



Our Mother of Consolation Parish School

17 E. Chestnut Hill Ave ♦ Philadelphia, PA 19118 ♦ 215-247-1060 ♦ school.omcparish.com

♦ *Catholic Values and Academic Excellence in a Parish School setting since 1862* ♦

For Immediate Release

Contact

Colleen Amuso
Director of Advancement
camuso@omcparish.com
215-247-1060

Our Mother of Consolation Parish School Named National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence; First Archdiocesan Elementary School in Philadelphia City to Win Distinction

Philadelphia, PA (September 29, 2015) - U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan today announced that Our Mother of Consolation Parish School (OMC) was selected by the U.S. Department of Education as a National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence for 2015 based on the school's overall academic excellence. The school will be honored at a formal ceremony in Washington, DC on November 9. Three hundred thirty five schools across the country (285 public schools and 50 private schools) were recognized this year.

OMC is the first Archdiocesan elementary school in the city of Philadelphia to ever be awarded the Blue Ribbon School distinction. The school exceeded the program's eligibility requirements by continuing to score in the top 15 percent of the U.S. on national Terra Nova standardized tests, offering exceptional programs and activities for students, and possessing a strong community of distinguished faculty and involved families.

"Receiving the 2015 National Blue Ribbon award validates the hard work of our entire community – faculty, staff, students, and parents," said Mr. Bruce Hagy, principal of OMC. "We have always reached for academic excellence, and this recognition only serves to publicize what we already know – OMC Parish School is an exceptional place for students to learn and thrive."

"Being the first Archdiocesan elementary school in the city of Philadelphia to receive Blue Ribbon distinction is truly an honor and it supports our long history of educating the whole child – academically, spiritually, and socially," said Fr. Robert Bazzoli, OSFS, pastor of OMC Parish. "This recognition is directly attributed to the strong dedication of our school community and the outstanding leadership of our principal Bruce Hagy."

"This honor recognizes your students' accomplishments and the hard work and dedication that went into their success," Secretary Duncan said in a video message to all of the awardees. "Your journey has taught you collaboration, intentional instruction, and strong relationships in school and with your community. You represent excellence—in vision, in implementation, and in results—and we want to learn as much as we can from you."

The National Blue Ribbon Schools Program recognizes public and non-public elementary, middle, and high schools based on their overall academic excellence or their progress in closing achievement gaps among student

subgroups. Every year the U. S. Department of Education seeks out and celebrates great American schools, schools demonstrating that all students can achieve to high levels. The National Blue Ribbon School award affirms the hard work of students, educators, families, and communities in creating safe and welcoming schools where students master challenging content.

For more information on today's announcement, please see the official press release at <http://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/us-education-secretary-arne-duncan-announces-2015-national-blue-ribbon-schools>

About Our Mother of Consolation Parish School

Our Mother of Consolation Parish School is a Catholic elementary school (Pre K through Eighth Grade) serving families in Chestnut Hill and the surrounding areas in Northwest Philadelphia and nearby suburbs. With equal focus on Catholic Values and Academic Excellence, OMC is a strong, vibrant, and thriving school characterized by small class sizes, superb administration and faculty, rich diversity, exceptional parent volunteerism, and a genuinely warm and friendly family atmosphere. Learn more online at school.omcparish.com.

###