

THE AQUINAS REPORT

AQUINAS CATHOLIC SCHOOLS MAGAZINE FOR FAMILIES, FRIENDS, & ALUMNI



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Aquinas Marching Band at Disney World

FALL & WINTER SPORTS REPORT

2020 All System Founders' Mass

2020 Catholic Schools Week



The Aquinas Report

2019-2020 Fall/Winter

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The Aquinas Report is published twice a year.
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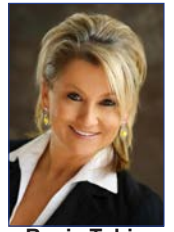
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MISSION STATEMENT

Aquinas Catholic Schools is a Christ-centered family devoted to nurturing students of all faiths through educational excellence in its vibrant Catholic tradition.

Report From The Dean

Dear Students, Faculty, Staff, Parents, Alumni, and Benefactors,

I have heard numerous adjectives to describe the times we are living through: interesting, unprecedented, tragic, scary, and apocalyptic to name just a few. While the COVID-19 pandemic has the world on edge, acting in ways that we have never experienced, it is also slowly pulling us out of a self-centeredness or relativistic mindset we so often live in. We are being forced to think of others and to put their needs above our comfort. While some continue to live focusing on what is best and most enjoyable for themselves, much of the world is sacrificing its comfort for the good of others. We are also being called out of ourselves to care for those who are most vulnerable as well as those who are on the front lines of this fight: our medical professionals.

The simple fact that we stay safer at home is a sacrifice of love so we minimize the spread of this virus particularly to those who are more vulnerable to the severe and deadly symptoms of this disease. Even more we see people stepping up to shop for the homebound, make masks to prevent the spread, to fill food pantries, to give blood, and so much more. While I will never say that the virus is a blessing, it is in times like this that we often show our best side. The question is, will it change who we are away from this pandemic? Will we always become more loving, more caring people?

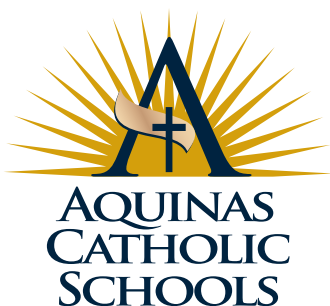
We have made this journey during Lent and Easter a time of reflection and transformation. Will the worldly events assist us in our spiritual transformation so we might join Christ in his Resurrection? My prayer for myself and each of you is that you will not just see the inconvenience of this time where we are asked to dramatically change our lives, but to see it as an invitation to love, a time to be transformed by the grace of God into a selfless and other-centered individual, a true Christian.

In Christ,

Very Rev. William A. Dhein
Dean of La Crosse



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REPORT FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Dear Alumni and Friends,

I now finish my third year as President of the Aquinas Catholic School system, and we close out our nineteenth year as a P3-12 educational system. As we near the beginning of our twentieth year as a unified Catholic School system, I would like to share some of the wonderful accomplishments of our students, faculty, staff, administrators, and Pastors.

As you know, Aquinas Catholic Schools began on July 1, 2000, as a consolidated school system. After some early growing pains, our schools have grown to become one of the best Catholic Schools systems in the nation. Aquinas Catholic Schools has been recognized three times by the United States Department of Education as a National Blue-Ribbon Schools of Excellence (Aquinas High School 2008, Aquinas Middle School 2013, and Blessed Sacrament 2017). Our school system is debt free, and our foundation now manages over 16 million dollars. We have succeeded in reducing our parish financial support by 1.1million dollars annually over the last 15 years; and our system enrollment has been stable for the last ten years. We are extremely blessed by a strong commitment of faculty and staff. They continue to be our strongest asset.

Many of our achievements resulted from the ongoing support of our alumni, our friends, and their continued prayers. On behalf of our current and future students, faculty, and staff, I thank you, and ask for your continued support. We enter our twentieth year as a school system and the ninety-second year of Aquinas High School stronger than we have ever been, but we continue to need your help to achieve our mission of "nurturing students of all faiths through educational excellence in its vibrant Catholic tradition."

I invite you to stop and visit, whether you live in La Crosse or simply return home now and then. Please let me show you the great things happening in our schools.

God Bless,
Ted Knutson '80
President Aquinas,Catholic Schools

Ted Knutson

Our Mission Statement

Aquinas Catholic Schools is a Christ-centered family devoted to nurturing students of all faiths through educational excellence in its vibrant Catholic tradition.

Faith: Serving Jesus and his church

Integrity: Cultivating moral character

Excellence: Pursuing daily improvement through life-long learning

Leadership: Inspiring achievement and stewardship

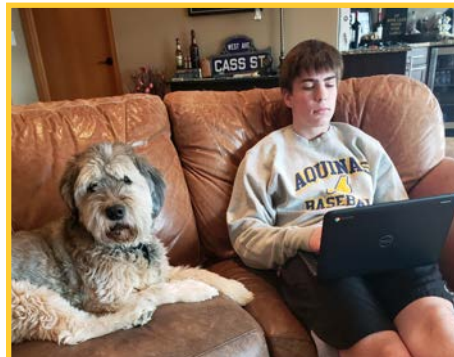
Dignity: Respecting God, others, and self



At Home Learning Due To COVID-19

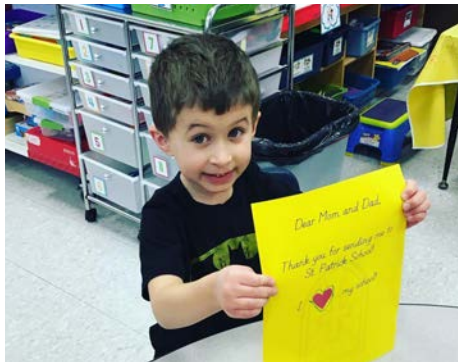
The COVID-19 school closures across the nation and here at Aquinas surely created uncertainty among our students and parents this spring. We are proud to share with you that our faculty and administration has been able to transition into an at-home-learning program and virtual learning environment in the wake of this unprecedented pandemic disruption.

