



CLEF NOTES

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CHICAGOLAND LUTHERAN EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION | SUMMER 2022 | WWW.CLEFCHICAGO.ORG

A Year in Review of CLEF 2021-2022



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From the Director

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Dear Friends,

This past year at CLEF we have had a very productive and positive year of "firsts."

I am pleased and excited to announce that our **CLEF school enrollment has increased by over 14% from a year ago.** Most of that increase is due to the efforts of Sue Dees, our new Admissions and Enrollment Manager, and our marketing assistants coordinating and implementing their efforts with our school's principals and staff.

Another CLEF "first" focused on the future of our schools and on helping our valued principals. We launched a ground-breaking leadership program called Principal 360 in January 2021. CLEF's newest development program provides our principals the training, coaching, and other resources they need to help meet the many challenges and opportunities they face in today's dynamic educational environment.

In late April, Dr. Leslie Smith was the keynote speaker at a special principal's retreat. She led a thought-provoking session that explored the enduring role, relevance and critical need for Lutheran education in today's world. She led a lively discussion centered on the question, "What would happen if Lutheran schools ceased to exist?" She strongly urged our

principals to adopt a learner-centered model that promotes learning, discovery, and growth for all students.

In August 2021, CLEF presented its annual Teacher Networking Conference at Walther Christian Academy. The feeling was unanimous that it's essential to educate the whole child in a safe and nurturing Christian community. Also, the use of innovative and engaging learning experiences helps foster faith, character development, academic excellence, and social emotional literacy.

Thanks to the diligence of Dr. Patricia Braun, aka Nurse Pat, as CLEF's Nurse and School Health Coordinator, the Superhero Health and Wellness program returned this past spring. This vital program involves students, teachers, and parents and promotes a wholistic approach to wellness that includes the physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual aspects of health.

At CLEF, we dream big in faith and accomplish great things through the love of Christ that guides us on our journey and daily fuels our servant hearts.

In His Service,

Janet Klotz
Executive Director

OUR MISSION

The mission of the Chicagoland Lutheran Educational Foundation is to empower urban Lutheran schools to deliver innovative, quality education in a Christian environment.

CLEF Community Partners



Launching Principal 360

The Trailblazers of Principal 360

In January 2021, CLEF assembled a team of 12 Lutheran school principals from Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, and Missouri to launch Principal 360, CLEF's newest leadership development program that ensures FULL CIRCLE SUCCESS with every challenge and opportunity in today's dynamic educational landscape. The program's purpose is to develop visionary educational thought leaders skilled at crafting and implementing a custom strategic plan to accomplish their school's mission.

Culminating on November 12–13, 2021 with a capstone presentation of their unique school strategic plans, these "Trailblazers" also celebrated the completion of 18 distinct modules from the following five courses led by acclaimed instructors from across the country:

- Course 1: Leading A Successful School in the 21st Century
- Course 2: Recruitment, Retention, & Marketing
- Course 3: School Finance & Financial Planning
- Course 4: Leading Academic Excellence
- Course 5: Innovation in the Lutheran School

In this year-long leadership certification program, these dedicated principals engaged in forty hours of in-person instruction, twenty-six hours of live synchronous online learning, and over one hundred hours with an executive coach dedicated to personal leadership growth, the application of course content, and strategic planning. Partnership plans with Concordia University Chicago are underway that will enable Principal 360 members to apply CLEF's program certification toward credit for a doctoral degree in leadership. These Principal 360 "Trailblazers" will continue to grow as a dynamic cohort through the new Principal 360 Mastermind program. Members will continue to receive training and support throughout



PRINCIPAL



FULL CIRCLE SUCCESS.

MISSOURI PARTICIPANTS

Wendy Morris	Principal	Immanuel Lutheran School - Olivette
Nathanael Poppe	Principal	St. Paul's Lutheran School - Concordia
Meredith Marsh	Principal	Saint Paul Lutheran High School - Concordia

MICHIGAN PARTICIPANTS

Kyle Smith	Middle School Teacher/ Assistant Principal	Trinity Lutheran High School - Traverse City
Cindy Briggs	Principal and Kindergarten/Algebra Teacher	Trinity Lutheran School - Reese
Angela Swazey	Principal	St. Michael Lutheran School - Wayne
Levi Bringold	Principal	Saint John Lutheran School - Fraser

INDIANA PARTICIPANTS

Patrick Frerking	Principal	Concordia Lutheran High School - Fort Wayne
Emily Johnson	Principal	Holy Cross Lutheran - Fort Wayne
Brian Oberdieck	Principal	St. John's Lutheran School - Lanesville

ILLINOIS PARTICIPANTS

Tim Bouman	Principal	Walther Christian Academy - Chicago
Aaron Landgrave	Principal	Bethesda International Academy - Chicago

the year with roundtable forums, Masterclass Meet-Up events, and monthly access to the Principal 360 coaching staff. Members are currently documenting examples from their campus that reflect their new definition of success. They look forward to publishing a book to encourage and inspire future Lutheran leaders.

