

FALL 2026

2025-2026 ANNUAL REPORT EDITION
ISSUE 01

CUES NEWS

A MASTERFUL YEAR OF LEARNING, BELONGING, AND HOPE



BECAUSE OF YOU, STUDENTS HAVE THE SUPPORT
TO OVERCOME BARRIERS, KEEP LEARNING, AND
BUILD A STRONG FOUNDATION FOR THE FUTURE.

A Message from the President



This special edition of CUES NEWS celebrates the students, families, educators, partners, and donors who shaped the 2025–2026 school year. As you read these stories and milestones, I hope you see the difference your continued partnership makes in the lives of CUES students and families—and throughout our community.

Thank you for your commitment to our students and for being part of the CUES community.

Fr. David Korth

Fr. Dave Korth

President, CUES School System

See What Opportunity Looks Like

Opportunity takes shape every day at CUES—in classrooms, in families, and in the next steps students are preparing to take. Across All Saints, Holy Name, and Sacred Heart, those moments reflect the lasting impact of a CUES education.

Opportunity Looks Like...

Students growing academically

through high expectations, dedicated teachers, and learning that builds skills and confidence.

Families finding support

through practical resources, trusted relationships, and guidance that helps reduce barriers to learning.

Students preparing for what comes next

with support for high school, scholarships, college planning, and opportunities beyond graduation.

Stronger communities

as students and families build foundations that create lasting opportunity across Omaha.



CUES Leadership and Governance

July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026



CUES Fund

Board of Directors

Chair: John Reed

Vice Chair: Brian Harr

Secretary: George Achola

Treasurer: Ralph Castner

CEO & Executive Director:

Marzia Puccioni Shields
(Retired, June 2026)

Board Members:

Dave Audino

Rick Bettger

Bob Carlisle

Pamela Finn

William Tate Fitzgerald

Jacob Idra*

Joel Jensen

Jeanie Jones

Kerry Kelley

Matt Kizer

Chris Knauf

Fr. David Korth

Kevin O'Malley

Angie Quinn

John Schuele

Ann Schumacher

Thomas Sudyka

Matt Tondl

Tony Veland

Justin Vossen

CUES Fund

Leadership & Staff

Leadership:

CEO & Executive Director:

Marzia Puccioni Shields
(Retired, June 2026)

Chief Development Officer:

Chris Bauer

Chief Operating Officer:

Mitch McCartney

Controller:

Paula Sharpe (as of April 2026)

Staff:

Director of Events, Corporate Giving & Marketing:

Silvia Rodriguez

Development Manager:

Chris Whitted

Executive Administrator:

Christina Siegel

Accountant:

Tim Adams

CUES School System Board of Governors

Most Reverend Michael McGovern, Archbishop
of Omaha

Fr. Dave Korth, CUES School System President

Brian Harr, CUES Fund Board Representative

Carin Appleget, Ph.D.

Jean Hearn, EdD

Vira Brooks

Jade LaPointe

Jody-Ann Coore

Candace Moore



*All Saints Alumnus



CUES Mission & Vision



CUES FUND MISSION

CUES Fund secures financial gifts to support CUES School System's people, programs and services to build a brighter future for students and families.

CUES FUND VISION

To be a catalyst for community transformation through investment in education, family support, and faith-based values.



CUES SCHOOL SYSTEM MISSION

CUES School System cultivates confident, capable learners through faith and evidence-based instruction, family engagement, and supportive community partnerships.

CUES SCHOOL SYSTEM VISION

To inspire transformation within students, families, and communities through love, faith, and excellent education.

About CUES



Potential is everywhere. Opportunity should be too.

CUES School System serves over 600 Pre-K - 8th grade students across All Saints, Holy Name, and Sacred Heart schools in Omaha. Our mission is rooted in the belief that every child deserves access to a strong education, a caring school community, and the support needed to succeed both in and beyond the classroom.

The CUES model takes a unique approach to education. Students are challenged through strong academics and high expectations, while teachers and staff build relationships that help each child feel known, supported, and encouraged to grow.

CUES also provides practical wraparound services that address barriers to learning, including mental and behavioral health support, family engagement, access to essential resources, and community partnerships that strengthen the connection between school, home, and community. Together, these supports help students build confidence, stay engaged in learning, strengthen their skills, and prepare for what comes next.