Aquinas Catholic Schools would like to extend a sincere THANK YOU to all of our families, staff, and students for their commitment to continuing our learning while the COVID-19 Virus Safer-At-Home Order created significant changes for the 2019-2020 year. From the kindergarteners to the Aquinas High School seniors, students have successfully shifted to a temporary virtual learning environment. They have continued to connect in virtual circles with classmates while staying focused on their educational goals. A large part of the credit goes out to all of the families who have created classrooms at their kitchen tables, become tech support, and focused on the mental health of their families. A final salute to the unsung heroes, our teachers, who have "changed gears" overnight without skipping a beat in the curriculum to engage their students in this new environment. We are so grateful for their commitment to our students and applaud the Aquinas family for this community effort! When they say it takes a community to raise a child, it really does. Our Aquinas family can be proud of the cooperative efforts ultimately put forth for the safety of our students!



thank you

Thank you for your Support of Catholic Education!



Catholic Schools
Learn. Serve. Lead. Succeed.

2020 Catholic Schools Week

Celebrated since 1974, National Catholic Schools Week is the annual celebration of Catholic education in the United States. The theme for National Catholic Schools Week 2020 was Catholic Schools: Learn. Serve. Lead. Succeed.

In celebration of Catholic Schools Week, all of our students and faculty gathered for a system-wide Mass with Bishop William Patrick Callahan from the Diocese of La Crosse on January 28th. It was a blessing to welcome him to Aquinas Catholic Schools!



Living the Faith

Cathedral Elementary School School Report



March 2020 has brought a monumental change and upheaval to our world, country, state and schools. With the Coronavirus pandemic and the closing of our physical school doors at the end of the school day on March 17, Cathedral teachers and staff members shifted their focus to leading and supporting learning for our students in their homes. During this unprecedented time in our world, the spirit of caring, compassion, and concern for each other shines brightly at Cathedral. Teachers have been researching materials, learning Zoom and Seesaw to guide instruction, and to connect with families daily. Due to their efforts and determination to keep children engaged in learning and growing in their faith, school days as we know them are different but not lost.

In the fury of change in our school plans, how fitting it was that Thursday, March 19 was the Feast Day of St. Joseph, the Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the Patron Saint of Cathedral School. In reading from The Catholic Company, we are reminded of what St. Joseph endured:

"If there's a man who knows what it's like to have his plan dismantled in an instant, it's St. Joseph. Surely, he had plans for a quiet, simple life with Mary. And, suddenly his whole world was turned upside down. Joseph discovers that his betrothed, Mary, has conceived a child that is not his.

Under the law, Joseph can divorce Mary and even have her stoned. But the Angel appears to Joseph in a dream and tells him that Mary has conceived by the Holy Spirit. Joseph promptly obeys the Angel, who tells him to 'not be afraid to take Mary as his wife.' (Mt. 1:20)

What happens shortly afterward? His plans to provide a stable home and income for his family are interrupted by the call for a census, during which his wife gives birth to the Son of God.

Then - in order to escape a murderous ruler - Joseph has to gather up his little family in the middle of the night and flee to a foreign country.

St. Joseph was never guaranteed what the next day, week, month, or year held.

At many times throughout his life, the only 'certainty' Joseph had of God's next step were whispers from heavenly dreams. And yet, despite unexpected circumstances, St. Joseph persevered.

St. Joseph has his fatherly, protective gaze on us. He stands as an empathetic protector of minds and hearts, inviting us to keep our eyes on Christ -and our hands on the work we have been called to do while we wait for God to reveal the next step."

How significant are these words and the model of St. Joseph. May we all find the courage and strength we need to persevere with St. Joseph at our side. Please continue your prayers for our Cathedral and Aquinas Catholic Schools' families - past and present.

In service of your children,
Patty Gallagher-Kosmatka, '79
Principal, Cathedral Elementary School



St. Patrick Elementary School

School Report



Each year Catholic Schools Week gives us an opportunity to celebrate our amazing students, teachers, families, clergy, stakeholders, and community. We began this year's Catholic Schools Week on Sunday, January 26th with a PTO sponsored family bowling event at Pla-Mor Lanes. During our kickoff for Catholic Schools Week Monday morning, Karen Becker talked with students about Catholic Charities and ways to help guests at the Warming Center. Other highlights of the week included a family breakfast, lunch for members of the Clergy, skating at High Roller and student versus teacher Jeopardy. We are grateful for our families and all the stakeholders that make our school community extraordinary.

The annual PTO sponsored Father-Daughter Dance was held at the beginning of February with a record number of girls and their dads or important person in attendance. Everyone danced to their favorite songs played by DJ Kelly Wilde and played fun games. Participants were able to bid on a number of silent auction items. This is always a special night for girls as they make wonderful memories with their dads or adult partner.

Each year teachers hold classroom spelling bees to determine who will move onto our school spelling bee. Eighteen students competed in the school spelling bee to determine a champion to represent St. Pat's at the regional spelling bee at CESA 4 in West Salem. This year our school champions were Aaron Vruwink and Lewis Go. Lewis finished in the top five in the regional bee and went on to represent St. Pat's and Aquinas Catholic Schools at the state spelling bee in Madison, WI.

Every other year, fifth and sixth grade students participate in a science fair held at St. Patrick School. Students answer a question based on a hypothesis and present their findings to their classmates and visitors. Visitors vote for their favorite project and this year's winner was "Making Crystals," a project completed by Jaedan Silcox and Waylon Hargrove. In addition, fourth grade science students designed and invented a new product for an invention fair held earlier this year.

It is with sadness I say goodbye to my Aquinas Catholic Schools family. I leave with many fond memories of my time with students and families and am eternally grateful for the opportunity to serve you. St. Pat's and all the Aquinas Schools are amazing places of growing and learning and I'm proud to have worked alongside so many dedicated teachers, staff members and administrators who give their time and talent each day to help students develop their own gifts and talents.

