

## Our Amazing Grace

### INVESTING IN THE FUTURE!

Senior, Grace Hagstrom has made phenomenal progress during her years as a **LASE Student at Lutheran High School St. Charles**. The trifecta of her strong faith, family love and exceptional LASE teachers has resulted in her inspiring success story of personal growth and self-advocacy, which will carry her into the future.



Grace Hagstrom,  
Herald the  
Holidays Student  
Ambassador

Early on, Grace expressed to her mom, Pam, that she had to learn everything twice: once the way the class learned and then again the way she could learn. Pam expressed that the LASE teachers, “have treated my daughter with compassion and respect, always going above and beyond while modeling Christian love for Grace daily.

God has big plans for Grace as she graduates this spring. She will be attending State Tech in Linn, MO, to pursue her nursing degree. Grace’s beloved grandfather, the late Ernie Hayes, celebrated organist for the St. Louis Cardinals, would join in celebration and prayers for her continued amazing success as she enters the next chapter of her story.

## This Little Light of Mine, I’m Gonna Let it Shine!

### CHRIST COMMUNITY LUTHERAN SCHOOL EARLY EDUCATION PROGRAM

“Bring us the children who need You, God” was the prayer of **Angela Shirley, Executive Director of the CCLS Early Childhood Education Program**. Angela and her faculty at four campuses impressively serve as strong Christian leaders for their students, parents and peers.

Today, many early childhood professionals are seeing an increase in the number of young children with a variety of special needs and challenges in their classrooms. These teachers often rely on outside resources to gain additional

knowledge and to learn strategies to better support these young children. Angela (wanting to be proactive), was connected with LASE Specialized Education Consultants, Tara Copeland and Mary Skittino to collaborate and better serve the needs of CCLS’s current early childhood students. The LASE educators serve as a resource for the faculty by observing students, modeling new approaches in the classroom to meet a variety of needs at different levels, and sharing their expertise at IEP and parent/teacher meetings. **LASE Educational Consultants work with children to advocate for their needs** while also working collaboratively with CCLS faculty to model strategies they can implement in the classroom. This positive focus sets the tone for the whole classroom while letting all the students see what behaviors are expected. The CCLS and LASE collaborative team are helping these young children regulate their emotions and



Jessica Berner (CCLS EC Assistant Director), Tara Copeland (LASE), Angela Shirley (CCLS EC Executive Director), and Mary Skittino (LASE)



verbalize their needs to enhance their learning and to let their little lights shine.

Angela says, “The LASE consultants are an invaluable part of our team. We are so much better because of their input. Morale has improved because our teachers feel supported and LASE is helping to maintain an even more positive learning environment for the staff and current students at CCLS.”



“A child with special education needs affects the entire family. Thank you for providing us with solution-based strategies that make homework manageable and family time more enjoyable.”



# Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.” –Matthew 19:14

Lori Christiansen, former LASE Executive Director, who made her heavenly entrance into the arms of her Lord and Savior in 2015, was celebrated by family and friends by creating a fund in her memory. **Lori’s Legacy** now has a purpose.

After gathering valuable input from early childhood directors, teachers and administrators, LASE will create and implement a state-wide professional development program specifically designed to meet the growing needs for our preschool learners (ages 3–5). The goal is to offer education, support, early intervention methods, and a ‘toolbox’ of strategies designed for early childhood teachers. The hope is to better equip and empower these educators so they can effectively impact children to realize their God-given potential.

LASE is excited to kick-off this new initiative in early August 2020, with a professional development workshop, led by Lori Benson Adams—a nationally known educational intervention specialist.

We know Lori would flash that smile and celebrate this funding that recognizes the unique miracle of every child. Thanks be to God.



## Just Sayin’

### LISTEN TO WHAT LASE SPECIALIZED EDUCATION’S PARENTS ARE SHARING...

*“Our LASE teacher has been amazingly helpful to work with. I definitely feel like we are both on a team to support my daughter’s academic needs.”*

*“She is a lifesaver and is a wonderful advocate for our child. Often teachers don’t understand his special needs but she is always happy to intervene and help offer strategies.”*

*“I only hope the LASE teachers know how much they are appreciated and that their hard work is making the life of my child so much better by encouraging him, believing in him, and making him feel worthy. Thank you so much for this wonderful program.”*

*“Our LASE teacher was a great advocate and very well prepared and was able to change my child’s program to match what was being done with his tutor in the public school. She is very much appreciated.”*

*“I am so grateful for these wonderful teachers who truly care—don’t just teach, but truly care about the progress of my son’s academic performance.”*

*“LASE has blessed our family so much. It’s impossible to put into words. When you see your child struggle and don’t know what to do it’s heartbreaking. Our LASE teacher has shown our daughter that God has made us all different and allowed her to see her unique strengths.”*



