

Perris: Practicing leadership paid off

Perris 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.

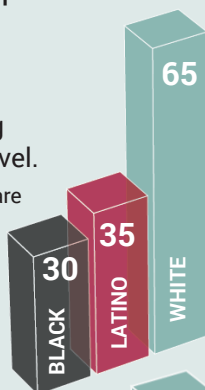
VISIT ASCENSIONSSCHOOLMN.ORG

AN URGENT NEED

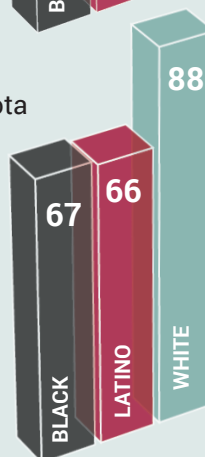
Minnesota's public school systems consistently rank among the best in the nation, yet these statistics paint a different picture:

Children in Minnesota performing at grade level.

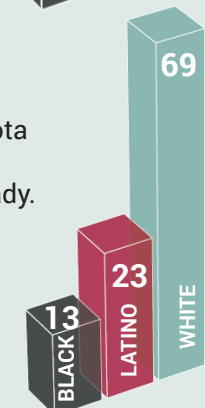
All numbers are percentages.



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



Children in Minnesota who are college ready.

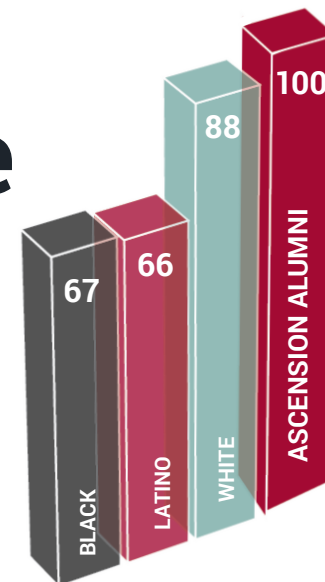


Faith, rigor, and data create a future full of hope



Rigorous, intentional and individualized learning set Ascension apart from other schools serving children in urban areas of Minneapolis. We use strategic planning and partnerships, on-going review of best practices and exhaustive data to move our scholars forward more than one grade level in a year's time.

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



100%
OF ASCENSION
SCHOLARS GRADUATE
FROM HIGH SCHOOL

67%
qualify for free/
reduced lunch*

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

96%
children
of color

**WHO WE
SERVE**

298 Scholars
in K-8

31% are
Catholic

ASCENSION SCHOLARS ARE HIGH-PERFORMING

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. Our scholars consistently and significantly outperform their peers at other schools on the North Side and beyond.

5-year Average Gr. 8 MCA Results (2015-19)

	Math				Reading			
	All	Black	Latino	ELL*	All	Black	Latino	ELL*
Ascension	65	53	61	55	55	56	50	52
Statewide	57	29	36	18	58	34	38	11
Minneapolis Public	41	23	31	11	45	22	29	8

3-year Average Gr. 8 MCA Results (2017-19)

Ascension	58	57	63	61	62	59	56	57
Robbinsdale MS	21	10	13	13	37	24	28	24
Brooklyn Center MS	4	1	4	0	17	12	12	0
Hopkins North Jr.	53	29	30	16	64	36	42	10
Sojourner Truth	18	17	18	—	18	23	26	—
Franklin Middle	10	6	22	11	17	13	26	8

* English-Language Learners