



## St. Marcus School

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### About St. Marcus School

St. Marcus School is a Christian, college prep school serving 300 students from K4 through 8th grade. St. Marcus is at the forefront of educational reform and student transformation. Graduating students are fully prepared for high school and positioned to excel in higher education, including university academics and as leaders in their communities. The Christian focus and no-excuses approach encourages growth in wisdom, dedication and self-discipline.



### Opportunities for Involvement:

- **Pray!** For our ministries as we continue to fulfill our mission and transform communities.
- **Visit and Experience!** Sunday services, educational excellence and opportunities to share in community outreach. Introduce others to St. Marcus by scheduling a tour.
- **Partner!** With St. Marcus and reach out to the community with the Word of God.
- **Attend or Sponsor!** The St. Marcus Annual Gala.
- **Give!** Share your talents, expertise, skills and financial support. E-mail Christine at [christine.safranek@stmarcus.org](mailto:christine.safranek@stmarcus.org).

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# CATALYST

Transforming Lives: Christian, College, Choice



St. Marcus School  
[www.stmarcus.org](http://www.stmarcus.org)


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Are You The Key To...

Inspiring Leadership  
Creating Opportunity  
Embracing Diversity  
Transforming Lives

## Unlock the Potential

To some people, a door is just a door, but at St. Marcus School we have a more significant interpretation. Our doors serve as a gateway for our students. A gateway to **Hope. Opportunity.** And second chances. This is the philosophy of St. Marcus School — by passing through our doors, every student is given the key to a brighter future.

**NOVEMBER**   
**08 UNLOCK THE**  
**2008 POTENTIAL**  
**ST. MARCUS SCHOOL BENEFIT GALA**

Over 300 church, community and business leaders will choose to become the keys to unlock central city students' potential and celebrate these young scholars' future leadership at the St. Marcus Benefit Gala on Saturday, November 8, 2008.

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### 2008 Gala Sponsors

#### Martin Luther King Jr. Presenting Sponsors



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#### Frederick Douglas Sponsors



#### In Kind Sponsors



## A Word from St. Marcus Leadership



I still remember the day that Alexandria and Lataivia Taylor walked into the school office. Tall for their age, the 7th grade twin girls sported large afros, casual clothing, and ferocious scowls.

Their mother, Tanquilla Taylor had been waiting three long years for this opportunity. On the waiting list since fourth grade, Alexandria and

Lataivia would finally get the chance to experience a St. Marcus education. Although Tanquilla was ecstatic, the girls were none too pleased: uniforms, long school days, lots of homework, and a reputation for no excuses.

Eighteen months later, towards the middle of the girls' eighth grade year, the school assembly exploded with excitement as Lataivia's name was announced as a recipient of an honor roll tie. It was no secret that Lataivia had arrived at St. Marcus in the bottom quartile of students' nationally. Before the end of their eighth grade year, Alexandria also would achieve honor roll status.

Shortly after the girls' graduation from St. Marcus, Tanquilla reflected on the frustration of not getting in, "For all parents, it's worth the wait, it's worth the struggles, it's worth the children crying at night not getting it," said Taylor. "It's worth the Saturday Schools; it's worth the Power Hour... no more ghetto life, no more W2's. **It's worth investing in your child's education.**"



*Lataivia Taylor, 8th grade*

Worth investing? Absolutely. **Thank you for your critical investment in the work of St. Marcus Lutheran School.** We need to make sure students like Lataivia and Alexandria don't have to wait...to hear God's word daily...for long term success... for the opportunity to turn failure into unbridled success.

Now more than ever, we need your continued investment to make sure waiting lists no longer exist at St. Marcus. On our horizon is an opportunity to double our size. I ask that you introduce investors and partners to St. Marcus for a tour. **Help us to open the doors to success for more students like the Taylor twins.**

## Lack of space separates sisters

The Rays have big dreams for their daughters. They know St. Marcus can help them realize their hopes. However, lack of space poses a severe reality to parents' fragile visions. **In this case, one daughter got in; another did not.**

"We are patiently waiting for Imani to get in," said Carmen Ray, the girls' mother.

