Dear Friends,

When this 30th school year began, our newsletter featured our three “Founding Mothers”, the Sisters of Notre Dame whose visionary leadership merged three smaller schools into one new Metro Catholic. This new school offered possibilities and opportunities that were part of their dream for children on the west side of Cleveland. As our school year draws to a close, we interviewed members of our 30th graduating class of 8th graders, asking them to reflect on their years with us (many have been with us since preschool). What do they remember? What message are they taking with them—into high school and beyond? How will they share God’s love with all they meet? Did that visionary dream of 30 years ago come to fruition? Read their story, come to visit, and find out why we believe it did!

As the charism of the Sisters of Notre Dame professes, we believe in the providential care of God. Nothing is “luck” or “coincidence”; rather, everything is part of a “bigger picture” and overall plan of goodness that God has for us and for our school community. When I arrived at Metro Catholic School 10 years ago, I wanted to return to my calling as a classroom educator, building relationships and helping children learn of the wonders in the world around them. Little did I know that God had bigger plans! After 7 delightful years teaching, Sr. Anne asked me to use my experience to lead with her as Co-Director. Now I am asked to take one more leap, leading as sole Director for the coming year.

St. Julie Billiart said, Hold fast the hand of the good God so that God leads you, and that you do all God wants. Sr. Anne Maline does this beautifully and faithfully. She has been at the helm of Metro Catholic School for many years and now steps into the role of Director Emerita. With you I thank her and sincerely pray that I follow her example, led to do all that our good God wants!

Please join me in gratitude for all that has been and all that is to come for our “dream school” and its students—may we enjoy the blessings that come with summer and new beginnings for many!

Truly,
Mrs. Mary Lou Toler
Director
Metro Catholic School recently received an unexpected gift of just over ONE MILLION DOLLARS from one of our long time, loyal donors that wishes to remain anonymous. This gift was an immediate transfer of liquidated common stock from the donor to our school this past March. This gift will significantly help to secure the school’s future. Again we are witnesses to God’s provident care (Sisters of Notre Dame Charism).

Our generous donor commented, “I have been reading all of your mailings and literature, and it is obvious you are doing great things and the children are achieving better and better results… I wanted my gift to go where it would be used for good and you are doing that at Metro Catholic School! I hope my gift may inspire others to do the same for Metro Catholic School.”

We are grateful for ALL gifts, regardless of size. These hard-earned and shared dollars of yours support our God-given mission for children and their quality Catholic education. In following our recent donor’s wishes, we share the appeal with all our friends to consider Metro Catholic School with a Planned Gift of your own someday.

Planned giving is any major gift, made in a lifetime or a death, as part of the donor’s overall financial or estate planning. It is a method for supporting non-profits and charities that enable individuals to make larger gifts than they could normally make from their income.

We at Metro Catholic School are dedicated to generating financial resources in a responsible way to successfully promote and protect the school’s mission. It is humbling and gratifying to know that our work is impacting so many young lives in Cleveland’s inner city and that so many of our friends recognize this goodness and wish to support it for the years ahead. These are exciting times for our “Miracle on 54th Street”!

To learn more about Planned Giving, contact Joe Prada, Director of Advancement, at 216.634.2854.

A VISIT FROM CLEVELAND CITY COUNCILWOMAN SANTANA

In November of 2017, Jasmin Santana was elected as Councilwoman of Ward 14, making her the very first Latina council member in Cleveland history. Jasmin Santana grew up in this neighborhood, and as Councilwoman she continues to work hard to bring people together, promoting a need for growth and development within the community. On March 26 of this year, Councilwoman Santana visited the Boniface Campus of Metro Catholic School.

Upon her arrival that morning, Santana was greeted at the door by a group of kindergarten and first grade students who welcomed her in to our school. Santana was smiling, eager to learn more about our Metro Catholic. During her visit, Santana toured the Boniface Building, allowing her to see our classrooms, interact with teachers and learn about the services we have available to our students and their families. While visiting the school, Santana expressed her gratitude for the wonderful opportunities that Metro Catholic brings to our students and their families in Ward 14.

Since her visit, Santana has invited Metro Catholic to speak at her April Ward meeting. This has allowed more families in our neighborhood to hear about Metro Catholic as a school option for their children. Santana has also invited Metro Catholic to take part in monthly meetings held in her office with principals of local public schools, discussing how we can collaborate and support one another as we educate the children in our community. We look forward to continuing to work with Councilwoman Santana in future projects and are thankful of her support of Metro Catholic School.

End of School Year Prayer

Good and Loving God,

We stand before you as this year ends with grateful hearts for all that has been, with hope for all that is to come, and with joy for the beauty and peace of summer to come.

Thank you for all the opportunities given to us to CONNECT, RESPECT and PROTECT each other. May we take all that we have learned and use it to make our families, our communities and our world a better place. Bless us with all good gifts during our vacation, keeping us safe and happy.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, Amen.
The Scriptures tell us that THERE IS A SEASON AND A TIME FOR EVERY PURPOSE UNDER HEAVEN.

Since coming to Metro Catholic as the second principal in 1994 there have been many times and seasons: the good, the difficult, the celebratory, the sad, the hopeful, the fearful. In all those times and seasons the community of Metro was present giving strength and assistance. To all the adults in this community-faculty, staff, families, donors---I offer a line from a prayer-song: WITH THANKSGIVING TO GOD MY PRAYER IS ALWAYS FILLED WITH PROFOUND JOY FOR YOU.

To all the students I offer the words of the song “Forever Young”:

MAY YOU GROW TO BE PROUD, DIGNIFIED AND TRUE AND DO UNTO OTHERS AS YOU’D HAVE DONE TO YOU.

Metro Catholic is a strong and seasoned school of thirty years. We are all very confident in Mrs. Toler and her leadership, her commitment to the school’s mission, her vision, her creativity, her own faith. To her I offer more words from “Forever Young”: MAY GOOD FORTUNE BE WITH YOU, MAY YOUR GUIDING LIGHT BE STRONG.
steak, and one for barbecued riblets.

And there was the laughter. Jeffrey’s favorite story is from 6th grade when an ice cream sandwich mysteriously showed up in Mr. Greenwood’s classroom. It lingered there, melting for two weeks, he says.

Teachers find ways to make learning fun. Mrs. Cutler is famous for reading aloud stories set to a rap beat. Ms. Kinkoph is known for her life lessons and math puns, they all agreed. When studying finances, she promised it would be “interest-ing” and when they review decimals, she expects that they will “get the point!” During probability unit, Ms. Kinkoph says she is “taking a chance” that they will like it. And they won’t forget Sr. Anne celebrating May as National Joke and Riddle Month!

Clearly it is a staff that has found a way to mix academics with pleasure.

When asked to come up with a Top Ten list of what they valued most in their years at Metro Catholic, the emphasis was on things that came from the heart:

1. Friendships
2. Lessons in diversity
3. Opportunities through clubs and activities
4. Prayer services like those at Thanksgiving and Holy Week
5. Laughter
6. Mrs. Toler shaking hands in the morning
7. Staff that cares and feels like family
8. Uniforms that make us all equal
9. Classes that are thought-provoking
10. Special days that keep learning fun.

What advice would they give to new students? Don’t be scared. You will make a friend on your first day. Don’t be afraid to ask for help. Help is all around you. (Even in finding the right bus!) Enjoy your years here. They will stay with you forever.

Congratulations to Metro Catholic’s class of 2019!

The Class of 2019 earned over $95,000 in academic scholarships to local Catholic high schools for the coming year.