

# Simple lesson serves him well

**T**he most important lesson Octavius Wilson learned in his nine years at St. Peter Claver Catholic School is a simple one: Use your resources. It is knowledge he used often during high school at Hill-Murray and is already using now in his first year at St. John's University in Collegeville.

"I learned how to approach my education," he said. "It's so helpful going to teachers whenever I need help. That's what teachers are for, and they love when you come in before or after class and want to learn more." At St. Peter Claver, he never felt alone; teachers and schoolmates were always there to help push through any challenges.

While he sought a lot of help with English and literature, Octavius loves and excels at math. At Hill-Murray, which he attended on an academic scholarship, he took honors-level math classes. His senior year, he took Calculus at the University of Minnesota. He is majoring in Economics with a

minor in finance, although he hasn't settled yet on a career path.

When he was younger, his mother worked at the now-closed Ford Motor Co. plant in Saint Paul. "She supported me and my two sisters even though she didn't have the best paying job," Octavius said. "We had to make sure that we used the opportunity to better ourselves with education." His two older sisters, Octavia and Avianna, also attended St. Peter Claver. They graduated from Cretin-Derham Hall and are finishing their college degrees in medical-related fields.

Going to a private school is "not the easiest thing to do financially," he said. St. Peter Claver was a very affordable option, thanks to those who support the scholars. "Donors are really just helping the student to be a better person, and that support allows us to pursue our dreams. Ten or 15 years down the road, my education will have really impacted my life."

*Teachers "love when you come in before or after class and want to learn more."*



**ASCENSION**  
CATHOLIC ACADEMY



**SAINT PETER CLAVER**  
CATHOLIC SCHOOL



**S**t. Peter Claver Catholic School is a vital part of the Rondo community in Saint Paul and has been serving children and families for nearly 70 years. Often several generations of a family have attended the school. This rich history combined with today's emphasis on individualized learning make St. Peter Claver a treasure among Catholic Schools.

## OUR ACADEMIC OUTCOMES ARE TURNING AROUND

While proficiency in math and literacy skills is our goal, for scholars who are behind one or more grade levels, we aim for more than a year's growth.

- When Ascension Catholic Academy formed three years ago, St. Peter Claver scholars were advancing by an average of only a half year of growth.
- **Last year, average scholar growth for 7th and 8th graders was more than 2 grade levels in reading, and more than 1 grade level in math.** Over all, our scholars advanced  $1\frac{1}{2}$  years in reading and  $1\frac{1}{3}$  years in math.

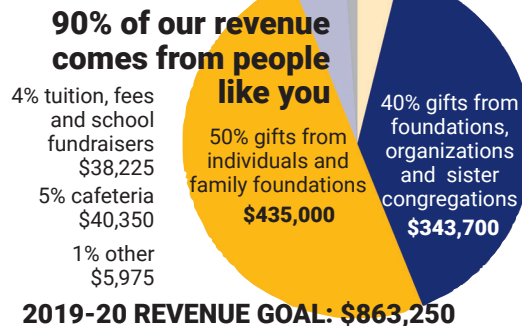
# A proud history, a bright future



**WHO WE SERVE**  
**74**  
students K-8

## 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.



**Our mission** is to foster academic excellence in all areas of study, encourage discipline based on respect and responsibility, and develop a sense of service and social justice within our multi-cultural community.

## WE ARE PARTNERING WITH GROVES ACADEMY ON LITERACY

This will be our second year working with Groves Academy's Literacy Framework Program for teaching reading and spelling in kindergarten through Grade 3.

- A Groves specialist coaches our teachers once a week on methods proven to get results.
- **Last school year, our 2nd graders advanced in literacy at more than double the national average.**

## EACH SCHOLAR IS A BELOVED CHILD OF GOD, DESERVING OF THE BEST

Many of our scholars persevere through emotional trauma from family challenges such as homelessness, addiction and poverty. For them, St. Peter Claver School is a place of safety where the heritage of children of color is celebrated. They are expected to reach high standards of academic performance and interpersonal behavior. They come to understand that they are beloved children of God, that education is key to a fulfilling life and that they are strong and capable of high achievement.

**66%**  
qualify for free/reduced lunch \*

**100%**  
children of color

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