

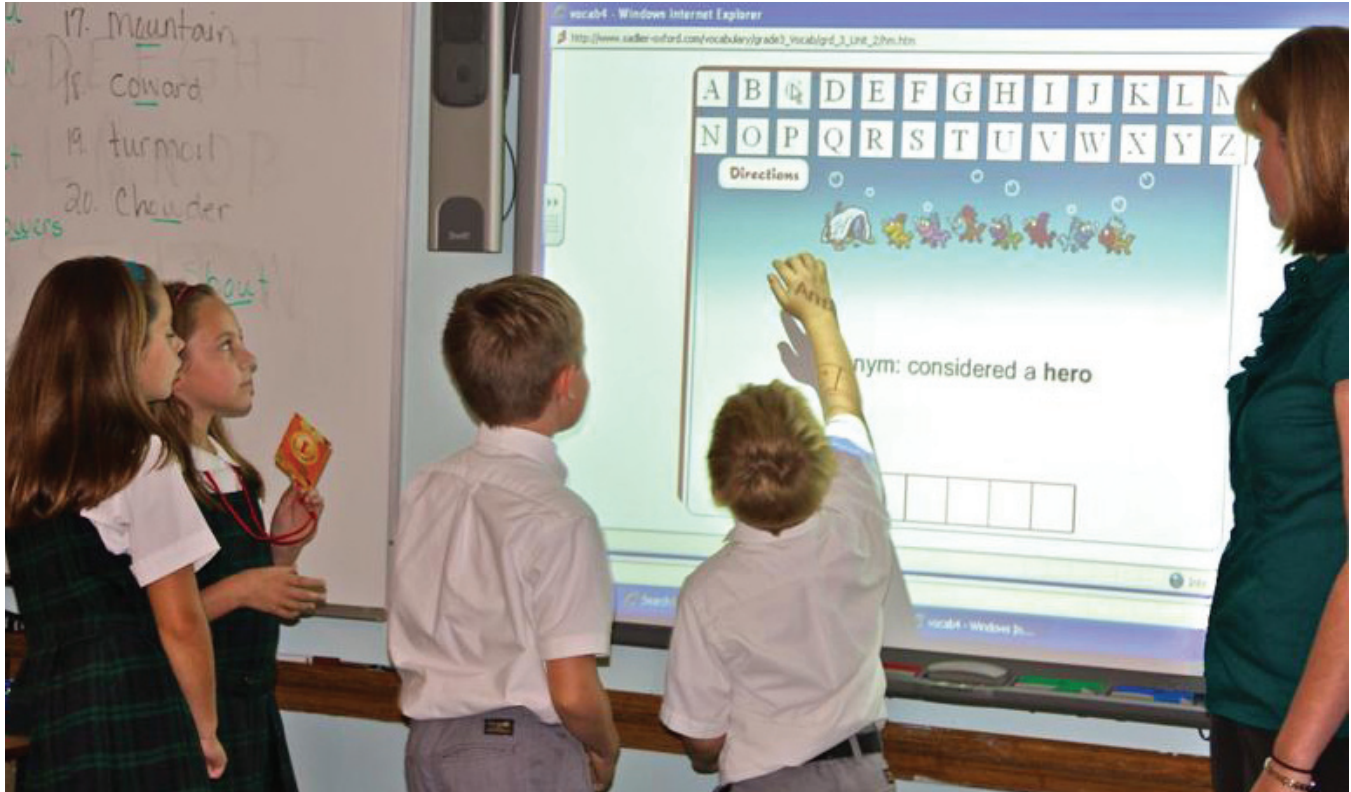


# St. Dorothy

## ROMAN CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Spiritual, Academic, Moral Preparation for the 21st Century

Volume 7, Fall / Winter 2011



## Enhancing Student Learning Through Smart Board Technology

With nine classrooms in grades 1 through 8 equipped with Smart Board technology, St. Dorothy School is rapidly advancing toward its goal of placing this technology into all of the classrooms. Teachers who do not have Smart Boards in their classrooms are able to switch classrooms with those who do in order to provide this wonderful learning experience to all students.

Smart Boards are interactive, wall-mounted boards that merge the familiar blackboard concept with the data-retrieval, information sharing and storage attributes of a computer. This technology inspires and teaches students to think and learn. It provides a hands-on approach to concepts and engages students in the learning process.

### **St. Dorothy School Mission Statement:**

St. Dorothy Roman Catholic School offers students in grades kindergarten through eight a vibrant, challenging academic curriculum which is deeply rooted in Catholic faith and values.

