

CATALYST



ST. MARCUS SCHOOL NEWSLETTER FALL 2018



thoughts
**LETTER FROM THE
SUPERINTENDENT**

Issue 37 • Fall 2018

Superintendent Henry Tyson shares his thoughts about St. Marcus' priorities, beliefs and driving values this school year.

Henry, can you tell us about St. Marcus' core values?

Everyone at St. Marcus is zeroed in on our leading core value, **Christ first**. We're constantly pointing staff, students and families toward Jesus. This ties directly into our school mission of "discipling children for Christ."

Families in our community are willing to take risks because of our second value, **biblical discipleship**. Our eternal lives and the hope of heaven put the struggles of this world into perspective. We pursue Christ in a sincere, radical way and share that pursuit with others.

Our third value is **sacrificial love**. This is really a reflection of the first two core values. I see our staff serving sacrificially by going above and beyond every day. They're writing lesson plans with a sense of urgency, tutoring kids after school, giving kids rides to and from home, making sure kids can get to extracurriculars and, more radically, *doing whatever needs to be done* to make sure students are successful. We even have staff members who adopted students or became foster parents.

Jesus was radical and extreme in what He taught and the way he lived. He had high expectations then and now. Therefore, we hold each other to very high standards. Our fourth core value is **radical expectations**. We strive to do all things excellently, from the way the facilities are kept and the way we do our lesson planning to the way we communicate.

Can you share examples of how these core values are being demonstrated?

I have seen our core values being lived out through our students in the way they interact with their peers. An 8th grader last year named Jordan was an ace on the basketball court, but he always put his teammates first; it was never about him. Every day after lunch, he'd take the trash out and would do it unassumingly and humbly because he loved to serve. **His identity was deeply rooted in Christ and it flowed over to others.** This is one of just many examples of students demonstrating humility, love, kindness and courage.

Our donors and supporters are partners in living out these core values. They truly make this work possible.

Do you have any closing thoughts?

We are a family. We're bound together by beliefs and values. We are called to love and serve. I am blessed to be part of this work and humbled by others who continually invest in the lives of our students and families.

Luke 9:23 states, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me."

We know it is not easy, but we know -- we are promised -- that it's worth everything.

We are family.

CORE VALUES

We joyfully put Christ first, others second and ourselves third. We invest in our spiritual growth and the spiritual growth of others. Our love for others is unconditional and comes with personal cost. We hold ourselves and each other to a standard of excellence in everything we do.

How to be successful on your summer vacation

By Quinton Klabon,
Mission Advancement Team

Do you know a business or organization that offers experiences like this to students? Let us know!

Email your info to
communications@stmarcus.org

WITH SCHOOL BACK IN SESSION, IT'S WORTH NOTING HOW ALUMNI SPENT THEIR SUMMERS.

They have some advice to pass on.

MARQUETTE SUMMER LAW INSTITUTE

Mariah Kato, 9th grade: The Summer Law Institute is full of fun stuff for people thinking about getting into justice. We had conversations with lawyers, had mentors help us with library research and defending our cases and we ended with a mock trial where we challenged each other in the courtroom.

I was part of the winning team. We took "Best Appellee Argument." So many people are given unfair opportunities in life, and it's important to me that we all work to bring justice to the world. I learned that whether I become an entrepreneur or a defense lawyer, I will make sure that I am looking out for the underserved.

Arniya Brown, 9th grade: I had to go against Mariah in the mock trial! With all of us being in an unfamiliar situation, we had to put aside our friendship and stay focused and passionate about our case. I learned that whether you collaborate with someone you know or not, it's always important to give your best. People need to see the real you.

Akira Katherine, 11th grade: I want to combine sports with business, so I went to Wake Forest University's sports marketing program. We spoke with people from Wake Forest athletics and IMG, as well as NASCAR. We had a really great guest professor, and we learned a lot about business law, promotions and management. I learned that there are a lot of talented people that I'm competing with out there, so I'm going to keep doing well at school and soccer to see how far I can go.



ELITE UNIVERSITY SUMMER PROGRAMS

Brielle Miles, 11th grade: I originally was enrolled in Brown University's racial justice program for high schoolers, which is my true passion. When the professor had to cancel, I spent a week at Brown focusing on writing with a purpose. I was still able to get better at writing about things that matter to me, so it remained very useful. What I learned most, though, was that this type of college offers a far different experience than what most people are used to having. In a week, I made a lot of awesome friends from all over the world, which made the experience so much greater. Of course, the campus was also gorgeous and I enjoyed being around an environment with other brilliant kids my age who challenged me.

