

CATALYST

ST. MARCUS SCHOOL MAGAZINE • FALL 2024

Meet our New
Center Street
Campus
Principals!

p. 5





Dear Friends,

I am thrilled to announce that St. Marcus School recently received our largest single gift in our 150 years of serving children and families. The astonishing \$6,000,000 gift

provides for the completion and endowment of the "Burleigh Street Campus." Let me tell you the story...

Shortly after I arrived in the early 2000s, we had to relocate our 220 scholars from the 1894 school building into a temporary facility while a new school building was under construction. I'm coordinating the move, and suddenly, yellow trucks arrived, emblazoned with the words "Karl's Event Rentals." Karl and his cousin Bob were the drivers and arrived ready to help with the move. They were sincere, humble, and kind-hearted. I remember saying to myself, "Who are these guys?"

Over the years, Karl and his wife Marva became fixtures at St. Marcus. They were frequently at the school and constantly found new ways to serve and improve outcomes for our scholars. As school staff did their duties, Karl could be seen sweeping floors, picking up and taking out the garbage, providing landscaping assistance, helping scholars needing dental care, buying scholars uniforms, and delivering food for families. In all these ways, Karl became the hands and feet of Jesus and taught us what it meant to serve and that Christian generosity has no limits.

One morning, Karl and Marva asked me urgently, "Henry, do the children eat breakfast?" They had figured out that many children were coming to school hungry and realized that they couldn't learn on an empty stomach. They committed to providing breakfast for every child every day, which they did until the federal government took over.

Years later, the 2003 school building was full, and more space was needed; scholars needed a music room, a science lab, and a library. Karl and Marva provided the necessary resources to convert the lower level of the building into the Marva and Karl Schlueter Center. This space still exists and serves middle school scholars at the North Avenue Campus.

Karl had three defining characteristics. Whenever Karl interacted with scholars or was talking about St. Marcus, he invariably teared up. He loved our scholars and to see them thrive. Secondly, Karl loved Jesus. He wanted people to know, love, and thrive in Jesus. Finally, he constantly pushed me and my colleagues to grow the school so we could serve more children. He would often look at me and say earnestly, "Henry, are we ready to grow some more yet?" He wanted to see more children get to know Jesus and receive a great education.

Wherever there was a need, Karl and Marva were there. When they learned that some scholars did not have a Bible at home, they ensured they had a brand new children's Bible. This practice went on for years.

Sadly, we lost Karl in 2018. This was a bitter blow for Marva, Karl's family, friends, and St. Marcus' scholars and families. We lost a passionate warrior. We lost a man who was held in high regard and who would do anything he could to help. In Karl's absence, there is a hole in my heart and a giant hole at St. Marcus. We miss him tremendously.



Karl with St. Marcus scholar

This is why it is astounding and life-giving that the Schlueter Family honored Karl and blessed St. Marcus staff, scholars, and families with this astonishing gift. In recognition, the Burleigh Street Campus has been renamed the Karl J. Schlueter Campus. This extraordinary generosity humbles us, and we are thrilled to see Karl honored in this way.

As a result, renovations began on the 3rd floor of the campus on October 20, and the entire project will be completed by July 2025. KSC scholars in grades 5 and 6 will have their own middle school to learn, grow, and thrive. When full, this campus will serve nearly 600 scholars. And all of this is because of the life and legacy of our dear friend, Karl J. Schlueter.

With humbleness and gratefulness,

Henry Tyson, Superintendent



ST. MARCUS SCHOOL GALA
NOVEMBER 9, 2024

presented by:



THE KIECKHEFER GROUP



Thank you
to our generous top sponsors

PREMIER SPONSORS | Power Of Purpose



In recognition of the St. Marcus Foundation by Lilli Gust

BE STRONG SPONSORS



Dwayne & Stacy Kratt

PRINCIPAL SPONSORS | Whatever It Takes



Barbara & John Trimble FAMILY FOUNDATION



Be inspired by what is next.
Tickets & sponsorships at stmarcusgala.com

ST. MARCUS ALUM INSPIRES SCHOLARS

written by Lauren Brandmeier, Mission Advancement Team

At St. Marcus, we take great pride in a vibrant alumni community. After graduation, they continue their educational journeys at area high schools where they continue to build upon the rigorous, faith-based education they received here.