Across all three schools, CUES is committed to helping students become confident, capable learners while supporting families and strengthening communities. The goal is not only to help students succeed today, but to build a strong foundation for continued growth, greater opportunity, and a future in which they can thrive.



Welcome Jason

CUES Fund is excited to welcome Jason Feldhaus as the new CEO and Executive Director of CUES Fund. Jason brings more than 20 years of experience in nonprofit leadership, human services, and community partnerships supporting children and families.





Our Schools



1955

Established

ANGIE WHITFIELD

Principal

166

Students

17:1

*Average Class
Size*

57%

of students are Catholic

10%

*of students are enrolled
in special education*



1917

Established

DR. KIMBERLYN OLIVER

Principal

304

Students

17:1

*Average Class
Size*

28%

of students are Catholic

11%

*of students are enrolled
in special education*



**SACRED
HEART
SCHOOL**

1904

Established

MIKE JENSEN

Principal

156

Students

15:1

*Average Class
Size*

5%

of students are Catholic

13%

*of students are enrolled
in special education*

100%

*of students receive free/reduced meals,
and qualify for financial education assistance*

CUES School System Leadership

Chief Academic Officer:

Terri Bush

Director of Technology:

Edward Butler

Director of Student and Family Support:

Jim Swanson

Director of STEAM Education:

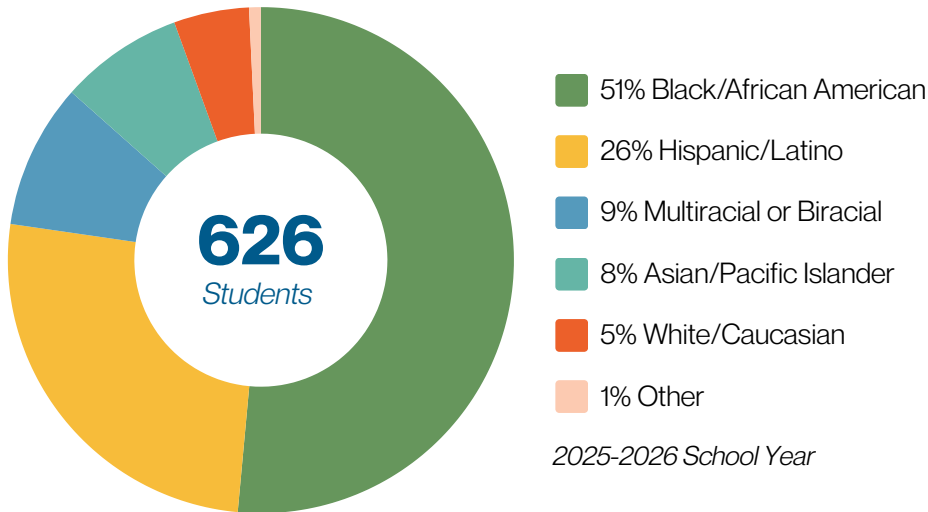
Sonja Kirksey

Director of Mental Health Services:

Jamal Morton, MS, LMHP



Our Students



70%

of Students are
not Catholic



95%

Students of Color



14%

of Students Received
Specialized
Academic Support



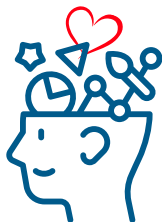
100%

of Class of 2026 is
Attending High School



100%

Family Participation in
Parent/Teacher
Conferences



20%

of Students Received
On-Site Mental
Health Therapy



34%

of Students Received
On-Site Behavioral
Health Support

Through Boys Town



93%

CUES Alums Graduated
High School
8th grade class of 2022



Opportunity **Beyond the Classroom**

A strong education is about more than what happens in the classroom. CUES provides programs and partnerships that help remove barriers to learning, support families, and give students the resources they need to thrive.

Student and Family Support Program

Our Student & Family Support team helps students and families navigate challenges and prepare for what comes next. Students receive high school readiness support, scholarship guidance, leadership development, and help overcoming barriers that may affect their education. The program also supports the whole family by connecting parents with resources such as financial education and entrepreneurship courses, while helping families problem-solve practical challenges, including transportation and other needs that can make it difficult for students to get to school and succeed.



