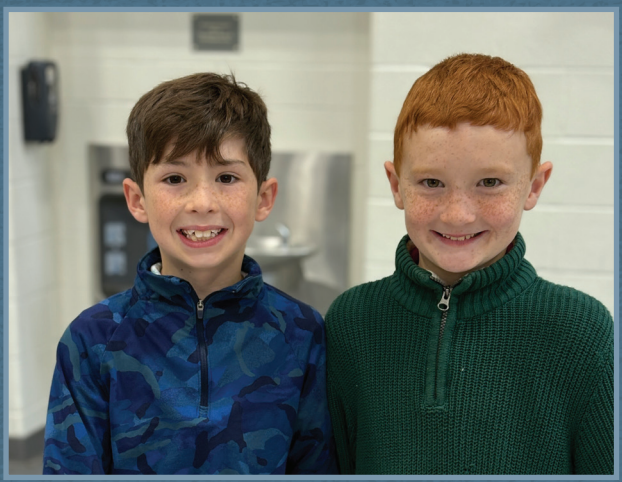
V is for Victory













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The Victory Name

The name of Churchill Center & School's Impact Report, *Victory*, honors Winston Churchill's first address as Prime Minister in May 1940, where he famously declared:

"Victory. Victory at all costs… victory however long and hard the road may be, for without victory there is no survival."









2025-2026 Board of Trustees

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Nancy Robinson

Matt Totterdale
Lisa Walshauser
Brian Witherspoon

**deceased*

PLEASE NOTE: This report honors donors who made gifts during the 2025-2026 fiscal year, June 1, 2025 - May 31, 2026. For multi-year pledges, only gifts and payments made in FY26 are reflected. We have carefully reviewed the names on the lists, but errors may still occur. If your name has been omitted, misspelled or incorrectly listed, we sincerely apologize. Please notify the Advancement Office at 314-997-4343 immediately.

A MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

Dear Churchill Family & Friends,

What a remarkable year it has been at Churchill! The 2025-2026 school year brought energy, creativity and community spirit to every corner of our campus, marking an extraordinary chapter in our collective story.

Every child who arrives at Churchill comes to us at a pivotal turning point in their learning journey. Here, where **challenges are met with courage, students learn to rewrite their narratives, unlock their strengths and step forward with confidence**. Across our classrooms, we witness moments of transformation every day.

This year was filled with **purpose and connection**. We gathered for our traditional **Thanksgiving Feast** and cheered on our talented performers in *The Music Man* during ***Bulldogs on Broadway***. We were treated to the imaginative brilliance of our **Winter Art Show**, *Cool Creations & the Art of the Olympics*, inspired by the Winter Games in Italy and the global celebration of culture in our **Spring Art Show**, *United Colors & the Art of the World*. We welcomed esteemed guests for our beloved **Grand Day** and **Bagels with Buddies**, reconnected with **cherished alumni** returning home to Churchill, and celebrated our signature fundraising event at the end of February, the hugely successful, community-building **Starfish Soirée Dinner & Auction**. Behind every milestone is a fierce dedicated community of faculty, parents and generous supporters whose commitment fuels our mission, expands our scholarship impact and broadens our outreach efforts.

As we reflect back on all we have accomplished this past year, we do so with deep gratitude, but also heavy hearts following the passing of Churchill's Co-Founder, Bonnie Barton Summers Wolfarth on July 30, 2026. Nearly five decades ago, Bonnie's visionary leadership, alongside Co-Founder Perry Streett, helped establish Churchill, transforming the lives of thousands of children and families. Her unwavering advocacy and joyful presence will forever shape our mission. We invite you to read our full tribute on pages 4-5 honoring her extraordinary legacy, her profound impact on specialized education in St. Louis and the countless lives she touched.

Thank you for making 2025-2026 a year brimming with Bulldog pride, spirit and powerful transformations. Each event - big or small - reminds us of why our school is such a special place to learn, grow and belong.



Warmly,



ANNE EVERS







A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

Dear Churchill Community,

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, thank you for your continued generosity and belief in Churchill Center & School's life-changing mission. Every great school requires a strong foundation - a structure that provides stability, opens doors and ensures the mission can continue for generations to come. As Trustees, our role is to build and protect that framework so our students can flourish.

As Board Chair and a grateful parent of a Churchill alumna, I am deeply committed to advancing the strategic vision, educational priorities and future growth of our school. Churchill's excellence in the field of learning disabilities is more than a proud history; it is a pledge we uphold every day. Through financial growth, careful stewardship and the tremendous success of our fundraising events, we make it possible for every child who needs Churchill to receive the specialized education and support they deserve to thrive and discover their full potential.

Fundraising Highlights: A Year of Impact

This year, our community came together in remarkable ways to support Churchill's Scholarship Fund, ensuring access to our transformative education for families who could not attend without financial assistance.

Starfish Soirée Dinner & Auction

A sold-out event of 400 of Churchill's closest friends brought our community together to raise more than **$646,000** for our students and families, including **$217,800** specifically dedicated to our Fund-A-Need 1:1 Technology Initiative!



22nd Annual Sip & Savor

Last fall, our community gathered to share great food, drinks and company, raising **$17,560** to support our Scholarship Fund!



Board of Trustees: Leadership in Action

Churchill's Board remains united in its commitment to our child-centered mission and long-term sustainability. Each Trustee brings invaluable insight and dedication to guiding our school forward.

With Sincere Gratitude to Our Outgoing Trustees:

- Cori Christiansen
- Brian Dull
- Phyllis Hartrich
- Jaclyn Pollnow
- Will Rassieur
- Brian Witherspoon

Warmly Welcoming Our Incoming (2026-2027) Trustees:

- Jeff Burmaster
- Richard Clements
- Ryan Hulsey
- Nikki Kijanko
- Raina McNutt
- Paul Trelstad
- Marie Tustin
- Tim Walkenhorst

Our Continued Promise...

As we look ahead, I am inspired by the strength of our community and our shared belief in what makes Churchill so special. Thank you for your ongoing partnership, your trust and your unwavering support as we continue to build a bright future for our students!



