



**BELIEVE
AND READ**

Awakening Literacy Greatness in Our Catholic Schools

WHO WE ARE

Founded in 2015, the Catholic Schools Center of Excellence (CSCOE) partners with all 79 preschool through eighth grade Catholic 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 enhance excellence and increase enrollment.

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, but it also helps the high flyers!

Today, and thanks to the generosity of Cretin-Derham Hall Catholic High School, *Believe and Read* is being implemented in 33 Catholic 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 preschool through eighth grade Catholic schools serve.

Thank you for your support and partnership.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Brian Ragatz". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Brian Ragatz

P.S. Because Catholic school enrollment is up, around 300 more students will benefit from Believe and Read, so the need for support is greater!

CSCOE'S IMPACT



Established and/or grew 72 preschool and early childhood programs.



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



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 Latino community on Lake Street in Minneapolis. The team personally enrolled nearly 350 new students in the last three years.



In collaboration with the University of St. Thomas, created a STEM Lending Library. In the first two years of operation, 713 loans were provided to 63 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 the 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 fourth 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. Its 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 that schools currently use.

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 lessons, teachers incorporate 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, the results have been transformative. At Holy Spirit Catholic School in St. Paul, one of the initial pilot schools, every single first- and second-grade student was at or above grade level after just one year.


High Risk
(1-10th percentile)


Moderate Risk
(11-25th)

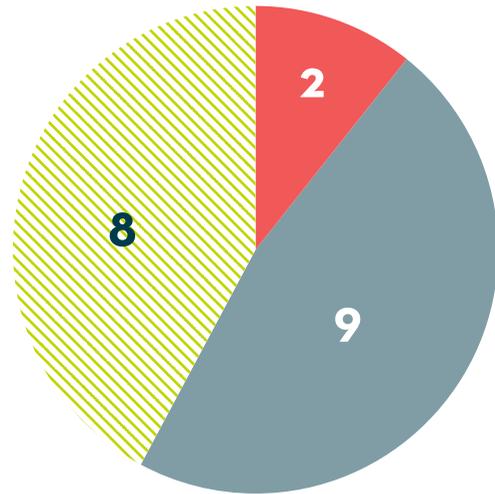

At Grade Level
(26-75th)


Above Grade Level
(76th plus)

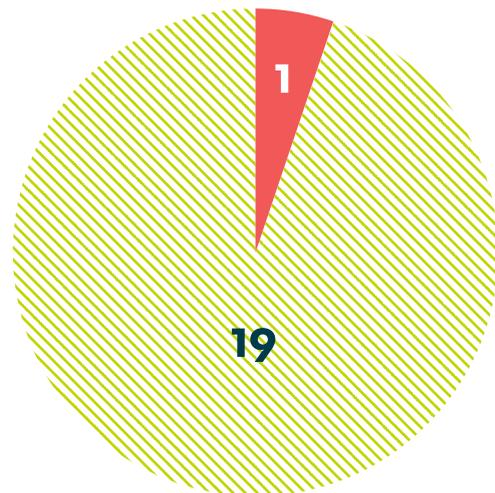
Aimsweb assessment data analyzed using Hasbrouck-Tindale norms based on 6.6 million U.S. students.
Two-year progress as reported by Holy Spirit Catholic School, St. Paul, MN.

YEAR 1 Grade 1

GR 1 Fall 2017
(19 students)

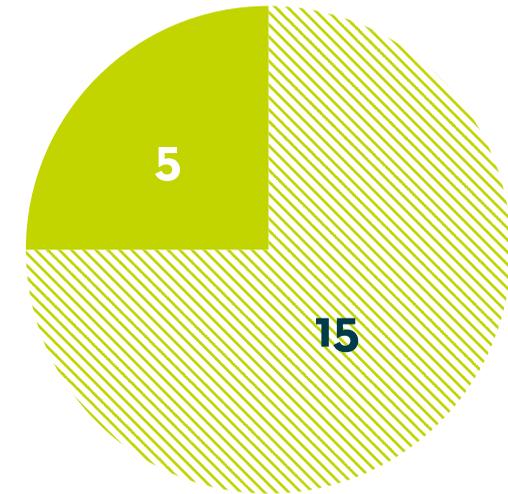


GR 1 Spring 2018
(20 students)

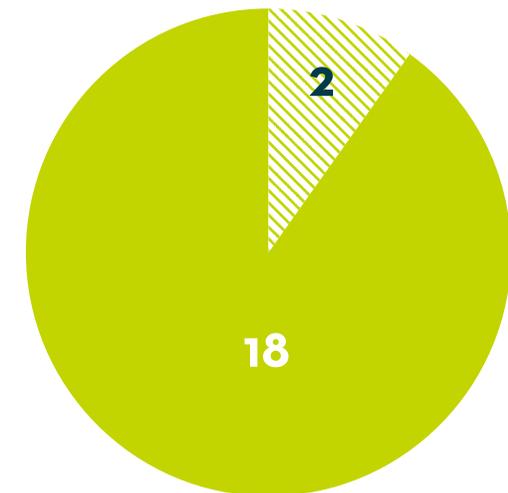


YEAR 2 Grade 2

GR 2 Fall 2018
(20 students)



GR 2 Spring 2019
(20 students)





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 third 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 fourth-grade level.

- National Institute for Literacy

75 percent of unemployed adults have reading or writing difficulties.

- National Institute for Literacy

Only 5 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. And we are. Catholic school enrollment has increased to a point where we'll have around 300 more students involved with *Believe and Read* than we anticipated, so the need for additional coaches and other support resources is even greater. 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:

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"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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BRIAN WENGER
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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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