In cooperation with parents, we prepare students to be critical, creative and moral thinkers so that they can face and respond to the challenges of the 21st century.



# School



## Circle of Mercy Concert



**Submitted by:**  
**Annette Young and Kim Gerace**

It was a beautiful evening on Broad Street as the excited crowd bustled into the Kimmel Center to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the Presence and Service of the Sisters of Mercy in Philadelphia. The “Circle of Mercy” Concert was held on Monday, October 18, 2010 and the Saint Dorothy Parish Children’s Choir performed under the direction of their Choir Director, Sister Thomasina Marie Halloran, RSM.

The Children’s Choir includes several of our parish school children in grades 2 through 8, as well as members of our Parish PREP Program. This wonderful group of young talented individuals performed two songs amongst a selection of songs in the program that spoke of hope, beauty, wisdom, prayers and blessings of the original Sisters of Mercy

who first came to Philadelphia a century and a half ago. Our Children’s Choir and nine other Mercy-related schools or groups performed throughout the evening through song, dance and music. The sold-out crowd was also honored to hear our own Sr. Thomasina Marie accompany the Sisters of Mercy and Mercy Associates Jubilee Choir on the organ as they sang “This is My Song”.

This blessed evening reminded all who attended of the faithfulness of the original Sisters of Mercy to our area and the continued good works that are carried on by this Order today. What an honor and privilege our choir had to share in this most memorable event, giving thanks to all of the Sisters of Mercy who have touched so many lives here at St. Dorothy with their dedication, generosity, compassion and faith!

The Sisters of Mercy arrived at St. Dorothy School in 1996. Pres-

ently there are 5 sisters living in the St. Dorothy convent: Sister Mary Hasson (St. Dorothy Business Manager for 21 years), Sister Alice Gray, (Director of Religious Education), Sister Thomasina Marie Halloran (Liturgist and Choir Director), Sister Martina Lavin who serves the parish by visiting the sick, and Sister Eleanor. Congratulations also to the following Sisters who support St. Dorothy Parish and School: Sister Denise Colgan, (7th Grade ILA and Religion Teacher) and Sister Elizabeth Ann Kelly (School Librarian).

May God bless all of the Sisters of Mercy and may Saint Dorothy Parish continue to pray with grateful hearts for their presence here in our church and school. May these sisters continue to bring the love of Jesus to our world! May God continue to shine many blessings and graces upon the sisters!



# Happenings



## Farewell to Miss Capra

Miss Joan Capra, who has taught at St. Dorothy School for the past 36 years and in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia for 46 years, announced last January that she was retiring. Her decision was a result of a long illness and it was a very difficult one for her to make.

Miss Capra loved working with and teaching the children. She looked forward to seeing them every day, so much so that she rarely, if ever, missed a day of teaching. She viewed teaching as a vocation and she was very dedicated to her ministry.

Miss Capra will be missed.



## St. Dorothy School Band Returns

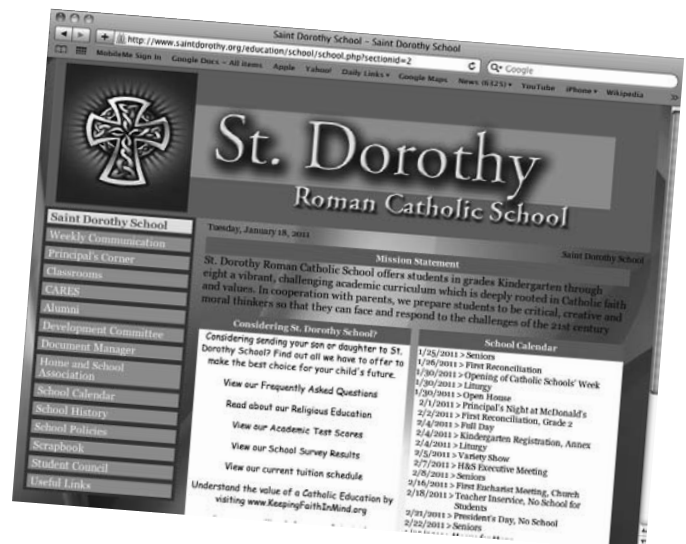
In coordination with the Paul Effman Music Service Saint Dorothy has restarted the school band program this year. Students in grades three through eight who join the band will take lessons in a musical instrument with teachers from the service. Instruction is provided at Saint Dorothy during the regular school week. Twenty-nine students are currently enrolled and students may still join. Watch for the band's debut concert later this year.