Matt with his daughter Churchill alumna, Kate '16

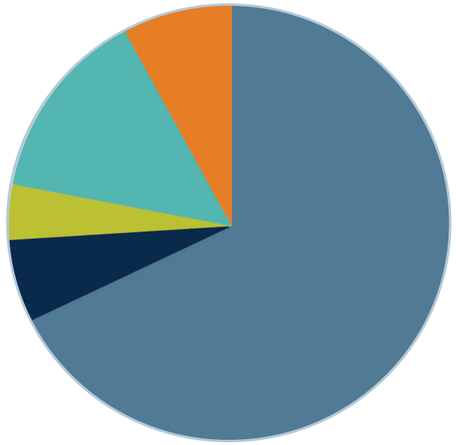
Sincerely,



MATT COURTNEY | BOARD PRESIDENT

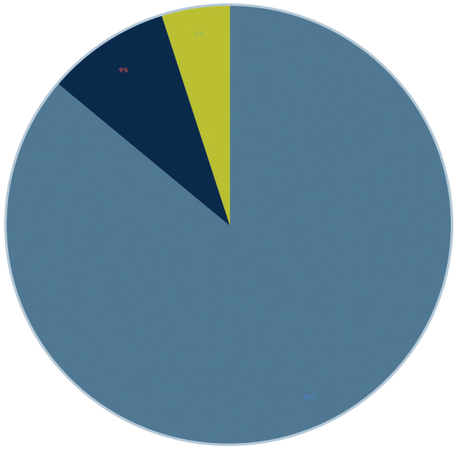
2025-2026 Statement of Activities

JUNE 1, 2025 - MAY 31, 2026



Total Revenue

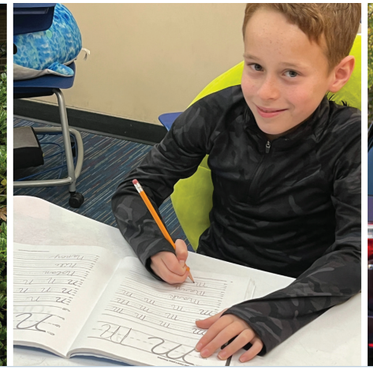
REVENUES AND RAISED FUNDS	% OF TOTAL
Day School Tuition	68%
Summer School Tuition	6%
Tutorial Fees	4%
Advancement *(Annual Giving, Grants & Gifts, and Fundraiser Revenues)*	14%
Other Revenues	8%
TOTAL REVENUES AND RAISED FUNDS	100%



Total Expenses

EXPENSES	% OF TOTAL
Program Expenses	85%
Management and General	9%
Fundraising Expenses	6%
TOTAL EXPENSES	100%







Remembering Bonnie Barton Summers Wolfarth

A LIFE OF PURPOSE, VISION & HEART







It is with profound sadness, but deep gratitude for a life beautifully and purposefully lived, that we share the passing of Churchill Center & School's Co-Founder Bonnie Barton Summers Wolfarth. Bonnie died on July 30, 2026, surrounded by her loving family. She was 86.

In addition to co-founding Churchill, Bonnie served as the first Board of Trustees President from 1978-1980 and was an active honorary life member of the Board until her recent passing.

"Bonnie, along with Co-Founder Perry Streett, is the cornerstone of our mission and all we do at Churchill," **Head of School Anne Evers shared.** ***"We will forever honor the legacy she helped build and celebrate her compassion,resilience, and fortitude that shaped Churchill's foundation 48 years ago."***





Churchill Founders Perry Streett and Bonnie Wolfarth Summers with Founding Director, Sandi Gilligan

THE NEED THAT SPARKED A MOVEMENT

In the mid 1970s, Bonnie and Perry faced a heartbreaking reality shared by many parents of children with learning disabilities: the St. Louis educational system lacked a school with the resources, expertise and specialized program needed for their children to thrive. Refusing to accept that young children should have to be sent away to boarding schools to receive a proper education, these two dedicated mothers decided to change the landscape of education in St. Louis.

FOUNDING CHURCHILL: A COMMUNITY EFFORT

Together, Bonnie and Perry led a passionate group of volunteers with their shared vision to launch a new kind of program. Built on individualized instruction and positive reinforcement, this school would be a place where bright, capable students with learning disabilities could flourish, build confidence, and learn the tools necessary for lifelong success. In 1978, their dream became a reality when The Churchill School opened its doors for its first summer program of 21 students led by Founding Director, Sandra K. Gilligan. The success of that summer affirmed what Bonnie and Perry had always known: when children are understood and supported, they shine.

Just two years later, Churchill expanded into a full-time day school in 1980, a transformative milestone for students who had long been overlooked by traditional systems. In 1982, Bonnie was honored as a St. Louis Woman of Achievement in recognition of her instrumental role in establishing Churchill and advancing specialized education in the region.

"Bonnie was a remarkable woman who made a profound impact on my life. I feel deeply blessed to have had the gift of knowing her, working alongside her and calling her my friend," **said Sandi Gilligan.** ***"Together with Perry, we built a truly special place in Churchill that has changed the lives of thousands of students and their families throughout the region. She will be deeply missed."***

CHURCHILL'S ENDURING IMPACT

What began as a grassroots effort led by two determined mothers and a circle of volunteers grew into Churchill Center & School, an institution that transformed specialized education in the St. Louis region.

Today, Churchill stands as one of the premier educational institutions for learning disabilities in the country and a national beacon for educators, administrators and schools in the field. Churchill serves approximately 300 children with dyslexia, ADHD and other learning disabilities through day school, summer school and tutoring on a yearly basis, drawing from 50 zip codes and over 85 elementary schools throughout Missouri and Illinois. Through Bonnie and Perry's fierce determination nearly five decades ago, Churchill's child-centered mission has remained the same, focusing on the belief that with the right strategies, support and understanding, children with learning disabilities can excel both in traditional classrooms and in life.



EXTENDING THE MISSION BEYOND CHURCHILL

Bonnie has been a Churchill Champion for nearly 50 years, shaping not only the lives of our students but the reach and impact of our mission across the region.

Churchill's Sandra K. Gilligan School Partnerships & Outreach Program is dedicated to fostering greater understanding and support for all people with learning disabilities by training educators, supporting families and enlightening the community. The robust Outreach Program consists of a free community speaker series, professional development teacher workshops and training, school ability awareness education, parent workshops and Terri's Tutors. Since its inception in 1990, the program has touched approximately 43,000 educators, families and community members through workshops, training, school partnerships and symposiums across the region.

