Magis Welcomes Cohort 10

As one school year ends and Magis says "good-bye" to its graduating teachers, the summer begins and a new group of young, enthusiastic students enter the program. This year's cohort is comprised of 8 new teachers. Among them is Andrew DeLeonardis, Social Studies teacher at Jesuit Academy. Reflecting on why he chose the program Andrew said, "I joined Magis because my goals in life align with the three pillars of Magis: community, spirituality, and academics." He continued, "I feel we are called as Christians to be complete and responsible in body, mind, and spirit. Magis offers a great opportunity to facilitate these principles in my life."

The three major pillars of Magis are touched on throughout the summer program as the young teachers live in community on Creighton University's campus. As the 27 teachers finish their summer courses and are commissioned to serve their schools they will teach every subject from English to 3rd grade to journalism. This year the 27 Magis teachers will collectively affect the lives of 1,832 students. They look forward to beginning the 2011-2012 school year with great enthusiasm!
Commissioning Mass

The Commissioning Mass for the Magis teachers will be held at St. John's Church at 5:00PM on Saturday, July 23. The 27 teachers will be commissioned to serve their schools in the 5 dioceses across 2 states. There will be a reception following the Mass in Lower St. John's. All are welcome to celebrate the great gift of these teachers. We look forward to seeing you there!

Save the Date

Magis Catholic Teacher Corps is celebrating its 10 year anniversary this fall! Please mark your calendars for the celebration luncheon, which will take place at the Harper Center on October 22, 2011 at 12:30PM.

Building Community One Meal at a Time
by: Melissa Otter, Theology teacher at Spalding Academy, Spalding, NE

It is “breakfast for dinner,” there is one more package of bacon to cook, and it is 15 minutes until dinner. The cooking group has exhausted the sauté pans on pancakes, vegetables, and the other package of bacon. One Magis teacher creatively uses a cookie sheet on the electric stove to brown the bacon. This technique was successful until the pan became too hot and started to smoke. No fires were started and the bacon was finished on time. This is a typical evening in Magis when a small group of Magis teachers cook for 30 people.

After a challenging first year of teaching it is rejuvenating to be a student again, spend time with fellow second years, meet the new cohort, and live in a large community. Magis summer is filled with plenty of sights, sounds, and smells. This is a welcome change from the school year when I do not always take the time to appreciate my surroundings because I am inundated with lesson plans and grading.

This summer my room is one of the two cooking rooms, which means there is constant traffic in and around my room. Sometimes I just sit at my desk while dinner is being made by that night’s cooking crew and listen to the bustle and excitement of people coming together to create a meal for 30. I lean over my desk and peer into the kitchen room to see friends mincing garlic and slicing fruit at cutting boards next to each other. I listen as teachers share about their day; I listen to the laughter and cannot help but smile. I hear the clang of pans and the sizzle of vegetables hitting oil; I smell sloppy joes that have been simmering all day in a crock pot or homemade sweet potato fries getting crisp in the oven.

I am able to observe this throughout the summer and it sustains me during the school year. Because Magis teachers spend much time together during the summer and remain in contact during the school year, I have cultivated some truly life-giving friendships. The Magis teachers are a group of highly motivated, intelligent, and fun individuals. All you have to do is sit amidst them as they cook a meal and this will be more than evident.

Magis Placement Cities

Teachers serve in 15 different schools across 9 states. Cities from left to right: Pine Ridge (Diocese of Rapid City), North Platte, Grand Island, Spalding (Diocese of Grand Island), York, Nebraska City (Diocese of Lincoln), Sioux Falls (Diocese of Sioux Falls), Winnebago, and Omaha (Archdiocese of Omaha).