## St. Dorothy's welcomes 5 new teachers!

- Miss Gina Russino - Grade 2
- Miss Megan Flynn - Grade 3
- Mrs. Joanna Kent - Grade 5
- Miss Lauren Ward - Grade 5
- Miss Meredith Conboy - Grade 7

Visit our school website for more school happenings!

[www.SaintDorothy.org](http://www.SaintDorothy.org)



# St. Dorothy school continues to grow!

**+6% WOW!**

	2009	2010
K	34	46
1	49	44
2	50	48
3	44	48
4	35	43
5	45	36
6	39	45
7	49	41
8	32	49
<b>Total</b>	<b>377</b>	<b>400</b>

## School Enrollment Increase: 6% **WOW!**

We are pleased to report that this year's enrollment has risen by 23 students, an increase of 6%! With Catholic school closings becoming all too commonplace, St. Dot's enrollment is truly a sign of hope for Catholic education.

Due to the constant prayers and tireless efforts of our dedicated faculty, involved parents and supportive community members, more and more families are choosing a Catholic education for their children. Over the past 5 years we have increased in size from 359 students to 400 students, a 11% increase! Furthermore, this year's Kindergarten class of 46 children is the largest since its inception.

Thank you again to all the families that have chosen to send their children to St. Dorothy School. Please be assured that our efforts will continue to instill a strong Catholic identity in our children and provide the best possible academic education to prepare them for the 21st century.

## St. Dorothy School Welcomes 31 New Families!

Do you remember that time when you were invited as a date to a wedding? You walked into a crowded banquet room where everyone knew each other, and you knew nobody! That wasn't the most comfortable feeling!

To a family starting at a new school, the feeling can be similar. To help ease the transition and start things off on the right foot, our pastor Fr. Murphy, our principal Mrs. Sheehan, the Home & School Association and the St. Dorothy School Development Committee host a New Families Welcome Night each May. (Kind of like being invited to the Rehearsal Dinner!)

This past spring, before this year's upcoming school year, 27 of the 31 new families attended Welcome Night. After a few brief presentations on some school basics, new families were paired up with veteran families. The veteran families acted as mentors to help answer questions and provide an introduction into the school community.

"The Welcome Night was wonderful from start to finish," explains Jennifer McGuire, a new family member. "This night really helped our transition in that it answered many questions we had about the upcoming year, gave our son a taste of what his new school would be like and allowed us to just absorb the overall atmosphere of the school community in a very positive way."

Dolores Cellini-Astuto, another new family member added that the night was "informative and a good way to meet some other people. It is definitely something I would



*New School Parents Michele Breslin and Dan O'Mara at the New School Parent/ Kindergarten Parent Social in September.*

tell other potential parents to attend in the future."

Three weeks into the school year 2010-2011, a second event, co-sponsored by the Home and School Association and the Development Committee was held, giving new families and kindergarten families the opportunity to network once again. Both events were a success!

# St. Dorothy School Alumni do not forget their roots!



## Alumni Spotlight:

## Molly Porth '02/ Alumna receives Fulbright



St. Dorothy alumna Molly Porth received a Fulbright grant to teach English at La Universidad Tecnológica Emiliano Zapata in Morelos, Mexico this year. The prestigious Fulbright educational exchange awards are given to educators, students, scholars and professionals to promote

worldwide peace and understanding. As a double major in English and Spanish at Saint Joseph's University, Molly accumulated a wealth of experience in the field: teaching Spanish at her alma mater Country Day School of the Sacred Heart, studying for a semester at Alberto Hurtado University in Santiago, Chile, and leading an immersion program to the San Diego/Tijuana border region.

While at Saint Joseph's University Molly also participated in the university Honor's Program, was inducted into the Jesuit honors society and managed the varsity men's basketball team.

Through all these experiences, Molly has not forgotten what she learned at St. Dorothy School. "After years of rigorous

high school and college education," she explains, "I still do not forget my most important lessons learned at St. Dot's: how to treat other people, whether it be serving an elderly neighbor by raking their yard, reaching out to a troubled classmate, or becoming involved in a larger-scale social justice project. The friendships I formed and the experiences I had at Dot's will forever influence the decisions I make throughout my life."

This spirit of service is evident in Molly's other pursuits: she has traveled to Kenya to work at Dagoretti 4 Kids – a nonprofit home for street boys of Nairobi, has participated in university Appalachian Experience trips to help communities in that region, and has worked with Habitat for Humanity.



