

LIGHTING THE WAY FOR OUR KIDS.

In partnership with FIRE, 14 area Catholic schools will welcome students with special needs into classrooms this year. We are blessed to be able to support inclusive learning at these schools and look forward to welcoming additional schools into the FIRE family in the future.

- Holy Cross
- Nativity of Mary
- Notre Dame de Sion
- Our Lady of Hope
- Our Lady of the Presentation
- St. Elizabeth
- St. Michael the Archangel High School
- St. Patrick
- St. Peter's
- St. Pius X High School
- St. Regis Academy
- St. Therese
- St. Thomas More
- Visitation



DID YOU KNOW?

Catholic school students who have an IEP or ISP may be eligible for a \$6,375 scholarship. For more info, visit brightfuturesfund.org/moscholars

YOUR GIFTS OF TIME, TALENT AND TREASURE KEEP FIRE'S FLAME BURNING BRIGHTLY.

Your support provides children with special needs the opportunity for an inclusive education at the Catholic schools they attend. Through fundraising and advocacy, FIRE plays a vital role in acquiring trained personnel, technology and special learning materials to meet unique learning needs. There are more schools, families and children who await the spark of FIRE.

**Do you believe Catholic education is for
children of ALL abilities? We need your support.**

VOLUNTEER

Assist with a FIRE special event, project or initiative.

SPONSOR

Support a FUNdraising event:
Play with FIRE Golf Tournament,
Purses with Purpose
or FIRE Ball Gala.

INCLUDE

Remember FIRE in your estate
planning with a gift to the
FIRE Foundation Endowment Fund.

DONATE

Send a check or give online.
Your donation is tax deductible.

ATTEND

Join us at one of the above events.

PRAY

Remember the children,
families and educators
who bring FIRE's mission to life.



fire
FOUNDATION

Igniting Inclusive Catholic Education

20 West 9th Street | Kansas City, MO 64105

816-520-2619 or 816-810-1199

firefoundation.org

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2022-2023

WHO BENEFITS FROM FIRE?

In a word – EVERYONE!

Some disabilities are visible. Others are not.

Some students require additional support daily. Others need assistance only occasionally. What matters most is that students have access to support when they need it. FIRE helps schools provide resources and support so students can succeed and make progress toward goals. Inclusion makes learning better for ALL students and provides a perfect opportunity for living our Catholic faith daily.

444

students with significant disabilities learn alongside their peers with direct support from trained staff

849

STUDENTS BENEFIT FROM AVAILABLE SPECIAL EDUCATION SUPPORT

6.73

MILLION DOLLARS HAS BEEN GRANTED BY FIRE TO SUPPORT INCLUSION

26

YEARS THAT FIRE HAS SUPPORTED INCLUSIVE CATHOLIC EDUCATION

14

PARTNER SCHOOLS

4,504

students' lives are enriched by inclusive education

When you donate to FIRE, YOU make it possible for schools to:

- Hire para-professionals who provide appropriate support to students
- Hire special educators who guide instruction so students meet goals
- Acquire technology, curriculum and adaptive equipment that enhance learning
- Offer professional development and training so educators can address students' unique challenges more effectively
- Continue opening the doors of Catholic schools to new students with disabilities



OUR MISSION

To provide children with special needs the opportunity for an inclusive education in the Catholic schools they attend.

FIRE OPENS DOORS. AND HEARTS.

Can you imagine the heartache of being told your parish school was not able or willing to welcome your child with special needs? Lack of resources is often cited as a reason for turning away students with disabilities. It shouldn't be that way at Catholic schools.

In the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph, the FIRE Foundation helps schools create learning environments where students with special needs learn, grow and thrive alongside their typically developing peers. Through fundraising and advocacy, FIRE lights the way for children with a range of disabilities to share in the opportunities that Catholic schools provide. Inclusive education fosters a culture of acceptance and compassion where ALL students grow together in faith, knowledge and friendship. Without funding from FIRE, most students with special learning needs would not be able to attend Catholic schools.

As FIRE celebrates its 26th year, the Foundation welcomes new opportunities to ignite inclusive Catholic education. Pope Francis calls us to "build an educational relationship with each student, who must feel welcomed and loved for what he or she is, with all of the limitations or potential." It is a blessing and a privilege to partner with Catholic schools that are committed to embracing the call to serve all learners.

IT ALL ADDS UP TO OVER \$6 MILLION INVESTED IN STUDENTS' SUCCESS.

FIRE is investing over \$800,000 in Catholic schools located in our Diocese through grants, scholarships and a Speech-Language/Occupational Therapy program during the 2022-23 school year. In some schools this supports up to 60% of inclusive programming.



FIRE IS SPREADING

The FIRE Foundation is an independent 501(c)3 organization. We are proud to share our model for supporting inclusive Catholic education with our affiliate partners.

- FIRE Foundation (EST. 1996 IN KANSAS CITY)
- FIRE Foundation of Northeast Iowa (EST. 2016)
- FIRE Foundation of Central Illinois (EST. 2019)
- FIRE Foundation of New Hampshire (EST. 2019)

- FIRE Foundation of Dallas (EST. 2019)
- FIRE Foundation of Northwest Indiana (EST. 2019)
- FIRE Foundation of Northwest Iowa (EST. 2021)
- FIRE Foundation of Denver (EST. 2021)