

Risen Christ Catholic School:

A relevant education for a high-need community.

Risen Christ has been working hard to meet their students where they're at, academically and social emotionally.

With large Hispanic and English-as-a-second-language populations, hailing mostly from the Phillips and Powderhorn neighborhoods, Risen Christ offers dual language immersion in grades K-3. "Research has proven the benefits of dual language programs and we believe it is the best way to serve our student population," said President Mike Rogers.

We've dedicated time and space to understanding the needs of independent schools like Risen Christ, and ensured that our initiatives and resources are relevant to their specific context. "Great MN Schools and MN Comeback were willing

to learn about how our needs differ from those of charter or district schools. They respected those differences and presented us with opportunities that were good fits for our needs as well as included us in bigger projects, such as 'Minneapolis School Finder,'" continued Mike.

Support has extended to helping Risen Christ access the Search Institute's

REACH program to better understand student motivations and student-teacher relationships. Findings from student surveys – plus time with the Search Institute to

analyze student feedback – helps educators better tailor instruction so it's increasingly relevant to each students' self-interests.

What's more, with support from MN Comeback, Risen Christ was able to work with IFF to complete a facilities assessment that helped them better understand their facility and inform their strategic and financial planning. "We now have three different options for enhancing the environment for our students," said Mike. "We received access to tools and resources we didn't have before."

Risen Christ has also been involved in a data assessment project funded by MN Comeback and the GHR Foundation to create assessment tools for independent schools in town. "It helps us know where we fit in with other schools in our community," said Mike. "I really appreciated how they listened to our needs and customized the tool to fit our sector."

Moreover, Mike underscored the value of being connected to the larger K-12 system, something that independent schools are not always included in. "There is an intentional effort to keep nonpublic schools involved in projects like the school finder; being part of this coalition helps facilitate relationships with public schools so we're in the loop and connected to the larger system."



Risen Christ students

Photo by Jill Audette