## Meet our 2010 Alumni Annual Fund Chair: Dennis Cirucci

Dennis D. Cirucci ('64) has over 37 years of financial institution experience. He currently serves as Director, President & Chief Executive Officer Alliance Bancorp of Pennsylvania, Alliance Bank and Alliance Mutual Holdings.

Prior to joining Alliance Bank, Mr. Cirucci worked for Deloitte & Touche where he was a national industry specialist on financial institutions. He is a certified public accountant licensed to practice in Pennsylvania. He is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the Pennsylvania Institute of Certified Public Accountants. Mr. Cirucci is a graduate of Drexel University with a B.S. in Accounting.

Since graduating from St. Dorothy School & Cardinal O'Hara High School, Dennis has remained in the parish and is dedicated to promoting, supporting and improving our Church and School through regular participation in parish activities including our annual block collection, Catholic Charities, Chairman of the Heritage of Faith campaign and in 2010 as Chairman of our annual campaign for St. Dorothy School and bringing in a new form of State aide for our school through the Bridge Foundation.

Thank you Dennis, for your dedication and service to St. Dorothy Parish and School!

## HOSTING A REUNION?

We can partner and assist! Please contact [stdotsalumni@yahoo.com](mailto:stdotsalumni@yahoo.com) to take full advantage of our contact list/alumni database.

Pictured on right is the class of the St. Dorothy 1960 50th Reunion held in May, 2010



# 2010 Saint Dorothy's

**Msgr. Helduser Society**  
**\$2,500**

Anonymous  
Robert DeMento '64  
Daniel O'Mara '77

**IHM/Mercy Club**  
**\$1,000 to \$2,499**

**McLoughlin Plumbing & Heating**

Stenton Corporation  
Charles & Joanne Bernier  
John & Lois Bevilacqua  
William & Margaret Curry  
Alec & Maureen '57 Hicks  
Nancy Lazzari '71  
Gino & Nancy Lazzari  
John & Mary Jane McGuinn  
Jennifer Petrella  
John Quinlan '89  
Kevin & Rosemary Reger  
Denis & Karen Rogers  
Dennis '77 & Eileen Sheehan  
Paul Smith  
Francis & Helen Steckclair  
Robert & Joyce King

**Green & White Club**  
**\$500 to \$999**

Rick & Elizabeth Barker  
John & Nancy Beck  
Paul & Marie Berenato, Sr.  
Daniel & Dorothy Bieter  
Michael & Anne '73 Callahan  
Francis & Dolores Cotterall '58  
Michael & Arleen Daly '64  
John & Claire DiSantis  
Frank & Ann Foti  
Christopher & Diana Goggin  
Keough Electric  
Thomas & Diane Kilker  
Joseph & Kathleen Larkin  
Raymond & Mary Larkin  
Gloria McNutt  
Michael & Joanne Montie  
David & Barbara Murphy  
James Quigley '63  
John & Bonnie Ruffenach  
John & Mary Sherlock  
Marietta Sullivan

Joseph & Elizabeth Vasturia  
Robert & Annette Young

**Dunphy Challenge**  
**\$250 to \$499**

Richard & Therese Ashworth  
John & Lisa Bellopede  
Daniel & Kathy Boudwin  
Albert Bove  
William and Patrice Bradley  
Thomas & Danielle Cahill  
Dennis Cirucci '64  
John & Catherine Coneys  
Jack Crowley '67  
Gary & Virginia '66 Debuvtz  
Nicholas & Elizabeth Dienna  
Brian & Mary Kay Durkin  
David & Lorie Fosbenner '87  
Carl Foust  
Christopher & Kathleen Garvey  
Mark & Susan '65 Glessner  
Rudolph & Monna Habicht  
Eleanor Helmig  
Mary Ellen Hibbard  
Hill Construction Corporation  
Kathleen Jones '64  
Edward & Carolyn '76 Manning  
Mark and Veronica McCarty  
Christopher & Elizabeth McGrovy  
Robert and Jennifer Nestor '82  
Alan & Helen Pietrewicz  
Stephen & Mary Porth  
James & Amy Santora  
John Sheehan '80  
Joseph & Amy Sullivan  
David Toner '75  
Vale Home Improvement  
Company  
Bruce & Regina Vassallo  
Robert and Caroline Wlotko

