

TO TEACH WHO CHRIST IS

A Newsletter for the Campaign for Parishes, Catholic Education and Faith Formation February 2021

Archdiocese Catholic Schools Students Maintain Learning Gains Despite Pandemic Challenges

Data from Archdiocese of Chicago Catholic schools reveals that students have defied the national trend reflecting pandemic-related stagnation and decline in academics. Not only did archdiocese students meet academic expectations by staying on track with their learning, but an overwhelming number of them exceeded learning goals set out by the system's annual i-Ready assessment exam.

According to the data, 7,382 students in Chicago archdiocesan schools, who took the i-Ready exam in the same fall-to-fall period, performed on average at 105 percent of the expected learning growth in math and at 130 percent of the expected learning growth in reading. The positive results were particularly strong among students from higher poverty backgrounds.

As always, we thank you for supporting the campaign and the Archdiocese of Chicago Catholic schools. For more information on the Archdiocese of Chicago's Catholic schools, visit schools.archchicago.org.

Q&A with Krista Giuffi, Director of Donor Engagement

Krista was recently hired by the Archdiocese of Chicago as director of donor engagement for the Office of Stewardship and Development. Her ten-year background in development and engagement includes alumni relations for academic medicine at Temple University, Loyola University Chicago and Rush University Medical Center.



Pictured above is Krista Giuffi, director of donor engagement for the Office of Stewardship and Development.

We connected with Krista to learn more about what she will be working on this year and her experience working at the archdiocese so far.

What will be your focus this year as director of donor engagement?

I am mostly working to standardize our donor communications strategies and establish processes to steward gifts to the archdiocese. I will also be managing two fundraising events, which will be interesting given the changes in large-scale events during COVID-19.

What has been your greatest experience so far being a part of Stewardship and Development?

I enjoy working with everyone in the Stewardship and Development office. They all bring unique talents and perspectives to the table, which makes for a great teamwork environment. It's refreshing to learn from others, and the archdiocese truly values and respects all staff members at every level.

What have you and the rest of the department been working on in regards to the *To Teach Who Christ Is* campaign?

We are working on developing additional strategies to thank donors and to illustrate the impact of their giving. There is so much to share

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about how this campaign has helped parishes and families in the archdiocese. It is important to tell those stories to instill pride in our generous donors.

Why are you thankful for To Teach Who Christ Is donors?

It's amazing to see how successful this campaign has been and how it created such significant support for Catholic school students and parishes. It showcases the strength of the archdiocese community, which came together in local parishes to support each other and the greater good.

Outside of work, what do you do in your spare time?

My husband and I live in Oak Park, and our six-year-old daughter keeps us busy with social and extracurricular activities. We enjoy cooking and exploring new neighborhoods around Chicago, since we're still relatively new to the area.

Any fun facts you'd like to share?

My entire immediate family (both parents, sister, brother and me) all graduated from the University of Minnesota. Go Gophers!

COVID-19 Update: Support Your Parish and the COVID-19 Relief Fund

Please visit [archchicago.org/support](https://www.archchicago.org/support) to support parish offertory, the COVID-19 Relief Fund or both as your means allow. Your generosity is needed now more than ever.

Thank you for your support.

Archdiocese of Chicago's Schools Celebrate National Catholic Schools Week 2021 by Rewarding Educators for Their Hard Work During Pandemic

Earlier this month, the Archdiocese of Chicago rewarded its educators and school staff for their resolve, ingenuity, dedication and hard work during the COVID-19 pandemic with Gratitude Fund monetary awards during National Catholic Schools Week. The fund, launched in December 2020, attracted a wide-array of donors, including individuals and corporations, and raised nearly \$1.4 million, enough to provide monetary awards to all full- and most part-time educators and staff in the Catholic school system.

With money raised from the fund, each full-time employee will receive a gift of \$250 added to their paycheck in February, and part-time employees will each receive a smaller gift of up to \$100, depending on their work hours. There are about 5,000 employees in 162 of the archdiocesan-run schools in Chicagoland.

This year marks the 47th anniversary of National Catholic Schools Week, an annual celebration of Catholic education. The 2021 observance, with the theme of Faith. Excellence. Service, took place Sunday, Jan. 31 through Feb. 6. Catholic Schools Week embraces the core values that can be found in Catholic schools across the country. Not only are Catholic schools teaching students to become future servant leaders, faith-filled disciples and engaged citizens in their communities, but Catholic school educators are growing with them.

Schools typically observe the annual celebration week with Masses, open houses and other activities for students, families, parishioners and community members. Through these events, schools focus on the value Catholic education provides to young people and its contributions to the Church, local communities and nation.

With Catholic Schools being a major focus area of the campaign, we are thrilled that students and staff were still able to celebrate National Catholic Schools Week through virtual readings with Dr. Jim Rigg, superintendent of Catholic Schools, school-wide competitions and a virtual career day.

For more information on the Archdiocese of Chicago's Catholic schools, visit schools.archchicago.org.



CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Overall Campaign Goal: \$350,000,000

Total Raised to Date: \$424,344,305*

Percent of Goal Pledged: 121%

Pledges Paid to Date: \$268,098,513

Percent Paid to Date: 76%

*includes cash, documented pledges and bequests

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