Most recently, Bonnie partnered closely with Director of Sandra K. Gilligan School Partnerships & Outreach Rachel Wheatley to help Churchill build new collegiate partnerships with local universities.

"Bonnie knew how important connecting Churchill to colleges would be for recruiting and educating new teachers in the field. She was so passionate about these institutions knowing that Churchill was an incredible resource for their students and programs," **shared Rachel Wheatley.**

BONNIE'S LEGACY OF LOVE

Bonnie's legacy is woven into every part of Churchill. Her determination, clarity of purpose, and unwavering advocacy helped create a place that has changed thousands of lives. Her spirit lives on in every student who discovers their strengths at Churchill, every family who finds hope, and every educator who carries forward the mission she helped ignite.

"I am truly indebted to Bonnie and Perry for creating Churchill – a place where my daughter found her voice, determination and belief in herself that she could succeed in the world," **shares current Board of Trustees President and Alumna Parent Matt Courtney.** ***"There are no words to adequately express what Churchill has meant to our family and every family who has been touched by a Churchill education."***

Affectionately known by current students as "Bon Bon," Bonnie could be seen in recent years on campus enjoying our Bulldogs on Broadway shows, being a stand-in grandparent for students on Grand Day or visiting with fellow parents and students at multiple events throughout the year. **Her smile brightened every classroom, every hallway, every person she encountered and her spirit will be forever cherished and missed.**

A FINAL TRIBUTE

We extend our deepest condolences to Bonnie's family and loved ones. Her courage, warmth, and visionary spirit will forever be felt throughout the Churchill community and in the lives of the thousands of families she transformed. Her legacy lives on in every child who walks through our doors.

Bonnie- THANK YOU for "making a difference" in all of our lives. We are forever grateful.

Churchill's *Strategic Vision*

We will always remember that our success is measured not by how many students we impact, *but by the impact we have on any one student!*



An Intentional Roadmap

Churchill is exceptionally strong today. Together with your support, our mission and purpose are clear, and the commitment to our students is unwavering. We have always stayed true to our vision and core values of being child-centered, caring, knowledgeable, demonstrating teamwork and achieving excellence, meeting each child where they are to help them reach their greatest potential.

Rooted in this educational excellence, we are proud and excited to share our Strategic Vision, an intentional road map of Churchill's priorities and direction for the future. Since 1978, our legacy is built on the dedication, hard work and generosity of countless individuals. This Strategic Vision is not about redefining who we are; it is about advancing existing strengths and elevating Churchill's recognition as a National Leader in Learning Disabilities.

THE PLAN IS ANCHORED UPON FOUR GUIDING PILLARS:

- **Preserving our transformative student experience**
- **Investing in exceptional teachers**
- **Securing long-term financial sustainability**
- **Expanding our institutional impact as a trusted expert**

These pillars were shaped through the thoughtful input, active engagement, and honest feedback of key constituents, including dedicated faculty, staff, parents, alumni and Trustees.

Grounded in our strong foundation and the support of our generous community, this Strategic Vision reflects our commitment to well-positioning Churchill's mission of empowering generations of students to come.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR MEANINGFUL PARTNERSHIP AS WE MOVE FORWARD TOGETHER!









OUR MISSION

Provide high potential children with learning disabilities the finest, individualized remedial education and support they need to achieve success and return to a traditional classroom... And to foster greater understanding and support for all people with learning disabilities by training educators, supporting families, and enlightening the community.

PILLAR 1



Preserve & Advance The Churchill Difference

Sustain the highest level of research-proven practices with fidelity across all curricula, and uphold our status as a Wilson® Accredited Partner, Best Practice Site.

Emphasize the 1:1 Tutorial as our cornerstone, providing each child with a dedicated, daily 50-minute session essential for personalized learning and accelerated academic growth.

Focus on the Demystification of each child's learning profile so they understand their strengths, challenges, and strategies they need to advocate for themselves.

Highlight the Auditory Visual (AV) curriculum, designed to strengthen AV processing skills, enhance memory, reasoning, sequencing and following directions.

Promote a welcoming school-wide community of diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging.

Educate and empower the whole child with positive reinforcement by integrating our core curriculum, Motor Skills, and the Arts within our intentional daily schedule.

PILLAR 2



Attract & Retain Exceptional Educators

Implement a comprehensive acquisition and retention strategy that aggressively recruits, competitively compensates, and professionally supports the very best teachers.

Define Churchill as the premier school for teacher employment, maintaining a reputation for excellence, innovation, and thought leadership in dyslexia education.

Foster a supportive and caring work culture that recognizes and values faculty contributions, encouraging an environment of professional respect, transparent communication, and robust administrative support.

Provide ongoing investment in professional development through dynamic opportunities for advancement and growth, shaping the next generation of leaders at Churchill.

Build comprehensive partnerships with regional colleges and universities to enhance recruitment efforts and elevate Churchill's visibility.

PILLAR 3



Secure Our Legacy through Financial Sustainability

Execute strategic endowment initiatives to ensure Churchill's future strength while sustaining a robust Annual Fund.

Pursue thoughtful tuition growth strategies to balance accessibility and scholarship availability with long-term resource stability.

Adhere to continuous intentional budget planning across all departments to promote responsible financial stewardship of the school's resources.

Cultivate and deepen relationships among all constituencies to enable a foundation for transformative gifts, while increasing philanthropic support across all levels.

Champion a spirit of pride and lifelong connection for alumni so that their Churchill affiliation continues far beyond graduation. "Once a Bulldog, Always a Bulldog."

Strengthen our Planned Giving program to solidify future resources and support the school's enduring legacy.

PILLAR 4



Position Churchill as the Premier Leader in Learning Disabilities Education

Elevate our institutional profile to heighten visibility and recognition, affirming our expertise in the field is widely acknowledged across the St. Louis region and nationally.

Expand strategic marketing and communications, educational alliances and community engagement that increases Churchill's brand recognition.

Uphold a meticulous Admissions process focused on establishing a genuine partnership with every family. Our child-centered approach assesses each child's unique learning profile, ensuring that our expertise is aligned with their academic needs and long-term success.

Broaden Churchill's scope and impact through the Outreach Program of educator training, community workshops, the Speaker Series, and pursuing collaborative partnerships with schools to advance dyslexia instructional best practices.

