

Our mission statement: A ministry of Ascension Parish since 1897, our school teaches the Christian faith in the Roman Catholic tradition, helping to move lives forward through education and spiritual formation.

Expanding horizons with education

For Ascension Alumna Yasiri Nuñez, the world is expanding in ways she never expected. Her studies at the University of St. Thomas took the young woman – who grew up on the North Side of Minneapolis – out of the Midwest for the first time. She spent four weeks in the desert in the Southwestern United States and six weeks in Iceland

“I had never seen an ocean or a volcano,” she said. “The world is so big, but it is so accessible.”

Ascension provided a safe haven for Yasiri and her two younger sisters, Ari and Yadari, from kindergarten through 8th grade. “My parents worked into the evening, so we would spend 70 percent of our day at Ascension. The people I went to school with were like my family,” Yasiri said. Her parents left for work by 6:30 a.m., so the three girls would be the first in line for breakfast at school, and they would be among the last to leave at 4:30 or 5 p.m. “My parents are super hard workers,” she said. The family attended Ascension Church, and going to mass every Sunday strengthened her connection with the community.

She was overwhelmed and scared to begin 9th grade at Cristo Rey Jesuit High School. Luckily several of her Ascension classmates also chose Cristo Rey. “It was definitely a different world, growing up on the North Side and then going to South Minneapolis. I felt more comfortable because I had my friends with me.”

She attended the University of St. Thomas on a full-tuition Dease Scholarship, generally awarded to students of color, first-generation students and graduates from urban high schools who show

academic excellence and leadership. Her degree is in geology, and she is teaching 9th Grade science at Cristo Rey. Her sisters are finishing their degrees: Ari is at St. Catherine’s University studying nursing, and Yadari is studying sociology and anthropology at Carleton College.

Yasiri plans to go to graduate school eventually to get a master’s degree in education or meteorology.

She is grateful for her Catholic education and humbled by the financial support she received.

At some point, she realized, “Wow, there are people we don’t even know who support us,” she said. “Anything that you invest in – especially if it is kids and especially on the North Side – it’s going to pay off.”

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Yasiri in kindergarten in 2002 ►



100% of the 14 scholars who graduated from Ascension Catholic School in 2015 got their high school diplomas in spring of 2019. In Minneapolis Public Schools, 62% of African American students and 57% of Hispanic students graduated on time.

Rigor and high expectations

As an anchor in the North Minneapolis neighborhood since 1897, Ascension Catholic School educates children in grades K-8 to achieve academic success and sets the path to high school graduation and post-secondary school learning. Our school infuses discipline and social responsibility in a Christ-centered approach that welcomes all faiths.



WE PARTNER WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME ON INSTRUCTION

The University of Notre Dame's Higher Powered Learning Program electrified learning in four pilot classrooms. This year, it is expanded schoolwide. The program uses blended learning, which combines targeted, individualized online learning with traditional classroom instruction. This allows us to individualize instruction by filling in the gaps in each scholar's knowledge and challenging them with advanced skills.

"Blended Learning was the best change I'd made in 20 years. It truly has made me a better teacher and enabled me to better meet the needs of my second graders."

— Teacher Tracy Carpenter

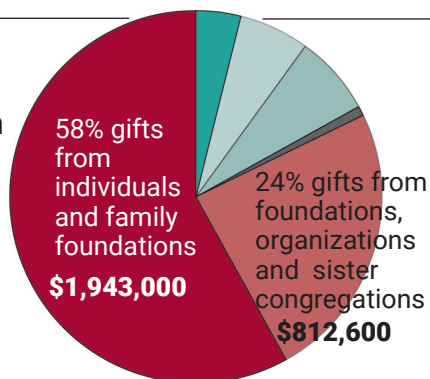
8th GRADERS CONSISTENTLY OUTSCORE THEIR PEERS ON MCAS

Our 8th Graders consistently and significantly outperform their peers at other North Side schools. Many children come to us behind in grade-level skills. Our goal for each scholar is proficiency or a year's growth toward that goal. We assess all scholars three times a year to ensure that they are moving forward and to identify areas in which they need support.

2019 MCAS 8TH GRADE (% proficient)	MATH	READING
Ascension	45	65
Franklin Middle	20	20
Sojourner Truth	22	19
KIPP	35	25
MPS overall	42	46

82% of our revenue comes from people like you

2019-20 REVENUE GOAL: \$3,352,975



7% Friends of Ascension contributions; includes investment earnings from fund and annual gifts **\$250,000**
 6% cafeteria **\$203,575**
 4% tuition, fees and school fundraisers **\$134,800**
 1% other **\$9,000**

WHO WE SERVE

320

students K-8

71% qualify for free/reduced lunch *

23% English learners

97% children of color

*A family of four qualifies if annual income is less than \$33,475.

36% Catholic

WE ARE A MEMBER OF ASCENSION CATHOLIC ACADEMY

The Academy is a consortium of urban Catholic schools that share governance and central office resources to benefit all scholars.

