

The CTK Promise



Bulletin Board

Save the Date: Mayor and Cardinal to attend Groundbreaking on June 26th at 10:45 AM!

Please plan on attending! We will be hosting staff, students, religious leaders, city officials and members of the press at an official groundbreaking for our school. The event will be at 5058 W. Jackson Blvd.

Volunteers Needed to Drive Buses to and From Corporate Internships: Email John Maliff at jmaliff@ctkjesuit.org

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Christ the King is First Catholic High School to Open on West Side in 85 Years

Christ the King Jesuit College Prep is "coming home" to Chicago as the 20th Cristo Rey Model School.

Founded in Chicago in 1996, the Cristo Rey model was developed when a group of Jesuit educators came together to try to find a better high school option for youth of the Pilsen/Little Village community. With a median household income of \$26,000, Pilsen families were unable to afford a private college-preparatory education. The group developed the innovative idea to partner with Chicago companies to form the Corporate Internship Program (CIP). Through this work-study program, all students work five days a month in entry-level jobs

in Chicago firms to fund over 80% of the cost of their education.



Fr. Chris Devron, S.J., President, Sonji Cooks, Director of Admissions and Brendan Conroy, Principal in front of the Future Site of CTK

Now, after twelve years, Cristo Rey network schools have received national and international attention as a breakthrough educational model that achieves results. In 2007, 99% of Cristo Rey network school graduates enrolled in two and four year colleges.

During the 2008-2009 school year, Christ the King will occupy temporary space at St. Martin de Porres school located at Washington Blvd. and LeClaire Ave. until the new school building at 5058 W. Jackson Blvd. The school will eventually serve 600 students but will open to a freshman class of 120 this Fall 2008, and add one class per year. Christ the King is following up with organizations to finalize their commitments for all of the work-study positions necessary for the incoming freshman. If you are interested in having a job filled by one of our students now or in the future, please contact Preston Kendall at pkedall@ctkjesuit.org.

The Critical Need: Less than 20% of Students from the West Side Neighborhoods Served Attend College

Among the startling statistics about the neighborhoods Christ the King will serve: only 11% of students tested meet state learning standards.; only 49% of students in these neighborhoods graduate from high school; of those, only 38% go on to college.

There are more than 14,000 high school aged youth in the Austin

neighborhood with only 7,000 spaces at local schools. The local high school, Austin, recently closed because it did not meet the minimum state requirements. The closing means that half of the students in the neighborhood have to travel long distances just to attend high school.

Students will come to Christ the King from Austin, North Lawndale, East Garfield Park, West Garfield Park and Humboldt Park. With a median income of \$26,000, it is very improbable that these families could obtain a private, college-prep school education.

The Principal Story: Meet Brendan Conroy

In starting a brand new high school, the tasks and responsibilities are numerous, and without a doubt, occasionally overwhelming. But Christ the King (CTK) Principal Brendan Conroy has a vision of the school in five years that keeps him going strong. "I see graduating students who are

— a challenge of my whole being — that's what drew me to teaching. I applied to Leo High School and got the job as an English teacher. I haven't looked back since..."

Brendan went on to complete his teacher preparation studies at Chicago State University in 1989. Subsequently, he went on to

receive his MA in English from the University of Mississippi in 1997 and then complete his Masters in Educational Leadership Curriculum and Foundations at Chicago State University in 2001. He spent 13 years at St. Ignatius in many capacities: English teacher, coach, department chair, Admissions and Recruiting Director and as

Assistant Principal for both Student Services and Academic Programs.

What drew him to Christ the King? Brendan says it is a return to what originally pulled him into teaching—a desire to give kids an opportunity—kids who might not otherwise have the opportunity for a Catholic, Jesuit, college prep education. "I believe that this is where the Catholic Church and the Jesuits should be. CTK is here because of the generosity and faith of so many people—the Jesuits and their collaborators, the archdiocese, religious and community leaders of the West Side, families who have welcomed us because they want a good education for their kids."

Conroy especially appreciates the attributes of Jesuit education that will be at the heart of Christ the King. "I've grown to love many, many aspects of Jesuit education. Through my experience at St. Ignatius, I learned there's an expectation of excellence and a teachable moment in all we do as Jesuit educators—from casual

conversations between a teacher and a student, to teaching a class, to excellent preparation because your students deserve your best every day."

Along with identifying and admitting the Class of 2012, Conroy's highest priority is hiring the founding faculty, a group he knows will be critical to the success of the school. He is enthusiastic about the progress in hiring the group of 5 teachers for the freshman class of 120 students entering this August. "I am thrilled with the candidates who are surfacing. They are so professional and incredibly committed to CTK's mission. People are really excited about what is happening on the West Side, and sharing that enthusiasm with students is part of what makes great teaching."

Brendan knows there will be many challenges to come in starting and running a brand new high school. He admits that many of these challenges are still unknown, but hopes that keeping the mission in mind will prove successful in overcoming most obstacles. "We continually talk about the 'Graduate at Graduation'—who we want our students to be when they walk across the graduation stage to get their diplomas: intellectually competent, open to growth, religious, loving, committed to justice, and work-experienced. I think those qualities epitomize the best of the long history of Jesuit education, and they will be embodied in our best hope for the future—our graduates. When we talk about those 6 characteristics with prospective students and parents, or teacher applicants, they get why we are here."

Brendan lives in Beverly with his wife Terry and their five children.