We love when alumni recognize the positive impacts of their St. Marcus education. Some value it so much that they even return – but this time as teachers! Such is the case for Tevelis Winslow, a St. Marcus graduate who recently completed our Lead Teacher in Training program. With a degree from UW-Milwaukee, he now works as a network-wide substitute teacher, and will soon be teaching a portion of a 2nd grade classroom at North Avenue Campus!

The Lead Teacher in Training program is offered to educators who have not completed a traditional teaching program. Participants receive intensive onboarding, coaching, and support to prepare them to lead a classroom. Over an extensive period of time, they gradually take on additional instructional opportunities with the eventual outcome of taking on a lead teaching role at St. Marcus.

Tevelis shared a piece of his educational journey at St. Marcus and his decision to return as a teacher.

Q: What was your educational journey at St. Marcus like?

A: It was both formative and enriching. The school's commitment to academic excellence, coupled with its strong Christian values, created an environment where I felt supported and motivated.

The emphasis on character development and faith, alongside rigorous academics, provided a holistic approach to education that prepared me well for future challenges. The teachers were not only knowledgeable but also deeply invested in my personal growth. Their authentic and caring approach made a lasting impact, instilling a belief that I could achieve my goals with perseverance and faith.

Q: What was your inspiration to return to St. Marcus and join the teacher training program?

A: I was deeply influenced by the remarkable experiences and role models I had as a scholar. Mrs. Jeske, Mr. Lepke, Mr. Leckwee, and Jackie K each played a significant role in shaping my educational journey, inspiring me with their dedication and approach to teaching: Mrs. Jeske's unwavering belief in our potential, Mr. Lepke's ability to make learning engaging, Mr. Leckwee's emphasis on high standards, and Jackie K's passion for fostering a supportive and inclusive environment. These all contributed to a learning atmosphere where excellence was both valued and expected.

I was motivated to return to St. Marcus to give back to the community that profoundly impacted my life and to embody the values and teaching methods that inspired me.

3



I want to show scholars that success is not just a possibility, but an expectation. By fostering a mindset where scholars understand that achieving their best is anticipated and supported, I aim to create an environment where they feel empowered to reach their full potential. This approach reflects the same belief in excellence that was instilled in me by these



exceptional educators and helps scholars realize that with dedication and hard work, success is within their reach and is expected of them.

Q: How has being a part of the St. Marcus community impacted your life?

A: Being a part of St. Marcus, both as a scholar and a teacher, has had a multifaceted impact on my life. The strong focus on Christian education and the pursuit of excellence instilled in me a solid work ethic and a growth mindset, which provided a well-rounded foundation for my personal and professional development.

Beyond academic and professional growth, these experiences helped me balance seriousness and playfulness. Mrs. Jeske's ability to inspire us while maintaining a genuine and approachable demeanor taught me that it's possible to pursue excellence with a joyful spirit. Mr. Lepke's creative and engaging methods showed me the value of bringing enthusiasm and fun into learning, even as we strive for high standards.

Mr. Leckwee's structured approach to discipline and excellence, while challenging, also pushed me to grow and mature, preparing me for the responsibilities of adulthood.

All together, these experiences helped me find a balance between being focused and serious about my goals, while also allowing space for fun and creativity. This balance has been crucial in my transition into adulthood, helping me manage responsibilities while maintaining a sense of joy and humor. The education I received at St. Marcus continues to influence how I approach challenges and opportunities, reminding me of the importance of faith, perseverance, and a well-rounded approach to life's demands.

4



Sarina
Scott-Owens

Brittany
Toliver

**MEET OUR
NEW
CENTER STREET CAMPUS
PRINCIPALS!**

written by Lauren Brandmeier, Mission Advancement Team

At St. Marcus, our leaders tirelessly inspire scholars to pursue excellence in their endeavors to become well-rounded leaders with a solid educational and spiritual foundation. Every day, these leaders show up and work just as hard as our scholars to ensure success for every child who walks through our doors.

This academic year, we welcomed two new principals to our Center Street Campus (CSC): Brittany Toliver and Sarina Scott-Owens. Brittany and Sarina value the people who inspired them to advance professionally and continuously work towards success.