Principal 360 continues to grow, serving the needs of many Lutheran schools across the country! The 2022 Edition of Principal 360 launched on January 10 with 13 new members from California, Tennessee, Indiana, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Illinois. This new team gathered together in person at their first Chicago Masterclass Meet-Up on January 27–29, and will gather in July for the second one.



Principal 360 has its own website! Visit us at Principal360.net

CLEF Schools Reset Initiative

Chicagoland Lutheran Schools Unite to Lead a RESET for Change

In April 2021, CLEF hosted a special retreat for the principals of our Chicagoland Lutheran schools to recognize them for their tireless efforts and faithful service, and to provide them with a meaningful time for reflection, revelation, and vision for a brighter future. Dr. Leslie Smith, educational consultant and former Head of School at Orange Lutheran High School in California, led a thought-provoking journey that explored the enduring purpose, relevance, and critical need for Lutheran education in today's world. **"What would happen if Lutheran schools in Chicago ceased to exist tomorrow?" she asked. "What is the current state of our young people? What does success look like for them?" and "What are we doing to ensure that our children not only survive, but thrive, even amidst life's most significant challenges?"**

Rather than focus on standards that promote "being the best," the Chicagoland Lutheran Principals have partnered together with a collective vision to equip healthy, confident, caring leaders who will "give their best" to positively impact the world with the love of Christ. Dr. Smith noted, "These men and women are on a mission to change the downward spiral of a culture that is hyper-focused on grades, standardized test scores, and awards at the expense of prioritizing health and well-being, teaching values, and developing faith, character, and people skills." Unified by their faith and calling as Lutheran school principals, and deeply concerned about the health and well-being of this generation of learners, the Chicagoland Lutheran school principals emerged from their retreat inspired and committed to addressing the unique needs of their students.

Throughout the last few decades, there were glaring signs that perspective and priorities in education had become skewed, and the effects were taking an alarming toll on our children. Before the pandemic, a number of surveys by the American Psychological Association revealed that adolescents, ages 13-17 years old, rate their stress level higher than any other population, and almost one third report feeling overwhelmed or depressed because of it. Months of fear, uncertainty, and isolation associated with the pandemic has only served to

worsen these disheartening trends. Citing the serious toll of the COVID-19 pandemic, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, and Children's Hospital Association declared a national emergency in children's mental health on October 19, 2021.

Impassioned to lead a change initiative that would RESET perceptions and priorities in education, the Chicagoland Lutheran principals worked with Dr. Smith to understand the impact of the pandemic and to craft a collective vision that would unify the schools and create healthier, more successful outcomes for our students. They are focused on shifting from today's school-centered, "doing school" model of education that promotes grades, test scores, and a fixed mindset, to a healthier learner-centered model that promotes learning, discovery, and a growth mindset. Through the integration of Social Emotional Learning (SEL) anchored in Biblical Truth, this new model engages learners and increases Emotional Intelligence, also known as E.Q., which is the ability to identify and manage one's own emotions as well as the emotions of others.

More than any other factor, including ambition, I.Q., and academic achievement, E.Q. is considered the greatest single predictor of success after graduation, and it includes self-awareness, self-regulation, motivation, empathy, and social skills. Emotional Intelligence is important to human health and function, and there is a strong interconnectedness of intellect and emotions in the learning process, as emotions drive motivation, attention, learning, memory, and other mental processes.

Students with high Emotional Intelligence make healthier choices, are more concerned about others, and have stronger friendships and better conflict management skills. Subsequently, they also perform better and earn higher grades. Adults with high Emotional Intelligence are more effective leaders, experience greater career opportunities, and have better personal and professional relationships. Increasing Emotional Intelligence must be prioritized in our Lutheran schools.

Chicago Edition Principals Graduate from the Principal 360 Program!

Principal 360: Chicago Edition was launched in June 2021 to support CLEF's efforts to equip principals with the leadership skills and resources needed to lead this RESET change initiative. This customized version of their newest leadership certification program is uniquely designed to ensure full circle success with every challenge and opportunity principals face in today's dynamic educational landscape.

Much like CLEF's flagship Principal 360 program, principals complete five courses led by acclaimed instructors from across the country and created a school strategic plan with the involvement of the entire school community.

On June 16th, nine CLEF school leaders (8 Principals and 1 Lead Teacher) presented their Capstone Presentations and celebrated the completion of the Principal 360 Chicago Edition coursework in the program. Over the course of this school year, they met with their school boards, staff, parents, and students to gather feedback, reviewed and updated their schools' mission and vision, and gathered input from their school communities. In addition, they developed strategic initiatives and goals for the future of their schools. Eleven school leaders have now completed Principal 360 and are now recognized by CLEF as trained visionary educational thought-leaders skilled at crafting a comprehensive school strategic plan. Additionally, conversations with Concordia University Chicago are underway with partnership plans to enable Principal 360 Principals to apply CLEF's program certification toward credit for a doctoral degree in leadership.