What Sets Churchill Apart?

CHURCHILL CENTER & SCHOOL TRANSFORMS THE LIVES OF STUDENTS WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES



Churchill's mission of **"Remediate and Return"** is designed to identify learning differences, provide intensive intervention, and prepare students to transition successfully back to a traditional setting.

Families choose Churchill because they trust the extraordinary expertise of our faculty, the strength of our academic approach, and the life-changing growth their children experience in our care.

one on one

Every student receives a dedicated daily 50-minute 1:1 tutorial session with a highly trained educator. This individualized model allows teachers to target specific learning needs, accelerate progress, and build academic confidence in ways that are not possible in traditional classroom settings.

As a **Wilson Accredited Partner and Best Practices Site**, Churchill follows the best research-based, proven approach for dyslexia and learning disabilities, bolstered by its status as a founding member of the Association of LD Schools.

1:3 TEACHER/STUDENT Ratio

Churchill maintains a one-to-three teacher-to-student ratio, ensuring that instruction is intensive, responsive, and tailored to each learner.

Daily Schedule BY Design

Churchill's school day is intentionally structured to maximize student potential, **educating and empowering the whole child** by integrating our core curriculum with Motor Skills and the Arts. Unique to our program is Churchill's innovative **Auditory-Visual (AV) curriculum**: a specialized framework designed to sharpen cognitive processing, improve memory, and refine the complex sequencing skills essential for logical reasoning and following directions.

Helping students demystify and understand their learning disabilities is a core part of our philosophy and begins the moment they walk through our doors. They learn how to identify their strengths, challenges and the strategies they need to advocate for themselves.

DEMYSTIFICATION

80%

More than 80% of Churchill's operating expenses are dedicated to faculty and staff salaries and benefits. Unlike many independent schools where facilities, athletics, and amenities drive costs, Churchill directs the majority of its resources to expert teaching and individualized student support.

Alumni News

Full-Circle Moments: Celebrating Our Inaugural Grad Walk



At the end of May, the hallways of Churchill Center & School filled with high-energy cheers, proud smiles, and pure joy for a remarkable campus event - Churchill's **Inaugural Grad Walk**.

Designed to **celebrate our alumni as they reach their high school graduation**, the first-ever Grad Walk brought our mission full circle. Returning graduates reconnected with the teachers who helped lay their educational foundations, families gathered to mark this significant milestone and current Churchill students lined the halls to cheer on their fellow Bulldogs walking before them.

Seeing our alumni return to where their journeys began served as a powerful reminder of what is possible when bright minds receive the right support, strategies and encouragement. Their success is a roadmap for our current students, showing them that the tools learned at Churchill carry far beyond our classrooms!











Stay Connected & Shape the Future

Beyond CHURCHILL

STAY IN TOUCH

Once a part of our community, **you are a lifelong member of the Churchill family** - no matter when you walked our halls. We love keeping up with our alumni! Send us an email, stop by campus for a visit or tag us in your social posts. Share your favorite memories, let us celebrate your latest accomplishments and **inspire the next generation of Bulldogs** with your story!

ALUMNI SURVEY

We are actively building a stronger, more vibrant Churchill Alumni Network.

We want to hear from YOU!

BEYOND CHURCHILL ALUMNI SURVEY:
https://tinyurl.com/beyondchurchill

UPDATE YOUR ALUMNI INFO!

No matter how far our graduates travel or how much they achieve, one thing remains:

Once a Bulldog, Always a Bulldog!

Sandra K. Gilligan School Partnerships & Outreach Program







CHAPTER I

Beyond the Campus Walls

EXTENDING THE CHURCHILL STORY ACROSS OUR COMMUNITY

The impact of Churchill Center & School has never been contained within our physical campus. While our day school provides a research-based, transformative experience for enrolled students, our Sandra K. Gilligan School Partnerships & Outreach Program serves as a beacon of knowledge, resources and hope for the broader educational community.

During the 2025-2026 academic year, Churchill's Outreach Program expanded its reach, bringing expertise on learning disabilities directly to educators, parents and professionals. Through specialized workshops, speaker series, community partnerships and professional development sessions, we continued to bridge the gap between educational research and classroom practice.

Educational Speaker Series

These events brought together hundreds of parents, advocates and educators seeking actionable strategies and deeper understanding.



PEGGY CAMPBELL-RUSH

Parenting Pitfalls, Perils & Precious Moments

Education Expert and Author Peggy Campbell-Rush shared valuable insights and actionable tips on building resilience in children with learning differences.

Sponsored by the Mr. & Mrs. Parker B. Condie, Sr. Fund

RESPONSIVE CLASSROOM®

Improving Teacher & Student Language

Representatives from Responsive Classroom delivered strategies for teaching students effective communication skills and utilizing teacher language that deepens academic engagement.

Sponsored by the Dennis & Judy Jones Family Foundation Outreach Fund and the Mr. & Mrs. Fairfax F. Pollnow Outreach Fund



MAT HEAGERTY

Create Collaboration in Comics & Strength in Learning Differences

Author Mat Heagerty spent time and hands-on collaboration with students, teachers and parents, sharing his personal journey as a dyslexic student and exploring how he combines storytelling with art.

Sponsored by the Sandra K. Gilligan School Partnerships & Outreach Program



Q.E.D. ALL KINDS OF MINDS

Understanding Learning & Learners

All Kinds of Minds Speakers joined educators for an empowering, interactive workshop focused on the science of learning to better understand classroom neurodiversity.

Sponsored by the Dennis & Judy Jones Family Foundation Outreach Fund and the Richard Riney Family Foundation Outreach Fund

CHAPTER II

Partnering for Purpose

SHARING OUR EXPERTISE AND EMPOWERING EVERY LEARNER

Community transformation happens through collaboration. Churchill's commitment to educational equity is reflected in our dynamic partnerships with local schools, institutions and non-profit organizations. By sharing our specialized curriculum, we help create inclusive, supporting learning environments wherever children learn.

Specialized Community Service Programs in Action

TERRI'S TUTORS: RESTORING LEARNING DURING HEALING

For pediatric cancer patients, medical treatment often interrupts crucial formative years of schooling. Through our partnership with Terri's Tutors, Churchill educators provide specialized, 1-on-1 instruction tailored to the cognitive and physical needs of children undergoing medical care.