Upon graduating from UW-Milwaukee with a bachelor's degree in science education, Brittany was called to Risen Savior Lutheran School, where she taught 1st and 2nd grades. After serving at Risen Savior for 7 years, she felt led to join the St. Marcus community and has been serving here for the past 7 years as a teacher for 4th-6th grades. Most recently, she transitioned to her role on the administrative team as the Middle School Principal in which she supports and offers guidance to both the middle school scholars and staff.

Sarina began her professional career in higher education, where she worked for over 15 years. In her academic advising role, she noticed a significant number of first-time college students who were drastically underprepared for postsecondary studies. 6 years into her career, she started substitute teaching for grades K-12, and during this time, it became clear to her that it is vital to create a culture of college and career readiness early on. She started at St. Marcus in 2019 as a lead 3rd grade teacher and this year transitioned to the Kindergarten/Primary grades Principal.

We asked Brittany and Sarina to tell us more about the significance of their leadership and what they envision for the future of CSC.

Q: What does it mean to you to be a part of a female-led leadership team?

Brittany: Under April Richter's (previous CSC principal) guidance, I have learned the true essence of leadership and the power of fostering a supportive and inclusive environment. Her passion and dedication to our school inspired me to strive for excellence and to nurture the same sense of community that she so effortlessly cultivated.

Becoming a principal is not just a professional milestone for me, but a deeply personal achievement. It is a testament to the potential within all of us to rise, lead, and make a difference. I am committed to continuing April's legacy and to building upon the strong foundation she has laid. Together with our exceptional female leadership team, I am excited to embark on this journey and to make a lasting impact on our school and community.

Sarina: God has used His daughters for centuries to build His kingdom. God chose Brittany and I to lead, similar to how he chose Deborah to lead as a prophet and judge. We were designed to have a voice at the table.

Jeremiah 29:11 is my guiding scripture. This verse states, "'For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future'". This verse has served as a source of comfort for me. It reminds me that God is in control and has a purpose for our lives.



Q: What are your hopes and dreams for the future of CSC and/or St. Marcus as a whole?

Brittany: My hope is to significantly improve our test scores and open up more doors for our scholars' futures. By enhancing academic performance, we can provide scholars with greater opportunities and continue to guide them towards becoming the leaders of tomorrow. Our commitment is to ensure that each scholar has the resources and support they need to succeed, both academically and personally.

Sarina: I want to stay true to our Vision Statement: *We are a national model of Biblical living, individual and community transformation and exceptional educational outcomes. We are salt and light to the glory of God.* My goal is to continue cultivating a Christ-centered environment that promotes academic growth, high student achievement, and social-emotional health. It's important to me that I help staff and students reach their fullest potential through continuous learning.



WHAT'S GOING ON OVER ON BURLEIGH ST?

written by Lauren Brandmeier, Mission Advancement Team

There's been a lot going on over on Burleigh Street recently! Thanks to a transformational gift from the Schlueter family, in honor of St. Marcus friend and long-time supporter Karl Schlueter, the Burleigh Street Campus is now known as the Karl J. Schlueter Campus (KSC). We are deeply grateful for the Schlueter family's generosity, which will enable us to complete the final phase of renovations. Here's a snapshot of big, positive changes that have taken place over the summer, and what we're excitedly looking ahead to!

Most recently, work was finished on a **brand-new playground**. The completion of this outdoor space provides scholars with a much-needed safe space to play. Tracy Eastburn, KSC Principal, tells us that scholars love having an outdoor space to take in fresh air and sunshine. The playground features multi-age equipment that K4-5th-grade scholars use every day. The outdoor play space is key to the growth of our scholars and supports the development of cognitive, social, and fine motor skills, while also allowing space for creativity and physical strength building.

The **cafeteria** is receiving a multimedia makeover to help facilitate more scholar and family programming. 3 screens are being installed to complement the audio features that were recently updated.

The space will house programs like My Pillow Has Wings, a group that works with scholars and their families who have experienced loss and trauma. Last year, the program had great participation, and Principal Eastburn hopes that these new technology updates will enhance the facilitation of programs like this.

A **large motor skills room** is also being completed for our K4-2nd graders. Thanks to support from our friends at the Antioch Foundation, the completed room will feature a climbing wall, play kitchen, reading tent, and a rug for circle time, along with other furniture like tables, chairs, beanbags, and reading nooks. The development of large motor skills is important for performing everyday functions like sitting at a desk or catching a ball, and teaches scholars how to coordinate and control their body movements. These skills contribute to healthy physical development, correct posture, and balance.

