

'Three generations of greatness'

St. Peter Claver Alumna Ericka Minus has an impressive resume: Valedictorian of SPC Class of 1985; member of St. Paul Central High School in Class of 1989; Associate's Degree from Minneapolis Community College; Bachelor's and Master's Degrees in social work from the University of St. Thomas; Ramsey County Public Health Social Worker.

What made you decide to become a social worker?

From a very young age I was always told when much is given, much is expected. So from a very young age I fed the poor, I did outreach to those less fortunate, I gave of my time in nursing homes. It was ingrained in me to always give back, and I have made it my life's work.

What is it about St. Peter Claver that makes it special?

Claver is a very strong, tight knit African American community. Our faith is strong, and our community is stronger. I attended high school 2 blocks from SPC and received an excellent education from the University of St. Thomas. My students at my high school attended St Peter Claver at some point. We all knew each other.

Did you have siblings and/or other family members who attended Claver?

My grandmother, Ruth O. Benner, was instrumental in the building of the school because there wasn't a school for Black Catholic children. She and

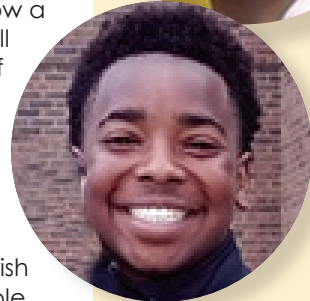
Fr. Jerome Luger went to the Archdiocese and lobbied for the establishment of the school.

My mom, Elaine, is a graduate of SPC (Class of 1963), I am a graduate of SPC, and my 15-year-old son Langston Butler graduated in 2017. He is now a 10th grader at Cretin-Derham Hall High School. Three generations of greatness! That's pretty special.

What makes our school relevant today?

St Peter Claver has a long wonderful history. It has been a great community school and parish for students, families and all people of color. It has turned out some of the most prominent people in the Twin Cities. It has served this community well for many generations and will continue to do so for many generations to come. It's difficult to find someone in St. Paul who hasn't in some way been affected, touched and or motivated by St. Peter Claver Catholic School in a very positive way.

Ericka (with her son Camden), her mother Elaine and her son Langston are all St. Peter Claver graduates.



FOCUSED on SUCCESS



Please visit our website to keep up with our latest news and learn more about how you can support our scholars by volunteering or making a gift.

STPCLAVERSCHOOL.ORG

St. Peter Claver Catholic School
1060 W. Central Ave. St. Paul MN 55104 | 651.621.2273



Dear Friends,

We are focused on success and full of hope as St. Peter Claver begins its third year as a member of Ascension Catholic Academy! There are many wonderful initiatives underway, and partnerships with community organizations are blossoming.

- We began a focus on literacy last school year, and a majority of our scholars met their goals for progress. We are stretching that focus further this year with a partnership with Groves Academy. Our goal is that each scholar reaches proficiency or makes one year of growth on the NWEA Map test.
- The University of St. Thomas will be teaching our scholars about history and culture by sharing works from its American Museum of Asmat Art.
- The Science From Scientists program will provide hands-on STEM learning for our scholars and professional development for our teachers.

I hope you enjoy reading about all of these exciting plans. Remember that you are always welcome to tour St. Peter Claver and experience the excitement for yourself.

Blessings,

Terese Shimshock
Terese Shimshock, Principal



SUCCESS in LITERACY

Groves Academy is bringing its Literacy Framework to St. Peter Claver. The program stresses phonics, which is the ability to connect sounds with letters. Remember being taught to “sound it out?” Phonics-based lessons ensure that students are grasping reading rules they’ll need to achieve fluency. Lesson plans are scripted, so teachers know exactly how and when to introduce each letter and how to build up to words. Teachers get weekly check-ins and other supports from a literacy coach from Groves.

Expected outcomes of the three-year program: 80 percent of students will gain 1.5 years of reading fluency in Year 1, and 80 percent will read fluently at grade level in Years 2 and 3.

SUCCESS in LIFE

Our focus on social-emotional learning prepares our scholars to handle their emotions, make good decisions and have healthy relationships. These are skills they will use their entire lives. Using the Top 20 Training program, we are practicing and reinforcing these skills daily. We serve the whole child in other ways as well. Many of our scholars deal with emotional trauma, and at St. Peter Claver we work to build up self confidence and resiliency. At school, they can safely talk with caring adults, including our City Connects social worker, about what is going on in their lives. And, through religious instruction, our scholars come to understand that they are beloved children of God.



SUCCESS in CULTURAL UNDERSTANDING

The University of St. Thomas will be using works of art from its American Museum of Asmat Art in a special partnership it is piloting with St. Peter Claver. The Asmat people live on the southwestern coast of the island of New Guinea, and they are among the finest wood sculptors in the Pacific Islands. In curriculum developed in consultation with our City Connects counselor Nicolette Larson, the museum will bring art objects to the school for lessons reinforcing the cornerstones of our social-emotional learning efforts.



SUCCESS in STEM

Science from Scientists is bringing interesting and challenging lab projects to our school. Special 45-minute classes are being taught once or twice a month for grades 3-5 by real-life scientists on topics such as the spread of infectious disease, camouflage and mimicry, and engineering redesign with Legos.

In addition to these classes, the organization is providing two professional development days for our teachers to help them feel more comfortable preparing and leading hands-on science activities. Our staff will then team teach with the scientist.