



**+** BELIEVE  
**+** AND READ

Awakening Literacy Greatness in Our Catholic Schools

## WHO WE ARE

Founded in 2015, Catholic Schools Center of Excellence (CSCOE) partners with all 79 Catholic pre-K through 8th grade elementary schools in the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis to accompany more than 20,000 students on the journey toward realizing how God is calling them to greatness. Our mission is to help Catholic elementary schools achieve and maintain excellence and to increase enrollment.

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CATHOLIC SCHOOLS  
CENTER OF EXCELLENCE



## A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT.

Dear Friends of Catholic Schools,

Did you know that in America today, the number of students who are not reading at grade-level by third grade is 60 percent?

While the average number of young struggling readers in our Catholic school system is not 60 percent, we are close to 20 percent.

That's certainly not good enough for us.

Fortunately, CSCOE found a solution. It's a partnership with Groves Academy, a national expert in reading instruction. We call it *Believe and Read*. It's a three-year program that transforms literacy instruction through outstanding professional development and teacher coaching. One of the things we like best about *Believe and Read*, is that it not only supports struggling readers, it also helps the highflyers!

Today, and thanks to the generosity of Cretin-Derham Hall Catholic High School, *Believe and Read* is now being implemented in 20 schools. Looking to the future, we hope the program can be an option for every one of our schools. However, we can't do it without you.

With your generous support, you can make a profound impact by making literacy a reality for every one of the precious children that our 79 Catholic elementary schools serve.

Thank you for your support and partnership.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in dark blue ink that reads "Gail Dorn". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Gail Dorn

## CSCOE'S IMPACT.



Established and/or grew 42 preschool and early childhood programs.



Provided technology assessments and upgrades of WiFi, bandwidth, hardware and professional development in all 79 schools.



Connected and convened more than 2,100 school faculty and staff at the Catholic Schools Summit of Excellence professional development day.



Opened a Latino enrollment office in the heart of the Mercado on Lake Street in Minneapolis. The team personally enrolled 151 new students for the 2019-20 school year.



In collaboration with the University of St. Thomas, created a STEM Lending Library. In the first year of operation 397 loans were provided to 57 schools.



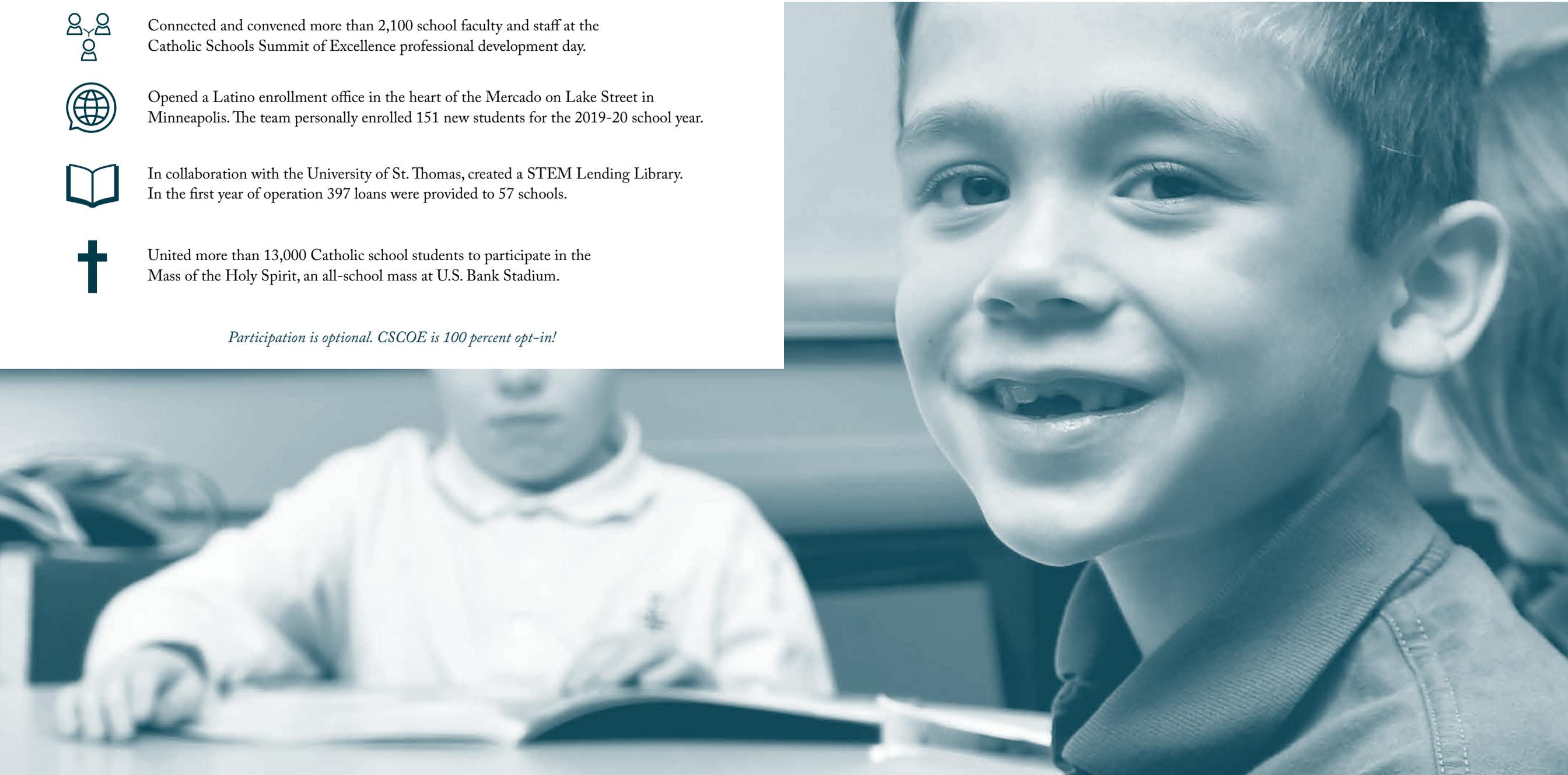
United more than 13,000 Catholic school students to participate in the Mass of the Holy Spirit, an all-school mass at U.S. Bank Stadium.