The capstone presentations and the graduation celebration took place at The Sable Hotel at Navy Pier and the day concluded with a cruise aboard the Spirit of Chicago. These principals possess the knowledge and skills necessary for strong Lutheran school leadership.

PARTICIPANTS		
Jo Ellen Hoffmann	Principal	Good Shepherd Christian Academy
Carlo Giannotta	Principal	Grace Christian Academy
Chris Comella	Principal	Pilgrim Lutheran School
Donna Beck	Principal	Saint Luke Academy
Michelle Runge	School Leader	St. John's Lutheran School
Dan Green	Principal	St. John's Lutheran School
Jenna Scifo	Principal	St. Paul Early Childhood Center
Dr. Robyn Jacks-DuBose	Principal	St. Paul Lutheran School Dorchester
Donna Tennis	Principal	St. Philip Lutheran School

Annual Networking Conference: *Launch the Reset*

CLEF's annual networking conference focused on generating momentum in support of the principals' collective vision among more than 150 Lutheran educators from 16 Lutheran schools serving over 1900 students. On August 9, 2021, Dr. Leslie Smith led three sessions targeting Emotional Intelligence including a variety of activities designed to increase teachers' self-awareness and empathy as a foundation aligned towards school-wide initiatives that foster kindness, compassion, and respect for a caring, more inclusive environment on campuses. Now more than ever, Lutheran schools are needed to help our students discover who they are, to develop their God-given gifts, and to optimize their strengths for a Christian life of purpose, service, and leadership for a better world.

At the end of the 2021 conference, CLEF Principals stood in solidarity before their supportive and enthusiastic teachers and they proclaimed the newly minted mission of Chicagoland Lutheran schools to educate the whole child in a safe and nurturing Christian community through innovative and engaging learning experiences that foster faith, character development, academic excellence, and social emotional literacy.

"This was hands-down the best networking conference I've been to in many years."

CLEF Schools' Summit

On November 9, 2021, CLEF hosted a Summit for pastors, board members, principals and other key stakeholders. They explored the vital roles of continuing to equip healthy, confident, caring learners who will positively impact the world with the love of Christ.

For the sake of our children and future generations, we must come together to invest in ensuring the viability of our schools. CLEF is forever grateful for the generous support and continued prayers from its faithful partners and friends.



CLEF Medallion Milestones

St. John's Lutheran School Earns the First Badge of CLEF Medallion School of Distinction Program

An Interview with Principal Dan Green of St. John's Lutheran School (Chicago)



Under the leadership of Principal Dan Green, St. John's Lutheran School was the first CLEF school to earn a Medallion badge in School Governance. The Medallion Program allows CLEF to develop and implement individualized support for each school, support the school leadership process,

identify goals, and strive for milestones of excellence, as well as recognize and reward schools as they meet milestones of excellence. Congratulations again, St. John's on your achievement!

We caught up with Principal Dan Green to see what the process was like for the school.

What was it like applying for the Governance badge?

The Governance Badge was chosen as St. John's first badge because upon my arrival at St. John's it was evident that guidance was needed for faculty, Board of Christian Education (BOCE), and Administration on how to effectively govern the school. While this was an intense undertaking which required gathering and in some cases creating supporting documents, it was a rewarding experience and has greatly streamlined school governance. It was a methodical process that involved stakeholder involvement as well as regular communication on the process. I was appreciative of the time allotted to complete the task which allowed for a comprehensive review of how St. John's was governed. Three key areas of improvement were identified: 1) A Board of Christian Education Governance Manual was created and is reviewed at every meeting. 2) Board of Christian Education and Principal Evaluations were developed and are completed on an annual basis. 3) Board of Christian Education creates yearly SMART Goals for the board.

Did you have any help or support applying for the badge?

Badge Assessment Team Members, Mike Welch (CLEF's Board Chair and Principal Coach) and Dr. Don Hendricks, were a tremendous help and support throughout the process. Dr. Don Hendricks provided valuable information from his interim principal year at St. John's. St. John's Board of Christian Education Chairwoman and

Secretary were instrumental in providing, reviewing and at times creating documents, policies and procedures. St. John's faculty members were also supportive during the process, adding input when requested. Lastly, key parents and congregation members provided support. The onsite visit with Mike and Dr. Hendricks provided a comprehensive review of the application and supporting documents. A final report was presented with suggestions and recommendations for the future in school governance.

Upon earning the School Governance Badge, the school received a financial award in the amount of \$3,000 from CLEF. How have you used the funding or plan to use the funding?

