

Lifting students to their full potential



Progress with a consistent program

St. Boniface is a Roman Catholic CISE (Catholic Inner-City School Education Fund) school in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati in the Northside neighborhood of Cincinnati, Ohio. CISE was established in 1980 to help combat poverty in Cincinnati's inner city by giving area children the opportunity to attend Catholic elementary schools in their neighborhoods. For the past three years, Ohio third graders were required to pass the state's Third Grade Reading Guarantee. By mid-year of last year, all St. Boniface students had passed the requirement. Administrators and teachers attribute their students' ongoing reading success to *The Superkids Reading Program*™.

100%
— PASSED —

Third-Grade
Guarantee
St. Boniface | Fall 2017

Sister Miriam Kaeser, principal at St. Boniface Elementary School, says that prior to 2011, the school had no reading program for early literacy. They looked

“All of our students passed the third-grade reading guarantee.”
—Sister Miriam Kaeser, Principal

for a program that would work with their students. As second-grade teacher Pam Cocklin explains, “We wanted something that was more consistent so that when the kids left one grade and went to the other, we knew that the skills that they needed in that grade had been covered and that they had the prerequisites they needed for the next grade.” *Superkids*® was the logical choice for integrated and consistent language arts instruction.

All students love Superkids

Like students at the urban public schools around them, as Sister Miriam points out, “St. Boniface children have considerably varied abilities and backgrounds.” Yet in 2017, 100% of St. Boniface third graders met the promotion threshold requirements of the Third Grade Reading Guarantee.

St. Boniface School (PreKindergarten through grade 8)

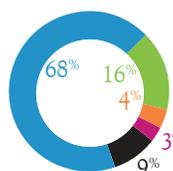
A Catholic school located in the large urban area of Cincinnati, Ohio



Poverty rate



Adults without a degree (Northside neighborhood)



Ethnicity
Black/African American: 68%
Caucasian: 16%
Hispanic: 4%
Pacific Islander: 3%
Other/two or more races: 9%

“**Superkids has been very successful with the type of students we have.**”

—Sister Miriam Kaeser, Principal

“I have quite a few students that came in to kindergarten not knowing a letter from a number,” says kindergarten teacher Lauren Mock. “But they really take to *Superkids*. They now know all their letters and sounds and are now reading—and reading fluently.”

First-grade teacher Robyn Goldick adds, “I have a first grader who was potentially going to be retained in kindergarten last year. And he’s excelled in reading this year. It’s just amazing. You wouldn’t even know that he’s the same child.”

“**The differentiation in *Superkids* really lends itself to the students we teach.**”

—Pam Cocklin, Second-Grade Teacher

Fidelity to *Superkids* leads to success

Teachers valued learning how to implement the *Superkids* program with fidelity because of the professional development they received. “I think it’s important that you use everything that goes with *Superkids* in order to get the results that we’re getting. I think that’s part of the success we have. We’ve committed that we’re going to do everything that *Superkids* says we’re supposed to do,” says Cocklin.

Sister Miriam agrees. “My past experience tells me if you don’t use it the way it’s supposed to be used, it’s not going to get the results,” she says. “Sometimes schools get a reading program and actually all they’re looking for is new stories. Then they wonder why it doesn’t work.” *Superkids* is designed as an integrated program, and St. Boniface teachers have rigorously instituted it in their classrooms.

And St. Boniface sees results. “We’ve shown that *Superkids* has been very successful with the type of students that we have,” says Sister Miriam.

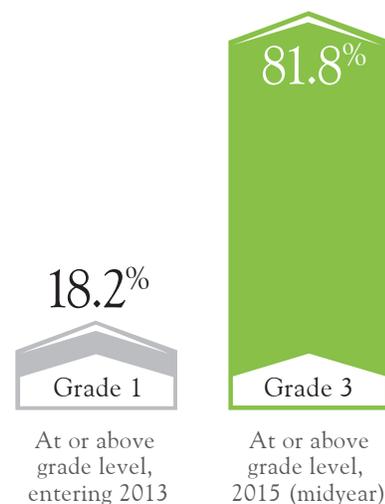
St. Boniface students succeed

The majority of St. Boniface students receive Ohio Educational Choice (EdChoice) scholarships available to low-income children. Consequently, the private-school students need to fulfill Ohio’s Third Grade Reading Guarantee requirement.

For the past three years, all students who were enrolled at St. Boniface since kindergarten passed the third-grade reading tests. “Last year we had three students that did not pass,” says Sister Miriam. “But they were not students who were with us for kindergarten, first, and second grade.” Thus, they did not have *Superkids* during those important years.

Students using *Superkids* show ongoing reading progress

Only 18.2% of first-grade students had a STAR Instructional Reading Level at or above their grade level (“pre primer”) when they first started using *Superkids*. By December of their third-grade year (midyear), however, 81.8% of students who used *Superkids* since entering St. Boniface read at or above grade level.



Of the first-grade students who used *Superkids* for the first time, 18.2% in 2013 were “pre-primer” readers—meaning that they were not able to understand first-grade level text. By the end of grade 3, however, 81.8% of students who had used *Superkids* since kindergarten and remained at St. Boniface read text at or above grade level.

Superkids’ success prompted the teachers and administrators at St. Boniface to recommend that all CISE schools consider adopting the program. “*Superkids* does the job. The kids are interested. It supports our values. What more could we want?” says principal Sister Miriam.