Mental Health Services

Students learn best when their mental and emotional health needs are supported. Each CUES school provides students with access to an on-site licensed therapist who can help them work through challenges, build healthy coping skills, strengthen relationships, and manage stress. By providing this support within the school environment, students can receive help when they need it while continuing to feel connected to their teachers, classmates, and school community.

Opportunity Beyond the Classroom



Madonna Ability Alliance

Through our partnership with Madonna, CUES provides additional support for students with specialized learning needs through a program based at Holy Name Catholic School. Students from any of our three schools can access these services when additional support is needed. This partnership allows CUES to better meet students where they are, provide more individualized learning opportunities, and help children with a wider range of abilities learn and grow within the CUES community.



After-School Enrichment

For many CUES families, the school day ends hours before the workday does. Free after-school programs at all three schools provide students with a safe, caring place to complete homework, spend time with peers, and continue learning until their families can pick them up. Through partnerships with **Completely KIDS** and **The Hope Center for Kids**, CUES helps working parents know their children are supported and cared for beyond regular school hours.





Opportunity in Action

Meet Chudear CUES Class of 2026

A Community That Carries You Forward

When Chudear Gony joined Sacred Heart School in fourth grade, she was nervous and unsure of where she would fit. It did not take long for Sacred Heart to feel like home.

Teachers and staff helped her feel safe, supported, and part of a community that extended beyond the classroom. For Chudear's family, CUES became a trusted partner, connecting them with resources and opportunities through the Student & Family Support Program.

That sense of community stayed with Chudear as she started Mercy High School in the fall of 2026. Through the CUES Leadership Academy, she built relationships with students from across all three CUES schools before graduation. Thanks to those connections, she entered Mercy already knowing other CUES students who support her through the transition, helping a new school feel a little less unfamiliar.

“CUES is family and community to me,” Chudear shared.

Now, Chudear dreams of becoming a registered nurse so she can help others and give back to her community. CUES continues to encourage that dream as she takes her next steps forward.

**The graduating class of 2026:
87% attending Catholic high schools;
13% attending public schools.**





Meet Jordan CUES Class of 2022

Building a Path to What Comes Next



Jordan Martinez's journey with CUES began at Holy Name, where he found more than a school. He found what he calls "opportunity and community" — a place where teachers and staff knew his story, encouraged his interests, and helped him see what was possible.

That support continued long after Jordan graduated from CUES in 2022. Through CUES wraparound services, Jordan and his family received guidance as he moved on to Roncalli Catholic High School, explored college options, and prepared for what comes next. CUES also connected his mother, Angelica, with a microbusiness workshop as she worked toward opening her own home healthcare business.

"I graduated from CUES in 2022, and today I'm still part of the CUES community."

Today, Jordan is the first person in his family to attend a four-year college. In August 2026, he began his freshman year at Ripon College in Wisconsin, where he plans to study history, political science, and criminal justice. Hardworking and determined to build a financially stable future, Jordan earned multiple scholarships that cover most of his college costs. He worked part-time at FedEx in Omaha and secured a transfer to Wisconsin so he can continue working while in school and help cover his remaining expenses.

That sense of possibility is growing across his family. As Jordan prepares to begin college, Angelica is taking the final steps toward opening her home healthcare business. For both of them, CUES has been a lasting source of guidance, connection, and opportunity — helping a family turn possibilities into a stronger future.

The CUES Class of 2022 is taking its next big step.

This year, CUES Class of 2022 alumni graduated from high school and are preparing for what comes next. Of the 51 alumni who responded to our recent outreach survey, 70% will be the first in their families to attend college.



Read Chudear &
Jordan's full stories

The Gathering 2026

A Masterful Tradition Unlike Any Other

Inspired by the tradition and spirit of the Masters Tournament, The Gathering 2026 brought the CUES community together for an unforgettable evening in support of students and families.

Led by Event Chair Jeanie Jones and Honorary Chairs Gerald and Lynn Timmerman, **the event raised a record-breaking \$1.1 million**—the highest total in Gathering history. This extraordinary generosity reflects the commitment of donors, sponsors, volunteers, and friends who believe every student deserves access to a high-quality, faith-centered education and the support needed to thrive.