The \$3,000 contribution from CLEF was much appreciated. \$2,000 was deposited in St. John's Scholarship Fund with the remaining \$1,000 used to support teachers in the form of internal professional development activities as well as supporting student learning.

How has the Governance badge impacted your school?

The Governance Badge continues to positively impact the school in several ways: 1) There is now a process that identifies how the BOCE operates through the creation of the BOCE Governing Manual. 2) Annual BOCE and Principal performance evaluations are now in place that lead to goal-setting for the BOCE and Principal. 3) Annual SMART goals are reviewed at the annual BOCE/Principal Retreat. All of the items listed above have led to overall school governance improvement.

When asked what he wished he knew about the Medallion program or the badge before applying for the Governance Badge, Principal Green says there is a significant time commitment involved with applying for a badge. He also states, **"It is all about school improvement and providing the best educational opportunities for our students. These programs allow us to grow as administrators and I am grateful to CLEF for all of the support."**



Left: Dan Green, Janet Klotz, and Erika Jackson



Right: To celebrate, CLEF provided ice cream for the entire school.

St. Paul Early Childhood Center and Holy Family School Earn Christian Principles and Spiritual Formation Badge



"Starting with the Christian Principles and Spiritual Formation Badge seemed to be natural, and essential" according to Jenna Scifo, the Director of St. Paul Early Childhood Center. And indeed, that is where she directed the Board, the teachers, and parents to begin their quest

for excellence as a partner school of CLEF. St. Paul is the first school to be awarded this prized badge, one of eight badges schools can pursue with CLEF.

Natural, because the purpose of any Lutheran ministry is to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ. Essential, because despite the Christian principles and spiritual formation at the heart of Lutheran Education, these aims can at times be derailed by the influences of cultural trends, market pressures, and educational fads. Navigating these detractors necessitates a compass-like vision on the Gospel to lead children toward Christian principles in their faith formation. The Medallion Program recognizes those schools venturing forward with a clear mandate for ministry in the grace and love of Jesus Christ.

In the process of validating St. Paul for this achievement, our team visited (sometimes virtually) with a member of the board, Pastor Todd Roberts, parents, the staff, and we also interviewed students. Of the many attributes and accolades shared about the Early Childhood Center at St. Paul, we confirmed that Jesus is not a time in the day, rather He is present all day and everywhere. As you enter St. Paul, the striking mural adorning the front entrance invites you to "enter His courts with praise" (Psalm 100). Spiritual foundations are evident in discussions of kindness, in expressions of forgiveness in instances of misbehavior, in the enrichment centers with Christian puzzles and books, in prayers throughout the day, in the many bulletin boards and displays throughout the school and classrooms, and in student project-based learning. We congratulate St. Paul Early Childhood Center on a comprehensive and cohesive integration of faith in both their climate and curriculum.

Should you be thinking about which badge will best benefit your venture into the many expressions of excellence in the Medallion series, we strongly suggest that you, "START HERE!"

*Written by Dr. Kevin Brockberg, Jennifer Heinze, and Erika Jackson,
Christian Principles & Spiritual Formation Badge Assessment Team Members*



In May 2022, Holy Family School earned the Christian Principles and Spiritual Formation Medallion Schools of Distinction Badge. The Badge Assessment Team completed the initial review, assessment review,

and on-site review which included meeting with CEO (Mrs. Cheryl Collins), principal (Dr. Candace Smith), pastor (Chaplain Leslie Hunter), board chair (Mr. Dan Badovinak), school staff and students. The importance of Christianity and spiritual formation is evident throughout the school community. Students and teachers at Holy Family are excited about Chapel and are talking about Christ during all hours of the school day. In addition, at Holy Family a conviction is expressed about overcoming adversity through faith in Jesus. In fact, words like "forgive" are a part of the school culture, students are not afraid to conform to living their Christian faith, and Christian sportsmanship is prized by the coaches, parents, and players. In addition, the school is impacting the community through The Peace Exchange Program and Holy Family is trying to develop world leaders that will strengthen the community through skillful reconciliation. Parents indicated they have changed because of their relationship with Holy Family School. To celebrate this joyous milestone, Janet Klotz and Erika Jackson presented Holy Family School with a Medallion check and celebrated the school's achievement during the school's end of year picnic!



Great Things Are Happening at CLEF Schools!

School Enrollment is up 14%!

The Project Approach: Engaging Young Children in Learning

Mrs. Doris Knuth, M.Ed., M.S

Project Based Learning is a teaching philosophy that includes researched based practices on how young children acquire skills and concepts. This teaching philosophy integrates itself easily into any curriculum from early childhood through high school and includes intentional teaching planning combined with children's interest to develop an in-depth study of a specific topic.

