

# ACCESS ACADEMIES



ENDING THE CYCLE OF POVERTY THROUGH EDUCATION.

## STUDENT FACTS

- 91% Qualify for Free and/or Reduced Lunch
- 98% Accepted to College-Prep High Schools
- 99% Graduate On-Time
- 93% Are Admitted to College

## Letter from the Executive Director | Mission Effectiveness

Each day I see the great work of the students we serve, whether it is an accomplishment in class, overcoming a personal challenge, or being accepted to a high-performing school. It is rewarding to know that our students are empowered to achieve their academic and personal goals thanks to the guidance of administrators, faculty, and graduate support staff at our three archdiocesan partner schools, as well as 31 college-preparatory high schools. Furthering our students' success is the positive influence of family members who are invested in their child's education and have become fully engaged at their school. This dedication to the success of our students, coupled with the financial support of our donors, is why we are able to achieve our mission ensuring that socially- and/or economically-disadvantaged students in the St. Louis area have access to top-quality, values-based education, regardless of race, ethnicity, or religious affiliation.

Furthermore, I am excited to share several new accomplishments:

- First, we are proud that 100% of our 8th graders have been accepted to college-prep high schools this year.
- Next, we introduced an Academy Student of the Month program at our three partner schools to raise awareness of the academic achievements of our current students.
- Third, we hosted an event in December, which not only raised \$10K for high school scholarships, it also introduced ACCESS to 200 young professionals within the community who want to support our students.
- Finally, we redesigned our website and launched our presence on several social media platforms.

Looking to the future, our Board of Directors is proactively charting our short- and long-term goals through a strategic planning process. This process will set priorities, focus energy and resources, and strengthen operations, while ensuring that employees and other stakeholders are working together toward common goals. It is an involved process, but one that will articulate not only where ACCESS is going, and the actions needed to make progress, but establish a measure by which success can be determined.



Thank you for your continued support. Should you have any additional questions or comments, please feel free to contact me directly by calling (314) 898-0430 or emailing [Blake.Youde@ACCESSacademies.org](mailto:Blake.Youde@ACCESSacademies.org).

Blake E. Youde | Executive Director

Most Holy Trinity School & Academy |

St. Cecilia School & Academy |

St. Louis the King School at the Cathedral

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# 6TH ANNUAL NATIVITYMIGUEL SCHOLARSHIP DINNER



## Plant Roots Grow Brilliance.

**Date: June 4, 2014**  
**Time: 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM**  
**Location: Four Seasons**  
**999 N. 2nd St., St. Louis**

The St. Louis NativityMiguel Scholarship Fund Dinner, sponsored by ACCESS Academies and the Vatterott Foundation, raises high school tuition dollars for more than 300 NativityMiguel graduates from Most Holy Trinity School & Academy, St. Cecilia School & Academy and St. Louis the King School at the Cathedral, as well as three independent NativityMiguel schools – De La Salle Middle School, Loyola Academy and Marian Middle School. The Scholarship Dinner also maintains its commitment to the students from two schools that have closed – The Academy at King of Glory Lutheran School and Central Catholic Academy.

## Student Highlight: Bryant Perry, freshman at De Smet

Bryant Perry, a freshman at De Smet Jesuit High School and an alumni of Most Holy Trinity School & Academy, is learning the value of time management. Each day, Perry leaves his home at 6:00 AM to take an hour-and-a-half bus ride from North Saint Louis just to attend classes.

“Submitting homework is my biggest challenge. My home does not have wiring to support an Internet connection so I must write the answers each night, come to school early the next morning to type my answers on a school computer before submitting my assignments through the school’s online portal. It gets hard to make some deadlines, but I do it,” he says.

Perry then heads off to his first class, which begins at 7:30 AM. He particularly enjoys Biology, and has an “A” in the class. This is reflective of his passion for animals, and his hope of becoming a veterinarian.

Classes end at 2:50 PM, but Perry’s extra-curricular activities are just beginning. A well-respected athlete, he plays a variety of sports, including JV football, JV basketball, and varsity track. He also is a member of several clubs, most notably the Fellowship of the Flow, where members grow their hair and donate the locks to cancer patients. In addition, he is running for class president in hopes of becoming a member of the school’s student government council.

At the end of the day, Perry has another hour-and-a-half bus ride home to his family.



## CLASS OF 2018 MAKES HISTORY

### 100% OF ACCESS EIGHTH GRADERS ACCEPTED TO COLLEGE-PREP HIGH SCHOOLS

High school acceptance letters brought bursts of joy to the homes of middle school students served by ACCESS Academies this year. The “dream-come-true” moment found 100% of ACCESS eighth graders accepted by their school of choice. Since its founding in 2005, the ACCESS program has prepared and propelled 98% of all its 8th grade graduates- approximately 500 students- to college-prep high schools.

High School	ACCESS Students
Bishop DuBourg	4
Cardinal Ritter Prep	6
CBC	1
De Smet	4
Incarnate Word	4
Nerinx Hall	2
Notre Dame	4
Rosati Kain	3
St. John Vianney	3
SLU High	2
St. Mary’s	6
Trinity Catholic	5
Ursuline Academy	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>46</b>



*Pictured: Taylor Neal, 8th grader from St. Louis the King School at the Cathedral, who will be attending Cardinal Ritter College Prep High School in the fall.*

The ACCESS graduate support team guided students and their parents through the challenging and competitive high school application process. ACCESS scholarships and the proceeds from NativityMiguel Scholarship Dinner will provide students attending private school with tuition funds while the Graduate Support Directors continue to monitor the academic success in high school and acceptance to college.