Hundreds of families on Tucson’s under-resourced south side now have the opportunity to provide their children with an excellent education in a safe and loving environment. In 2013-2014, Notre Dame ACE Academy students will receive more than $1.7 million in scholarships. Thanks to Arizona’s corporate tax credit scholarship program, more children than ever have access to a Catholic education of the highest quality. For example, St. John the Evangelist Catholic School has experienced 91% enrollment growth since becoming a Notre Dame ACE Academy in 2010. Every child deserves an excellent education. Tax credit scholarships pave the way.
Nationwide, students from under-served communities and schools lag behind the national average in standardized tests. This is called the achievement gap.

One class at St. John the Evangelist Catholic School proves this gap can be closed: In 2010, the class average in math for St. John’s 3rd graders was at the 17th percentile. Three years later, as 5th graders, they are at the 52nd percentile. They now outperform the national average (above).

Our older students are closing the gap while our younger students don’t experience a gap at all. Students in our three Tucson partner schools are consistently posting higher achievement scores year after year (right).

In fact, our youngest students are among the highest achieving in the nation. In 2013, our Kindergarteners scored in the 86th percentile in math and the 91st percentile in reading.

Our teachers are changing children’s lives:

“Miguel started the last school year reading in the 40th percentile. By the end of the year, he was all the way to the 79th, and he’s already talking about where he wants to go to college!”

Mrs. Dinwiddle, 3rd grade
St. John the Evangelist