Historical Impact: Since its inception, Terri's Tutors has provided **4,346 hours** of free tutoring for **97 children** throughout the St. Louis Metropolitan area.

EXPERIENCE DYSLEXIA®: A LEARNING DISABILITIES SIMULATION

Led by Churchill faculty, participants rotate among six hands-on learning stations that simulate various language-related tasks similar to those encountered in classrooms and workplaces - increasing empathy and awareness across our community.

Sponsored by the Steve & Ginny Orthwein Family Fund

WILSON® ACCREDITED PARTNER STATUS

Churchill is proud to be one of only nine private schools in the nation to attain official Wilson® Accredited Partner status, which is the gold standard for teaching reading to individuals with dyslexia. During the 2025-2026 school year, our Outreach Program organized the regional Wilson Reading System® Group Practicum, where one Churchill teacher completed their WRS Level II Group Mastery Practicum through 120 intensive tutoring sessions with a small group of students.

Sponsored by Will Cella Family & Ned Marshall Family Outreach Fund

SCHOOL & DISTRICT COLLABORATIONS

- **Boonville R-7 School District:** Our faculty worked hand-in-hand with regional partner schools, including Hannah Cole Elementary and David Barton Elementary. Last summer, 15 of their teachers attended Fundations® training at Churchill, building sustainable internal strategies to support young, struggling readers.

  Sponsored by the Steve & Ginny Orthwein Family Fund and the Bill & Sandy Snyder Foundation Outreach Fund

- **Loyola Academy of St. Louis:** Continuing our Community School Partnership, a Wilson® Credentialed Trainer advanced training with Loyola educators to complete their Level I Wilson Certification.

  Sponsored by Will Cella Family & Ned Marshall Family Outreach Fund, the Mr. & Mrs. Parker B. Condie, Sr. Outreach Fund, the Steve & Ginny Orthwein Family Fund, the Mr. & Mrs. Fairfax F. Pollnow Outreach Fund and the Richard Riney Family Foundation Outreach Fund

ADDITIONAL COMMUNITY OUTREACH

- **20th Annual College Opportunities Fair:** Hosted admissions counselors and Disability Services Center representatives from 10 regional colleges and universities.
- **ISACS Parent Webinar Series:** Sponsored a year-long, six-part virtual webinar series for independent school parents and caregivers offered by ISACS *(Independent Schools Across the Central States).*













Teacher, Caregiver & Student Educational Workshop Series

Grounded in the Wilson Reading System® and evidence-based multisensory instruction, our outreach team equips educators, students and families with proven tools that extend research-based learning throughout our region.

WILSON LANGUAGE TRAINING® WORKSHOPS *(7 Total)*

- **June 2025** | Wilson Reading System® (WRS) Introductory Course
- **June 2025** | Fundations® Level 1 Course
- **June 2025** | Fundations® Level 2 Launch Course
- **June 2025** | WRS Introductory Course (Eldon, MO)
- **June 2025** | Fundations® Level K Launch Course
- **September 2025** | Advanced Word Strategies Course
- **April 2026** | Fundations® Pre-K Course (Webb City, MO)

Sponsored by Will Cella Family & Ned Marshall Family Outreach Fund, the Dennis & Judy Jones Family Foundation Outreach Fund, the Steve & Ginny Orthwein Family Fund and the Richard Riney Family Foundation Outreach Fund

STUDENT & SIBLING WORKSHOPS *(6 Total)*

Student Workshops

- **November 2025** | Carman Trails Elementary
- **March 2026** | Truman Middle School
- **April 2026** | Highcroft Ridge Elementary
- **April 2026** | Claymont Elementary

Sibling Workshops | **July & November 2025**
Designed to help siblings of Churchill students better understand the social and academic struggles their brothers and sisters with learning disabilities face every day.

PARENT SEMINARS: WILSON READING SYSTEM® WORKSHOPS *(5 Total)*

Sessions Held: **July 2025** | **October 2025** | **November 2025** | **January 2026** | **April 2026**

Focus: Free workshops offering families critical guidance to better understand WRS, what successful reading programs encompass and how Wilson incorporates the 10-Step Lesson Plan.

Sponsored by the Steve & Ginny Orthwein Family Fund

EDUCATOR WORKSHOPS (18 Total)

- **June 2025** | Multi-Sensory Math Workshop
- **July 2025** | Keys to Comprehension Routine
- **August 2025** | Experience Dyslexia: A Learning Disabilities Simulation
- **August 2025** | Executive Functions
- **August 2025** | Dyslexia in the Classroom
- **September 2025** | Notetaking Strategies
- **September 2025** | Dyslexia in the Classroom
- **September 2025** | Executive Functioning
- **November 2025** | Understanding and Empowering the Middle & High School Student *(ISACS Conference in Indianapolis, IN)*
- **November 2025** | Dyslexia Workshop
- **November 2025** | Experience Dyslexia®
- **December 2025** | Dyslexia Workshop
- **February 2026** | ADHD
- **March 2026** | Dyslexia Simulations
- **April 2026** | Empowering Struggling Learnings *(2 Workshops)*
- **April 2026** | Dyslexia Workshop
- **April 2026** | Fluency: Where Reading Comes to Life

"When we train one educator or empower one family, we rewrite the educational story for so many children across our region."

RACHEL WHEATLEY | SKG SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS & OUTREACH DIRECTOR

Bridging the Gap: IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS



Through these targeted partnerships, Churchill serves as both a school and a community resource center. Our goal remains constant: ensuring that every child, regardless of background or circumstance, receives the instruction they need to unlock their full potential.

During the 2025-2026 school year, under the leadership of Director Rachel Wheatley, the Sandra K. Gilligan School Partnerships & Outreach Program reached:

- **750+ Educators Trained**
- **200+ Parents & Caregivers Engaged**
- **300 Students Directly Impacted**
- **3 School Partnership Teachers Working with 130 Students**
- **7 Pediatric Cancer Survivors Assisted**
- **1,400 Total Individuals Impacted**

A Legacy of Impact: Since 1990, nearly 43,000 educators, parents students and community members have benefited from Churchill's commitment to advancing understanding and support for learning disabilities.

