



IGNITE OUR FUTURE

a bold vision for mission and ministry

CAMPAIGN REPORT 2025



**CATHOLIC CENTRAL
HIGH SCHOOL**



FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Catholic Central Community,

I'm pleased to share this ***Ignite Our Future*** campaign report as an expression of our thanks and to properly recognize your amazing generosity. While we did not reach our goal, we have much to celebrate and many reasons to give thanks.

This report demonstrates the tangible impact of your contributions: **over \$8 million raised** to deepen the formation of young adults, increase teacher compensation, and ensure access to Catholic education for current and future Cougars. Unfortunately, we were not able to make all of the intended capital improvements of the downtown and CAT campuses through this campaign.

We share this report not only to inform, but also to build trust, reinforce your charitable intent, and keep the lines of communication open. We understand your support is not simply financial – it is also spiritual and personal.

As Catholic Central moves toward her **120th year of delivering excellence in the Catholic tradition**, we are reminded that we are laborers, not the Master Builder. We will continue to undertake our work through Mary's loving patronage, the abiding presence of the Holy Spirit, and the generous support of this community.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Greg Deja". The signature is stylized and fluid.

Greg Deja
President

FROM THE CO-CHAIRS

Dear Catholic Central Family,

It has been an honor to serve as co-chairs of the Ignite Our Future campaign. **We are deeply grateful** for the generosity, spirit, and commitment shown by so many who share a love for Catholic Central. Inspired by your support, we feel a renewed sense of connection to this special community. **Thank you!**

Your response clearly demonstrates how you wish to make a difference by directly impacting people through tuition assistance and teacher compensation. Most notably, **the creation of a \$4 million teacher compensation fund** (through donor-restricted gifts and Board-designated funds) is a powerful testament to the belief that the formation of students is inextricably linked to those who teach and guide them.

We are humbled by the outpouring of generosity and wish to thank you for being a part of this journey.

With sincere gratitude,

*Michael & Colleen
App*

*Carl & Kelly
Jandernoa*

*Greg and Susan
Griffith*

*Chad & Lauren
Warner*

Campaign Co-Chairs



**Dr. Michael '85 and
Dr. Colleen App**



**Greg and
Susan Griffith**



**Carl '96 and
Kelly '96 Jandernoa**



**Chad '97 and
Lauren '98 Warner**



CAMPAIGN IMPACT: TEACHER FUND

Catholic Central has always had incredible teachers who deliver rigorous, faith-based education. For years, however, they have been underpaid compared to their peers in public schools. We are thrilled to share that **\$4M was raised through this campaign to improve teacher compensation!**

Strategy:

- In 2024-25 and 2025-26, the IOF Teacher Fund will increase compensation to our established benchmark: 90% of East Grand Rapids Public Schools.
- Going forward, teacher compensation will grow by 4% annually, supported by both the operating budget and the IOF Teacher Fund.

Sustainability:

- Our conservative forecasts, considering draws and investment returns, predict the Fund will help support 4% annual salary increases until at least the 2030-31 school year.
- Interest on the Fund plays a critical role in maintaining its longevity, helping offset annual draws.

Thank you for believing in our mission and investing in the people who make Catholic Central such an exceptional place to learn and grow – our teachers.

Notes:

- The Fund does not support wages for administrators, support staff, and shared time employees.
- The projections assume no new donations to the Fund.
- We will carefully track Fund balance, interest earnings, and salary costs.



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“For years, many of us have embraced the mission of Catholic education despite financial constraints. To now receive this level of support is simply overwhelming and we are deeply grateful. It’s a powerful reminder that our vocation matters—not just spiritually, but professionally and practically.”