ALDERWOMAN INTERNSHIP

Alicia Webb, 12th grade: Through the City of Milwaukee's Earn and Learn program, I was placed at City Hall to work with St. Marcus' alderwoman, Milele Coggs. I was kind of nervous at first, but as soon as we got going, it felt like I was actually doing something worthy of my time and not just earning a dollar at a typical summer job. There was lots of cool stuff for us to do like cleaning up neighborhoods, organizing opportunities for outreach and contacting food vendors to show up for district events. Alderwoman Coggs would spend time to talk with me about my experience working with her and would get ideas about how to connect with people my age. I'd say the lesson I took away was that it's so worth it to do something where you actually learn more valuable life skills rather than just a normal summer job for teenagers.



75 scholars graduated from St. Marcus in 2018 and 100% are now in high school.

37% of St. Marcus alumni who graduated high school between 2015 and 2018 are now in college.

Where are the 2018 St. Marcus graduates now attending high school?

WISCONSIN LUTHERAN: 25 - MILWAUKEE LUTHERAN: 15 - KINGDOM PREP: 8 - OTHER: 27

Other schools include: Rufus King, St. Augustine, Cristo Rey, Lakeside Lutheran, Tolleson Union, Marquette, Riverside, Hamilton, Luther Prep, St. Joan Antida and Pius.



Annually, St. Marcus scholars, parents and staff honor those fallen on September 11, 2001.

**As long as we live, we will remember those heroes.
Thank you to those who have served and serve today.**

We are called
to radical expectations.
We will not retreat.
Now, more than ever,
we must be **BOLD**.
Will you blaze
boldly with us?

To reserve your seat now
and for sponsorships, visit:
www.stmarcusgala.com

#StMarcusGala

**BLAZE
BOLDLY**

Saturday, November 10



**CAN AN ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL IN THE
CENTRAL CITY
BECOME A VEHICLE
FOR IMPROVING THE
HEALTH AND
VIBRANCY
OF A COMMUNITY?**

A message from St. Marcus Executive Director Fred Lautz

What is needed to change the educational landscape in Milwaukee? What does it look like to ensure long-term and sustainable outcomes while growing to a third campus? These are the types of questions that were discussed this summer at St. Marcus School's Visioning Conversations.

Forty-eight hours after St. Marcus' 8th grade class crossed the stage to receive their diplomas, school leadership met with a cross section of key stakeholders to examine the current state of education in Milwaukee and the impact St. Marcus can have in addressing these needs with the support of community partners. During these visioning sessions, participants shared ideas and feedback, which will guide the driving vision for the next phase of the *Courage to Commit* campaign.

Thanks to the efforts of countless dedicated partners and supporters, St. Marcus School is one of the highest performing schools serving low-income children in the city of Milwaukee. But looking at the alarming statistics of poverty, segregation and failing schools, the need to do more is evident. Access to quality child care/early childhood education and neighborhood transformation were repeatedly brought up at the visioning sessions as needs and solutions to sustaining a healthy and prosperous Milwaukee.

There is empirical evidence that the first few years of a child's life are integral to their development, yet the availability of high-quality childcare programming in the central city is nowhere near capable of meeting the demand. As a result, the achievement gap for many children entering into kindergarten is increasing. With all the challenges facing our scholars, a foundation for learning starting early in a child's life is a worthwhile investment to help them succeed.



As we look to expand the number of children we serve, we are convinced that a component of our strategy must address the needs of our staff, school families and neighborhoods for quality, early child care. We are in the first stages of planning exactly how we can build early child care into our programs. We are reaching out to community partners and our supporters to further strategize what this may look like at St. Marcus.

Part of St. Marcus' enduring vision has been healthy communities and prosperous families as a catalyst for citywide transformation. Families bring their children to St. Marcus to ensure exposure to a high-quality, Christian education, but are consistently undermined personally by unemployment, money management and housing issues, resulting in a cycle of generational poverty. Visioning attendees recognized the need to address these problems, but warned against the risks of mission creep, which could compromise quality in current programs.



