

# Perris: Practicing leadership paid off

**P**erris discovered her leadership skills at Ascension Catholic School and has been developing them ever since. Her hard work has been rewarded with a full-tuition, full-need college scholarship. A 2016 Ascension graduate and 2020 graduate of Totino-Grace High School, Perris is headed to the University of Northwestern - St. Paul. She will major in biology with a pre-med focus.

"This scholarship is everything I could have wished for and more, it is a truly important part of my academic life going forward," Perris said. Each year, only about 45 up-and-coming urban leaders within the Twin Cities are selected for the Act Six scholarship.

She is a first-generation college student, and she is also setting a positive example for her younger sister, Per'Jah, who graduated from Ascension in 2020.

Perris credits Ascension with much of her personal growth. "Ascension was a huge step up from what I was learning before I transferred there in 4th Grade," she said. Her confidence bloomed as she grew emotionally, mentally, and physically, she noted. "At Ascension, I developed better social skills and a knack for leadership."

If Perris could give advice to her kindergarten self, she would say, "Keep your head held high, and strive for the best; great opportunities await you."



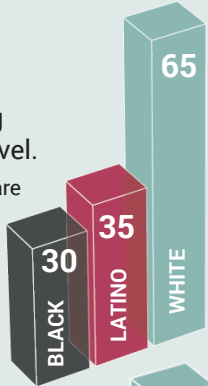
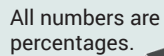
**ASCENSION**  
Catholic School

AN ASCENSION CATHOLIC ACADEMY SCHOOL

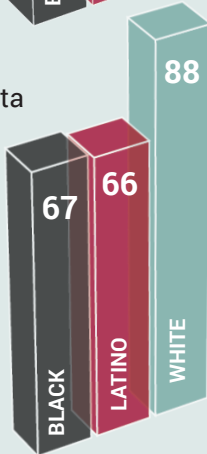
*At Totino-Grace High School, Perris was involved in SOURCE, a student organization that provides opportunities and initiatives for students to celebrate race, culture and ethnicity. She created the plaque in wood shop.*

**VISIT [ASCENSIONSCHOOLMN.ORG](https://www.ascensionschoolmn.org)**

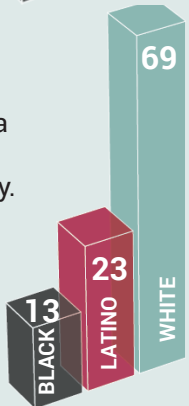
Minnesota's public school systems consistently rank among the best in the nation, yet these statistics paint a different picture:



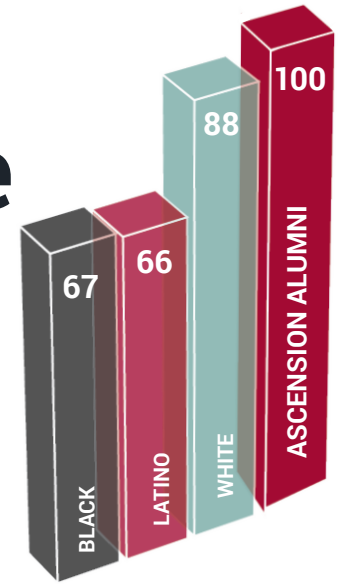
Children in Minnesota who get high school diplomas in four years.



Children  
in Minnesota  
who are  
college ready.



Graduates are prepared for high school academically, socially and emotionally. And they are rooted in faith.



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

\*A family of four qualifies if annual income is less than \$34,060.

**XX%**  
children  
of color

## WHO WE SERVE

**XXX** Scholars  
in grades  
K-8

**XX%** Catholic

ASCENSION  
Catholic School

AN ASCENSION CATHOLIC ACADEMY SCHOOL

Our scholars 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.

8th Grade	Math					Reading				
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Ascension	67	84	71	58	45	43	47	54	67	65
Kipp	17	43	50	45	35	35	33	38	31	25
Loveworks	14	16	5	6	8	0	11	14	6	38
Sojourner	18	2	7	21	22	38	20	26	28	19
Franklin		7	5	15	12		16	14	18	22
Charter schools	Public school									