The Project Approach provides a systematic procedure for Early Childhood Centers that supports an inquiry-based philosophy. This approach to learning is centered around children's ideas, creativity, and questions about the world around them. Through the Three Phases of Project Work, teachers and children work together to create rich learning experiences.

Teachers work to create project goals and objectives that are standard based and integrated into all areas of the curriculum making sure learning needs are met. Projects are deep investigations of topics that are worth studying, are concrete and easily accessible. The classroom environment provides opportunities for exploration and hands on activities designed to answer children's questions. Ongoing documentation of children's work supports learning through representational drawings, writings, discussions, play activities and discoveries. Collection of documentation support ongoing assessment, project reflections and is included in their culminating event.

St. Paul Early Childhood Center located in Chicago has integrated Project work into their mission and vision, by aligning it with curriculum skills and concepts in math, literacy, science, social studies, religion, art, music, and drama. This past winter, the staff at St. Paul incorporated project work in preparation for their annual science fair. Through classroom interest and observation of children's play, each classroom focused on a specific topic of study.

In Phase I, teachers created classroom webs that included children's knowledge and questions of the specific project. The kindergarten classroom web on sea animals and the 1st grade web on experimenting with cooking as a chemical reaction provides a map for teacher planning and implementation.



Once classroom webs are established, teachers work to design project goals that include curriculum skills and concepts, aligning with state standards and plan activities that provide rich learning experiences.

Phase II of project work centers around a variety of hands-on activities that allow children the ability to experience the project topic in many ways. The 3-year-old preschool utilized the use of incline planes to assist in moving a bucket to the top of the slide and the 4-year-old junior kindergarten class gained firsthand experience by testing their sink and float experiment.

Once the project has been fully explored and goals have been met, student and staff work together to plan Phase III, the celebration of learning or culminating event for parents, other classrooms, and the community. The yearly science fair was a great opportunity to show their work. Teachers and students decided what documentation of their work would be used and included some hands-on experiences for guests. Bringing families into children's school experiences strengthens the connection between home and school and is a living document of what learning looks like in Early Childhood settings.

Focusing on children's curiosity and giving them the opportunity to research questions about the world around them provides valuable experiences in a variety of curriculum areas. The Project Approach encourages children to be problem solvers, critical thinkers, team players and provides ownership of their learning.

References

Helm, JH & Katz, LG (2016). Young Investigators: The Project Approach in the Early Years. New York: Teachers College Press

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Students Make Their Impact

Mrs. Jennifer Heinze, CLEF Principal
and Instructional Coach



Eighth Grade students in our CLEF-sponsored schools are looking back with fondness on their years in Lutheran school, and looking forward with anticipation to high school. They'll be taking the next step, in preparation for making an impact on their world. Congratulations to all graduates!

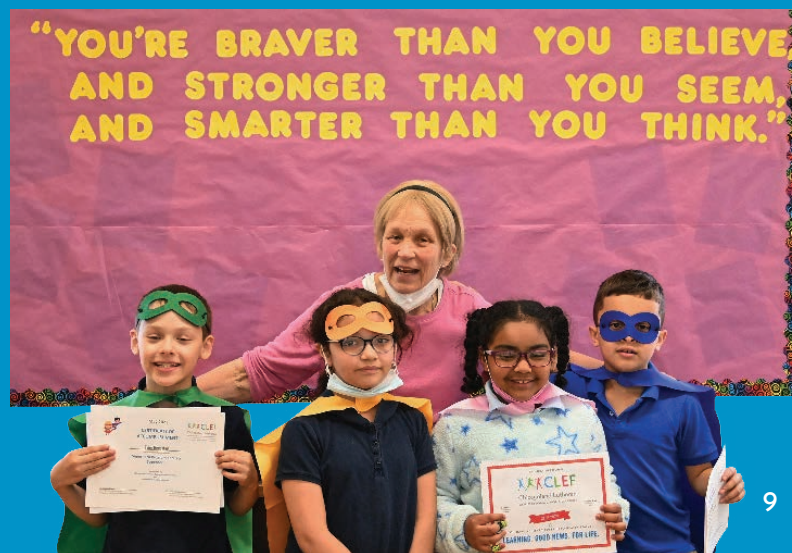
We are especially excited to announce that many CLEF school students have been admitted to top-tier Select Enrollment high schools! Well done! Hard work really does pay off – on the part of the students, families, staff... and CLEF, whose support equips schools to prepare students to be Christian ambassadors now, and into adulthood.

Students benefit from CLEF support (directly and indirectly) in so many ways: latest curriculum; new technology hardware and software; instructional coaches and professional development for teachers; coaches and professional development for principals; admissions and marketing coordinators; financial services support; classroom Teacher Dreams; and of course, scholarships! The list could go on...

