



Fall, 2020

Dear Epiphany School Families,

I am pleased to tell you that Epiphany Catholic School has been selected to be a new *Believe and Read* school in the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis. Beginning this fall, our children in grades K-2 will embark upon a life-changing journey in best-of-class literacy training supplemented by our current Superkids program.

Powered by the Catholic Schools Center of Excellence and in partnership with Groves Academy, a national leader in literacy instruction, *Believe and Read* is a three-year initiative that brings Groves Academy's methodology (Orton Gillingham) to **Epiphany Catholic School** through outstanding professional development and teacher coaching. All students who participate in *Believe and Read* will benefit. Struggling readers become proficient, and good readers become great ones!

How *Believe and Read* works:

- Literacy coaches from Groves Academy will work with our teachers (K-2 in 2020-21 and K-3 starting 2021-22) over a three-year period using a “train the trainer” model.
- In addition to building students' vocabulary and comprehension skills through their regular reading lessons, teachers will incorporate a daily 30-minute phonics-based lesson to ensure students are grasping the reading rules they'll need to achieve fluency.
- These lessons use a multisensory approach that explicitly teaches the connections between letters and sounds.
- Our teachers will also get weekly support and feedback from their Groves Academy Literacy Coach, along with assistance in tracking student progress through routine assessments.

If you have questions about *Believe and Read* or want to learn more about it, feel free to contact me, acoone@epiphanymn.org. You can also visit the Believe and Read website at: <https://www.grovesacademy.org/literacy-partnerships/>. In the meantime, please help us spread the word about *Believe and Read* to families who may be considering Catholic education and be inspired by this wonderful learning opportunity for their grades K-2 child.

In Christ,

Ann Coone, Principal