

BIG SHOULDERS FUND: PARTNERSHIP & EMPOWERMENT

In 2020, Big Shoulders Fund entered into an agreement with the Archdiocese of Chicago that would allow them to provide support, resources, and opportunities to more than thirty Archdiocesan schools in the Chicago area. Visitation was blessed to be a part of this partnership. In addition to receiving vital resources for our students, teachers, and communities, the partnership empowers Visitation School to continue our important work, serving our community with support and guidance from both the Archdiocese of Chicago and Big Shoulders Fund.

Since their involvement began at Visitation, Big Shoulders Fund has brought new, innovative curriculums, provided teachers with opportunities for professional development and growth, and ensured we can provide our students with everything they need – from school supplies and support to food and clothing. Big Shoulders Fund and its donors, believe in the mission of Visitation Catholic School and are committed to helping us reach long-term goals and ensure that we can continue to serve our community in meaningful ways.

Through this partnership, these things have been made possible:

- Social-Emotional Learning programs and bringing in Student Savvy programs
- New Everyday Math curriculum, teacher training, and support
- Creating valuable mentorship programs for students
- Targeted professional development opportunities for teachers, specific to our school needs.
- STEAM programming and access to technology
- Summer camp and field trip opportunities for students
- Long-term support for enrollment, marketing, and development
- Connection to vital community resources and partnerships

Together, we will continue to build a better and brighter future, founded on the principles instilled in our community by the Sinsinawa Dominican Sisters: faith, family, tradition, and excellence.



SHARE YOUR VIS STORY

Visitation has always been a place where students find faith and family that last a lifetime. For 130 years, we have come together, learning, growing, and building a better tomorrow.

Every student who passes through our doors leaves with a story. What is your Vis story? How has Vis helped you to build a better tomorrow? Share your story by scanning the QR code or visiting <https://forms.gle/1YwTn46EonvnBjrc9>.





A FULL YEAR IN PERSON

Last school year Visitation brought excitement, curiosity, and compassion back to our classrooms – spending the full year learning in person. Support from alumni, friends, and community partners empowered students to gain access to essential resources and learn safely.

Our year was memorable in so many ways! The introduction of Student Savvy, the return of the Visitation Yearbook, and becoming a one-to-one technology school, with a device for every teacher and student, ensuring that our year was amazing!

GRADUATION 2021



Congratulations to the Visitation Catholic School Class of 2021!

Graduates (from left to right): Hector Rojas, *Catalyst Maria High School*, Joshua Ray, *St. Rita*, Courtney Bingara, Emily Gomez, Lloyd Dinish, *Perspectives High School of Technology*, Jabari Lewis, Deangelo Hall, *St. Rita*, Lamia Johnson, *St. Francis de la Salles*, Maurissah Harris, *Englewood STEM High School*, Benaiah Burkes, *Mt. Carmel*.

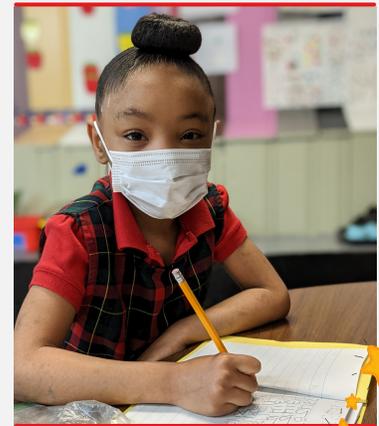
Congratulations to all of our graduates! We wish you the best of luck as you move on to high school and cannot wait to see the amazing things you accomplish!



DONOR HIGHLIGHT JENNIFER WYATT

Visitation is blessed with donors who regularly give to support and empower our students. We call these donors our Guardian Angels; they help us to find our way and build a better future for our children, our community, and our world.

One such guardian angel is Jennifer Wyatt. Jennifer contributes monthly to support the mission of Visitation School. Her consistent contributions, through payroll deduction, have helped to build sensory kits for each classroom, ensuring students had supplies (like pencils, crayons, and notebooks), and continue to help fill gaps to keep our students growing and learning.



If you would like to become a Visitation Guardian Angel like Jennifer, speak to your employer about monthly contributions through payroll deduction.

Ask about employer match to see if you can double your contribution!

SPONSOR A STUDENT



Sponsoring a student at Visitation means guaranteeing their continued access to quality, faith-based education no matter what challenges they face outside the classroom.

Your donation of \$350.00 will ensure that your sponsored student is ready to start each day clean, prepared, and ready to focus. This donation will provide books, workbooks, access to technology, cover registration fees, and provide your student with a brand new school uniform.



We know that Visitation is more than just a school. Here students find a home, a family, and a community that will support them throughout their lifetime.

Join us in building a better brighter future for Englewood, for Chicago, and our world. Help us empower the next generation by sponsoring a student today.



SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL LEARNING

Supporting Students & Empowering our Children

A three-tiered Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) program empowers Visitation students daily, helping them to work through trauma, understand empathy and community, and giving them a space that sets them up for academic, social, and personal success.

Here at Vis, students begin each day focusing on one of the five core competencies. Videos, guided discussions, and activities help students to see how these competencies work in the real world and apply them to their everyday lives.

United Stand Counselors are the next step in a students' SEL journey. They provide students with academic, mental, and emotional support, giving them the tools to understand and work through emotions. Our counselors go above and beyond using art therapy, academic tutoring, and one-on-one support to ensure students are successful in the classroom and beyond.

Student Savvy takes our SEL programming to the next level, bringing classroom communities together to resolve conflict, celebrate successes, and build stronger communities. Through this program, students learn how their actions can impact others and are guided in student-led conflict resolution and relationship building.

Our new Peace Room brings all of our SEL programs together, providing a sensory space that supports one-on-one counseling, student-led programming, and provides an adaptive space that students can make their own. This space, generously funded by Jim's Bridge to a Brighter Future, is helping our students to work and play in ways that build stronger students and a stronger community.





LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

THANK YOU!



This year Visitation celebrates its 130th birthday! In celebration of this milestone, community partners and alumni have helped us to bring some pretty amazing things to our students.

Visitation will be opening our very own STEAM Innovation Lab! This lab will consist of technology including video filming/editing programs, 3D printers, robotics, drones, and more. Technology and lessons will be accessible to all students and a traveling lab will ensure that teachers can easily integrate new, innovative technologies into their teaching.



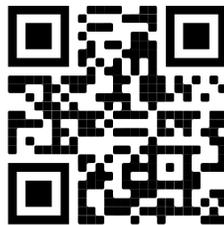
Our gym and auditorium restoration and renovation are well underway! This project is allowing us to revitalize a space that has meant so much to so many Visitation students. When the gym reopens in the fall of 2021, it will be updated and newly equipped with technology and equipment to encourage students to engage mentally and physically in P.E. and after-school programming!

We have been blessed only to be able to continue learning in person but to grow the offerings and support that we can offer our students now and in the future.

We could not do this without our alumni, friends, and community partners!



DONATE TODAY



Help Support the Future of Visitation Catholic School

Join us in supporting the youth of Englewood and building a better tomorrow! You can make your donation today by using the enclosed envelope, sending a check to the website below, or by scanning the QR code above!

Thank you for your continued support of our work and our students!

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