Sue Amble
Principal, St. Patrick Elementary School





Blessed Sacrament Elementary School School Report

Our school year at Blessed Sacrament is flying by and has been filled with many wonderful learning activities. I share with you just a few highlights! First of all, with all the great support of our families and benefactors, we were able to have the new school playground open for children in early October! November 1 was our school's annual All Saints Celebration. The students and staff donned costumes of the heroes of our faith that they had researched. The celebration of Mass that day "all the angels and saints," was remarkable! Our school hosted our annual Veterans Day Program on Monday, November 11, 2019. The 5th-grade Girl Scout Troop opened our program with the Presentation of The Colors; we had 24 Veterans in attendance; our band played the National Anthem, and 5th Grade Choir sang beautiful tributes to our nation. Retired Colonel Steven Nott, U.S. Army, honored all in attendance and lauded military service with his keynote address. This was a tremendous learning experience for all in attendance. Later in November, our 3rd and 4th graders, along with the stringed orchestra, presented our Harvest Concert. At our Harvest Concert we announced that our school would be a participant in the National Archery in Our Schools Program. Mr. David Sinniger wrote and requested the donation of a Youth Genesis Bow with arrows and quiver. Families had the opportunity to purchase a chance to win the bow and arrow package. Congratulations to Lincoln Stanek of grade 4 who was our winner! Lincoln is pictured below with Mr. Sinniger and Mrs. McIlquham who are our certified instructors for the school archery program.

In December, under the direction of Mrs. Lisa Grinde, our 5th graders, as the choir, and 6th graders, in leading acting and singing parts, presented a very unique Advent Musical, *The Miraculous Christmas Wish Radio Show*. Within a play that featured a live radio broadcast from a makeshift mall scene, we heard the real importance of Christmas from a youngster who said, "I wish everyone could see Jesus, just as clearly as the people who saw him that first Christmas night." It was a delight to see our students work so hard on this production, and the audience enjoy it. Our school band was a part of this concert as well.

January is always exciting as we celebrate National Catholic Schools Week! This year we celebrated a little differently by having students choose two workshops that they would participate in for the week. Our faculty and staff put together many of the workshops, but we also tapped into parent, volunteer, and community talent to make this a success. Students could choose from workshops on cribbage and other card games, building machines, archery, dancing, pottery, Lego engineering, sustainability and climate awareness, drama and theatre, puzzles and problem solving, crocheting, Wisconsin wildlife biology, animal wellness, and music adventures. Fieldtrips, guest speakers, and just learning something new made this week great!

Finally, February was a time for all students to enjoy winter in Wisconsin. Grades 5 and 6 took time to enjoy snow tubing on Whitetail Ridge at Fort McCoy, and Grades 3 and 4 played broomball, enjoyed ice skating and cross country skiing as well as snow tubing at Living Waters Bible Camp in Westby. We are appreciative of your continued support of Aquinas Catholic Schools so our students can enjoy growing in their faith and academics, all in the family-oriented environment that our schools provide. Thank you for making this possible.

Kay Berra,
School Principal, Blessed Sacrament Elementary School



Aquinas Middle School School Report



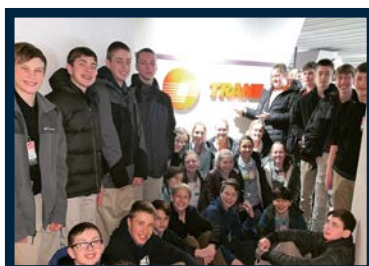
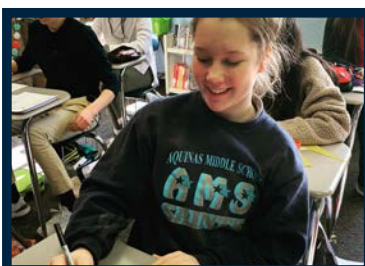
Aquinas Middle School Students continue to grow in their learning as we wrap up quarter three!

Congratulations to the Aquinas Middle School 2020 Boys' Brawn Team on their 1st-place finish, the Girls Brawn Team on their 4th-place finish and a competitive Brains Team! Everyone had a great day competing and joined together to celebrate Mass at the Cathedral with the Most Reverend Bishop Callahan.

The AMS students enjoyed the celebration of Catholic Schools Week the last week in January. Fun dress days, Founder's Day Mass, Battle of the Books and a collection for Casa Hogar took place. The seventh grade went to Viterbo for the show, *Sweet Chariot*. Eighth grade students poured their efforts into a cross-curricular career unit. The unit had students writing resumes, gathering references, completing job applications, practicing interview skills, and planning a trip for the family. Personal budgets, including assigned job salaries, opened students eyes to the realities of household economics. During that week those interested in engineering went to Trane Company to build Lego cars to race. On the final day of the Career Unit, parents and community members came in to talk about different career opportunities available to students at the Career Fair. Courtesy Corp. human resource personnel presented to the entire eighth grade, giving a glimpse of resources, challenges, and opportunities available to workers. As students circulated through the career areas, I was amazed to hear the well thought out questions and the ideas they shared.

As we approached the middle of the Lenten season, students continued their quest to raise funds to support Francesca's education in Peru. We planned for the Stations of the Cross and Lenten Reconciliation to help guide their paths through Lent. Teachers and staff enjoy the talents and growing personalities of our students as they evolve each and every day.

Blessings,
Denise Ring
Principal, Aquinas High School



Aquinas High School School Report



Aquinas High School has had a busy and productive first half of the year. Our staff enjoyed learning about different ways to engage students in the classroom from a well-known Marzano tactician. As we work in our second year with Chromebooks, teachers have expanded on their use of Google Classroom. Collaboration amongst our staff allows teachers to learn about other methodologies of teaching and improving their crafts. The goal of the Chromebook is to broaden the scope of learning with a library of knowledge at one's fingertips allowing for student driven learning.

Our students have excelled again this year in going above and beyond both inside and outside of the classroom. Our incredible music program continues to entertain the crowds as the pep band went to all the basketball playoff games. As a person from another town said, "I haven't heard a band that good in years!" Four of our students were chosen to perform at the Dorian Band Festival. Brodyn Byington, Monica Bowen, Benjamin Barrett, and Elizabeth Bowen were honored as part of the Grand Concert at Luther College.

Students under the direction of Ashley Sackreiter and Kaylin Kalk performed the play, *Murder in the Knife Room*. This comedy kept the audience laughing, and the talent was nothing short of amazing.