—Dr. Justin Menno
Theology Department Chair



DONOR DESIGNATIONS

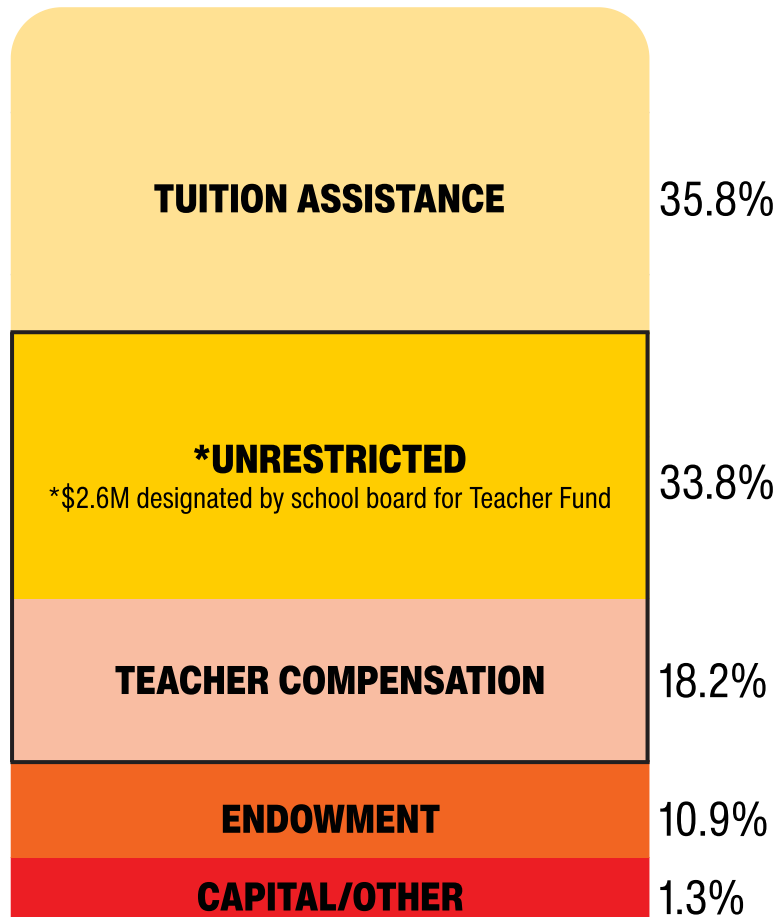
The chart below reflects gift designations as directed by donors.

335

TOTAL DONORS

53

FIRST-TIME GIFTS



“The Board believes the excellence of a Catholic Central education begins with the talent, dedication, and faith of those who lead our classrooms. The decision to designate unrestricted gifts to the Teacher Fund reflects our commitment to honoring their vocation and ensuring CC remains a destination for exceptional educators.”

—Joe Schetz '91
School Board Chair



Campaign Co-Chairs

Mike '85 and Colleen App
Greg and Susan Griffith
Carl '96 and Kelly '96 Jandernoa
Chad '97 and Lauren '98 Warner

Honorary Cabinet

Dan '84 and Sherry '84 Bowen
Ron and Joan Griffith
Kim and Kathy Holt
Mike '68 and Sue '69 Jandernoa
John and Sandy '74 Lowery
Ken '57 and Edie Muraski
Brendan '84 and Christine O'Driscoll
Jim '71 and Linda Payne

Campaign Cabinet

Michelle Anderson '90
Peter and Michelle Baldwin
Michael and Kellie Berkemeier
Trish Castiglione '88
Tom and Beth Cowden
Jen and Scott Crowley
Greg and Caroline Deja
Thomas '77 and Susan English
Jeff and Tammy Helminski
Tim '85 and Jennifer Hile
Brian and Marcie Hillary
Mike '03 and Kristin '04 Jacob
Rob '98 and Monica '98 Jandernoa
Steve '01 and Holly '01 Jandernoa
Kevin '98 and Maureen '97 Jeakle
Matt '91 and Ellyn Kirk
John '69 and Arnette Kraus
Charles Lott
Casey '00 and Lindsay Lowery
Mike Lown
Brad Mathis '88
Tom McGovern '83
Bill and Gwen Melvin '98
Jay and Sara Preston
Al and Katie '90 Puglessi
Bryan and Connie Rellinger
Joe Schetz '91
Laura Stetson Schmitt '11
George '95 and Missy '97 Sharpe
Blake '97 and Lauren Snyder
Mike VanderPoel
Patricia Williams
Steven and Kori Wilson



Preparing servant leaders for a Christ-centered life



THANK YOU!

**Holy Spirit, come into my heart;
draw it to Thee by Thy power, O
my God, and grant me charity
with filial fear. Preserve me, O
beautiful Love, from every evil
thought; warm me, inflame me
with Thy dear love, and every
pain will seem light to me.**

Prayer from St. Catherine of Siena



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