of School
June 3, 2022.....	Teacher Work Day

Weather Alerts

Each GRACE school follows the school closing or delay information from the public school district in which it is located. Stay tuned to media communications when weather conditions deteriorate.



GRACE Nominees For 2022 Golden Apple Awards

GRACE is proud to present our school system educators who have been nominated for the Greater Green Bay Chamber's 2022 Golden Apple Awards. GRACE is blessed with amazing teachers, and these nominees represent the excellence in faith-based education that occurs daily in our schools. Nominees include educators from all our GRACE schools this year, including Father Allouez Catholic School, Holy Cross Catholic School, Holy Family Catholic School, Notre Dame of De Pere, Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School, St. Bernard Catholic School, St. John Paul II Classical School, St. John the Baptist School, and St. Thomas More Catholic School. The 2022 Golden Apple Awards program is scheduled to be held April 21, 2022. Here are the GRACE nominees, listed in alphabetical order according to last name:



Susan Arias - St. Thomas More Catholic School
Hannah Aschenbrenner - Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School
Taylor Baltus - St. Bernard Catholic School
Mary Barthels - Holy Family Catholic School
Julie Basten - Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School
Traci Belongia - Holy Family Catholic School
Jason Beyer - St. Bernard Catholic School
James Block - Father Allouez Catholic School
Amanda Boeke - St. Bernard Catholic School
Molly Bongel - St. Bernard Catholic School
Jane Brzezinski - Holy Family Catholic School
Sara Burns - Father Allouez Catholic School
Beth Christensen - Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School
Jenna Connors - Notre Dame of De Pere
Patti Crooks - Father Allouez Catholic School
Jackie Crown - Father Allouez Catholic School
Emily D'Angelo - St. Bernard Catholic School
Jessica DeGroot - Holy Cross Catholic School
Anne-Marie DeVillers - Father Allouez Catholic School
Doreen Dimeo - Father Allouez Catholic School
Brittany Dudzik - St. Bernard Catholic School
Lourain Eggart - Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School
Allyson Ellis - Father Allouez Catholic School
Caitlin Enright - Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School
Jennifer Etter - St. Bernard Catholic School
Alex Giese - St. John the Baptist School
Amy Glantz - Holy Family Catholic School
Sister Elena Gonzales - Holy Family Catholic School
Jean Healy - Notre Dame of De Pere
Fiona Hehir - St. Bernard Catholic School
Amber Hellmann - St. Bernard Catholic School
Jeannie Ihlenfeldt - Father Allouez Catholic School
Hannah Jensen - St. Bernard Catholic School
Sarah Johanski - Father Allouez Catholic School
Jessica Johnson - Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School
Sharon Johnson - Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School

Stephanie Johnson - Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School
Cindy Kabat - Notre Dame of De Pere
Chrissy Kiefert - Holy Family Catholic School
Jennifer Kopp - Notre Dame of De Pere
Taylor Kottwitz - Holy Family Catholic School
Shannon Kramer - St. Bernard Catholic School
Lisa Krcma - Holy Family Catholic School
Tomerot Lambert - St. Bernard Catholic School
Julie Lamm - St. Bernard Catholic School
Terri Larson - St. Bernard Catholic School
Candice Lee - Notre Dame of De Pere
Colleen MacDonald - St. Bernard Catholic School
Kim Matzke - Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School
April Neuville - Father Allouez Catholic School
Emma Nowak - St. John the Baptist School
Michelle Pahl - Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School
Sarah Peterson - St. John the Baptist School
Sarah Pethan - St. Bernard Catholic School
Jessica Rinka* - St. John Paul II Classical School
Tina Sabin - Father Allouez Catholic School
Julie Schmitz - St. John the Baptist School
Rachel Soderdahl - St. Bernard Catholic School
Annie Stewart - Father Allouez Catholic School
Elise Stone - Notre Dame of De Pere
Katie Summers - Notre Dame of De Pere
Jordan Thill - Holy Family Catholic School
Brenda Touchinski - Father Allouez Catholic School
Amy Van Schyndel - Father Allouez Catholic School
Ashley VandenBush - Father Allouez Catholic School
Terri Waack - St. Bernard Catholic School
Katie Wagner - Notre Dame of De Pere
Michelle Wagnitz - Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School
Kiara Wolfgram - St. John the Baptist School
Caitlyn Zedler - Father Allouez Catholic School
Clare Zipperer - St. Bernard Catholic School

**denotes 2022 Teacher of Distinction*

Enrolling now for GRACE: Gold Summer Camp!