**Charger Club**  
**\$100 to \$249**

Leonard and Kara Albanese  
Christopher Ardizzi '88  
Robert Ardizzi '80  
Helen Ardizzi  
Eileen Atene  
John & Doris Banes

Mark '75 & Debora Bevilacqua  
Paul '81 & Eileen Bevilacqua  
James & Deborah Beynon  
Curtis & Kathleen Blessing  
Joseph & Anne Bonner  
James & Catherine Brady  
Michael & Lisa Bright  
James & Diane Brodie  
Michael & Marie Brotschul  
Joseph Bruno  
Daniel & Mary Ann Burns  
Dennis and Kathleen Cahill  
Joseph & Mary Callahan  
Carol Campolongo  
Vincent & Jill Camuti  
Drew & Frances Carr  
M. Cavanaugh  
Ralph & Barbara Cianciola  
Paul & Audrey '76 Clancy  
Bridget Colgan  
Edward & Barbara Cullen  
Eleanor Currie  
Thomas '66 & Beverly DeFulvio  
John & Elaine Dee  
Sheila Dempsey  
Theodore & Mary Anne Dezzi  
Paul '61 & Barbara DiBona  
Robert & Denise '56 Dill  
Alexander DiSanti  
Richard & Arlene Donato  
Gerry Donnelly  
William & Margaret Donohue  
Paul and Gertrud Dooley  
Joseph & Joann Dougherty  
James & Tina Downey  
James & Kathleen Downey  
Edward & Patricia Doyle  
Algot and Catherine Erickson  
Timothy and Bernadette Farrell  
Christopher Foti '73  
Mary Funchion  
Edward A Gallagher '59  
William & Mary Gallihue  
Mary Gillane  
John & Teresa Glacken  
Dennis & Joyce Glackin  
William & Melinda Glynn  
Mary Ellen Grady  
William & Marjorie Gross

Eleanor Habicht '81  
Greg & Lisa '78 Hadden  
Thomas Hagenbach  
Rosemary Halpin '65  
Daniel & Lynn Hayes  
Christine Hemmert  
Joseph Hemphill  
George & Kathleen Hennelly  
Daniel & Monica Hilferty  
Peter Hughes  
Edward & Eileen Isselman  
Gary & Mary Lou '66 Jensen  
Gustave & Rosalie Johnson  
Isabelle Johnston  
Donald & Jane Jordan  
James & Rosemary Kearney '78  
James & Catherine Keenan  
Edward & Marguerite Kelly  
John & Lauraine Kelly  
Kathleen Kelly  
Charles & Susan Kempton  
Haven & Rosemary Kesling  
Robert & Jill Kirk  
Timothy & Mary Kulsik  
John & Patricia Lalor  
Martin & Kelly Lalor  
Megan Lampinski '79  
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Joseph and Mary Madonna  
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George & Audrey MacWilliams  
Patricia Magee '55  
John & Elaine Mahoney  
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# Annual Fund Contributors

John & Mary '89 McErlane  
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 Edward & Anne O'Connor  
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 Gunter and Eileen Ott  
 Pagano's Italian Specialties  
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 Quality Maintenance Company  
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 Christine Sica  
 Bernadette Simpson '75  
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 Charles & Lorraine Stanbach  
 Matthew and Elinor Stewart  
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 Raymond Suplee  
 Leonard Switliski  
 Mary Jo Thompson '72  
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 David & Ann Toner  
 Thomas & Rose Vento  
 Patrick & Gretchen Walsh  
 Joseph Werner '60

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 Joseph & Kathleen Boland  
 John & Catherine Conolly  
 John Cotterall  
 Thomas & Louise DeFulvio  
 Dominic & Josephine  
 DiGiantomasso  
 Donato & Rita DiAntonio  
 John '63 & Julia Donnelly  
 Michael & Jan Donofrio  
 Michael & Kathleen Endres

Mark Furey  
 Jeanne Garvey  
 Ruth Gensel  
 Michael & Mary Beth Green  
 Mary Hayes  
 Brian & Megan Heistand '92  
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 Robert '74 & Anne Lamb  
 Christopher & Kathleen Mayer  
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 John & Patricia Moffa  
 Richard & Mariann Mowrer  
 Diane O'Grady  
 Henry Ryan '54  
 Frank & Marie Scafidi  
 Patrick & Donna Scannapieco  
 Marsha Serock  
 John & Susan Wendling