The **stage** in the gymnasium is getting updated technology to help facilitate extracurricular and athletics programs. New audio/visual for the stage will enhance student performances like concerts and plays. The campus continues to buzz with athletics and arts events, so renewed audio/visual will allow our families to celebrate their scholars even more!




Lastly, the final phase of construction at KSC begins in October and is estimated to be completed next summer. This phase will focus on a **complete renovation of the 3rd floor**. The remodeled space will house both special education and 5th-8th grade classrooms, as well as a learning center and science labs. The learning center will include books, technology, and research materials that scholars will be able to utilize during their school day to help hone in their reading and research skills.

And, last but not least, workspaces will be created to support Project Lead the Way – a hands-on STEM program that engages scholars in subjects like computer and biomedical science, and engineering. The program empowers scholars to develop essential life skills like problem solving, critical and creative thinking, communication, collaboration, and perseverance.

St. Marcus is excited at the possibilities this campus has to offer, and we are dedicated to providing our scholars with the resources they need to succeed. KSC will continue to add a new grade level every academic year, so next year, we will welcome KSC's first ever 6th grade class to campus. The campus will be full, with the final class of 8th graders by 2027.



THANK YOU
to all of our supporters that have made these additions to KSC possible!



THE VALUE OF VISUAL ARTS

written by Lauren Brandmeier,
Mission Advancement Team

At St. Marcus, scholars have the opportunity to showcase their creativity through visual art education. With an art teacher at each campus, scholars throughout the network express their individualism through art. Thanks to supporters like you, our teachers use visual art to cultivate joy, confidence, and curiosity.

a positive growth mindset in the art room, and her classroom supports an environment that embraces freedom of individual expression through art.

Jamie Shorts, art teacher at Center Street Campus, has seen firsthand the spark of curiosity that scholars experience in her classroom. When her classes display their artwork, she includes a synopsis of what influenced the project so that other scholars can learn more about their peers' work. She loves witnessing scholars stop in the hallway to admire and read about another classroom's project, hopefully inspiring their own ideas.

Hannah Greene, art teacher at North Avenue Campus, believes that exposing scholars to different artists, cultures, and mediums positively impacts their educational and personal growth. Her classes cultivate



Liza Goetter, art teacher at Karl Schlueter Campus, begins each class with this artist mantra: "I make messes. I make mistakes. But deep inside, I got what it takes. I am an artist."

of school. Liza cherished this moment because it proved that scholars apply what they learn in the classroom to their personal lives.

**I MAKE MESSES.
I MAKE MISTAKES.
BUT DEEP INSIDE,
I GOT WHAT IT TAKES.**
I AM AN ARTIST.

She has witnessed many scholars quoting this to help solve their problems. One scholar even used this quote to reassure himself that it's okay to make mistakes outside

St. Marcus friend and professional artist, Gretchen Klug, is also a passionate champion of visual arts education.

In fact, some of Gretchen's paintings are permanently displayed on campus. Gretchen recently made a generous contribution for the KSC art classroom, now fondly named the "Klug Little Artist Studio" to honor her husband, Bill, who passed in 2021. Gretchen reflects, "We felt an obligation to help provide an excellent education to Milwaukee's children and felt it was important to share our conviction that they know their Lord and Savior. The arts are one of the greatest gifts God has given us. It cheers our hearts, stimulates the mind, and enriches life." **We are deeply grateful to Gretchen for this impactful gift to support our scholars' arts education!**

Teachers are excited for continued opportunities to provide arts programming to scholars. This fall, the art classrooms from all three campus sites will collaborate on a mural that will be on display at the St. Marcus Gala on November 9! **Thank you to all of our supporters who have made this vital program possible!**



Gretchen and Bill Klug



"THE ARTS ARE ONE OF THE GREATEST GIFTS GOD HAS GIVEN US."





2215 North Palmer St.
Milwaukee, WI 53212
(414) 562-3163

Address Service Requested



St. Marcus is a Christian, high-expectations choice school serving students from grades K3 to 8th.

Using a proven urban education model, St. Marcus seeks to instigate change and provide a community of learning where children and families live, grow, and thrive.

St. Marcus' driving vision is that every family has access to excellent education in the city of Milwaukee.



STMARCUS.ORG/SCHOOL