To achieve balance, St. Marcus will look to increase partnerships with resource groups like WWBIC, ACTS Housing, Milwaukee JobsWork, MLK Economic Development Corporation and the like to assist parents with financial literacy, job opportunities, business guidance, parenting, home ownership and community building events, all focused around the Harambee neighborhood. In collaboration with the St. Marcus Community Council, resource fairs for St. Marcus parents are already scheduled during the upcoming school year, focusing on jobs, apartments,

business start-ups, credit repair, budgeting and homeownership. Parents will have the opportunity to hear from community partners and get connected to the resources they need to succeed.

As St. Marcus School looks to what's next, we look forward to expanding our "circle of impact"

of school campuses and community partners to create a healthy and prosperous learning community including high student achievement, comprehensive quality childcare and community revitalization. With your continued prayers and support, Milwaukee's children and families will continue to learn, live and grow.

If you'd like to learn more about Phase II of the *Courage to Commit* Campaign, I'd love to connect.

Sincerely,

Fred Lautz
Executive Director | *Courage to Commit* Campaign Chair
fred.lautz@stmarcus.org | 414-267-8389



100%
OF ST. MARCUS
SCHOLARS EXPERIENCED
DISCIPLINE, LOVE AND
RELENTLESSLY HIGH
EXPECTATIONS.

St. Marcus is a Christian, college-prep voucher school serving 890 predominantly low-income, African American students from K3-8th grade.

St. Marcus students are poised and professional. All students dress in uniform. Middle school students wear **specialized ties** to showcase their **academic achievements** and **positions of leadership**.

90% of St. Marcus
alumni graduate high
school in four years.

GENEROSITY REPORT

July 1, 2017 - June 30, 2018
It was possible because of you.

Students in grades 3-8 outperformed students in the district on the 2017 Forward Exam. Most grades **outperformed national averages** in reading and math on the Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) test.

St. Marcus proudly boasted an 84% student return rate with an **average daily attendance of 96%**, and enrollment growth of 142% (since 2009).

96%

VOUCHER STUDENTS

80%

LOW-INCOME FAMILIES

9%

**SCHOLARS WITH
SPECIAL NEEDS**





Every year,
St. Marcus raises **\$2,000**
per child to fund the gap
between the voucher amount
and the actual cost of a
high-quality education.

2017/18 FISCAL YEAR TOTAL
RAISED TO FUND THE GAP:

\$1,976,494



DISCOVER AMERICA

140 Travelers (grades 5-8)
67 Locations
5 College visits
\$93,659 Invested



ANNUAL GALA

429 Guests
133 Volunteers
665 Volunteer hours
\$680,428 Invested



GENEROUS FUNDERS*

Grants: \$1,627,500
Individuals: \$1,088,525
Foundations: \$177,926
Other: \$903,662

**numbers include operating and capital gifts
Thank you for your generous support!*

**Thank you to the foundations
who support St. Marcus School.**

Capital Support

Agustin A. Ramirez, Jr. Family Foundation
Antioch Foundation
A.O. Smith Foundation
Arzbaeher Family Foundation
Barbara & John Trimble Family Foundation
Bruce Krier Charitable Foundation
Cudahy Foundation
Emory T. Clark Family Charitable Foundation
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Lutheran Legacy Foundation
Joseph and Vera Zilber Family Foundation
Northwestern Mutual Foundation
Ralph Evinrude Foundation
Siebert Lutheran Foundation
Stimac Family Foundation
Theodore W. Batterman Family Foundation

Operating Support

Albert J. and Flora H. Ellinger Foundation
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Baird Foundation
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Todd Wehr Foundation
Usinger Foundation
Walter G. Sommer Family Foundation
Waukesha County Community Foundation/
James and Suzanna Lacy Fund
We Energies Foundation
Youthbridge Community Foundation

Christmas Angels Comes Full Circle

“YOU NEVER KNOW HOW SOMETHING AS SIMPLE AS A PAIR OF BOOTS OR A SWEATER CAN TRIGGER A SEISMIC SHIFT IN SOMEONE’S LIFE.”

This is how Katrina Weinberg describes the profound impact St. Marcus Christmas Angels had on her family.

*By Cecilia Davis,
Mission Advancement Team*

The Christmas Angels program connects generous friends of St. Marcus with school families in need. Donors are matched to families that are referred by school teachers and staff. The program began in 2005 as a small-scale passion project, and has since expanded to serve over 30 families each year. For many donors, serving as a Christmas Angel has become a holiday tradition of giving back.

Five years ago, Katrina and her daughters, Savana and Madison, were in the midst of a difficult life journey. Newly single, Katrina was doing everything she could to juggle single parenthood, an unplanned

move to West Allis and a job in Racine. In a temporary living situation at the time, most of the family’s possessions were being held in storage. To their horror, the storage facility was burglarized that fall, robbing Katrina’s family of nearly everything they owned.