TO LEARN MORE, ASK QUESTIONS, OR SIGN UP FOR UPCOMING EVENTS, PLEASE VISIT: CHURCHILLSTL.ORG/OUTREACH-WORKSHOPS

Celebrating Churchill Champions

Behind every student who learns to read, every family supported through scholarships, and every teacher equipped with specialized training, stands a dedicated community of donors. We are profoundly grateful for your continued belief in our mission and in the extraordinary students we serve. Our Starfish Circle leadership donors recognized below are the foundation of Churchill's mission, creating life-changing opportunities for our students every single day.





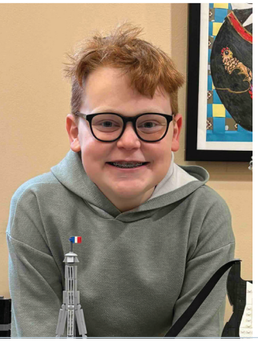




Starfish Circle: *2025-2026 Leadership Giving*

Recognition levels include gifts made to the Annual Fund, Scholarship Fund, Forever Grateful Endowment Campaign, Outreach Program and Event Underwriting between June 1, 2025 and May 31, 2026.





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**deceased*

Additional Giving Levels: *Annual Fund*

GIFTS RECEIVED JUNE 1, 2025 – MAY 31, 2026

Thank you for your generous support of Churchill Center & School through the Annual Fund! Your partnership propels Churchill forward as one of the nation's premier schools for children with learning disabilities. Every gift makes a meaningful difference for our students, from funding our research-based individualized curriculum to recruiting and retaining our outstanding faculty. The Churchill experience is possible because of YOU!

Together, our community raised an inspiring $408,287 through this year's Annual Fund.
This is a profound testament to what we can accomplish in building a brighter future for our students!

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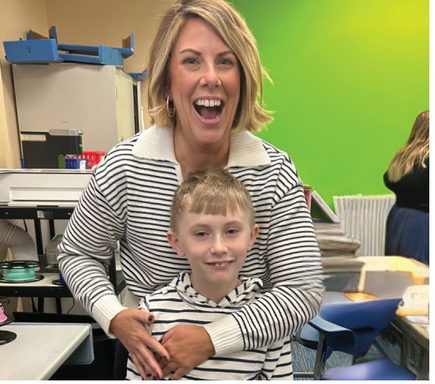





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Chad and Sarah Wind
Rich and Julie Wiseman
Andy Young and Terra Barnes

Directed Giving

True educational transformation requires both immediate investment and long-term security. Directed gifts and endowed funds allow Churchill to innovate, remain accessible and plan with confidence. We extend our deepest gratitude to the following donors who designated funds to support specific programs during the 2025-2026 school year.





GENERAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

- Stuart and Emily Belshe
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- Mike and Jane Brown
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- Jeff and Alli Burmaster
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- James and Tina Witte
- Andy Young and Terra Barnes

AUDREY & PARKER LORD SCHOLARSHIP FUND

- Jennifer Lord

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- Dave Jockenhoefer
- Josh and Nikki Kijanko
- Tim and Tammy Lally
- Nathan and Natalie Swanson

OUTREACH FUND

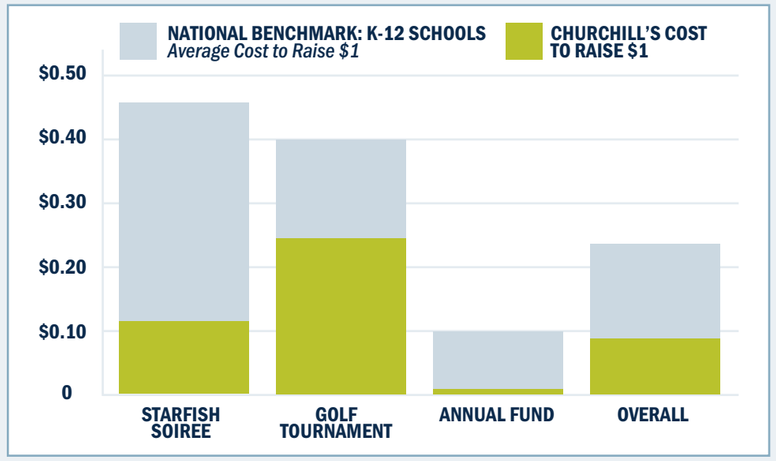
- Truman Middle School Parent Group
- Bonnie Summers Wolfarth*

**deceased*

What Does It Cost *for Churchill to Raise $1?*

Churchill's fundraising efforts demonstrate exceptional efficiency and stewardship, ensuring that the overwhelming majority of every dollar generously given goes directly toward supporting our students and mission. Thanks to the dedication of our community and thoughtful management across our core initiatives, from the Annual Fund to events like the Starfish Soirée Dinner & Auction and the Golf Tournament, our overall fundraising costs remain remarkably low. Churchill continues to outperform national standards across the board, reflecting a deep commitment to maximizing the impact of our community's generosity.

FUNDRAISERS	FUNDS RAISED	EXPENSES	COST TO RAISE $1 *(PER $1)*
Starfish Soiree	$649,201	$68,702	$0.11
Golf Tournament *(FY25)*	$137,520	$32,380	$0.24
Sip & Savor	$17,560	$3,950	$0.22
Annual Fund	$408,287	$5,998	$0.01
OVERALL	$1,212,568	$111,030	$0.09



Source: AFP, CASE, and Greenfield Fundraising Cost Benchmarks

***NOTE:** DeDe's Almonds ($123,618 raised with $69,317 expenses) operates as a point-of-sale (product-based) fundraiser - distinct from traditional appeals or special events - meaning its $0.56 cost per dollar raised reflects product Cost of Goods Sold (COGS). This aligns with the $0.50 – $0.70 national benchmark for other K-12 schools product fundraisers.*

Tributes & Memorials

In Honor of Cherished Stories



Tribute and memorial gifts offer a meaningful way to celebrate special milestones, express gratitude or honor the memory of loved ones. Each gift acknowledged on these pages reflects a deep personal connection and contributes directly to the life-changing mission of our school.

Gifts acknowledged below were received between June 1, 2025, and May 31, 2026.