The Aquinas Dance Team, coached by Jennifer Cambio, won state in Poms for the 5th year in a row!! They also, for the first time ever, earned first in the state in Jazz. The countless hours of work, lessons, and early mornings certainly paid off.

Individuals on the Girls' Co-op West Salem/Aquinas Gymnastics team competed at State in Wisconsin Rapids. Ella Krause finished 11th on the uneven bars, and the Girls' Co-op Hockey Team had a very successful year, but lost in the regional finals to Stoughton. Swimmers Edward Hale and Jude Thrush contributed a lot this year to the Onalaska-Aquinas-Holmen Swim Team, while the following ski and snowboard team members qualified for state: Caleb Bennett, Lars Gundersen, Elsa Benson, Tessa Gundersen, Allison Sackman, and Alexis Smith! Lastly, Clay Berra, Joe Penchi, Calvin Hargrove and Noah De Groot made it to state wrestling with Joe Penchi finishing fifth!

Our IMPACT, INTERACT, NHS, ACOSA and other groups and individuals do volumes of volunteer activities and make a difference in our community. These students share their musical talents, volunteer at events, deliver meals to the elderly, plan events for the school, do food drives, blood drives, volunteer at their churches, do peer tutoring, and the list could go on and on. The best part is that they are required some hours for their clubs, but no requirements exist as a part of a grade. Volunteering for volunteering's sake is truly giving of oneself for others.

It is with pleasure that we announce that Kayla Bahr, Zachary DeGroot and Chloe Foor, all maintained a 4.0 GPA throughout high school and are the 2020 Senior Class Valedictorians. The 2020 Salutatorian is Brodyn Byington. Congratulations to all of you for your perseverance and hard work.

Denise Ring
Principal Aquinas High School



Save the Date

G|G
2020

AQUINAS CATHOLIC SCHOOLS GOLD GALA

An Aquinas Catholic Schools Foundation Event

Saturday November 13, 2020

From 5:00-10:00 pm

Aquinas High School

315 Eleventh Street South

La Crosse, WI 54601

RSVP BY

October 22, 2020

Yve Rojas ('87)

Will be the live auctioneer at the event



To learn more about
ALUMNI YVE ROJAS
check her out her website:
www.yverojas.com

Yve Rojas

The ACS Foundation is thrilled to welcome Yve Rojas, an Alumnus from the Class of 1987, to serve as the auctioneer at the 2020 Gold Gala at Aquinas Catholic Schools.

Yve has committed herself to being a dynamic public speaker, auctioneer, and emcee while delivering a striking and bold performance that has been proven to result in fruitful outcomes for non-profit organizations. After a significant career as an actress that included being cast in CBS' Survivor Nicaragua, Yve began pursuing a new path as a professional, and now award-winning, auctioneer.

"Yve said, "I couldn't be more thrilled to be returning home to support Aquinas, a wish fulfilled thanks to my classmate Nacy (Lyga) Flottmeyer reaching out. To be part of an evening celebrating and supporting the school that propelled me to dream grander will be marvelous. "I'm looking forward to seeing everyone at the Gold Gala November 14, 2020!"

Blugold

Fall Sports Report

Volleyball

The Aquinas Varsity Volleyball team had another very successful season. This year's seniors not only worked diligently to get better at volleyball, but also created a culture of encouragement, accountability and purpose. Kayla Bahr, Courtney Becker, Lexi Donarski, Taylor Theusch and Kayla Weisbrod were all named as captains this season, as each of them brought something special to the team in the way of leadership. This team set clear goals at the beginning of the season, but more importantly spent every minute on the court working toward those goals. They worked hard, were extremely coachable, and had a lot of fun together! Their overall record was 31-4 with a conference record of 12-0. They finished 5th overall at the Friendship Tournament in the Dells, 1st overall at the Aquinas Invite, and 3rd overall at the Diocesan Tournament. Their undefeated conference record earned them their fourth straight Conference Championship! They were Regional Champions and Sectional Champions. This year marked the second trip ever to the State Tournament for our program since joining the WIAA. It is also the first time a volleyball team has brought home a trophy from the tournament, earning the title of 2019 State Runner-Up. Our players were represented well when it came to conference and state recognition. Amelia Fortner received the Conference Sportsmanship Award; Kayla Bahr and Victoria Nolte were All-Conference Honorable Mention; Taylor Theusch and Natalie Warren were All-Conference 2nd Team; and Courtney Becker and Lexi Donarski were All-Conference 1st Team. For the second consecutive year, Lexi Donarski was awarded Conference Player of the Year. At the state level, both Courtney and Lexi were named to the All-State 1st Team and All-Tournament Team. This was definitely a season to remember, not because of the successes we had, but because of the people we got to spend it with! We will miss our seniors and wish them the very best as they shift into another gear of life, but we are also looking forward at what is to come! Blugolds on three!

Girls Swimming

This year the girls' OHA/GET swim team had a successful season. They were undefeated in conference meets and won five of the six dual meets. Additionally, they placed fourth at the Baraboo Invite. While we had a lot of new faces to the team, we also had a strong presence from our returning swimmers. From Aquinas, we had Brittany Weber, a junior on the team. Brittany, one of our stronger distance swimmers, swam the 200 and 500 freestyle. She came into the season as returning varsity swimmer and an upperclassman. She took her role as an upperclassman seriously, helping the new swimmers to the team during practice and meets. Brittany had to make a tough decision between competing at the sectional swim meet or participating in a school play. Her grace and humility during this difficult decision proved her to be a true leader who was willing to put the team before herself. She works hard in practice, and we're expecting great things from Brittany next season.

Cross Country

Girls: The 2020 Lady Blugolds lacked a single senior on the squad. Over half the squad were freshman. Guided by experienced juniors, they progressively improved over the season. Their best performance was at season's end, Sectionals. Led by sophomore Andrea White, in her first season of cross country, they finished 4th in a field of 22 teams. Junior Karlie Meyer, the fastest returning starter from the previous year, battled injuries and sickness all season to run second for the Lady Blugolds at Sectionals. She was followed by freshman Sara Gyllander, then junior Grace Gyllander. Three freshman rounded out the starting seven: Naomi Koch, Elizabeth Bagniefski and Bella Timm. All in all, the girls were able to grow closer as a team and develop their skills in an impressive manner.