From left: Terry Conroy, Fr. Ted Munz, S.J., President of Loyola Academy, Brendan Conroy, Principal

going off to college and coming back and sharing with us their successes—who are telling us about how well-prepared they are as a result of their education at CTK. I see CTK as the place people know on the West Side where kids get ahead, where they think about the world and envision it as it could be. I see CTK as good neighbors in Austin, too, having a great opportunity help lift up the neighborhood."

Brendan joined CTK last November. Most recently, he was Assistant Principal at St. Ignatius College Prep. Originally from Grand Rapids, Michigan, Brendan moved to Chicago in 1985 after completing his undergraduate degree as an English major at the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Indiana. He was drawn to teaching only after working in insurance and publishing for a couple of years after college.

"In one of my first jobs working for an educational publisher, I met more and more people in education and I saw their commitment to their students. I had a desire to be challenged at my core

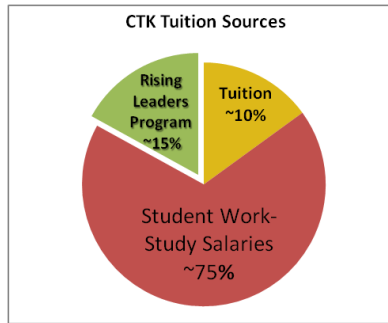
"What makes this place special is that CTK will try to give an opportunity to students who deserve it—who have potential that our teachers and sponsors might be able to help them uncover. It can be life-changing ... not only for the kids but for their families."



Rising Leaders Adopt-a-Student Program Helps Realize Dreams of Students and their Families

CTK students will come from economically disadvantaged, often at-risk situations. They make a real sacrifice to attend Christ the King. First, each family makes a financial commitment to pay *some* level of tuition, based on their personal circumstances and ability. Additionally, almost all of CTK students will receive some financial aid to supplement tuition. Finally, each student works for one of our Corporate Work/Study partners and contributes his or her salary toward the cost of education at CTK. Together, the tuition payments

and salary contributions cover about 80% of each student's cost.



The *Rising Leaders Adopt-a-Student Program* will bridge the tuition gap, based on each student's individual need after the family contribution and financial

aid. "For the class of 2012, 120 students will need a total of almost \$500,000," says Dan O'Brien, Development Officer. Each student needs a specific amount to cover their tuition, starting from \$3000 and ranging to \$5000. "This is a very personal way to contribute to Christ the King and invest in the future of these young men and women," O'Brien says.

If you are interested in learning more about the *Rising Leaders Program*, please contact Sr. Mary Fran McLaughlin at mmclaughlin@ctkjesuit.org or 773-885-5659.

"For the Class of 2012, 128 students will need a total of almost \$500,000 to supplement the corporate internship and family contributions to tuition."

Building the Dream: Cardinal and Mayor to Attend June 26th Groundbreaking for New School

Please save the date and join us as we celebrate the start of building the 100,000 square foot Christ the King Jesuit College Prep School (CTK) building. The event is on June 26th and will begin at 10:45AM at 5058 W. Jackson Blvd. Among other honored guests will be His Eminence, Cardinal Francis George, who will preside at the ground breaking and blessing of the site and Mayor Richard M. Daley, who will offer remarks.

Why build a whole new school building? "There were absolutely no viable existing school buildings on the West Side," says Jack Crowe, CTK Trustee and Chairman of the Building Commit-



tee. According to Crowe the school building is going to impact not only the kids who go to school there, but the neighborhood as well. The architecture, by celebrated Chicago architect John Ronan, is uniquely open. "The school will literally and figuratively be a beacon on the west side," says Crowe, "People in the neighborhood driving by will see the kids in the cafeteria-- and

when there are religious services at night, the chapel will be beautifully lit."

The building is scheduled for occupancy in August, 2009 and will serve 600 students at full capacity. If you are interested in contributing to the building, please contact Sr. Mary Fran McLaughlin at mmclaughlin@ctkjesuit.org or 773-885-5659.

Timeline: CTK is on a Rapid Rise

2008	2009	2011
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Groundbreaking June 26, 10:45 ● School opens (freshmen only) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Freshman & Sophomore Classes enroll ● Students Move to New School Building 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● School Fully Enrolled with 600 Students; 1st class graduates June, 2012





Christ the King Jesuit College Preparatory School

The CTK Promise

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CHRIST THE KING
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Advancing the Promise of Our Future for the Greater Glory of God

Sound-Off: Prospective Students and their Families Already Passionate about Christ the King

I think that Christ the King is a great opportunity for me to better my education and for me to gain work experience. - Monique, 8th Grader and Accepted for CTK Class of 2012

Gonna be the first one be in the lunch line. Gonna be the first one to sit at the desk. Gonna be the first one to use the lockers. Hopefully not the first one to be in detention though. -Bryant, 8th Grader and Accepted for CTK Class of 2012 on being in the 1st class of students at CTK

I'm excited about the things that Christ the King has to offer such as the jobs. And how the teachers are gonna be helpin' me throughout high school and when I go to college and stuff. And how they're gonna be guiding me every step of the way until I graduate. - Brittany, 8th Grader and Accepted for CTK Class of 2012

I think definitely the neighborhood does need a fresh makeover and Christ the King



Students from San Miguel Middle School, a school in the Austin neighborhood, sing at a press conference for CTK last Fall.

coming here would definitely be the beginning of something wonderful within this community. - Pat, Parent of Twins Accepted for CTK Class of 2012

This school has really caught my attention and I would love to be apart of Christ The King... This is the school of my dreams. - Jasmine, 8th Grader and Accepted for CTK Class of 2012

I want to come to Christ the King really,

REALLY bad. —Monique, 8th Grader and Accepted for CTK Class of 2012

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