

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Catholic Central High School Chooses Inclusion for 2015

School partners with CLC Network to ensure children with special needs are included in general education programs

GRAND RAPIDS, MICH. (January 2015) – Catholic Central High School, located in Grand Rapids, Michigan, has partnered with CLC Network to more fully understand individuals with disabilities and to build support systems that enable their inclusion in all aspects of school life. CLC Network is a national non-profit committed to promoting the development of people with a variety of abilities and disabilities to live as active, integrated members of their communities.

“We chose to partner with CLC Network because of their years of experience supporting faith-based schools in meeting the diverse learning needs of each student,” shared Linda Olejnik, Catholic Central assistant principal. “Their goal connects with our mission to provide a faith-centered, student-focused community in which students are both challenged and supported in becoming independent, life-long learners.”

The partnership will allow Catholic Central High School to more effectively welcome children with special needs into their educational community. A teacher consultant will be assigned to the school to assist with creating individualized student plans, curriculum assistance, transition plans, behavioral intervention plans, and general academic and social inclusion within the school. The school will also have access to best-practice online professional development sessions on Autism Spectrum Disorder, Behavior Management, Neurodevelopment, Bullying Prevention, Anxiety, and Depression in the Classroom, as well as school psychologists to help understand and create strategies for struggling learners.

“Our partnership will positively impact our teachers, our students, and our community,” continued Olejnik. “Our teachers will have the benefit of CLC Network’s perspective and support in discovering the gifts and identifying the needs of each student. The support we provide will help each student discover their potential in learning, leadership, and service.”

Faith Marko, Literacy Specialist at Catholic Central shared, “I am looking forward to connecting with other private school Academic Support educators to benefit from their experience and develop ideas for expanding our vision.”

“Our team is eager to work with Linda, Faith, and the rest of Catholic Central High School’s teachers and staff to help them better support students with learning, behavioral, social, or emotional challenges, while ensuring the integrity of their school’s standards,” said R.H. “Bear” Berends, executive director of CLC Network. “We will work with them to create custom education plans that allow students to develop their gifts, while ensuring each one receives the support they need.”

For interview opportunities and media inquiries concerning the above, please contact Gwen Bultema at 616.617.6284 or gwen@bultemagroup.com

About CLC Network:

CLC Network is a national non-profit committed to promoting the development of people with a variety of abilities and disabilities to live as active, integrated members of their communities. The organization partners with families and organizations to more fully understand individuals with disabilities and to build support systems that enable their inclusion in all aspects of life. For more information on CLC Network or a list of available resources, visit www.clcnetwork.org.

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