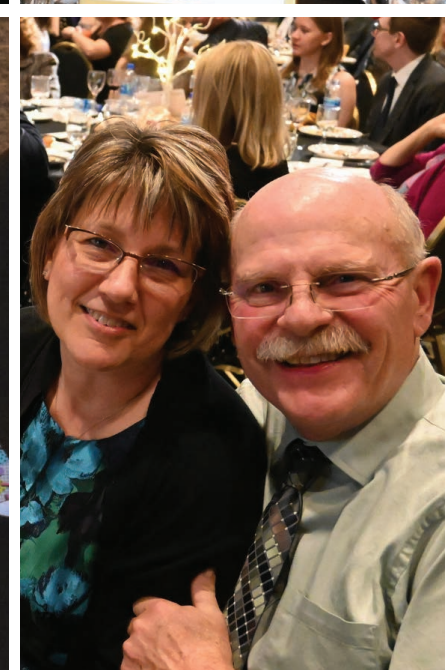
Thank you, donors, for making an impact on the future by supporting CLEF today!

Another Year of Superheroes!

Thanks to Dr. Patricia Braun, DNSc, MSN, BSN, CPNP, BMHS, School Nurse and Health and Wellness Coordinator, the Superhero Health and Wellness Program returned this past spring. In May, students at eight CLEF schools graduated from the multi-week program that promotes a healthy, active lifestyle and mental wellness. The Superhero program is for school-aged children, teachers, and parents in elementary schools. Building on a Christian Foundation and incorporating biblical concepts, Superheroes promotes an all-encompassing approach to health including physical, mental, emotional, behavioral, and spiritual. During the weekly class sessions, participants discuss various health topics and enjoy physical activities using music and movement. Teachers and parents are invited to participate in the Superhero program, as well, allowing for a home-school connection so that healthy habits can be reinforced at both home and school. Each year, our young students enjoy this program and this year proved to be no different. Congratulations to these attentive students, their supportive parents and as always, their SUPER teachers!



CLEF Events





CLEF Scholarship Gala: Ignite the Future!

On April 26, 2022, CLEF and guests had a wonderful time at the Annual CLEF Scholarship Gala. It was such a joy to be back in person to celebrate 29 years of teaming up with Chicago's Lutheran schools. This year's theme was "Ignite the Future," as guests enjoyed an evening of fellowship at the Brookfield Zoo. Those who were unable to attend in person were able to attend by "ZOOMing" with us. Throughout the night, in-person guests enjoyed a tram ride to the polar bear exhibit for cocktail hour, a short concert featuring Holy Family School's student choir, great food, music, and dancing!

The night's highlight was the auction! Guests excitedly waived their paddles and generously raised more than \$186,000 so Chicagoland Lutheran Schools may continue to prepare students to be productive, life-long learners and Christian servants.

We look forward to seeing you at next year's Annual Scholarship Gala on April 22, 2023, as CLEF celebrates its 30th Anniversary!



Staff from Saint Luke Academy and Pilgrim Lutheran School enjoying collegial fellowship at Maggiano's Little Italy.

CLEF Annual Teacher Recognition Dinner

On May 26th, over 150 CLEF teachers, principals, pastors, and board members gathered in person for the first time in two years for CLEF's annual Teacher Recognition Dinner held at Maggiano's Little Italy in Oak Brook, IL. Each year during this event, CLEF administers the Teacher Dream Awards. To receive this award, teachers apply via an online application process, detailing their "dream" and explaining how it benefits their school and/or classroom community. For example, St. Paul Early Childhood Center's Kindergarten teacher, Amy Struve, submitted a dream entitled, "Once Upon a Time," in which she asked for a set of puppets to help enhance her students' imaginations, vocabularies, and communication skills through play. Ms. Struve's dream was one of fifty-five Teacher Dream applications submitted. With the generosity of donors, twenty-five Teacher Dreams were selected by The Dream Committee and fully funded.

Teacher Recognition Dinner Above and Beyond Awards were presented. This award is given to teachers and school leaders who are nominated by their peers and staff for going above and beyond the call of duty, in addition to their servant hearts. This year CLEF recognized five outstanding individuals – one principal and four teachers. The award recipients were Tarkeia Curry (Holy Family School), Joseph Heinze (Grace Christian Academy), Amanda Yamate (St. John's Lutheran School), Michelle Runge (St. John's Lutheran School), and Jenna Scifo (St. Paul Early Childhood Center).

Nearly two hundred guests attended the dinner to honor, celebrate, and recognize the hard work and dedication of CLEF teachers. It was truly a wonderful celebration of our principals' and teachers' continuing accomplishments.



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Chicagoland Lutheran
EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION
LEARNING • GOOD NEWS • FOR LIFE

\$36+ Million in Total Support

\$1 Million Annual Scholarships

22 Schools • 2050+ Students

95% College Bound

clefchicago.org



XXCLEF

IGNITE
THE FUTURE
WITH A
DREAM

TEACHER RECOGNITION DINNER 2022



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The mission of the
Chicagoland Lutheran Educational Foundation
is to empower urban Lutheran schools
to deliver innovative, quality education
in a Christian environment.