St. Marcus is stretched beyond capacity with students. Closets are turned into offices; the cafeteria now houses a temporary, tightly squeezed classroom. Imani, a 6th grader at an MPS school, attends Saturday school with her older sister, but the St. Marcus 6th grade class is jam-packed with no room for this aspiring artist and teacher.



*Clockwise from left: Terence, Carmen, Shamoni, and Imani*

Dozens of parents wait for months, sometimes years, so their children will have access to the values-based, life changing education St. Marcus offers.

"I now watch my child show initiative, get her own book and do her homework without being told - this is a parent's dream," said Terence.

"She now comes home with a boat load of homework. I'm learning along with my daughter," added Carmen.

"I would really like to thank St. Marcus," said Shamoni, a 7th grader. "I had extremely bad behavior problems [at my old school]. I've not been in the office yet. I'm eager for my sister to come to school here too."

Shamoni has big dreams herself. The 13-year-old is undecided between becoming a lawyer and running her parents' business, but a new idea recently occurred to this young woman. "I could run a Christian school and let other children have the same experience I've had."

Whether or not Shamoni eventually takes over Mr. Tyson's job, Carmen and Terence know that St. Marcus will partner with them to give the foundation of discipline and Christian guidance their daughters need.

## Cindy Kucera – Faithful Servant

Whenever you see Cindy, she's smiling. This generous lady had reason to beam on September 24th, when she received the Faithful Servant Award from the Christian Stewardship Foundation. This honor was accompanied by a \$5,000 St. Marcus ministry award.



*Cindy celebrates her award with two young friends, Nathan Price and Tunde Saaka*

Here's a glimpse into the beauty of Cindy's heart and faith that she pours into the lives of students and faculty.

- Purchases items, sets up and volunteers for two days at the school Christmas Store, allowing all 330 students to purchase gifts at a discounted rate for their families
- Serves as the Gala's Auction Chair and Core team member
- Sews and repairs damaged school uniforms
- Gifts each teacher with a Christmas present and hosts faculty holiday parties
- Provides weekend respite housing for elementary and high school students
- Provides food and clothing for students with impaired or absent parents
- Coordinates and bakes for the holiday bake sale and pie sale
- Locates jobs for teenage boys from the central-city and facilitates getting them to their employment

We at St. Marcus cannot thank this gentle, selfless, loving woman nearly enough. Nominating Cindy for the Faithful Service Award expresses only a fraction of our appreciation. Our words capture a mere glimmer of the tremendous heart God has given to our friend. Still, we offer our thanks from the depths of our hearts. To God, for giving us the gift of Cindy. And to Cindy, for truly showing us what faithful service is.

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## Unlock the Potential

### Gala Schedule of events:

5:00 p.m. - Silent Auction opens  
7:30 p.m. - Gourmet dinner catered by Lee John's Live Auction  
9:30 p.m. - Marcus Afterglow- Mary Davis Trio

Individual Ticket: \$130

Black Tie Optional/Valet Parking

Youth are the future of our city, country, and world.

### How will they choose the right door?

St. Marcus prepares students to have courage and wisdom to walk boldly through the doors of Christian character and leadership.

### Are you the key? Unlock the potential.

Attend the 2008 St. Marcus Benefit Gala. Enjoy an elegant evening of dining and dancing, and open wide the doors for scholars to reach their true potential and realize their dreams.

Proceeds from the Gala will provide essential financial support enabling St. Marcus School to continue offering top-ranked, Christian education and to unlock opportunities for students.

**NOVEMBER 08 UNLOCK THE 2008 POTENTIAL**  
**ST. MARCUS SCHOOL BENEFIT GALA**

**Unlock the Potential:** For Gala information, Sponsorship and Ticket Purchasing: Please contact Christine Safranek (414) 267-8361 christine.safranek@stmarcus.org. Or go to [www.stmarcusgala.com](http://www.stmarcusgala.com).