



COTTER
SCHOOLS

2022 Annual Report & Appeal



New Endowment Supports Student Learning

Edwina Wolfe, a former Winona Catholic Schools teacher and current Winona resident, recently made a contribution to establish an endowment that will provide annual funding for K-3 teachers to enhance their teaching in the areas of reading, mathematics, or science. The funding will provide software and access to specific online activities, books for a classroom, project supplies, and activity kits. Currently, first-grade students at the St. Stan's Campus are using math manipulatives purchased through the endowment.

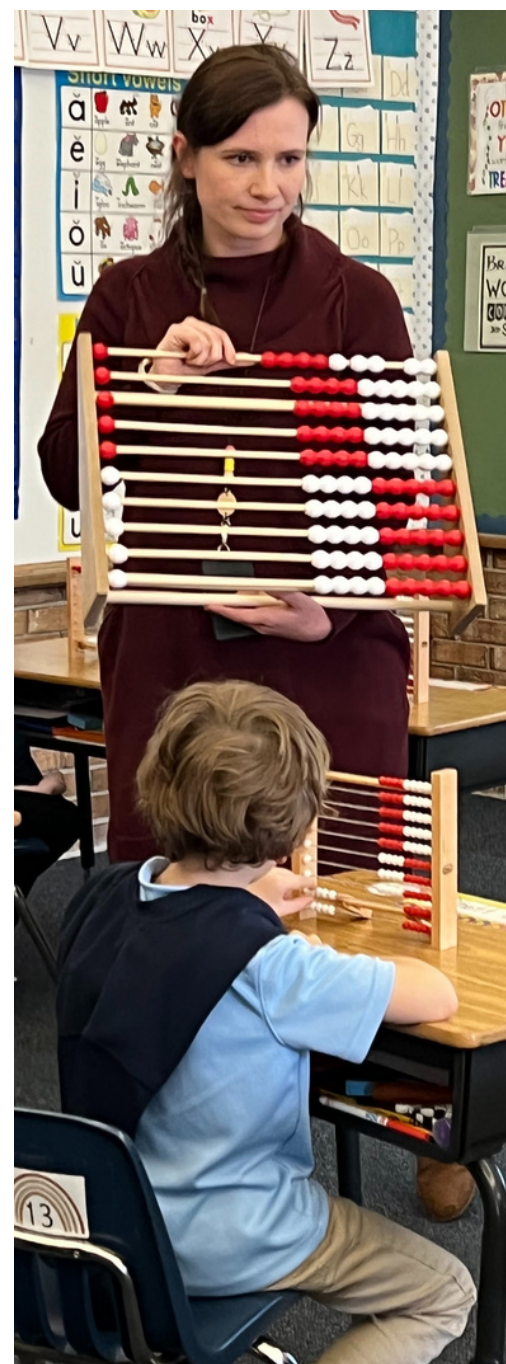
Cotter Schools' endowment funds are invested and the earnings are used each year to support specific needs. Endowments can be started by donors who would like to provide a contribution that will continue to help the school many years into the future. If you have an interest in learning more about endowments, please contact Mike Swenson, Vice President of Advancement, at (507) 453-5802.

Edwina was born in the prairies of South Dakota where she lived with her family until moving to Fountain City, WI while in high school. She graduated from Fountain City High School in 1957 and attended Winona State University for one year. Following this, Edwina chose to earn her "Mrs." degree! During this time, she married her husband Duane whom she met in high school. Duane is a Fountain City native who taught math at Winona State University for 30 years. Duane and Edwina have 3 children, 9 grandchildren, and 5 great-grandchildren. In 1964, Edwina returned to Winona State University and graduated with a degree in Elementary Education. She received her Master's Degree in Elementary Education from Winona State in 1971. She spent a significant amount of her teaching career teaching first grade and taught kindergarten for one year. When the schools combined in 1986, she taught junior high and senior high computer literacy as well as supervised the computer lab. When Cotter moved to the St. Teresa's Campus, Edwina started the Dorothy Kierlin Learning Center. She retired from Cotter in 1995.

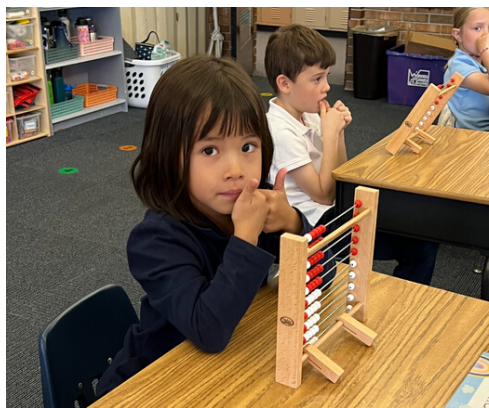
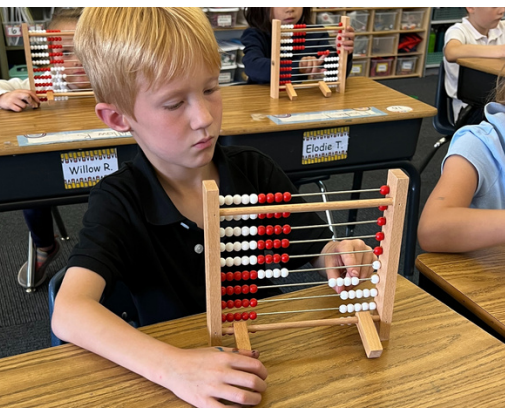
The inspiration for Edwina's gift came from her experience in the classroom. "I remember how much money I put into buying supplemental supplies for my classrooms. I truly believe that the primary grades are where the basis is set for the rest of a student's education. I wanted to provide something to help early elementary students and teachers."

