



Cardinal Ritter College Prep High School

Cardinal Ritter College Prep High School, which serves predominantly non-Catholic African American students, faced a major decision in the late 1990s. Despite a solid record of success, with 100% of its seniors graduating and going on to college, the school found itself in a small, aging building in North St. Louis with no room for expansion.



The Archdiocese decided to build a new, state-of-the-art campus in the Grand Center redevelopment area of the City of St. Louis. Top civic leaders who felt strongly about the school's mission committed to raising the needed funds.

With no development department of its own, Cardinal Ritter Prep turned to The Rome Group to guide its fundraising efforts. For five years, The Rome Group developed strategy, trained solicitors, prepared requests, built stewardship programs, and coordinated the successful \$28 million capital campaign. Following this success, The Rome Group helped the school institute its own development department and annual development plan.

Today, Cardinal Ritter Prep enjoys a thriving school culture, blossoming relationships with its Grand Center neighbors, and a growing enrollment. As the capital campaign's pledge period ends, the school is successfully developing a base of annual donors it will need for ongoing stability.

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