We are deeply grateful to everyone who helped make the evening a success. Because of you, CUES can continue removing barriers to learning, strengthening families, and building brighter futures for students across All Saints, Holy Name, and Sacred Heart.



The Schuele Family & Friends



Nikki Boulay, Fr. Dave Korth & Jeanie Jones

The Gathering 2026

Keynote Speaker, Obadiah Laa

From All Saints to a Future in Finance



Obadiah Laa's story with CUES began in a preschool classroom at All Saints Catholic School. But for Obadiah, CUES has never been just about where he went to school.

“CUES has not just impacted me; it has shaped my entire family.”

The son of refugees from South Sudan, Obadiah grew up in a family that believed deeply in the power of education. At All Saints, that belief was met by a community that knew his family, recognized his potential, and stood beside him year after year.

Teachers noticed when he struggled. They celebrated when he succeeded. They challenged him, encouraged him, and helped him develop the confidence and discipline to imagine more for his future.

That foundation opened doors. Obadiah earned a scholarship to Mount Michael Benedictine High School and later enrolled at Creighton University Heider College of Business, where he is studying finance and pursuing a career in banking.

Looking back, he sees a direct line between the child who walked into All Saints and the future he is building today.

“I would not be standing here without All Saints. I would not be at Creighton. I would not be heading into an internship with my eyes set on a career in finance. None of it happens without the foundation I was given through CUES.”

Obadiah's story is a reminder that when opportunity reaches one student, its impact can extend far beyond the classroom — shaping a future, strengthening a family, and changing what feels possible.



Our Financials

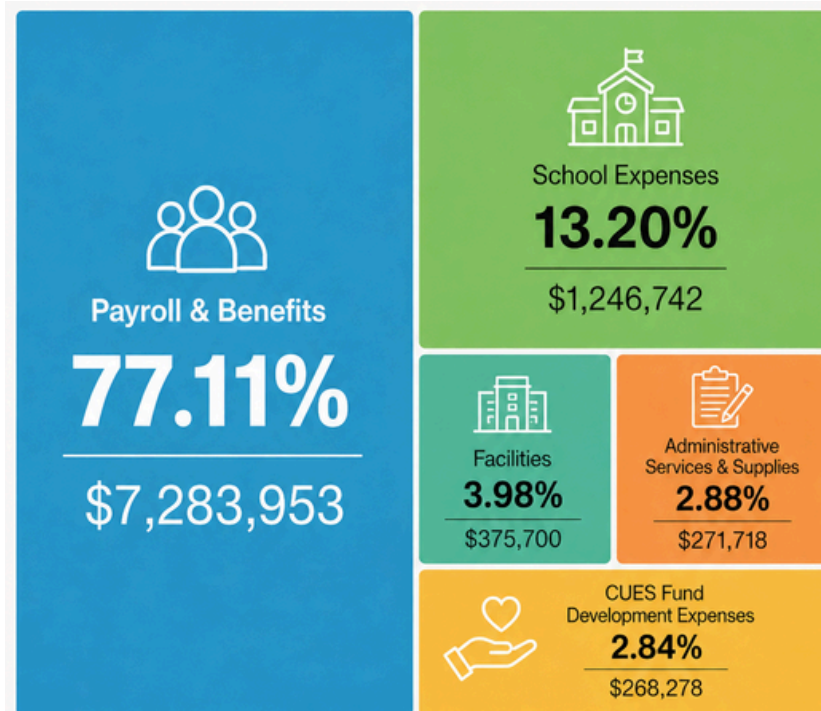
July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026



* Children's Scholarship Fund

** Includes revenue collected from families.

Total Operating Revenue: **\$9,981,347**



Total Operating Expenses: **\$9,446,391**

Because of You

Opportunity is Possible



Throughout these pages, you've seen what opportunity looks like at CUES—students growing, families finding support, and graduates taking their next steps. None of it happens without you.

Your generosity gives CUES students the education, resources, and support they need to build strong futures.

Thank you for making opportunity possible.

Scan the QR code to read Chudear and Jordan's full stories.



Thank You

for believing in our students.
for investing in their potential.
for being part of CUES.

Contact Us

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