



# ARCHDIOCESE OF INDIANAPOLIS

*The Church in Central and Southern Indiana*

## **WEST DEANERY UNIFIED CATHOLIC SCHOOLS GROW AS PARTNERSHIP WITH NOTRE DAME ACE ACADEMIES CONTINUES**

St. Anthony Catholic School will join the West Deanery United Catholic Schools of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis this summer following a fruitful four-year partnership as a member of Notre Dame ACE Academies.

The Archdiocese is grateful for its relationship with the University of Notre Dame's Alliance for Catholic Education (ACE) and its commitment to strengthening St. Anthony School ensuring that it would remain a viable school to serve students in the West Deanery. Notre Dame ACE Academies will continue partnering with the Archdiocese to serve Central Catholic, Holy Angels, Holy Cross Central and St. Philip Neri Catholic schools in Indianapolis.

The Archdiocese of Indianapolis has been blessed over the years with shepherds who recognized the need for change in governance models in order to maintain and strengthen operational vitality. Under Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein, several center-city schools were moved from parish schools into a consortium model. Under Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, the Archdiocese formed a partnership with Notre Dame ACE for five of these same schools. And now, Archbishop Charles C. Thompson sees another opportunity as we evaluate the specific education needs of the West Deanery in Indianapolis.

St. Anthony Catholic School has benefitted from the partnership with Notre Dame ACE Academies in multiple ways. The Notre Dame framework has been extremely beneficial for staff, students and community. In addition to professional development, Cindy Greer, principal of St. Anthony, notes of the partnership, "We are always striving to meet our overall goals of 'College and Heaven.' During the first year of the partnership, our staff developed the shared root beliefs of 'All are made in the image and likeness of God,' 'What we learn today shapes our future,' and 'Every minute counts.' Each month we have focused upon a core value of Seek, Persist, Excel, Love and Serve. This common language and focus have been invaluable to our community."

Simultaneously, leaders in the West Deanery Unified Catholic Schools (WDUCS) – which is comprised of St. Michael-St. Gabriel the Archangel and Cardinal Ritter High School- work closely with other west deanery principals in preparing their elementary students for high school and beyond. For example, efforts have been made to provide professional development and to support students who either need extra assistance or who need additional enrichment.

As the relationship between St. Anthony and WDUCS strengthened, the Office of Catholic Schools saw even greater potential for students.

“As a Notre Dame ACE Academy school, St. Anthony developed shared language around student and teacher expectations. Additionally, the staff received strong support in their professional growth with the goal of maximizing the capacity of all,” said Superintendent Gina Fleming. “A transition at this point in time makes sense for the entire St. Anthony community as student growth and achievement remains the primary focus. This structural move of St. Anthony to the WDUCS model at this time is an ideal transition for students and families as well as the teaching staff.”

Ryan Clark, Director of Partnerships and Team Development for Notre Dame ACE Academies, shares, “We are grateful for the opportunity to support St. Anthony School community as it transitioned from a charter school back to a Catholic school and are excited that they will continue to get the support of Cardinal Ritter and WDUCS. Cardinal Ritter has an amazing track record of supporting a diverse student population and honoring the shared mission of putting students on the path to college and heaven.”

Jo Hoy, president of WDUCS, adds, “This is a wonderful opportunity for our communities. The majority of St. Anthony students matriculate to Cardinal Ritter High School, showing an even greater benefit to the partnership and those we serve. The relationship will allow our St. Anthony students additional experiences, making the transition to high school even more seamless.”

Your prayers and support of both the West Deanery Unified Catholic Schools and the Notre Dame ACE Academies, as well as all of our other wonderful Catholic schools, are much appreciated.