Boys: Aquinas won its second consecutive State championship. Despite winning their Sectionals by a 100-point margin, they entered the State meet ranked second in the Wisconsin Coaches poll. The temperature on the day of the meet was frigid: the 11mph winds that swept the Ridges Golf Course pushed the temperature below 30 degrees. The Blugolds were 4th at the mile point, second at 2 miles, 4 points behind. Over the next mile, the team collectively passed 41 runners, achieving a 28-point margin of victory. Sophomore Alec Taylor, in his first ever trip to State, led the charge, passing 17 runners in his stretch drive. In a field of 149 of the best runners in Wisconsin, Andrew Skemp led the Blugolds with a podium-earning 4th place finish. Mitch Ellis finished 22nd, Alec Taylor 43rd, Zachary DeGroot 45th, Ethan Nott 54th, Nick Drye 63rd and Teddy Uehling in 68th. Teddy's father, John Uehling, was a member of the championship Aquinas Cross Country team in 1977. At that time, Aquinas was in the Wisconsin Independent Schools Athletic Association.

Girls Golf

The girls' golf team finished 5th in the MVC this past fall. This year's team did not have any seniors, and was therefore led by Juniors: Payton Kudron (Sportsmanship Award winner), Rachel Mertes, and Olivia Harron. Sophomore Alexis Smith was the team standout, finishing as an MVC Honorable Mention. The Lady Blugolds improved throughout the season. Sophomores Emma Miller, Mary Riley and Lizzie Wintheiser saw their scores dramatically improve and freshman Amina Rabindra had a very strong first year, anchoring the team as its 2nd best golfer. The future looks bright for this group of young women. Thank you for your support.



The Booster Club is very appreciative of all the support that Aquinas alumni, families, and friends have given in the past. Your support has enriched the experience of our athletes and coaches. Now is when your support will mean the most. The Booster Club has lost 80% of our income in 2020 due to a snowstorm and COVID-19. We have put together a crowdfunding campaign to help recover the lost income.

It is important that we make this campaign a success.



Booster Club Campaign

If you are interested in donating, you can reach the crowdfunding website by texting the word

"BOOSTER" to the number **71777**.

If you are uncomfortable making an online donation you can mail a check to Aquinas Booster Club, 315 11th St S, La Crosse, WI 54601.

Your donation will be recognized on our crowdfunding website.



Boys Soccer

The 2019 Boys Soccer team was all about finding ways to develop a young group of athletes. The boys finished with a 1-21 record overall; however, throughout the season the team found themselves in some close matches against some quality opponents. The team was lead by freshman Andrew Sutton, who recorded seven goals and four assists while sophomore Ethan Schamberger added five goals. The team will look to further their development next season in hopes of improving both on and off the field. Senior goalkeeper CJ Meier and freshman Andrew Sutton were listed as honorable mention selections while sophomore Rylan Schneider was awarded the sportsmanship award.

Girls Tennis

Girls tennis had a successful season placing 3rd in conference with one undefeated flight: Ella Reichenbacher at #2 singles. Later in the season, the girls earned themselves a hard-fought 4th place (out of 16 teams) at sectionals with a total of six players participating: Fiona O' Flaherty, Ella Reichenbacher, Amelia Topolski and Tessa Gundersen (senior) in singles, and the team of Morgan Thill and Taylor Fox (senior) in doubles. Fiona qualified for state in singles, won her first round at the Nielson Center in Madison, and fell to the 5th seed during her second match. The returning Bugolds are looking forward to another strong 2020 season!



SAVE THE DATE - NOTICE NEW DATE
MONDAY, AUGUST 17, 2020



Registration Information Available At:
Aquinascatholicschools.org/golf-scramble

Hosted at:
 The Golf Club at Cedar Creek
 Onalaska, WI

Football

The 2019 season was one of change on the gridiron for the Blugolds. Aquinas became a member of the Southwest Wisconsin Activities League, as a part of a revamping of football-only conferences on the western side of the state. Another change was a transition to an offense that had a primary focus on running the football. Both of these changes seemed to benefit the Blugolds as they had a winning season and made a run in the WIAA playoffs.

The senior class had been through tough times over their career at Aquinas as the program battled low numbers and struggled to win many games. But, under the leadership of those seniors, the boys decided they were going to dedicate themselves to being successful in the classroom, in the weight room, and in their winter and spring athletic seasons. They put together one of the finest off-season efforts we have seen at Aquinas in some time. How would their efforts play out on the field? After a tough one point loss to eventual state semi-finalist Prairie du Chien in the first game of the season, the Blugolds had five consecutive wins. Aquinas finished the regular season 6-3 and earned the right to host a playoff game. The Blugolds defeated Platteville in a game where starting quarterback Gavin Wetzel was knocked out on the third offensive snap of the game with a leg injury. Freshman Jackson Flottmeyer stepped in and piloted the team to a 28-7 playoff victory. The team sustained a few other key injuries and was eliminated from the playoffs the following week by a strong G-E-T team that had lost only one game all season. Aquinas will join the Coulee Conference in 2020 as part of a state-wide restructuring into football-only leagues. As we graduate an incredible class, we look forward to a future where every one of our skill positions returns players with varsity experience.

Several players earned postseason recognition. Seniors Noah DeGroot (O-Line) and Gavin Wetzel (Punter) were named 1st Team SWAL All-Conference. Seniors Ethan Roupe (Linebacker) and Charlie Langeberg (O-Line) along with junior Will Cambio (RB and DB) were recognized as 2nd Team SWAL All-Conference players. Senior Clay Berra earned SWAL honorable mention. DeGroot and Wetzel were also named to the Academic All-State Team by the Wisconsin Football Coaches Association. Congratulations to these individuals and to all of our players on their season. Go Blugolds!



2020 *Athletic Wall of Fame*

The 2020 Wall of Fame Ceremony will be held on Saturday, October 10th at Aquinas High School.
A 5:00pm social hour will be followed by a 6:00pm dinner and award presentation.

