



LUMIN Schools
LUTHERAN URBAN MISSION INITIATIVE, INC.

November 27, 2017

Friends,

I am writing to share much good news with you! As you may recall, Wisconsin's Department of Public Instruction recently released the public version of its 2016-'17 Accountability Report Cards for all schools (and public school districts) in the state of Wisconsin that receive public funding. The report card ratings are based on four key areas: student achievement in math and language arts on state exams; growth in student performance; how well schools close achievement gaps between white students and other subgroups (such as children of color and children with disabilities); and how well schools prepare students for post-secondary success. Schools then receive one of five overall grades: Fails to Meet Expectations, Meets Few Expectations, Meets Expectations, Exceeds Expectations and Significantly Exceeds Expectations. The 2016-'17 Accountability Report Cards mark the first time all private schools participating in the Milwaukee, Racine and Wisconsin Parental Choice Programs have been graded. As you can imagine, this has given rise to a boatload of analytics and comparisons in the various media outlets.

I am pleased to report LUMIN's schools have fared exceptionally well in this new era of transparency and accountability. Two schools (Granville and Sherman Park) were graded as Meets Expectations, two others (St. Martini and Renaissance) were graded as Exceeds Expectations and two others (Pilgrim and Northwest) were graded as Significantly Exceeds Expectations. In this last category, only 11 out of 126 voucher schools in Milwaukee were graded as Significantly Exceeds Expectations, and two of them are LUMIN Schools!

Another measure of school quality gaining attention in Milwaukee is the ranking of what are known as 80/80 schools. These are schools from any sector (public, charter or voucher) in which at least 80% of the students are African-American and at least 80% of the students come from low income households. There are 96 such schools in Milwaukee, four of which are LUMIN Schools. Based on reading scores, three LUMIN Schools are among the highest performing 80/80 schools in the city (Pilgrim - 4th, Northwest - 10th and Sherman Park - 11th). In terms of math scores, all four LUMIN schools rank in the top 25% of all 80/80 schools.

In terms of overall academic performance, our internal data indicates LUMIN's schools have made strong gains in the past year. Nevertheless, we praise God that these public measures of academic achievement further validate the wonderful things happening in our schools.

God has assembled a remarkable team of Christian professionals who are committed to LUMIN's urban school ministry. They work tirelessly to impact the lives of underserved children, the so-called "*least of these*" as described in Matthew Ch. 25, v. 40. We thank God that the effectiveness of their work is being recognized.

In His Service,

Richard F. Laabs
President & CEO