*Participation is optional. CSCOE is 100 percent opt-in!*

## OUR CHALLENGE & OUR OPPORTUNITY

Reading is the foundation for educational success and life opportunities. Unfortunately, many of the K-3 students in our Catholic schools still do not have the skills to build this foundation. Children without the necessary literacy skills can fall behind quickly, and the consequences last a lifetime.

LET'S FIX THIS.



## OUR VISION.

*Believe and Read* is a best-in-class literacy program. Powered by Catholic Schools Center of Excellence, and in partnership with Groves Academy and Cretin-Derham Hall Catholic High School, our goal is to ensure every student is at or above grade level reading by 4th grade – because we believe that God calls every child to greatness.

## HOW.

*Believe and Read* brings an explicit, systematic reading instruction and literacy framework to Catholic elementary schools. It is designed to transform one student, one teacher, and one school at a time.

### EVIDENCE-BASED

Groves Academy is an industry leader with more than 50 years in literacy research and training. Their unique literacy framework has been recognized twice for 'Excellence in Education' by the U.S. Department of Education.

### COMPLEMENT EXISTING CURRICULUM

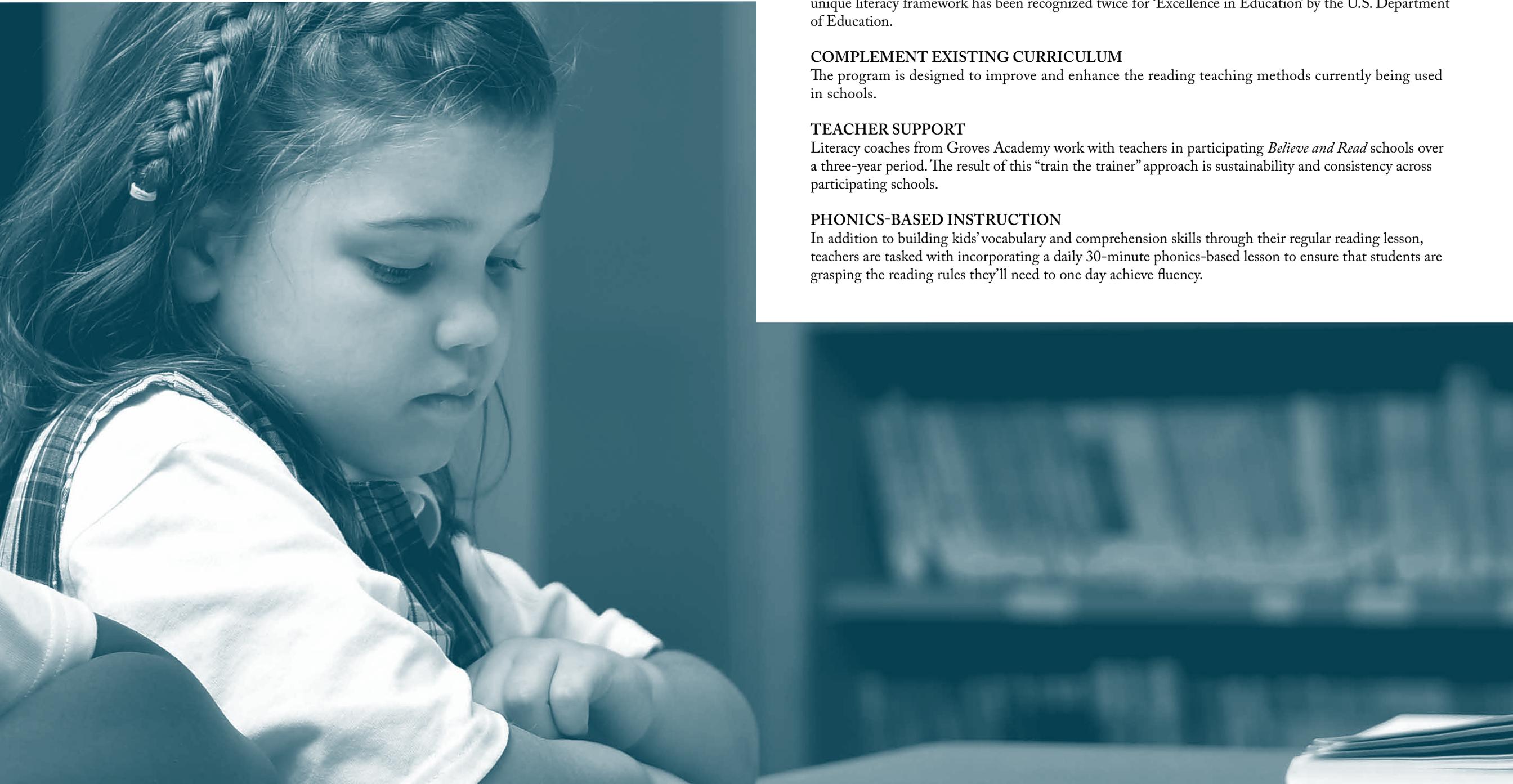