People to Know



Dr. Leslie Smith

Educational Consultant and Interim Director of Principal 360

Dr. Leslie Smith is a highly sought-after educational consultant and an inspiring keynote presenter. Serving as a strategic partner, she advises private school leaders in organizational leadership, growth strategy, brand development, and social emotional literacy to strengthen school culture and develop high-performing collaborative teams. Currently, Dr. Smith also serves as interim program director, instructor, and executive coach for Principal 360, an innovative leadership development training program, powered by the Chicagoland Lutheran Educational Foundation (CLEF).

A life-long learner and dedicated private school educator for over 30 years, Dr. Smith is widely recognized for her research and visionary perspective. Her inspiring transformational leadership style and focus on health and well-being continue to lead change in today's dynamic educational landscape. In 2016, Dr. Smith was presented with the Growing Leaders Award at the National Leadership Forum in Atlanta for her work in cultivating a leadership culture at Orange Lutheran High School where she served as Principal and Head of School for 12 years. Prior to that she served as Principal for seven years at Red Hill Lutheran School. Dr. Smith was named the Administrator of the Year for the Pacific Southwest District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod in recognition of her strong Christian witness, servant heart, and exemplary leadership.

In 2018, Dr. Smith earned a Doctorate in Organizational Leadership from Pepperdine University's School of Psychology and Education. Her dissertation analyzed the relationship between mindset and psychological well-being among high achieving, college-bound students attending private, Christian high schools in Orange County, California. She also holds a Master of Arts degree in Education: Curriculum and Instruction, K-12, as well as a professional clear multiple subject teaching credential.



Dr. Kevin Brockberg

Superintendent of the Lutheran Schools of Indiana

Each Medallion badge has an assessment team specifically focused on the particular badge: an expert, a peer, and a CLEF representative. The Medallion for Christian Principles and Spiritual Formation consists of Erika Jackson (Director of Academic Excellence, CLEF), Jennifer Heinze (former Lutheran School Principal for over fifteen years and current CLEF Principal and Instructor Coach), and lending his expertise, Kevin Brockberg, PhD (Superintendent of Lutheran Schools, LCMS Indiana District).

Spanning public, private, and international schools in Early Childhood, K-12, and Higher Education, Kevin H. Brockberg holds a PhD in Education Leadership from Oakland University in Rochester, Michigan. Certified in the United States as an administrator, classroom teacher, and physical educator, his wide variety of experiences range from inner-city Detroit Public Schools to the Hong Kong International School. As a visionary leader, he aims for collegial discourse examining instructional methodology and inclusive school cultures as research-into-practice for the Lutheran Schools in Indiana and Northern Kentucky. In 2014, the World Journal of Educational Research published his PhD dissertation on the infrastructure of school culture.

Dr. Brockberg comes to this team with immense and broad knowledge in leadership, culture, inclusivity, and Christian values.





Sue Dees

Admissions and Enrollment Manager

CLEF is pleased to announce the addition of Sue Dees to our team! Sue comes with over fourteen years in the field of education and has extensive experience driving strategic goals and increasing enrollment in Lutheran schools. Her counseling background enables her to forge strong relationships with community members and local businesses. She continues to engage the community while serving on the Board of Directors at the Lincoln Park Chamber of Commerce for the last four years.

Sue holds a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Additionally, she holds her Master of Arts in School Counseling from Roosevelt University.

Sue, husband Ryan, and son Logan welcomed Baby Girl, Taylor, into the world on November 18th.



Dr. Kimberly Peterz-Dent

CLEF Principal and Instructional Coach

Congratulations to Dr. Kimberly Peterz-Dent who recently earned her Doctor of Education Ed.D in Higher Education Administration from Governors State University.

Kim is a veteran educator, with certification in Early Childhood Education, ESL, and as a Reading Specialist.

In addition to coaching at Holy Family School and St. Paul Dorchester, Kim is a professor at Governors State University, working in the teacher pre-service programs. Kim has provided strong coaching support in the CLEF network, especially focusing on work in writing and in early childhood.

Kim is a life-long learner, and loves everything about learning to read and helping teachers to attend to the needs of the whole child.

