



Why Cardinal Pacelli is a Blue Ribbon School

This is a series of messages that ran in our Parish bulletin and School-to-Home parent correspondence in September/October 2008.

Cardinal Pacelli is proud recipient of the National Blue Ribbon Award.

What is the Award?

We have the privilege of being honored as a National Blue Ribbon School for the hard work and dedication of our students, faculty and parents. Only fifty private schools nationwide are nominated as finalists.

Since 1982, the No Child Left Behind – Blue Ribbon Schools Program has honored public and private elementary, middle, and high schools that are either academically superior or demonstrate dramatic gains in student achievement to high levels.

A high performing school criterion is one of the two models recognized under the program. Schools, regardless of their demographics, that are in the top 10 percent of schools in their states as measured by state tests in both reading and mathematics or that score in the top 10 percent on assessments referenced against national norms in at least the highest grade tested in the last year tested are considered “high performing” and eligible for the award. Private schools standardized test scores must be in the top 10% in the nation.

A Blue Ribbon School flag waving overhead has become a trademark of excellence and a symbol of quality recognized by all, from parents to policy-makers in thousands of communities nationally. Over the next few weeks we'll share information with you about the program and some of the great things taking place at our school.

National Blue Ribbon Award

How Did Cardinal Pacelli School Qualify for the Award?

The Blue Ribbon process began in 2007 and was an effort involving school parents and teachers. A 15-page application was submitted in November 2007. All schools were required to provide considerable detail in areas such as test scores, assessment results, curriculum, instructional methods, professional development and special programs that differentiate Cardinal Pacelli from other schools. Additional follow up and correspondence with the Department of Education took place over the next 6 months.

Fifty private schools nationwide were selected as finalists and the award winners were officially notified in September. Newly named Blue Ribbon Schools are honored annually in October.



Why Cardinal Pacelli is a Blue Ribbon School

National Blue Ribbon Award

Virtues that catapulted Cardinal Pacelli School to the top!

These are some notable reasons why Cardinal Pacelli was chosen as a Blue Ribbon School:

- Outstanding test scores, within the top 10% of those in our state.
- Graduating seniors earn on average \$4,500 each in scholarships and are accepted to area High Schools with stringent admission requirements
- A foreign language (Spanish) taught to grades K-8.
- Cutting edge technology – notebook and laptop carts for use in the classroom, a computer lab, a mini lab in Spanish with 12 computers, minimum of 2 computers in each classroom, document cameras, projectors, digital microscopes and WeatherBug.
- Our high level of service to world and local communities, including our twinning relationship with St. Anthony's parish in Ghana, Africa, and the well-publicized "Christmas Kindness" project, conducted annually by our 5th and 6th Grades.
- A vibrant arts curriculum highlighted by artist-in-residence programs including a long-term commitment from Madcap puppets and multiple works in the school and parish center. Choir, band and multiple student-produced musical productions involving every grade level.
- Programs such as "What's Right", "Everybody Counts", "In Control", and bullying prevention to help students deal with common age appropriate peer pressures and compassionately interact with people.
- Newly renovated facilities that support our educational mission, including the addition of a preschool.
- Opportunities to participate in a wide variety of sports, including club sports such as lacrosse and skiing.

National Blue Ribbon Award

Cardinal Pacelli continues to set the bar high!

Cardinal Pacelli School is not content to sit on its laurels. We are utilizing a variety of tools to identify areas of improvement and continue to work diligently to upgrade and enhance the learning experience of our students. Some current initiatives include:

- Students in grades 6-8 are evaluated in Math and grouped for instruction according to academic need.
- An improved writing skills curriculum for grades K-8 that focuses on critical thinking and writing coupled with a set of consistent writing norms across all grades.
- 8th Grade students participate in a test prep program that is included in the school day curriculum and emphasizes broad-based test taking skills, not just narrow focus on the HS Entrance Exam
- An investment in additional texts and materials for our Spanish program
- An interactive science program for 8th grade, bringing professors from UC, Miami, and NKU to our school for a 4-part speaker series.



