

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 28, 2016

Contact: Vin Ko

Program Manager, St. Louis Mosaic Project
vko@worldtradecenter-stl.com

Contact: Antonia (Toni) Ponder

Development Director, St. Cecilia School and Academy
toniponder@archstl.org



ST. CECILIA SCHOOL AND ACADEMY BECOMES MOSAIC AMBASSADOR SCHOOL IN CONTRIBUTION TO THE VALUE OF THE HISPANIC COMMUNITY

St. Louis, MO - St. Louis Mosaic Project is thrilled to announce St. Cecilia School and Academy as the newest Mosaic Ambassador School. St. Cecilia School and Academy has a significant impact to the Hispanic community in the region.

Antonia (Toni) Ponder, Development Director, expressed her excitement in joining the St. Louis Mosaic Ambassador School program to reinforce the school's welcoming and inclusive culture. The Catholic, Christ-centered urban elementary school focuses on preparing students to proclaim the Good News while translating Gospel values into action. St. Cecilia School and Academy's vision is to create a welcoming atmosphere for children to develop intellectually and spiritually.

St. Cecilia School and Academy supports the St. Louis Mosaic Project by creating a welcoming and diverse community as the school has a large Hispanic student population. The majority of the parents are immigrants to the United States and 75% of the student population is the first generation of American citizens. St. Cecilia practices diversity in their hiring process as well. In addition to the Spanish speaking students, many of the staff, including the Principal is bi-lingual. In part of a welcoming effort, all of St. Cecilia's documents, flyers and communication to the community are prepared in both Spanish and English.

The School has become known for its "Mexican Fish Fry", in an effort to connect the students to their diverse cultures. Every Friday during the Lenten Season, the community prepares and cooks authentic Mexican food. Every week during Lenten, over 1000 people across the region participate in St. Cecilia celebrations where students are encouraged to perform traditional Mexican dance and a Mariachi band performs. In conjunction with Cinco de Mayo this year, St. Cecilia will have their own Cinco de Mayo Fiesta that will include an authentic Mexican dinner, art exhibit by Latino artists, games, and performances by Hispanic students. The Fiesta will take place on Thursday, May 05, 2016. Click [here](#) for more information and to purchase tickets for this event.

Aside from St. Cecilia's profound dedication to students through the school programs, their parish, St. Cecilia Church has been designated within the Archdiocese as the official church for Hispanic Ministry.

The St. Louis Mosaic Project is proud to represent St. Cecilia School and Academy as an Ambassador School and is extremely excited to work with St. Cecilia in future efforts to further establish diversity and prosperity to the Hispanic community.

About the St. Louis Mosaic Project

The St. Louis Mosaic Project was launched in 2012 in response to an economic impact report, outlining St. Louis to be lagging in immigrant growth as well as highlighting the economic benefits of increasing its foreign-born population. The Mosaic Project is a regional initiative that is professionally managed by St. Louis Economic Development Partnership, World Trade Center and a 27-member committee. Its goal is to transform St. Louis into the fastest growing major metropolitan area for immigration by 2020 and promote regional prosperity through immigration and innovation. Learn more at www.stlmosaicproject.org

About St. Cecilia School and Academy

We are a Catholic elementary, Christ-centered, urban school helping prepare its students to proclaim the Good News and to translate Gospel values into action. The education received is important, both for the individual, in promoting the dignity of human life, and for society, in actively pursuing peace and justice. These skills and virtues are necessary for effective service to the community and for the development of a well-balanced person. Therefore, as a faith community, our vision is to provide an atmosphere in which each child can develop intellectually, spiritually, emotionally, socially, and physically. Learn more at <http://stc-stl.org>