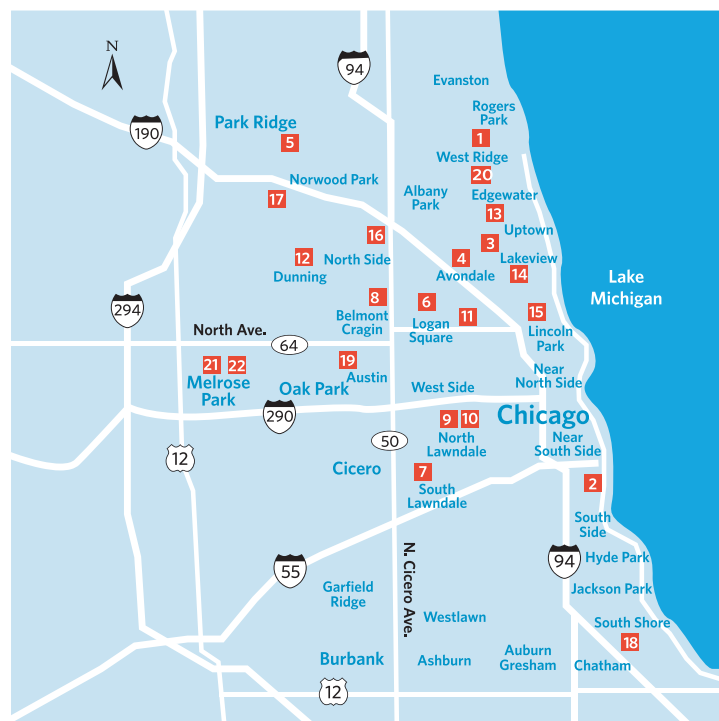
CLEF Schools 2022 Directory by Location

CLEF PRESCHOOLS AND GRADE SCHOOLS

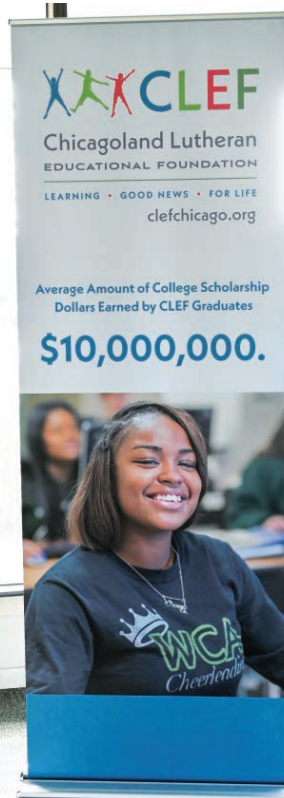
- 1 Bethesda International Academy, 6803 N. Campbell Ave.
- 2 Christ the King Lutheran School, 3701 S. Lake Park Ave.
- 3 Concordia Place, 3855 N. Seeley Ave.
- 4 Concordia Place, 3300 N. Whipple St.
- 5 Edison Park Lutheran Preschool, 6626 N. Oliphant Ave.
- 6 Good Shepherd Christian Academy, 3740 W. Belden Ave.
- 7 Grace Christian Academy, 4106 W. 28th St.
- 8 Grace Lutheran School, 2725 N. Laramie Ave.
- 9 Holy Family School, 3415 W. Arthington St.
- 10 Little Learners Academy, 3415 W. Arthington St.
- 11 Lutheran Day Nursery, 1802 N. Fairfield Ave.
- 12 Our Saviour Lutheran Preschool & Kindergarten, 7151 W. Cornelia Ave.
- 13 Pilgrim Lutheran School, 4300 N. Winchester Ave.
- 14 Saint Luke Academy, 1500 W. Belmont Ave.
- 15 St. James Lutheran School, 2101 N. Fremont St.
- 16 St. John's Lutheran School, 4939 W. Montrose Ave.
- 17 St. Paul Early Childhood Center, 5650 N. Canfield Ave.
- 18 St. Paul Lutheran School, 7621 S. Dorchester Ave.
- 19 St. Paul Lutheran School, 846 N. Menard Ave.
- 20 St. Philip Lutheran School, 2500 W. Bryn Mawr Ave.

CLEF MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL

- 21 Walther Christian Academy – STEM Middle School, 900 Chicago Ave., Melrose Park
- 22 Walther Christian Academy – High School, 900 Chicago Ave., Melrose Park



861 SOUTH CHURCH RD
BENSENVILLE, ILLINOIS 60106
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Save the Dates! Don't Miss These Upcoming CLEF Events!

Annual Networking Conference:
August 15, 2022
at Walther Christian Academy

Annual Scholarship Gala:
April 22, 2023
CLEF's 30th Anniversary!

Help Us Support More Students. **Give the Gift of Education!**

With 22 partner schools in our CLEF network, the need is always great.

Here are the different ways you can help CLEF provide scholarships, services, resources and educational programs:



One-Time Donation



Employer
Matching Gifts

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Thrivent Choice
Dollars



Amazon Smile



Donor Advised
Funds



Planned Giving



Securities, Stocks
or Mutual Funds



Invest in Kids*

*Individuals and corporations who donate through our designated Scholarship Granting Organization (SGO), Empower Illinois, will receive a credit against their Illinois income tax liability equal to 75 percent of their donation.

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