Gifts Made in Memory of:

JOY GALLUZZO
Keith and Linda Alderson
Kelley Basta
Sandy Edwards
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Judi Schneider
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NICHOLAS WISEMAN
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Gifts Made in Honor of:

COLE COFFEE '13
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KATE COURTNEY '16
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Jeffrey and Jacquelyn Siegler

MELISSA TRELSTAD '03
Paul Trelstad and Lynn Beall Trelstad

JASON WRIGHT '08
Jim Wright and Cynthia Meiners







Planned Giving

Make a Lasting Difference at Churchill!



1978 *Legacy Society*

Established to honor our founding year, The 1978 Legacy Society recognizes and honors individuals who have included Churchill Center & School in their estate plans. These planned gifts - whether through bequests, trusts, life insurance or beneficiary designations - are a wonderful way to make a positive and lasting impact in the lives of our Churchill students and ensure our child-centered mission endures perpetually.

HERE ARE TWO SIMPLE OPTIONS THAT CAN MAKE A MEANINGFUL DIFFERENCE THROUGH A PLANNED GIFT:

GIVE THROUGH YOU IRA

If you are age 70 or older, you can make a gift directly from your IRA to Churchill Center & School. This type of gift, called a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD), may also satisfy all or part of your annual Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) and offer tax benefits.

LEAVE A LEGACY THROUGH YOUR WILL OR ESTATE PLAN

Including Churchill in your will or estate plan is a meaningful way to support future generations of students. A gift of any size can help ensure that Churchill continues to provide the exceptional teaching and individualized attention that change children's lives.

Simply ask your attorney or financial advisor to include Churchill Center & School as a beneficiary of your will, trust, or retirement account.

Churchill Center & School, Federal Tax ID: 43-1123374



To learn more about these giving opportunities...

please contact Christina Weyers, Director of Advancement, at 314-997-4343 or cweyers@churchillstl.org.

Celebrating Connection:
A Heartwarming Grand Day at Churchill







Last November, the halls of Churchill were **filled with laughter and meaningful connections** during our annual **Grand Day** celebration. We were thrilled to welcome 350 grandparents and special friends who joined our community for a vibrant day dedicated to learning, celebrating and creating lasting memories together.

Guests arrived eager to experience a glimpse into their students' everyday lives. The gathering featured an engaging presentation titled *"Learning, Living, Thriving: A Day With Our Students,"* presented by Head of School Anne Evers and Rachel Wheatley, Director of the Sandra K. Gilligan Outreach Program. Together, they shared how our educational environment supports student growth, discovery and success.

A true highlight of the day was the student-led tours that followed a shared lunch. Proud students guided their loved ones through classrooms and campus spaces, giving our esteemed visitors a firsthand look at where the magic happens.

Thank you to all 350 grandparents and special friends who spent the day with us - your presence and ongoing support mean the world to our students and school community!











We ♥ Our Grands!

2025-2026

Grandparent Tributes

Made in Honor of:

With deep pride and joy, the following gifts were made by Churchill grandparents in honor of their grandchildren, helping pave the way for their continued growth, confidence and success!

CHARLOTTE BECKER
Charlie and Joyce Woodard

WESLEY BECKER
Mike and Jan Roselman

FORD BRAUER
Steve and Kimmy Brauer
James and Katherine Snowden

HUDSON BROWN
Mike and Jane Brown
Richard and Cindy Castiglioni

HENRY BYRNE
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AUBREY COLE
Bryan and Cherae West

DAVIS DARNELL
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Gail Smith

JAMES FINGER
Jim and Connie Finger

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Parker Condie, Sr.

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Donna Lawton

ROSALEE JUEHRING
Eliot and Sally Katz

MADELINE KEMPER
David and Dotty Kemper

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LIAM POST
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MIA ROSSA
John and Nancy Marino

KATE SHELTON
Ginger O'Brien

ELLIOT SWANSON
OLIVER SWANSON
Neal and Linda Shapiro

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Dave Jockenhoefer
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ROSEMARY VAN DORAN
Lloyd and Mary Edwards

LUELLA VANINGER
Pat Vaninger

MALLORY VON GONTARD
MICHAEL VON GONTARD
Perky and Patty von Gontard

GABE WALKENHORST
Charlie and Linda Duckworth

MOLLY WALSHAUSER
Phil and Carol Schwab







Special Events

CHURCHILL CENTER & SCHOOL

Starfish Soirée

Dinner & Auction • February 27, 2026



The Courtney Family with Auction Emcees Jason & Tarryn of Auction Horizon



Auction Co-Chairs (from left-to-right): Carey Falb, Molly Shelton and Jodie Finney



Silent Auction Co-Chairs (from left-to-right): Jacque Siegler and Alli Burmaster

A RECORD-BREAKING NIGHT OF COMMUNITY & PURPOSE!

What an extraordinary night for Churchill Center & School! On Friday, February 27, 2026, at the Hilton St. Louis Frontenac, our community showed up with heart, electric enthusiasm and unwavering support to make the Starfish Soirée Dinner & Auction truly unforgettable. Thanks to everyone who planned, volunteered, joined us in person or bid from afar - **together, you helped raise more than $646,000 for our students and families!**

Included in this incredible total is **$217,800 raised for our Fund-A-Need 1:1 Technology Initiative**, ensuring every Churchill student and faculty member receives a new, secure, school-managed, individual device.

Heartfelt thanks to our phenomenal **Auction Co-Chairs Carey Falb, Jodie Finney, and Molly Shelton** and our powerhouse **Silent Auction Co-Chairs Alli Burmaster and Jacque Siegler**. And to our entire amazing team of faculty, staff and parent volunteers - thank you for pouring your heart, passion and energy into making this event a landmark success!

IMPACT AT A GLANCE

- **400 Attendees**
- **60+ Volunteers**
- **100% Participation from Current Parents & Board of Trustees**
- **$101,750 in Live Auction**
- **$161,405 in Sponsorships, Tickets & Donations**
- **$165,485 in Silent Auction, Raffles, Paddle Drop & More**
- **$217,800 for Fund-A-Need Initiative**









Thank you to our Generous Sponsors!

STARFISH SPONSORS

Acropolis Investment Management

PRESENTING SPONSORS

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The Kijanko Family & ServiceMaster Restore - Liberty Restoration Group
Renaissance Financial & The Walkenhorst Family
The Taylor, Villa & Jockenhoefer Families

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Pro Pool

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The Totterdale Family

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22ND ANNUAL

FRIDAY OCT 17 2025

SIP & SAVOR 2025

a celebration of beer | wine | food

To Benefit Churchill's Scholarship Fund

A TRADITION OF COMMUNITY, CONNECTION & FUN!