By the time school started, life’s challenges had become nearly insurmountable for Katrina. The trauma of the storage facility theft left Savana and Madison feeling extremely anxious about starting K5 and 3rd grade at St. Marcus. But St. Marcus became a stronghold of support for Katrina and her girls.

“Christmas Angels” are generous friends who provide support for St. Marcus School families in need. Interested in becoming a Christmas Angel? Contact Cecilia Davis at cecilia.davis@stmarcus.org or (414) 562-3163 x7554.

“I will never forget Ms. Washington, Madison’s 3rd grade teacher,” Katrina recalls. “Madison was going through so much and needed a lot of emotional support. On top of everything we were already going through, Madison also struggled with a speech impediment. For years, I was the only one who could understand her, but Ms. Washington really took the time to connect with her and before long could understand her as well. She was so communicative and supportive. It was absolutely life changing for Madison to hear, ‘You’re capable. You’re smart. You’re intelligent. And I’m going to help you.’ Madison still talks about Ms. Washington today.”

“It was absolutely life changing for Madison to hear, ‘You’re capable. You’re smart. You’re intelligent. And I’m going to help you.’ Madison still talks about Ms. Washington today.”

Winter arrived and daily struggles continued to burden the family. But in December, Katrina received a phone call that brought her joy.

“Around Christmastime, I got a call from St. Marcus. I was told that a St. Marcus Christmas Angel had purchased gifts for my family, and that they were wrapped and ready for me to pick up.” Katrina emotionally describes how it felt to receive this news. **“It was life-changing. It meant the world. Those were the only presents under the tree that year.”**

This unexpected blessing sparked a profound realization for Katrina.

“Receiving those gifts transformed me. It made me discover that I wanted to dedicate my career to doing good for others.”

Already working for a bank in a sales capacity, her experience as a Christmas Angels recipient inspired Katrina to re-focus her banking work on

community engagement and philanthropy.

One of the gifts that Katrina received ultimately played a special role in that transformation.

“One of the presents was a cardigan sweater,” Katrina recalls.

“Because of the storage facility theft, it was the nicest piece of clothing I owned at the time.”

Through God’s perfect timing, soon thereafter, Katrina received an opportunity to interview for a community engagement role within a bank, an exciting first step toward her new career vision.

“That sweater I received is so important to me, because I wore it to the job interview.”

Katrina got the job, excelled in her work and, over the next several years, advanced. She most recently became Vice President, Regional Community Reinvestment Act Officer with First Citizens Bank.

“In my role, I oversee the bank’s community engagement initiatives and I ensure that our lending practices reach diverse sectors of the population,” she says. “It’s my dream job!”



Katrina credits her faith as the most important driver of her success. She strongly believes that with success comes great responsibility.

“God gave me the tools and the willpower to get me where I am today. He picks you up when you fall,” she says. “But blessings aren’t meant to be kept. They are meant to be shared with others. God specifically and divinely created my journey, and now that I’m in a position of leadership in my work, where am I going to take that journey? How can I make a difference for others like Ms. Washington did for my family? How can I bless someone the way my Christmas Angel blessed me?”

Once again, through God’s perfect design, a chance to do so came when Katrina least expected it. Shortly after assuming her new role at First Citizens, a piece of office mail accidentally landed on her desk. It happened to be a issue of this newsletter. While browsing the newsletter, Katrina happened upon a call for Christmas Angel donors. Flooded with the memories of her experience as a recipient, she immediately connected with the St. Marcus Mission Advancement office. That winter, her entire work team supported three families with gifts and household supplies.

Through their generosity, Katrina’s team helped transform Christmas 2017 for 18 individuals.

Today, Katrina is excited about how she will continue to make a positive community impact through her professional work. Ultimately, it became necessary for Katrina to enroll Savana and Madison at schools located much closer to her home, where they are in grades 4 and 7. But their experience at St. Marcus will forever remain pivotal as a spiritual, personal and academic turning point for the family.

Katrina’s extraordinary story demonstrates how a single act of generosity has the power to profoundly reshape a life. She hopes to author a book someday about her journey of faith, perseverance, blessings and servant leadership.

“Right now in our community, we need more people to give of themselves. You never know how much a blessing you bestow on someone else can change their life. A token of generosity, even the smallest one, can mean everything.”



