

NEWS RELEASE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:
Peter M. Schroeder
Principal
Schroeder@cabriniacademy.org
314-776-0883



St. Frances Cabrini Academy announced as the 9th St. Louis Mosaic Ambassador School

The St. Louis Mosaic Project is excited to announce that St. Frances Cabrini Academy will join the Mosaic Ambassador School Program as the ninth member in the region. One of the missions of St. Frances Cabrini is to nourish a diverse culture and a comfortable learning environment by recruiting students from different countries, ethnic backgrounds, and faith traditions. This mission aligns with the Mosaic Project's goal to transform St. Louis into the fastest growing metropolitan area for immigration by 2020. As the Mosaic Project places significant emphasis on building a welcoming community that will attract and retain more foreign-born families and refugees to the region, Ambassador Schools play a vital role in this transformation.

Vin Ko, Program Manager, of the St. Louis Mosaic Project mentions, "The number of communities that are touched by these parishes is astonishing. St. Frances Cabrini is truly having a global impact via local service. They are a testament to how a community can really rally together to celebrate and educate one another about different cultures."

St. Frances Cabrini is a Catholic elementary school named after Mother Cabrini, who was known for her excellent work in cultivating an inclusive atmosphere for foreign-born individuals through education. The school serves eight parishes in a very diverse area of South St. Louis City. The parish communities include members from Vietnam, Belize, Burma, China, Guatemala, Ivory Coast, Mexico, Sudan, Togo, Burundi, Eritrea, Haiti, Nigeria, the Philippines, and Somalia. Services are in English, Polish, Vietnamese and Croatian.

St. Frances Cabrini is already engaging in a list of action items to create an internationally welcoming community for the region. Notably, the school has a diverse student population, which includes 13%

African, 24% Hispanic, 9% Asian, and 5% Multi-racial. These students bring many different cultures, languages, and faith traditions to their fellow classmates and faculty. In regards to faculty, the school has also recruited two bilingual teachers, including one who is an immigrant from Spain. In working to nourish such a welcoming culture in the community through its events and programs, the school has already made strides. For example, the school community celebrates ethnic, cultural, religious, and secular holidays together. Furthermore, priests from sponsoring parishes who assist with school functions and activities hail from diverse cultures. In addition, the school works with the English Tutoring Project that provides language acquisition classes for non-English speakers, and has formed extra-curricular activities – such as the Spanish club – to engage students. It is also notable to mention the school’s annual presentation that highlights the contributions of different cultures, such as “Words from the Drum” by Kunama Mtendaji – singing, dancing, and story-telling using music and dance originating from Africa, Brazil, and the Caribbean.

After joining the St. Louis Mosaic Project as a partner and an Ambassador School, St. Frances Cabrini Academy will continue to further assist immigrant families and contribute to the Mosaic Project’s mission. The school plans to expand the number of languages spoken and read by the parents of the students. The school has also set a goal to prioritize cultural diversity through the recruitment of new members for the Board of Education, and in its evaluation of candidates for teaching and staff positions. Furthermore, the school will co-market the Mosaic Project’s initiatives by including information in publications and on the school website, and by sharing materials with families.

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 St. Louis and a 22-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.