"Edwina's donation is giving our math students a chance to visibly see how math works. It's powerful to watch a student take a concept from the abstract to the concrete. We are incredibly grateful for her gift."

-Mr. Pat Bowlin, Elementary Principal



Ms. Jessica Houghton, Cotter first-grade teacher, using supplies purchased with the funds.



Together In Community



My name is Elise Modjeski, and I am currently a senior at Cotter. I entered Cotter in 9th grade as a reserved former homeschooler. Since then, Cotter has gone through many changes- the new high school building, the Covid pandemic, and changes in leadership. But through all the changes, both positive and negative, I have been very grateful for the intelligence, kindness, and support given by the teachers and staff at Cotter. Cotter's classes have enriched my creativity and curiosity and provided me amazing academic opportunities; I had the chance to take difficult AP classes and was even able to publish a research paper in Winona State University's literature journal. At Cotter, I've gained many new perspectives through meeting awesome international students. By helping out at Cotter's all-school Masses and participating in the Twin Cities "Urban Plunge" service trip, I've gained a new appreciation for the value of meaningful service in both our community and the world. I also enjoy many opportunities to be involved at Cotter, including, show choir, PARMIES, speech, NHS, and the creative writing club. I am excited to use the many skills I have learned through all these experiences in pursuit of my next goal- majoring in biochemical engineering- and I am grateful for Cotter's role in preparing me for my future.



Elise Modjeski, '23

My name is Roberto Perez and I am a junior at Cotter Schools. This is my second year attending Cotter. I am from Mexico City, Mexico. I chose Cotter Schools because it caught the attention of my family and me right away. The images of the campus and the great environment the school had really spiked my interest. I believed that Cotter had the right tools for me to develop academically and athletically, and financially it was the best option for my family. I enjoy playing soccer and being a part of the Cotter soccer team where we just had an undefeated regular season, were the Three Rivers Conference Champions, and made it to the section championship round. What I like most about Cotter is the great environment that the school has. Since the moment I got here, I have been welcomed and am grateful to my classmates and teammates for that. After graduating from Cotter Schools in 2024, I want to play college soccer and study engineering.



Roberto Perez, '24

My name is Magdalena Stjepanovic, and I am a 7th grader at Cotter Schools. I was born in Texas and moved here when I was 5. My entire family is from Croatia/Bosnia and both of my parents came to Winona in their junior and senior years of high school. The original plan was to only do Kindergarten at St. Mary's School and then move to Rochester. But my parents surprised me and told me I'd continue going in the Cotter system. At Cotter I'm involved in band, choir, speech, and volleyball. What I like most about Cotter is being able to have teachers I can trust and feel safe with and be given the opportunity to try something new every day. After I graduate from Cotter I plan to attend college and major in business and finance.



Magdalena Stjepanovic, '28

I have been blessed to have been able to serve the Catholic Schools of Winona for more than three decades. In those years I have been entrusted by parents to teach their children how to read and write, add and subtract, and to choose right from wrong. All important lessons for sure. Yet I feel that my students have been teaching me lessons that are just as important, but easily forgotten as you age, such as, it's fun to run in the halls when you think no one is watching, sharpening the wrong end of the pencil results in a funny shaped eraser, and running to the window every time it snows, announcing along the way, "It's snowing!" is one of the best weather reports ever.

Children are truly God's gift to humankind. Through them we can wonder and dream, sing and dance, laugh and cry. Though I try to keep the crying to a minimum, the other aspects are a daily celebration of school life in our Catholic Schools, and I am blessed to be a part of it every day.



Mr. Feuerhelm, Gr. 3 Teacher

New Elementary Building Opens August 2023

In August of 2023, Cotter Schools will open St. Luke Hall, a newly renovated and expanded Kindergarten through Grade 6 building. In addition to being a beautiful new space, the building will include excellent classrooms and community spaces, modern safety features, and room for continued enrollment growth. Kindergarten students from the St. Mary's Campus, all students from the St. Stan's Campus, and grades 5 & 6 currently in the John Nett Rec Center will move into St. Luke Hall. This will bring nearly 1,000 Cotter students onto one campus, together in community!

The construction of St. Luke Hall has been fully funded by generous benefactors, but your help is needed to finish this very important project. Furnishings and technology equipment for the classrooms are still needed. Each classroom will be equipped with new interactive technology for learning and computers for each student. There are many opportunities to sponsor classrooms and community spaces in St. Luke Hall. Each of us has a different capacity to give. Please use the enclosed envelope or visit cotterschools.org/donate to make a meaningful contribution to help make St. Luke Hall the excellent learning environment we desire for our young Ramblers.

**To discuss sponsoring a room
in St. Luke Hall, please contact:**

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Please email us your updated contact
information and news:
advancement@cotterschools.org