Welcome to Gesu School!

Gesu School is an independent Catholic school grades pre-K to 8. Inspired by the Jesuit and IHM traditions of social justice, faith, hope and love, Gesu School strives, without selective admissions, to provide a quality, innovative education for our neighbor children to empower them to break the cycle of poverty and violence.

• Gesu School embraces the Jesuit ideal of cura personalis—care of the whole person—and the IHM belief that every child can learn, providing programs to build a variety of academic and personal skills across a range of ability levels.

• While Gesu admits students on a non-selective basis, more than 90% of our alumni graduate from high school on time—in a school district where only 61% of high schoolers graduate in four years. Many of our graduates attend top college preparatory, independent, Catholic, charter, and magnet high schools.

• Gesu School’s primary service area includes the three poorest zip codes in the City of Philadelphia. Tuition covers only a fraction of our costs. Critical financial support from outside donors provides our students with a quality, innovative education.

• Always a responsible steward of our donors’ generous gifts, Gesu has earned a four-star rating for financial health, accountability and transparency from Charity Navigator—the independent charity evaluator’s highest rating—three years in a row and for seven consecutive years.

• Gesu School embraces the Jesuit ideal of cura personalis—care of the whole person—and the IHM belief that every child can learn.

• IHM traditions of social justice, faith, hope and love inspire Gesu School to be a place where only 61% of high schoolers graduate in four years. Many of our graduates attend top college preparatory, independent, Catholic, charter, and magnet high schools.

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Transforming Inner-City Education: Can an Early morning transform the outcome?

In addition to providing exegetical, faith-based education, Gesu School strives to break the cycle of poverty and violence. Gesu School educates our neighbor children to empower them to break the cycle of poverty and violence.

1700 West Thompson Street • Philadelphia, PA 19121 • 215-763-9077
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Past Symposia
2012 Financing Futures: The Funding Challenges Facing Inner-City Catholic Schools
2011 Educating Inner-City Children in the 21st Century
2010 Closing the College Gap: What Can Universities, Schools and Communities Do?
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2003 Educational Reform: What's Next?
2002 Children Learning Amid Stress
2001 Research and Roadblocks to Developing Young Readers
1999 The Urban Child in Peril: Can Literacy Change the Outcome?
1998 Do Faith and Vouchers Mix?
1997 Inner-City Education: Are Faith-Based Schools an Answer?

Welcome to Gesu School!
Paul Tough challenges our culture’s belief that intelligence, endlessly measured by test scores, is the sole indicator of value in our education system. It’s not. In How Children Succeed, he explores non-cognitive skills—or, character—argues that character can be taught and that school districts can be transformed to ensure every child has the opportunity to succeed.

Tough has a unique back story that has given him a perspective that is both personal and professional. He studied government at Harvard and law at Yale, but his career path changed after he experienced firsthand the impact of a failed school system in the Harlem Children’s Zone. His insights have been shared through two best-selling books, Dummies: How to Be Smarter Than Your Teacher and How Children Succeed, and his writing has appeared in The New York Times Magazine, The New Yorker, and The Atlantic. He is the author of the forthcoming book Tough Love: Why Don’t Poor Kids Work Harder? He is also a regular commentator on the promise and perils of the American Dream on public radio, cable news, and the New York Times op-ed page.

Tough has been cited as one of the nation’s most influential voices on education, and he has received numerous awards for his work, including the White House Award for Distinguished Teaching and the 2013 National Book Critics Circle Award. He is currently a Senior Adviser at Apollo Education Group, the parent company of the University of Phoenix. In 2014, Tough was appointed a Senior Fellow in Education at the University of Pennsylvania’s National Center for Cognition and Academic Productivity. He is a Fellow at the American Institute of Research.

Tough’s work has been turned into educational programs that offer a new way to combat poverty that could be replicated nationwide. Tough has also contributed to Transforming Inner-City Education, a program in Washington, D.C., that delivers Direct Service to at-risk children (grades K-12), and also provides support for inner-city Catholic schools serving low-income children in the City of Philadelphia and the region. In 2014, he co-founded AcesJU, a collaborative effort that brings together AcesPublicSchools, the Alliance for Catholic Education (ACE/SEL), andSaint Joseph’s University (SJU) to provide high-quality middle and high school education at Christ the King School. AcesJU has the potential to positively assist and strengthen Catholic schools serving low-income children in the City of Philadelphia and the region.