The Wall of Fame Committee is currently seeking nominations for the Wall of Fame. If you would like to nominate someone, please email Aquinas Athletic Director, Matt Schneider, at matt.schneider@aquinasschools.org and he will provide you with a nomination form. For consideration for the 2020 Wall of Fame, please submit the nomination form no later than June 15th.

Blugold

Winter Sports Report

Dance Team

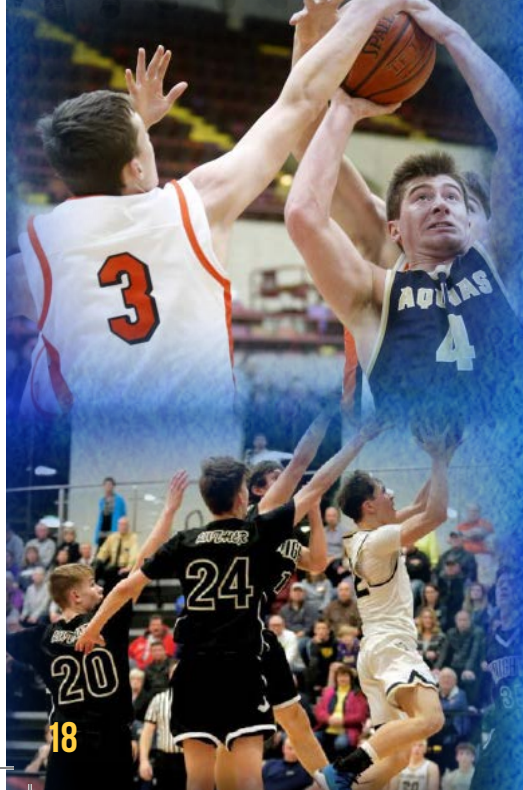
The Aquinas Dance Team made history this season by winning a state title in both Division 3 Jazz and Division 5 Pom at the Wisconsin State Competition on February 1st. In addition, the team won the regional competition in Hudson on January 25th in both pom and jazz. There were many firsts this season including winning regionals and state for jazz and placing over an excellent Prescott team who had won jazz in Division 3 for 27 years straight. Other honors include Sarena Young and Sophie Cowgill being selected to the All - State team. The team's success was due to the commitment these young women had to each other to consistently do the little things right every day and to be accountable to their teammates.

Boys Hockey

The 2019-20 Avalanche season ended with winning two of our final three regular season games and tying for second in conference. We were led by Aquinas seniors Jack Coleman (1st Team All-Conference), Lenny Boberg (Honorable Mention All-Conference), and CJ Meier. We finished with a 4-19-1 record and 1-3 in conference tying Sparta/Tomah. Although our record doesn't indicate the great strides we made throughout the season, we did improve and the future is very bright for the program!

Boys Basketball

The 2019-20 basketball season can best be described as a season of both team and individual growth. The team needed to replace more than 70% of the minutes played and points from the prior season. The boys were resilient and showed great toughness through a gauntlet of a schedule. Each player who scored for Aquinas in the 2019-20 season set their individual career high in points during the year. The Blugolds started the season strong with a road win at Mauston, avenging a loss at home from the season before. The team posted a win at the Aquinas Holiday Tournament over Houston, MN. During the only game played at the Midwest Players Classic due to travel conditions, the Blugolds notched a double overtime victory at the La Crosse Center over West Salem. While it took some time to get there, the boys met their goal of playing basketball in March. The Blugolds notched wins against Osseo-Fairchild, Eau Claire Regis, and at Fall Creek to earn a WIAA Regional Championship. After the season, the following individuals were recognized for their performance, leadership, and character: Senior Gavin Wetzel-Mississippi Valley Conference(MVC) Sportsmanship Award, Academic All-State nominee; Junior Joseph Savoldelli - Wisconsin Basketball Coaches Association Team First Award; Sophomore Quinn Miskowski Honorable Mention All-MVC; Sophomore Chris Wilson; Honorable Mention All-MVC. During the season the boys learned valuable lessons and were rewarded for their perseverance, work ethic, and commitment to their team.



Gymnastics

The West Salem Co-op Gymnastics team consists of gymnasts from West Salem, Aquinas, and Bangor. This year we had ten gymnasts competing with four from Aquinas. Junior Akeara Steiner, sophomore Ella Krause, sophomore Naveyah Simmons, and freshman Alex Roupe. The team had a successful season overall, placing 2nd in the Coulee Conference tournament and 3rd at the sectional tournament. Sophomore Ella Krause spent most of her season healing from knee surgery; however, she was able to compete on bars at the end of the season becoming conference bars champion and earning her 1st team conference honors. Ella was also the sectionals bars champion earning her a trip to the state tournament where she placed 11th. Freshman Alex Roupe earned a varsity letter and competed on varsity all season. Alex also achieved Academic All State Honors while Ella Krause took home All State Second Team bars honors. Both Alex and Ella were honored at the state banquet. The team did not graduate any seniors and is excited to continue its growth in the coming years.



Girls Hockey

The Hilltopper Girls Hockey Co-op consisted of 21 players from Onalaska, Holmen, West Salem, Aquinas and Bangor. The Aquinas team members consisted of Senior Taylor Fox (alternate captain), Sophomore Lydia Walz, and Freshman Grace Butler. We finished our regular season with a 12-11 record. A couple of highlights included a four-game win streak in January. We also enjoyed a big week in February, where we defeated Black River Falls and the Cap City Cougars in the same week. We had a 5-2 sectional record earning us a #3 seed heading into the playoffs. However, in the Regional Game against the #6 seeded Stoughton Icebergs, we outshot them 40 – 2; unfortunately we ran into a very hot goaltender and lost 2-1.



Boys Swimming

The Onalaska-Holmen-Aquinas men's swim team had 17 swimmers competing with eight of them from Aquinas: Andrew Coleman, Daniel Del Carpio, Edward Hale, Aiden Lee, Ronin Staffaroni, Henry Suttie, Jude Thrush, and Oliver Thrush. The team had a strong showing throughout the year, beating crosstown rival La Crosse Logan/Central Co-op twice head to head. All of the swimmers earned key varsity points to contribute to the team's success and each Aquinas swimmer finished with lifetime best swims. Edward Hale won the most varsity points on the team, edging out Jude Thrush, and the two paired with two swimmers from Holmen to set several team records by wide margins. If not for a tough call at the sectional meet, the team would have been represented again at the state meet where they were in position for their highest relay seed ever as a team. OHA is excited to return each of the Aquinas swimmers and all of their contributions to have another successful season in 2020-21.