**GRANT SUPPORT**  
THANK YOU *to the following*  
*LASE Supporters:*

- ▶ Cardinals Care
- ▶ Concordia Outbound Ministries
- ▶ Employees Community Fund of Boeing
- ▶ Wayne C. Kaufmann Foundation
- ▶ Lutheran Church Missouri Synod
- ▶ St. Louis Christmas Carols Association

## By the Numbers

2018-2019 SCHOOL YEAR



**1,252**

Children Directly Impacted by LASE Services



**16**

Lutheran schools that partner with LASE



**\$105,325**  
in Scholarships/  
Grants Awarded



**350**

Lutheran School Educators attended the LASE Insight Series Workshop



**1**

out of 10 children have a learning disability.



**10**

out of 10 children are loved by God.

## LASE 2020 Insight Series

**Powerful Teaching: LASE—Patrice M. Bain, Ed.S**  
**August 6th (Thursday)**  
**Immanuel Lutheran School—Olivette**



The **8th Annual Insight Series Workshop** reconfirms LASE's reputation as a leader in providing quality education resources for teachers in our community. As a veteran K-12 teacher, author and nationally known speaker, Patrice M. Bain will share authentic learning strategies for the classroom based on 15 years of research while working closely with cognitive scientists.

Bain is co-author of the popular cognitive learning based book, Powerful Teaching: Unlock the Science of Learning. In this engaging and interactive workshop, Patrice will unlock the research and provide evidence-based strategies that will transform your teaching so that all students will be successful learners. Best of all, these strategies won't add to your already full teaching schedule, but will streamline what you are already doing and directly impact student successes.

Our 2019 workshop offered professional development to 300+ educators in our community and was complimentary to all LASE partner schools. LASE Specialized Education is honored to host this workshop that will start your school year with a repertoire of tools and strategies that can be used on your first day back. Watch for registration details coming soon on the LASE website.

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**June 22, 2020 (Monday)**

#### **Thirty-Eighth Annual Golf Tournament**

Sunset Country Club, Sunset Hills, MO

4 person scramble, lunch, oral auction,

Evening cocktails and hors d'oeuvre buffet

Sponsorships, donations and volunteer opportunities available.

#### **2020 LASE Insight Series Teacher Workshop**

**Powerful Teaching—Patrice M. Bain,**

August 6th (Thursday)  
Timing TBD

Immanuel Lutheran School,  
Olivette

K-12th Grade Educators

**November 7, 2020 (Saturday)**

#### **25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Herald the Holidays**

Doubletree Hotel St. Louis Westport

Luncheon, Silent Auction, Boutique and Style Show

Sponsorships, donations and volunteer opportunities available.

For information or registration for events, visit [lutheranspecialized.org/Events](http://lutheranspecialized.org/Events) or call 314-268-1234.



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## Herald the Holidays—Nov 2019

Nearly three hundred guests celebrated the children of LASE at the Herald the Holidays event at the Doubletree Hilton in Westport. The festive atmosphere put everyone in the holiday spirit as groups of families and friends celebrated together. Guests shopped the Holiday Boutique, placed their bids at the silent auction, feasted on the gourmet lunch and enjoyed the unique style show, featuring fashions from Steinmart, Gloria’s Unique Boutique and Euphoria Beauty Bar & Boutique. The fun continued as guests had the unique experience of shopping the fashion trucks after the event. Sponsor, donor and guest



Grandma, Sandy Siepman, Mom, Katie Siddens and twins, Izzy and Benny stole the show!

support for the event netted \$53,500 to impact the lives of the children served by LASE. “Herald the Holidays has become an annual tradition for my family and friends. It’s the perfect way to kick off the holiday season and it’s for the LASE kids. We wouldn’t miss it!”

## Dr. Joe Bordeaux

### VOLUNTEERS ARE LOVE IN MOTION!

Our hearts are grateful to Dr. Joe Bordeaux as he ends his nine years of service as both Chairman and Board Member for LASE Specialized Education. He will be



Joe and Betty Bordeaux

remembered for bringing a wealth of expertise, wisdom and leadership along with encouragement and support for the mission of LASE. In addition, he and his wife Betty continue to support all LASE events, even volunteering their time to assist with fundraising efforts for the children. Thank you, Joe! Stay in touch!! Enjoy traveling with Betty and spending time with those beautiful grandchildren!

**One Last Thing...** LASE Specialized Education is currently seeking volunteers to serve on our Board of Directors and volunteers for our fundraising event committees. Please contact the LASE office at 314-268-1234 for additional information on the opportunities that are available. We look forward to sharing your insights and talents for the children of LASE Specialized Education.