

PRESS RELEASE

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SS. Cyril & Methodius Catholic School in Lakewood was today named one of less than 300 schools in the United States - and one of only 16 schools in Ohio - to receive the *US Department of Education, No Child Left Behind - Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence* award for 2005. This is a national honor from the United States Department of Education for achieving high standards of academic excellence and dramatic improvement. The program recognizes schools that have at least 40 percent of their students from disadvantaged backgrounds, are achieving at high levels, and have dramatically improved student performance on standardized assessments.

“The progress that SS. C+M School has made in the last five years shows us that all schools can be successful, regardless of the economic circumstances of their students and families. Our teachers, parents and students have worked very hard to make big changes in recent years and to give students what they need to succeed - helping all students to learn. They truly deserve this national recognition for their hard work,” said Mrs. Carol Shakarian, Principal.

Two years ago, Rev. Jerome Duke, the Pastor of SS. Cyril & Methodius Catholic Church, chose not to merge the school with the other three Catholic schools in Lakewood. Fr. Duke believed that students from the east end of Lakewood could not afford the tuition at the newly merged school and, if SS. Cyril & Methodius School closed, there would be no Catholic presence in that area - thus it continued as a separate entity. 51% of the students are either Title I eligible or are enrolled in the free and reduced lunch program. The school depends on both the parish and generous donors to help fill the tuition gap and to provide excellent programs for all the students.

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