Over the last quarter-century, Tough has won seven major academic and teaching awards including the 2010 Ira A. Abrams Memorial Award and the 2010 Lindback Award for Distinguished Teaching. He has also chaired the American Academy of Arts and Sciences’ panel on Transforming Inner-City Education. As a pioneer in urban education, Gelsey University continues to learn ways to better serve our children, while striving to share with others what’s worked. This symposium has become a time-honored tradition for that purpose.

We hope that you find today’s discussion about the hidden power of character fruitful, and that our conversation today generates in itself children living in inner cities across the nation.

Peace and blessings.

Bryan Carter
President and CEO

Celebrating 20 Years as an Independent Catholic School

Welcome to the 16th Annual Symposium on Transforming Inner-City Education. As a pioneer in urban education, Gelsey University continues to learn new ways to better serve our children, while striving to share with others what’s worked. This symposium has become a time-honored tradition for that purpose. We hope that you find today’s discussion about the hidden power of character fruitful, and that our conversation today generates in itself children living in inner cities across the nation.

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Program
Welcome
Christian, Grade 7
Opening Remarks
J. Gordon Conney, Jr., Board Chairman
Keynote Address
Paul Tough, Author of How Children Succeed
Panel Discussion
Closing
Bryan H. Carter, President and CEO
Reception/Book Signing
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Keynote Speaker
Paul Tough

Paul Tough challenges our culture’s belief that intelligence, endlessly measured by test scores, is the sole indicator of value in our education system. It’s not. In How Children Succeed, he explores non-cognitive skills—or, character—argues that character can be taught and that school districts can be transformed to ensure every child has the opportunity to succeed.

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Moderator
John J. DiIulio, Jr., Ph.D.

John J. DiIulio is the Frederic Fox Leadership Professor of Politics, Religion, and Civil Society at the University of Pennsylvania. He directs Penn’s Fox Leadership Program for undergraduates, and also religion research for the Fox Program. He grew up in Philadelphia and was the first member of his family to attend college. He majored in economics at Penn and received his J.D. from the University of Pennsylvania. After teaching at Harvard, DiIulio spent thirteen years at Princeton University as a professor of politics and public policy.

Over the last quarter-century, DiIulio has won several major academic and teaching awards including the 2010 Ira Abrams Memorial Award and the 2010 Lindback Award for Distinguished Teaching. He has also chaired the American Academy of Arts and Sciences’ panel on Transforming Inner-City Education. As a pioneer in urban education, Gelsey University continues to learn new ways to better serve our children, while striving to share with others what’s worked. This symposium has become a time-honored tradition for that purpose. We hope that you find today’s discussion about the hidden power of character fruitful, and that our conversation today generates in itself children living in inner cities across the nation.

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President and CEO

Celebrating 20 Years as an Independent Catholic School

Panelists
Jeanne F. Brady, Ph.D.
Mark Gleason

Jeanne F. Brady is the Executive Director of the Philadelphia School Partnership Program (PSP), which champions programs serving disadvantaged youth. Brady was born and raised in Philadelphia and completed her public school education at Central High School. Her passion for helping others led him to a career in medicine. In pursuit of this goal, he attended Hampton University, a historically black institution, and as a result, earned a degree in biology. Following graduation, Leaphart worked for a short stint as a “long-term” substitute in the Philadelphia public school system.

In 2003, Leaphart completed a five-year dual degree DOMBA program at Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine and Saint Joseph’s University. Midway through the program, Leaphart served as an administrative intern at St. Christopher’s Hospital for Children. He also successfully launched two businesses while meeting the demands of his DOMBA program. Leaphart completed his residency in physical medicine & rehabilitation at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital. In 2007 he considered a run for U.S. Congress, but realized through his exploratory process that at this time he could do more to help the City of Philadelphia working to bridge the gap between leaders in the public and private sector. He led this effort as an Executive on Loan from The Lenfest Foundation to the City of Philadelphia assisting with the development and implementation of the City’s ex-offender reintegration strategy.

Currently Leaphart is on staff at Bryn Mawr Rehab Hospital, and serves as President & CEO of Replica Global, LLC. He sits on the boards of numerous organizations, including The Kemmet Center, The African American Chamber of Commerce, and Ceasefire PA.
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Start Change the Outcome?

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We welcome you to the

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The Hidden Power of Character

Featuring keynote speaker Paul Tough, author of “How Children Succeed”

Friday, November 1, 2013 • 1:30-3:30 • Reception to follow

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