The program is designed to improve and enhance the reading teaching methods currently being used in schools.

### TEACHER SUPPORT

Literacy coaches from Groves Academy work with teachers in participating *Believe and Read* schools over a three-year period. The result of this "train the trainer" approach is sustainability and consistency across participating schools.

### PHONICS-BASED INSTRUCTION

In addition to building kids' vocabulary and comprehension skills through their regular reading lesson, teachers are tasked with incorporating a daily 30-minute phonics-based lesson to ensure that students are grasping the reading rules they'll need to one day achieve fluency.



# BELIEVE AND READ IS ALREADY WORKING.

To date, three schools have piloted the program. The results have been transformative. At Holy Spirit Catholic School, every single 1st and 2nd grade student was at or above grade level after just one year.

  
High Risk  
(1-10th percentile)

  
Moderate Risk  
(11-25th)

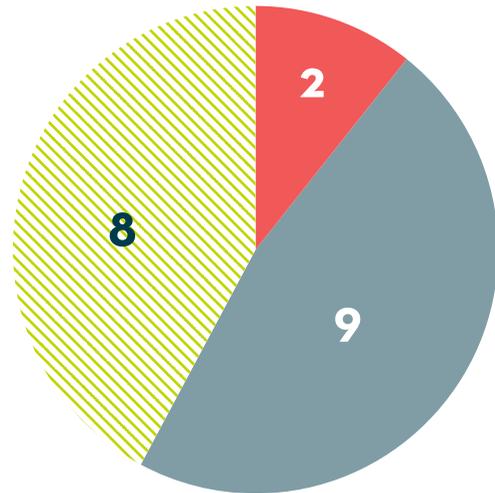
  
At Grade Level  
(26-75th)

  
Above Grade Level  
(76th plus)

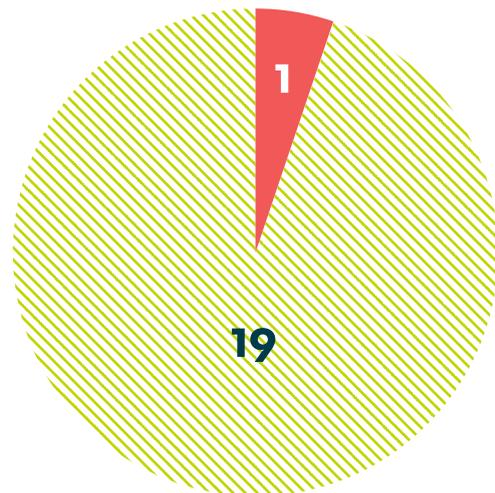
Aimsweb assessment data analyzed using Hasbrouck-Tindale norms based on 6.6 million U.S. students.  
Two-year progress as reported by Holy Spirit Catholic School, St. Paul, MN.