## **Friends of St. Dot's up to \$99**

Richard & Marie Andruszko  
 Anonymous  
 Anonymous  
 Anonymous  
 Charles & Joan Bechtel  
 Alfred & Dorothy Beers  
 James & Mary Boerckel  
 Edward & Dolores Boyle  
 Stephen & Maureen Bozzo '69  
 Kevin & Theresa Brennan  
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 Bruce & Eileen '72 Brown  
 Anthony Bruno '75  
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 Clare Byrnes  
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 Nicholas & Arlene Caramanico  
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 Carol Carr  
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 Joseph & Kathleen '62 Chadwick  
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John & Laura Costa '71  
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 Raymond & Teresa Cwierniewicz  
 Mark & Kathleen Damiri  
 John & Isabelle Davaro  
 Peter & Marilyn DiBona '55  
 Albert & Geraldine DiSantis  
 Philip DiAntonio '99  
 Holland & Kristin '86 Donaldson  
 Ann Donovan  
 James & Cathleen '57 Dunn  
 Josephine Dunphy  
 Stephen '75 & Mary Edgcumbe  
 William & Maureen Ervin  
 Nan Fagan  
 Jacquelyn Fagioli '98  
 John and Jacqueline Gallagher  
 Richard Gallagher  
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 Elaine Glebocki  
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 Robert & Kathleen Gross  
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 Rita Hankle  
 James '57 & Dolores Hazel  
 Michael Hemphill '81  
 Alfred & Deborah Hilbert  
 Paul & Terri Hoffecker  
 Kathleen Hofmann  
 Richard & Jean Kady  
 Timothy Kelly  
 Melissa Kelly  
 Matthew Kelly  
 Thomas Kennedy  
 Michael Koch  
 Michael & Michele Konczewski  
 Jude Liguori '76  
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James & Pamela McEntee  
 Brian & Denise '66 McNeill  
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 Kristen Powell '95  
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 Ruth Rowan '55  
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 Dolores Vinci  
 Laurence Walker '75  
 Lawrence & Rita Walker  
 John & Rosemarie Williams  
 Frederick Witte '60

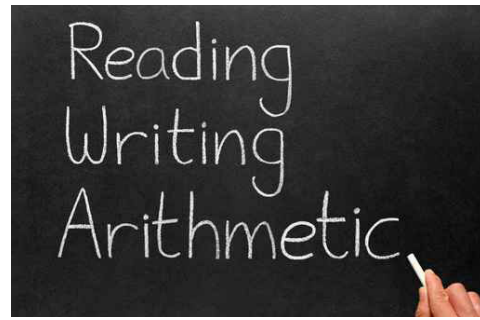
# Infusing 21st Century Skills into the 3 R's

At St. Dorothy School we are committed to providing our students with challenging and enriching academic experiences and are constantly seeking new ways to enhance the curriculum. Furthermore, we recognize the challenges facing our students in this ever-changing 21st century.

To prepare students to achieve and be successful in this Knowledge Age, we realize that mastering core academic subjects is insufficient. We must infuse those subjects with 21st century skills: critical thinking, creative thinking, communication, and collaboration.

Critical thinking refers to a student's ability to reason, analyze, make judgments based on evidence and solve problems. Students at St. Dorothy School are guided to acquire this skill through answering constructed response questions (where there is no one "right" answer), through more essay questions on tests (thus reducing the number of multiple choice questions), solving multi-step math problems, interpreting and drawing conclusions from text, and making connections between their learning and the real-world.

Creative thinking calls on students to develop new and worthwhile ideas. They must be innovative. In 6th grade, our students design amusement park rides following a unit in science on motion. Our 8th grade participates in the Future Cities competition, where they design a city based on the needs of a city in the future.



In communication, students must be able to effectively articulate their ideas using oral, written and non-verbal skills. Some ways we help students develop this skill are: 2nd grade Insect Fair, 3rd grade Wax Museum, 6th grade Spanish Day, 7th grade Poetry Coffee House, 8th grade Civil War presentation.

Through collaboration, students are required to work effectively and respectfully with diverse groups. They must be flexible and willing to compromise in an effort to reach a common goal and value the contribution made by each individual member of the group. Our students are provided with many opportunities to collaborate through group class assignments, such as the 5th grade literary discussion groups, 8th grade Shakespearean newspaper, and 6 through 8th grade participation in the Reading Olympics competition. Our students also collaborate through para-liturgical services and musical and drama performances.

Visit our website: [www.SaintDorothy.org](http://www.SaintDorothy.org)

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**St. Dorothy**