Girls Basketball

The Aquinas Girls Basketball team won their 6th consecutive MVC title with a perfect 12-0 record, bringing their six year conference record to 71-1. The girls compiled a season record of 25-1. The Blugolds went into the postseason with high aspirations in their pursuit to win their third straight state championship. The Blugolds rolled through their regional and sectional opponents and returned for their 4th consecutive year to Green Bay for the state tournament. The girls beat Crandon by 31 points in the state semi-final game and were prepared to face Melrose-Mindoro in a state championship rematch for a third time. Unfortunately, the Blugolds were denied a chance to play that game due to the countrywide COVID-19 pandemic. That setback does not overshadow the accomplishments of this incredible group of competitors who graduate a senior class that amassed a 107 wins and three losses over the past four seasons. This group of champions leave Aquinas as the most successful team in school history.

Ski and Snowboard

The boys snowboard team won the conference and was second at state. The team won the Slalom and Giant Slalom, but couldn't make up the point difference they lost in the first event, The Boarder Cross. Gabe Schelfhout was a contributor in all the runs at state, and we saw a huge improvement from him from the start of the season to the state meet. For the skiers, the men won the conference with really strong performances from Lars Gundersen, 2nd overall, and Caleb Bennett, 5th overall. Both skied very well at state and finished in the top 40% of the competitors. The women skiers placed 2nd in the conference, just losing out to Central/Logan Co-op by a few points. They were led by Elsa Benson winning every race, and Tessa Gundersen finishing 5th overall for the conference season. At State, Elsa ended up 12th in Giant Slalom, and 11th in Super Giant Slalom. Elsa placed high enough to qualify for one of the 12 spots for the Eastern High School National Championships in New Hampshire. At the National meet, Elsa was the 5th-place SL Wisconsin skier and the 7th-place GS skier.

Wrestling

The Aquinas Wrestling Team enjoyed its most successful season in recent memory. The team was led by a fantastic group of eight seniors who took the Blugolds to another level this season. The wrestlers were highly competitive in every tournament they entered and had a very successful dual season as well. Season highlights for the Blugolds included 1st-place at the Westby Dual Invitational, placing ahead of state ranked Lancaster and Riverdale; 2nd place at both the Logan and Rochester Invitionals; ten Individual Champions, and two runner-up finishes.

The Blugold had 11 All-Conference Selections: First Team (Joe Penchi-132; 2nd Team (Tate Flege-106; Calvin Hargrove-138; Zach DeGroot-145; Riley Klar-152, Ian Kaczmarowski-170; Noah DeGroot-195; Charlie Langeberg-220; Clay Berra-HWT); Honorable Mention (Jack Christenson-120 and Jakob Zhovtis-160). The team also had four Individual State Qualifiers: Joe Penchi (10); Calvin Hargrove (9); Noah DeGroot (12); and Clay Berra (12) Joe Penchi earned a 5th place finish at the State Tournament at 132.

The wrestling team is primed for another big year next season as they return a strong core of underclassmen and add a very promising 8th grade class to the mix. It's an exciting time for Blugold Wrestling!





Aquinas Catholic Schools Foundation
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Yourself YOUR Loved Ones AND Aquinas



Today could be the time for a new beginning and a good opportunity to set goals for this year and beyond. Now is an excellent time to consider your goals for:

1. Yourself
2. Your Loved Ones
3. The Causes That Mean The Most To You

Charitable gift and estate planning strategies provide you with the options to do all three!

We are here to help you meet your goals.

WHICH STRATEGY IS BEST FOR YOU?



1 Strategies to Provide for Yourself

Many of our friends are seeking ways to supplement their retirement income. Charitable life income plans such as the **charitable gift annuity** and the **charitable remainder trust** are two excellent options worth considering.

- Take cash or a low-income-producing asset and convert it into lifetime payments.
- You will receive a charitable income tax deduction and can avoid all or a portion of the capital gains tax.
- Aquinas will use the remaining value to continue to educate students in the Catholic faith.

We can help you determine the best strategies based on your goals and desires.

2 Strategies to Provide for Your Loved Ones

Are you looking for a way to provide an appropriate inheritance for your heirs without giving them too much too soon? Consider the benefits of a **charitable remainder trust** or **charitable lead trust**.

- Determine the amount and timing of your heirs' inheritance.
- Provide for family during your lifetime or through your estate.
- A **charitable remainder trust** can make payments to your heirs for their lives or a term of years.
- A **charitable lead trust** pays income to our organization for a term of years and then leaves a lump-sum inheritance to your heirs.

3 Strategies to Provide for Our Organization

There are simple, no-cost strategies you can use to support Aquinas. Here are some to consider:

- **Retirement Assets** You can name us as a beneficiary of your retirement plan and remove a highly taxable asset from your estate.
- **Life Insurance** Naming us as a beneficiary of an unneeded life insurance policy removes the policy from your estate and costs you nothing out of pocket.
- **POD/TOD** Do you own mutual funds, securities or a checking, savings or CD account and would like to benefit our cause? You can leave all or a portion of your account by designating us as the **payable on death (POD)** or **transferable on death (TOD)** beneficiary.

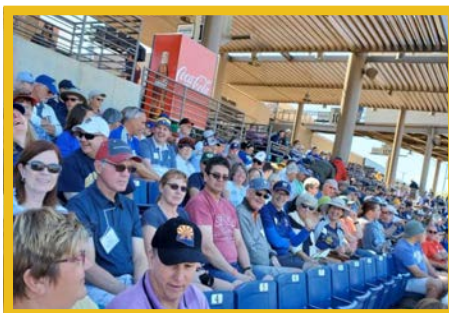
This information is not intended as tax, legal, or financial advice. Gift results may vary. Consult your personal financial advisor for information specific to your situation.