GRACE: Gold Summer Camp celebrated its fourth year in 2021, with four separate week-long sessions (including morning and afternoon classes) spanning the month of July. We are proud to help guide our students in growing spiritually, academically and socially through fun, innovative summer camp classes at GRACE: Gold.

GRACE believes in nurturing the whole child, which includes spiritual guidance and growth. With our GRACE: Gold programming, which includes a weekly Mass, we are committed to ensuring that faith is an integral part of our summer camp experience.

We are grateful to St. Jude Parish for partnering with GRACE to host summer camp classes at 1420 Division Street, Green Bay, 54303.

Before and After School Child Care options also are available to assist families whose children are engaging in our camp experience.

Program runs from Tuesday, July 5 through Friday July 29. Register at gracesystem.org/student-life/grace-gold-summer-camp/.

Curriculum Update

By Laura Blicharz, GRACE Curriculum Coordinator



Two exciting new elements have been recently added to the Curriculum webpage of the GRACE website! As always, Team Curriculum is continually working to expand, elaborate and map the GRACE curriculum to make educational standards and guidelines more accessible and effective for parents, teachers and staff. With this goal in mind Instructional Topics and Curriculum Resources are now available to view.

The Instructional Topics button on the webpage takes new and prospective GRACE families to a list of subject areas that have been mapped and aligned from kindergarten all the way through eighth grade. Parents can see what exactly is taught at each grade level and how the concepts continually build on each other as students progress from one grade level to the next. Parents can also click on the Instructional Topics listed to view the standards that correlate to this skill. Currently, Instructional Topics have been completed for Math, ELA, Religion, Science and Social Studies.

The GRACE Curriculum Resources section is a list of current programs, textbooks and other materials that most, if not all, of the GRACE schools utilize in their classrooms. This gives both current and prospective families a better idea of what will be taught in our GRACE classrooms. There are resources listed for math, reading, phonics, religion, health and social studies. As curriculum development continues in GRACE, more resources will be added to this list for parent reference.

Team Curriculum is proud and excited to provide these two new website elements to parents. The goal is always to build that bond between home and school and giving families the tools to see what is being taught in our classrooms and what resources we are using are just one part of that puzzle. Stay tuned for even more exciting things to come from Team Curriculum!

Please find more information at gracesystem.org/academic-life/curriculum



Wisconsin Parental Choice Program 2022-2023

Application dates for the Wisconsin Parental Choice Program (WPCP) are February 1 through April 21, 2022. All students currently supported by the WPCP (also known as the School Voucher Program or Choice) must reapply to remain eligible. New families also must apply and may do so during the same application period. All families, both current and new, must enroll in their GRACE school online via the TADS enrollment system. Late applications will not be accepted.

ELIGIBILITY

- To qualify for the program in the 2022-2023 school year, a student must have a family income equal or less than 220% of the federal poverty level income limits. Additional details are available at gracesystem.org/admissions/wisconsin-parental-choice/
- If a family meets the eligibility requirements including established income qualifications, the following may apply:
 - Any new incoming student entering kindergarten through seventh grade
 - Currently enrolled GRACE students entering kindergarten or first grade
 - New or currently enrolled GRACE students who will be entering into the 4-year old preschool program at Father Allouez Catholic School, Holy Cross Catholic School, Holy Family Catholic School, St. Bernard Catholic School, St. John Paul II Classical School or St. Thomas More Catholic School who meet eligibility requirements may apply.

A student qualifies for the WPCP based on their residency and family income. For more information, please contact Edgar Zaragoza, GRACE Outreach Administrator, at 920-499-7330, ext. 1017, or ezaragoza@gracesystem.org. Schools participating in the WPCP are required to post the State of Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction School Report Cards and the Educational Options for Wisconsin students on their websites. You may access the Choice Accountability Report on each school website in addition to the GRACE website at gracesystem.org/admissions/wisconsin-parental-choice/.

