



1554 18th Avenue | Columbus, Nebraska 68601 | 402-564-7165

Columbus Catholic School Community:

The inaugural year for Columbus Catholic Schools has come to an end. Over the course of that year numerous people dedicated their time to help bring outstanding Catholic education to the families of the Columbus area.

We are grateful to all our administrators and teachers who work tirelessly to help our students come to know, love, and serve God. Thank you also to our parishes and pastors who provide unwavering support for the mission of Catholic education. We are also incredibly grateful for all those who support our four schools with their time, talent, and treasure. The CCS system is truly blessed in many ways.

Along with this letter you will find a snapshot of the CCS year in review. It was a whirlwind of activity that really began over two years ago, but officially began on July 1, 2023. Included in the rundown you will find the work that our committees have been doing and a roster of the new CCS hires for next year. We plan to expand on the work done in 23-24 and continue to build a vision for the future.

We look forward to working together and seeing you at a CCS event in 24-25.

May God continue to bless our schools!

Jeff Ohnoutka

CCS Executive Director

Matt Niedbalski

CCS Board Chair



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YEAR IN REVIEW 23-24

Summer of 2023

- New CCS by laws and board of directors' handbook created.
- CCS board training provided by Fr. Tom Simonds of Creighton University and Mrs. Vickie Kauffold the Superintendent of Catholic Schools for the Archdiocese of Omaha.
- July 1st the CCS begins active operations.
- July is the first CCS board meeting.
- Work begins on a CCS strategic plan for 2023-2025.
- New board committees are formed. Executive, Advancement, Facilities, Finance, Mission Integration.

August

- All teachers and staff of CCS become employees of the CCS and are no longer employees of the parishes.

School Year

Here is a rundown of the accomplishments of each of our committees and the work that they did. Each committee meets at least once or twice each month based on the workload.

Advancement Committee

Jeff Ohnoutka, Erin Schmidt, John Schueth, Taylor Dahl, Dennis Grennan, Peg Niedbalski (Chair), Lauren Hogue, Julie Urkoski

- Creation of fundraising guidelines for the CCS. Provides a framework for all four schools connected to the CCS to follow.
- Provided guidance for each of the fundraisers completed in CCS locations.
- Developing a plan moving forward focused on number of fundraisers to be implemented by the CCS. This includes how SCRIP can be better promoted within the CCS system.

Facilities Committee

Jeff Ohnoutka, Jay Pelan, TJ Thiem, Mark Bierman, Craig Foreman, Chris Langan

- Completed facility assessments of all CCS buildings.
- Created a five-year plan for improvements. This was completed using feedback from principals and maintenance staff of each building.



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Finance Committee

Jeff Ohnoutka, Sarah Pillen (Chair), TJ Thiem, Paige Young, Sunny Lancaster, Julie Haney, Don Heimes, Jo Suess

- Approved all financials of CCS each month.
- Updated the parish investment percentage in Scotus to be 25% of the cost to educate a student. Tuition remains at 40% and Development/Fundraising 35%.
- Created a plan for all 2024-2025 school expenses for the 4 schools to be moved over to CCS.
- Executed a new lease where CCS rents the buildings for the 3 elementary schools from each respective parish.

Mission Integration

Jeff Ohnoutka, Amy Evans, Amy Sokol, Cheryl Zoucha, Brady Vancura, Matt Niedbalski (Chair), Tara Sjuts, Michael Dreesen, Heidi Field, Brooke Koliha, Deana Policky

- Created new technology usage recommendations for CCS.
- Plan to provide more education for parents and students on technology use.
- Developed a vision for a profile of a CCS graduate.
- A survey was created to identify major themes in skills and values for a CCS student. The committee will work to incorporate those themes into the CCS K-12 curriculum.

Columbus Catholic Schools New Hires for 24-25

St. Anthony

2nd Grade- Sandi Demuth

St. Bonaventure

6th grade teachers- Michael Madej and Matt Wallish

3rd Grade- Jenna Preister

1st Grade- McKenna Hoefler



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St. Isidore

3rd Grade- Haylee Korth and Lori Przymus

Music at St. Anthony and St. Isidore

Kelsie Hupp

PE at St. Bonaventure and St. Isidore

Ryan Baker

Scotus Central Catholic

PE/Strength- Heidi Field

Spanish- Alexis Wilch

Social Science- Michael Rerucha

English- Danielle Urkoski

Campus Ministry- Molly Wallish