Tuition (2009-2010)

In-Parish (*Christ the King & St. Stephen*) — Grades 1-8*

First Child	\$2,900	<i>Total</i>
Second Child	\$2,790	\$5,690
Third Child	\$2,790	\$8,480
Fourth Child	\$2,590	\$11,070
Fifth Child	\$2,590	\$13,660

Out-of-Parish — Grades 1-8

First Child	\$4,210	<i>Total</i>
Second Child	\$4,210	\$8,420

St. Jerome — Grades 1-8

First Child	\$3,340	<i>Total</i>
Second Child	\$3,340	\$6,680

Kindergarten**

In-Parish ½ Day	\$2,320
In-Parish Full Day	\$3,860
Out-of-Parish ½ Day	\$3,365
Out-of-Parish Full Day	\$5,590

Preschool

Pre-K (5 Day)	\$2,000
Preschool (4 Day)	\$1,600

Through the generosity of our Parishioners, tuition remains unchanged for 2008-2009. Tuition may be paid in full in July or in 10 equal monthly payments starting in July. No eligible child and family member of the parish shall be denied admittance to Cardinal Pacelli School because the family is unable to afford tuition. Please contact Fr. Robert Obermeyer, Pastor, in the Church office to discuss financial need.

Neither St. Stephen Church nor St. Jerome Church has its own school, therefore Christ the King Church has relationships with both that allow their parishioners to attend Cardinal Pacelli at discounted tuition.

*For 8th grade students, there is a \$100 fee for in-school high school test preparation that is not included in tuition.

** Kindergarten employs two full-time aides, in addition to the two full-time teachers.



2008 National Blue Ribbon School



Academic Excellence (2008-2009)

TerraNova Test Scores

Grade Level		Percentile					
		Reading	Language	Math	Total*	Science	Social Studies
Grade 2	<i>Anticipated</i>	67	*	63	74	62	64
	Achieved	74	*	91	88	68	90
Grade 4	<i>Anticipated</i>	76	76	74	76	74	76
	Achieved	67	74	80	74	72	84
Grade 6	<i>Anticipated</i>	69	70	71	73	69	70
	Achieved	74	70	72	76	81	77
Grade 8	<i>Anticipated</i>	79	80	82	84	80	78
	Achieved	87	86	87	91	81	80

*Scores in the "Total" column are a combination of reading, language and math.

This chart shows the predicted and achieved percentile results on the *TerraNova* tests administered in October 2008. Percentiles range from 1 to 99. A percentile of 25 through 75 is within the average range. The predicted percentile was based on the grade's *InView* performance, which showed the grade's cognitive skills index score (CSI). The achieved percentile is what was actually obtained by the students in that grade.

*The 3rd edition of the Terra Nova does not include a language score in the 2nd grade.



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Curriculum (Kindergarten)

Full Day/Half Day Option

Kindergarten at Cardinal Pacelli is a full day academic program with a half day option.

- Full Day – school is held from 7:50 am to 2:30 pm
- Half Day – school is held from 7:50 am to 11:50 am

Basic Skills Curriculum

Cardinal Pacelli School follows all state and Archdiocesan Academic standards for the following:

- Mathematics
- Reading/Language Arts
- Handwriting
- Religion/Bible Study
- Science
- Social Studies
- Computer
- Health and Safety
- Art

Specials

Kindergarteners attend the following twice a week:

- Music
- Gym

Kindergarteners attend the following once a week

- Spanish
- Library

Kindergarteners attend the following once a month:

- All-school mass

Enrichment

- Computer Education
- Young Rembrandts Drawing Program
- Everyone Counts Program
- Special Friends Day
- What's Right Program
- Christmas Program
- Buddy Program with Fourth Grade Students
- Field Trips

Opportunities for Parents in the Classroom

- Parent Readers
- Room Parents
- Holiday Celebrations
- Playground and Cafeteria Duty
- And much more.....