Planned Gifts Create a Legacy

Our strength as a system allows us to do so much: to protect the legacy of founders and teachers in Catholic education before us, to provide today's students with an exceptional education, and to plan confidently for a future as exciting and blessed as our present.

Through planned giving, your loyalty and generosity will continue beyond a lifetime and ensures the mission and traditions of a GRACE Catholic education for future generations. Planned gifts include memorial donations, bequests, endowment and scholarship funds, beneficiary designation, charitable annuities, IRA distributions, insurance policies and securities gifts.

To learn more how you can include GRACE in your planned giving, please contact Lisa Niemuth, GRACE Director of Development, (920) 499-7330- ext 1011 or lniemuth@gracesystem.org.

CatholicLink Leadership Academy

By Mary Schaupp, CatholicLink Executive Director



“Becoming what we are not yet” -St. Augustine



Left to Right: Principal Jere Kubuske (Holy Family Catholic School), Principal Crystal Blahnik (St. Bernard Catholic School), Principal Jeff Young (Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School)

Life, leadership and faith are continual journeys, and journeys are more fun and more successful when supported by others with a shared mission. CatholicLink Leadership Academy bears witness to this!

In August, 20 of our CatholicLink colleagues from four GRACE schools, Notre Dame Academy and Roncalli Catholic Schools, came together at the Norbertine Center for Spirituality to become the second cohort (Cohort2) of CatholicLink Leadership Academy. During the first five months of this ten-month journey, our educators focused on growing as leaders through monthly sessions, individual work and support from partnered peer coaches and mentors. In the words of St. Augustine, they committed to “becoming what we are not yet.”

In addition, 20 educational, business and community leaders are generously sharing their time and expertise with our Cohort2 members, meeting monthly throughout this ten-month journey to mentor our educators. Mentors and educators both are telling us how much they are enjoying and growing from the mentoring experience. We are deeply grateful to our mentors for sharing their wisdom, skills and faith.

CatholicLink Leadership Academy Cohort2 Mentors:

Pat Batey, Patrick Browne, Mary Burich, Gabi Burn, Jaime Danen, Kim Desotell, Very Rev. Luke Ferris, Gary Gigot, Darrell Johnson, Howard Lodl, Terri Martin, Gail McNutt, Renita Robinson, Diane Roundy, Carolyn Schaeffer, Nancy Schultz, Nicole Smith, Paul Waddell, Therese Woelfel, John Zegers

In January, the school teams (principal and team members) began focusing on their school community and working together with their school and parish teams to review and develop their school mission, vision, values, goals, and plans for growing even more vibrant Catholic schools. The educators will complete the Academy in May with a celebration and commitment to share with colleagues as they “become what we are not yet.”

When you see our educators and mentors, please thank them for sharing their gifts with our students and educators! Thank you Cohort2 Members for your deep commitment to yourself and your Catholic schools.

Holy Family: Taylor Kottwitz, Jere Kubuske, Chrissy Kiefert

Our Lady of Lourdes: Hannah Aschenbrenner, Lourain Eggart, Jeff Young

St. Bernard: Crystal Blahnik, Amanda Boeke, Melissa Montanye, Brian Ritter, Amanda Thomas

St. John the Baptist: Jill Buckett, Drew Mulloy, Sarah Peterson, Abbie Withbroe

Notre Dame Academy: Gina Fredrick, Andrea Hearnden, Greg Masarik

Roncalli Catholic Schools: Adrienne Lundy, Fran Peter, Steve Thiele

CatholicLink is an innovative, preschool-through-college partnership of the GRACE school system, Notre Dame Academy and St. Norbert College, with the mission of attaining world-class Catholic education in the greater Green Bay area. If you have an interest in becoming a mentor in future cohorts or learning more about CatholicLink Leadership Academy, contact Mary Schaupp, Executive Director, CatholicLink at mary.schaupp@snc.edu

LET US HELP YOU

Call 920-499-7330

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