In October 2025, our community gathered on campus for Churchill's **22nd Annual Sip & Savor**. The evening brought together parents, alumni, faculty and friends for a festive night filled with fine wines, craft brews, gourmet food, live music and vibrant conversation!

Beyond the celebration, attendees and sponsors helped raise **$17,560 for Churchill's Scholarship Fund**, directly providing opportunities for our bright current and future students.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our guests, sponsors and entire community for making this evening such a resounding success!

Cheers to YOU!

Thank you to our Generous Sponsors!

GOLD SPONSORS

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Oasis Pools & The Unnerstall Family
The Taylor, Villa & Jockenhoefer Families

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BrickTop's
Dalie's Smokehouse
Hot Box Cookies
Koibito Poke Fresh Eatery
NOTHING bundt CAKES
OLD Bakery BEER
Perennial Artisan Ales
The Pioneer Bakery Cafe
Rockwell Beer Co.
Rosalita's Cantina
Tazikis Mediterranean Cafe
Third Wheel Brewing
Vangel's Restaurant & Bar

SILVER SPONSORS

McBride Homes
David & Amy Meyers
Renaissance Financial
Bryan & Cherae West

BRONZE SPONSORS

Joel & Rachael Brightfield
Houlihan Trading Co. & The Griffin Family

DeDe's Chocolate-Covered Almonds Fall Fundraiser

The sweetest tradition at Churchill reached an incredible milestone in 2025! With **7,000 boxes sold** and **more than $123,600 raised,** this fundraiser has officially generated **close to $1M in total support** over its 30-year history. Special thanks to the Schulz Family, especially alumnus Hank '22 and former Trustee Rebecca, for making the annual Chicago almond pick-up run!



Celebrating Milestones & New Beginnings









HONORING GROWTH, ACHIEVEMENT & COMMUNITY SPIRIT

The end of a school year marks the turn of a page: a moment to celebrate every hurdle overcome, every achievement unlocked and the bright new chapters that lie ahead.

Churchill Center & School's **2025-2026 Awards & Graduation Ceremony** on Friday, May 22, 2026, marked a powerful moment of reflection, recognition and joy. This cherished annual tradition brings our entire community together to spotlight the resilience and accomplishments of our remarkable students while honoring our dedicated faculty & staff, alumni, school families and supporters who helped shape their success!

Commencement & Alumni Voices



2026 SANDRA K. GILLIGAN "MAKING A DIFFERENCE" ALUMNI AWARD: HELEN (MACDONALD) CIESIELSKI '95

Inspired by Founding Director Sandi Gilligan's legacy of service, this award recognizes alumni who use their talents to uplift others. We were immensely proud to honor **Helen MacDonald Ciesielski '95**, founder of *On Up*, an organization dedicated to strengthening maternal health in St. Louis. Through *On Up,* Helen has expanded free, community-based doula care - delivering 1,000+ visits, supporting 200+ births and building a network of 30+ doulas to improve outcomes for families across our region. Helen's compassion, determination and advocacy show our students what it looks like to write a life story focused on encouraging others!



KEYNOTE ADDRESS: DREW WILLMANN '16

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to **Drew Willmann '16**, who returned to campus as our 2026 Alumni Speaker. Drew delivered an inspiring address reflecting on his own Churchill experience, encouraging students to embrace support, stay active, honor their teachers (with a special tribute to Ms. Grochowski), appreciate their families' sacrifices and hold onto the joy of lifelong learning.







Faculty Excellence in Action

2026 JOHN D. VALENTINE AWARD FOR TEACHING EXCELLENCE: MARY BETH HOFER



Established in 2003 to honor the legacy of dedicated parent and Churchill Trustee John D. Valentine, this annual faculty award is voted on by peers to recognize a Churchill educator who exemplifies the highest ideals of the profession.

Selected by her colleagues, **Mrs. Mary Beth Hofer** leads with compassion, deep expertise and an unparalleled belief in her students. Her calm presence, contagious smile and unwavering dedication instill true confidence in every child she teaches. Mrs. Hofer is an inspiring force at Churchill, and we are thrilled to celebrate her exceptional impact!

Student Award Spotlight

Alongside recognitions for academic honors, reading triumphs, motor skills achievement and personal growth, several students received distinguished awards for exceptional character, leadership and athletic excellence:



ROBERT HERMANN HOLTON LEADERSHIP AWARD

Honoring outstanding leadership, academic excellence, athletic achievement and meaningful community involvement.

WINNER: MOLLY W.

FINALISTS: JAY K., MARGARET R. & LUELLA V.



HERB CASE AWARD

Recognizing exemplary character, compassion and dedicated service to others.

WINNER: BRYNN S.

FINALISTS: ELLA B., WILL C. & KATE M.



BRAD RANKIN ATHLETIC AWARD

Celebrating Bulldogs who demonstrate exceptional athleticism, effort, sportsmanship and teamwork across all Motor Skills programs.

LOWER SCHOOL HONOREES: JOSEPHINE F. AND HENRY B.

UPPER SCHOOL HONOREES: JACKSON P. & MARGARET R.



Congratulations to all of our 2025-2026 honorees!

THANK YOU FOR EMBODYING THE VERY BEST OF THE CHURCHILL SPIRIT.

Go Bulldogs!

CHURCHILL
CENTER & SCHOOL
National Leader in Learning Disabilities

1021 Municipal Center Drive
Town & Country, MO 63131
314-997-4343 | churchillstl.org







Our Mission

Our mission at Churchill Center & School is to give high potential children with learning disabilities the finest, individualized, remedial education and the support they need to achieve success and return to a traditional classroom and… To foster greater understanding and support for all people with learning disabilities by training other educators, supporting our families and enlightening the community.

SAVE the DATE

DECEMBER 2-4	Fall Fundraiser Almonds Pick-Up
DECEMBER 21 - JANUARY 1	Winter Break
MARCH 15 - 26	Spring Break
MAY 3	9th Biennial Churchill Golf Tournament
MAY 24	Field Day
MAY 28	Awards & Graduation Ceremony
MAY 28	Last Day of 2026-2027 School Year