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Curriculum (First Grade)

Basic Skills Curriculum

Cardinal Pacelli School follows all state and Archdiocesan Academic standards for the following:

- Mathematics
- Reading/Language Arts
- Handwriting
- Religion/Bible Study
- Science
- Social Studies
- Health and Safety
- Art

Specials

First graders attend the following twice a week:

- Gym
- Music

First Graders attend the following once a week:

- Art
- Computer Lab
- Library
- Mass
- Spanish

Enrichment

- Computer Education
- Young Rembrandts Drawing Program
- Extra curricular sports
- After school enrichment in computer and special activities
- Everyone Counts Program
- Special Friends Day
- What's Right Program
- Christmas Program
- Buddy Program with Eighth Grade Students
- Field Trips

Opportunities for Parents in the Classroom

- Parent Readers
- Science Parents
- Room Parents
- Holiday Celebrations
- Playground and Cafeteria Duty
- And much more



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Student Numbers (2009-2010)

<i>Total Number of Students:</i>	392
<i>Average Class Size:</i>	21
<i>Student:Teacher Ratio:</i>	15:1

Geographic Breakout of Enrollment:

<u>Neighborhood</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Hyde Park	38%
Mt. Lookout	24%
Mt. Washington	16%
Anderson	10%
Oakley, Norwood, N. Avondale, St. Bernard, Mariemont, Madison Place, and Others	12%

High Schools Attended by the Class of 2009:

<u>School</u>	<u>Percent</u>
St. Ursula	31%
St. Xavier	39%
Moeller	4%
Ursuline	8%
McNicholas	4%
Purcell Marian	6%
Summit	2%
Walnut Hills	6%

The class of 2008 received over \$140,000 in scholarships, for an average of \$2,741 per student.



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Faculty and Administration (2009-2010)

Cardinal Pacelli School is proud to be a 2008 Blue Ribbon School. This honor recognizes public and private elementary, middle and high schools that are academically superior, and is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our faculty and administration.

We are fully accredited through the Ohio Catholic School Accrediting Association, and is a member of the Eastern Catholic Alliance of Schools for Excellence (E-CASE), an alliance of schools and parishes committed to achieving excellence in Catholic education and identity.

Our teachers are fully qualified and certified by the State of Ohio. Teachers and administrators attend graduate school classes, seminars and training sessions to increase their skills and stay current with new educational developments. 50% of our teachers hold Masters Degrees and others are near completion.

Our principal, Mrs. Kim Roy, brings our students, faculty and parents the benefit of 20 years of teaching and 12 years of administration, 9 of those at Cardinal Pacelli School.

Cardinal Pacelli's teachers have an average of 12 years of teaching experience. Along with 17 homeroom teachers, our students enjoy the benefit of three full-time Aides (Kindergarten and Preschool), "Specials" teachers (Art, Physical Education, Music, Spanish), and four Auxiliary Service Personnel (Intervention Specialist, Reading Specialist, School Psychologist, School Nurse).



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Cardinal Pacelli 101

Arrival and Dismissal

- ◆ School begins at 7:50 a.m. with an all-school prayer in the gym, where students assemble by class.
- ◆ Half-day kindergarten is dismissed at 11:50 a.m. at the bottom of the school driveway. Regular school dismissal for K-8 begins at 2:30 p.m. with bus riders to the buses waiting in front of the school on Ellison Avenue, and car riders to the carpool lines on the back parking lot. Walkers are dismissed from the driveway after the carpool lines have cleared.
- ◆ Cincinnati Public Schools provide transportation services to Cardinal Pacelli students who live within the boundaries of the Cincinnati Public School District, and at least $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile from Cardinal Pacelli. The Forest Hills School District also provides busing for students living within that district's boundaries.
- ◆ Aftercare is available every school day until 6 p.m. at a cost of \$10 per child per day. An application (obtained through the school office) and \$25 registration fee are required.
- ◆ To enter the building at any time during the school day, visitors must go to the main door of the school, where there is a doorbell and video camera, to be buzzed into the building. Visitors should then proceed up the stairs to the office to sign in and get a visitor badge. All volunteers must be fingerprinted by the Archdiocese and view a child protection video in order to work with our children.