## YEAR 1 Grade 1

GR 1 Fall 2017  
(19 students)

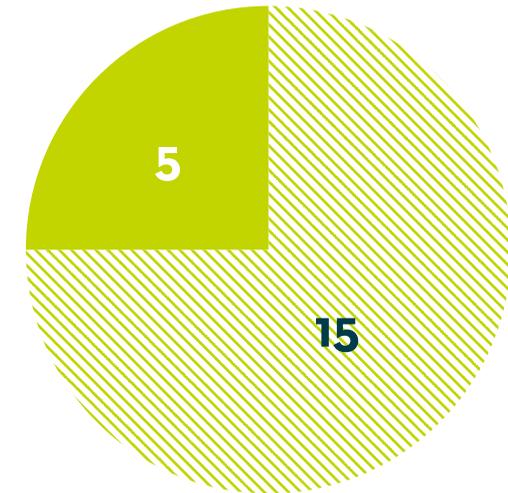


GR 1 Spring 2018  
(20 students)

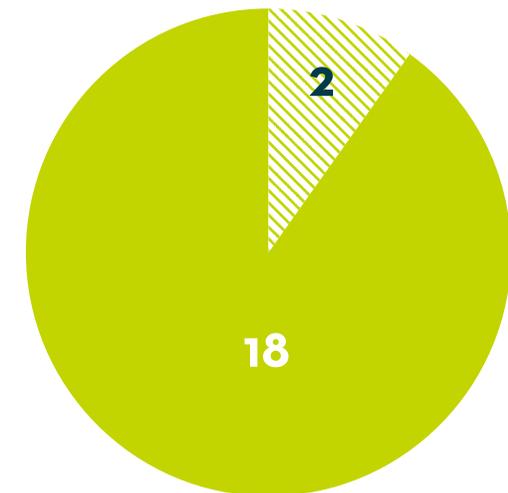


## YEAR 2 Grade 2

GR 2 Fall 2018  
(20 students)



GR 2 Spring 2019  
(20 students)





*"Wiser to build strong children, than to repair broken adults."*

Frederick Douglass

## THE LIFELONG IMPACT OF ILLITERACY.

**61 percent of Minnesota fourth graders and 65 percent of U.S. fourth graders cannot read proficiently.**

- National Assessment of Educational Progress

**Children who do not read proficiently by the end of 3rd grade are four times more likely to leave school without a diploma.**

- Annie E. Casey Foundation

**70 percent of U.S. prison inmates cannot read above the 4th grade level.**

- National Institute for Literacy

**75 percent of unemployed adults have reading or writing difficulties.**

- National Institute for Literacy

**Only five percent of Americans with strong literacy skills live in poverty.**

- National Institute for Literacy

# YOUR IMPACT OPPORTUNITY.

## *Why We Need Your Help*

Because *Believe and Read* is working, we want, and need, to reach more students. Our hope is that you will make *Believe and Read* a personal passion, and that together, we will profoundly change the trajectory of thousands of children's lives and help strengthen our Catholic school system.

## *Our Invitation to You*

Please prayerfully consider a philanthropic investment in the lives of thousands of children by helping implement *Believe and Read* in their schools over a three-year period.

- Sponsor a *Believe and Read* school: \$75,000
- Sponsor a *Believe and Read* classroom: \$14,000
- Sponsor a *Believe and Read* student: \$600

## **To make *Believe and Read* part of your own living legacy, please contact:**

Mike Halloran  
Vice President of Development and Operations  
Catholic Schools Center of Excellence  
T: 612-746-3647 | C: 612-269-802 | E: [mikehalloran@cscoc-mn.org](mailto:mikehalloran@cscoc-mn.org)



*"The gift of literacy stays with someone their entire lifetime. It's too precious not to be part of."*

Mary and Michael Cole, *Believe and Read* campaign chairs

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Former Executive Vice President  
and Chief Legal Officer of Optum, Inc.

**We believe** in serving our Catholic schools.  
They support the whole child in mind, body and soul.

**We believe** in forming critical thinkers with mature moral values  
which they will carry with them their entire lives.

**We believe** in sharing innovative ideas, sound business practices,  
proven strategies and financial resources to help meet each school's  
specific academic, business and spiritual goals.

**We believe** that Catholic schools will help our children  
become leaders who will make the world a better place.

**We believe** that reading opens doors, builds confidence, and  
fosters a lifelong love of learning.

**And we believe** that you can play a part.

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