**COMMUNITY
PARTNERSHIPS
SATURDAY
SCHOLARS
FOCUS
SUCCESS**

**See You on Saturdays
at St. Marcus**

FOCUS IS AN ESSENTIAL ELEMENT TO ST. MARCUS’ UNDENIABLE SUCCESS. By fixing our eyes on Christ, our mission to disciple children thrives. We then look to further care for our community by developing partnerships with organizations who are experts in their own areas of focus. Moe Lawrenz, Coordinator of Community Development, joined the St. Marcus team to facilitate community relationships that help meet the needs of children and families. By connecting with places like ACTS Housing, Milwaukee JobsWork and Thrivent Financial, families have access to tools that help them achieve stability and seek prosperity.

None of the above comes at the expense of a high-quality education. Teachers and administrators are zeroed in on an academic goal: to beat the statewide average in reading by 2020. To provide additional academic support to scholars and simultaneously offer lifestyle guidance to parents, St. Marcus has partnered with Unity in Motion, Inc., to bring back a new and improved version of what we once called Saturday School, now called Saturday Scholars.

Saturday Scholars is a vibrant arts community that provides enrichment opportunities for scholars and adults to prosper. Youth classes include art explorations, computer coding, martial arts, mindfulness and more. Parents attend classes pertaining to credit repair, budgeting, business-building and home ownership. This crossroads of knowledge uplifts families and positions children to flourish.

Stay tuned as Saturday Scholars unfolds this year. We invite you to consider getting involved! Sponsors for Saturday lunch are critical as lunch is provided every week.

Contact Patrick for details:
patrick.armstrong@stmarcus.org or
414-562-3163 x 7587



Giving Today with Eyes on Tomorrow

In my role as Director of Mission Advancement, I am blessed to converse with St. Marcus friend-supporters. It's the best part of my job. My favorite part! But, I must admit, I have imaginary conversations with you, too!

In these imagined conversations, we are having lunch and sharing stories.

Many of my friends know me as a woman with endless questions (probably the nurse in me) and a love for stories - *your stories*. I imagine asking you a series of questions between bites and then settling in to enjoy your stories. I think of all the things I wish I could share with you...

I'd share the story of 1st grade teacher Delicia Washington inspiring and instilling a love for reading in scholars and how those books you collected and distributed for them to bring home are helping create a class of 6-year-old "Super Readers."

I'd share the dream of 5th grade teacher Eric Sandow to create a "family room and student gathering place" for North Campus scholars to complement and expand their middle school classroom experience. I'd bring his hope-filled question to you: "Christine, do we have friends who would be interested in partnering with me do this?"

A few of my favorite questions to ask are these:

Why do you give to St. Marcus and what brings you joy when you give?

What legacy would you like to leave the world?

Almost always, these prompt interesting, engaged conversations even if folks have never contemplated this before. Often, it leads to deeper conversations about legacy giving and what is entailed in this type of giving.

Did you know that St. Marcus has a foundation which oversees and manages endowment funds? When you establish or give to an endowment fund, you create a permanent legacy of support for St. Marcus School. Support which will ensure high-quality education for students for generations to come.

Look for future stories about St. Marcus friends who have created their legacy through investments in today's scholars with eyes on tomorrow.

With a heart full of gratitude for you, my friend...want to have lunch?

Christine Safranek

Christine Safranek

What is an endowment fund?

An endowment fund is a permanent, self-sustaining source of funding that holds its principal in perpetuity.

Endowment assets (your gifts) are invested. Each year, a portion of the value of the fund (typically 4-5%) is paid out to support the fund's purpose, and any earnings in excess of this distribution are used to build the fund's market value. Endowment investments have dual goals: to grow the principal and to generate income.

To share stories and/or talk about your legacy, contact Christine at 414-750-6498 or christine.safranek@stmarcus.org

"We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers."

-1 Thessalonians 1:2





St. Marcus School

2215 North Palmer St.
Milwaukee, WI 53212
(414) 562-3163

St. Marcus is a Christian, college prep school serving 890 students (K3 through 8th grade) at two campuses. St. Marcus' vision is that every family has access to high-quality education in the city of Milwaukee. As the school continues to grow and expand, it consistently delivers excellent academic results, dedicates itself to community transformation and serves as a catalyst for citywide school reform. St. Marcus believes there is no excuse for failure, and through Christ, nothing is impossible.

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Blaze Boldly: Saturday, November 10
www.stmarcusgala.com