Mass

- ◆ Grades 5-8 attend Mass every Tuesday morning, and grades 1-4 attend every Thursday. Kindergarteners attend monthly all-school Masses.

Snacks & Lunch

- ◆ Grades K-3 have a snack period every morning that includes a short recess. Please pack a snack for your child every day.
- ◆ Lunch and milk tokens may be purchased on Mondays in the classrooms. Lunch is \$2.75 and includes a main entrée, two sides and white or chocolate milk. A "max meal," which includes an extra entrée, is \$3.25. Peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, chef salads and hamburgers are also available every day as alternatives to the entrees. Milk-only tokens are \$.25.

Communication

- ◆ The “White Envelope” is the primary means of communication from the school. This year it will be a “digital” letter. The envelope is sent home every Wednesday with the youngest or only child in each family and should be signed and returned the next day. Any forms or other correspondence that need to be returned to school must be printed by the parent and returned via this envelope on Thursdays.

Uniforms

- ◆ All students, Kindergarten through 8th grade, must wear the school uniform, which is outlined in the school handbook and on the school website, www.cardinalpacelli.org. Beginning in the third grade, gym uniforms are worn.
- ◆ On designated “Spirit Days” students may wear approved Pacelli “spiritwear” in place of the uniform, along with jeans, or khaki pants, etc. Spiritwear is sold through the school, at Welcome Sunday and once a month throughout the school year.

Parent Teacher Organization (PTO)

- ◆ The Cardinal Pacelli PTO is an organization of parents who work to advance the interests of education, to support the school community, to promote the welfare of students, and to bring parents and teachers closer. This is accomplished through volunteer efforts in cooperation with the Cardinal Pacelli faculty and staff. The PTO sponsors several fundraising programs to provide special activities for the students, as well as to supply needed school materials and improvements.

Athletic Committee

- ◆ Sports teams are organized and sponsored by the Athletic Committee. Emphasis is placed on having fun, learning teamwork and cooperation, and improving skills in a particular sport.



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Athletics

The Christ the King Athletic Committee was formed to promote athletics within the community of Christ the King Parish. In so doing, it provides opportunities for youth to develop strong moral character, self worth, interpersonal competence, and a commitment to caring for others and their community.

The following sports are offered to our students:

Season	Sport	Gender	League	Beginning Grade
<i>Fall</i>	Soccer	Boys & Girls	SAY	1 st
	Football	Boys	CYO	3 rd
	Basketball	Girls	CYO	3 rd
	Golf	Boys & Girls	No Official League	7 th
	Tennis	Girls	Eastern Hills*	7 th
<i>Winter</i>	Volleyball	Girls	CYO	3 rd
	Basketball	Girls	Eastern Hills*	3 rd
	Basketball	Boys	CYO	3 rd
<i>Spring</i>	Baseball	Boys	Knothole & CYO	Kindergarten
	Softball	Girls	Fairfax & CYO**	1 st
	Soccer	Boys & Girls	SAY	Kindergarten
	Tennis	Boys	Eastern Hills*	7 th

* League affiliations for girls' fall tennis and girls' winter basketball, while both named Eastern Hills, are actually two distinct organizations.

** In 5th grade, the girls switch to a CYO-sponsored league.

In addition, several club sports are available:

- Lacrosse
- Ski Club
- Basketball for K-2nd
- Fall soccer for K



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Cardinal Pacelli School 2009-2010 PTO Committee Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteer Area	Frequency	Description
Cafeteria	Daily	<i>Help during lunch in the cafeteria</i>
Office Support	Tue/Wed/Thu weekly	<i>Run copies, stuff white envelopes, filing, support teachers</i>
Playground	Daily	<i>Help supervise recess (11:15am-12:45pm)</i>
Library	Daily, as needed	<i>Assist librarian & students in the library</i>
Mid-Week Treats	1x/week	<i>Provide treats to our wonderful teachers</i>
Spiritwear Sales	1x/month	<i>Sell CPS uniform & spiritwear clothing</i>
Bulletin Board	1x/month	<i>Decorate the cafeteria bulletin board</i>
Market Day	1x/month	<i>Foods sales w/proceeds benefiting PTO.</i>
Fine Arts	As needed	<i>Promote the visual & performing arts</i>
Room Parent	As needed	<i>Assist w/classroom events & parties</i>
Publicity	As needed	<i>Produce photos & articles to promote CPS</i>
Lost & Found	As needed	<i>Find it, store it, send it to charity if not claimed</i>
Grocery / SCRIP Program	As needed	<i>Sell gift cards w/proceeds benefiting PTO</i>
PTO Magazine Sale	Spetmber	<i>PTO's #1 fundraiser, students sell magazines</i>
Junefest/PTO Ladies Event	Early Spring	<i>PTO/Junefest co-chair a BIG Ladies event.</i>
CTK Fish Fry	During Lent	<i>Parish event. Coordinate fish fry & kid activities</i>
PTO School Supplies	Spring & Fall	<i>Sell supplies via order form, assist w/pickup</i>
PTO Garden Sale	Spring	<i>Sell flowers via order form, assist w/pickup</i>
Better Babysitters	No committee	<i>Babysitting classes/certification held at CPS</i>
Career Day	Winter	<i>Present career info to Junior High students</i>
Catholic Schools Week	Last wk of January	<i>Celebrate our school, with events & contests, Teacher & Student Appreciation</i>
Fun Run	Spring	<i>Family-oriented fun run/walk & related activities</i>
Christmas Boutique	October - December	<i>Prepare crafts & gifts for student purchase</i>
COSI	Winter	<i>COSI science on wheels visits the school</i>
8th Grade Test Prep	Fall	<i>Oversee HS test preparation classes</i>
Everybody Counts	Fall/Winter	<i>Prepare/present diversity education program</i>
Father/Daughter Dance	February	<i>Organize the dance & related activities</i>
Jr. High Dances	Oct/Feb/May	<i>Organize the dances & related activities</i>
Jr. High Night	Fall	<i>Develop/host new Jr. High promotional event.</i>
Mother/Son Event	Winter	<i>Organize the event & related activities</i>
Prospective Parents	Aug/Nov/Jan/Spring	<i>Work with Communication Team & Development Director to develop communication materials, recruit students, give tours, & assist with registration.</i>
New Parents	Sept/Jan/Spring	<i>Present info to new parents. Host play dates, Kindergarten screening & Welcome Back events</i>
Olympic Day	May	<i>Run Olympic Day events for students</i>
Scouting	September - May	<i>Pack & Den leaders for cub scouts</i>
Selective Electives	September - May	<i>Oversee after-school enrichment programs</i>
Social Action	September - May	<i>Bring social action programs to the students</i>
Special Events	September - May	<i>Coordinate New Parents Lunches, Special Persons Days, Confirmation, & Graduation</i>
Teacher Appreciation	Seasonal	<i>Purchase/prepare gifts or other gestures of appreciation for teachers & staff. Work with Catholic Schools Week.</i>
What's Right	Fall/Winter	<i>Prepare/present ethics & morals programs</i>
Yearbook	September - May	<i>Produce photos & info for the yearbook</i>



Aftercare

- ◆ Aftercare has been run by Diana Qualters and assistant Jenny Oldendick (Kindergarten aide) for the past 16 years.
- ◆ It is available from 2:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. on school days.
- ◆ The cost is \$14 per day per child.
- ◆ There is a \$30 per child application fee. An application is required for enrollment in the program.
- ◆ The aftercare schedule is as follows:
 - 2:30-3:00 snack, free time (Parents provide snacks and drinks.)
 - 3:00-3:30 group homework time
 - 3:30-4:30 gym or playground
 - 4:30-6:00 aftercare room (Legos, crafts, movies and more)
- ◆ A federal ID# is available for your reference.
- ◆ Please contact Diana Qualters with any questions:
 - 871-2949 (Home)
 - 321-1048, extension 59 (School)



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