Blugold Alumni Anecdotes

For more Alumni information please visit
Aquinascatholicschools.org/Alumni

Arizona Area Alumni Social

We want to say THANK YOU to all of our alumni and friends who joined us for an awesome afternoon in Arizona this past March. This event was hosted collaboratively with Viterbo University and the Boys and Girls Club of Greater La Crosse. More than 25 Blugolds gathered in the sunshine to enjoy a Milwaukee Brewers Spring Training game. We are truly grateful for the support of all of our alumni and friends.



Alumni Spotlight

Mary McGuinness Class of '82



Congratulations to Mary McGuinness, class of '82. Her business Mary McGuinness Consulting Group, Inc., received a high award from the award-winning partners Everything DiSC and The Five Behaviors. This achievement is in recognition of Mary McGuinness' commitment to improving organizational culture and teamwork. Mary McGuinness has a 20-year background in learning, leadership, and organizational development that is balanced by creativity, a sense of adventure, and a love of theater, improv, and the arts.

Frank Montabon Class of '87

Frank Montabon was ordained a permanent Deacon by Archbishop Michael Jackels (Archdiocese of Dubuque) on July 20, 2019. He is assigned to St. Thomas Aquinas parish in Ames, Iowa, across the street from his workplace, Iowa State University. His ministry includes a variety of outreach to the marginalized. He is very grateful for the Catholic education he received at Cathedral Grade School and Aquinas High School.



Monthly Class - Gatherings & Reunions

Class of 1947

Monthly Breakfasts: Meets on the 2nd Monday of the month at 8:00 AM at The La Crosse Family Restaurant, 2120 Rose State.

Class of 1955

Quarterly breakfast: Meets the 2nd Wednesday of the following months: February, May, and August at King Street Kitchen, 7th Street at 9:00 AM. For questions, please contact Grace Binner Smith at gracesmi80@gmail.com.

Class of 1954

Monthly breakfasts: Meets the first Saturday of each month at 9:00 a.m. at King Street Kitchen, 7th & King Street, downtown La Crosse. Contact: Donna (Zellmer) Puente (608) 788-4137.

Class of 1957

Bi-Monthly breakfasts: Meets the 2nd Monday of every other month: February, April, June, August, October, and December at King Street Kitchen, 141 7th St. South at 9:00 AM. Contact: Charlotte (Farrel) Baier (608) 781-7395 or James Schams (608) 784-3316.

Class of 1960

Monthly lunches: Meet the 4th Tuesday of each month. Please contact Micki (Bicha) Banasik at 608-788-2717 if you would like to join.

Class of 1961

Monthly lunches: Meets the 1st Friday of the month at Ardie's on Lang Drive at 11:30 AM Contact: Mary Gokey, momladygokey@gmail.com, or call (715) 423-8073.

Class of 1964

Meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month. For location please contact Sue King, smask_suzanne@aol.com or Joann LaFleur, 608-779-935.

Class of 1975

Monthly lunches: Meets the first day of each month at Schmidty's Restaurant for lunch at 12:00 p.m. Contact: John Dvorak at (608) 526-6090.

Reunion - Class of 1950

Class of '50 will have its 70th reunion September 19th, 2020. At Schmidty's Restaurant starting at 11:00 a.m. Lunch will start at noon. For more information call John Alexander 608.269.4531, or email js.alex@centurytel.net.

Reunion - Class of 1952

Class of '52 will have its 68th reunion October 10th, 2020. At Schmidty's Restaurant starting at 1:00 pm for cocktails followed by lunch at 1:30 pm. RSVP by September 26th. To RSVP or for more information call Teresa Herblein 715.284.5367 or Dan Gillies 608.788.2977.

Reunion - Class of 1958 - 80th Birthday Party

August 15, 2020 - The Freighthouse Restaurant 6:00 pm. Contact: Elaine Berg, eberg8779@charter.net or (608) 787-8779.

Reunion - Class of 1970

Class of '70 will have its 50th reunion August 7-8. A meet & greet gathering will be held at The Recovery Room in La Crosse August 7th from 5:00-9:00pm. August 8, 2020 - There will be a Tri-School(Aquinas, Logan, Central) Reunion celebration at the Freighthouse Restaurant in La Crosse from 5:00-9:00pm. Additional Information at www.aquinas70.com or on the Class Facebook Page. Contact: Francis Formanek, DCFormanek@yahoo.com.

Reunion - Class of 1975

Class of '75 will have its 45th reunion. August 29, 2020 - The Freighthouse Hiawatha Room 6:00 pm cash bar, 6:30 pm class picture, dinner to follow, Cost: \$35 each - RSVP by August 8, 2020 to Nancy Colgan Check out our Facebook page: Aquinas Class of 1975 Contacts: Pam (Galstad) Brose, johnpamb@charter.net; Nancy (La Fleur) Colgan, ncolgan121556@gmail.com; Jill (Clason) Doll, jilldoll@clasonbuickgmc.com.

Reunion - 1967-1972 Aquinas Blugolds Wrestling

August 6, 2021 - Le Chateau Restaurant, La Crosse, WI 5:00-9:00 pm. Dinner provided free courtesy of sponsors. Cash bar available Bring old wrestling pictures, news clippings, etc. to add to the fun. Reservations required by June 30, 2020. For more information Email: gracie_jits@rabiddogmma.com or call by Phone: (424) 352-5469.

Planning a class reunion? Contact Brad Reinhart for class lists and reunion updates. Brad Reinhart - 608.784.0707
Email: brad.reinhart@aquinasschools.org

Our Recently Deceased

They That Wait Upon The Lord, Shall Renew Their Strength, They Shall Mount Up With Wings of Eagles, They Shall Run and Not Be Weary Walk Faint. Isaiah 40:31

1937

Kenneth Opitz

1940

Catherine (Hollinger) Keenan

1941

Ellen (McGarty) Flynn

1942

Jeanette (McCabe) Pincsak

1943

Ann Malin

1944

Euince (Cummings) Acketz
Marie (Kleinsmith) Daley

1945

Donald Loechler
Jerome Papacek
Helen (Wurzel) Senn

1946

Leroy Ready

1947

Howard Macou
Bernadette (Domke) Thesing
James Wanner

1948

Miriam (Hoffman) Garvey
George Schraback

1949

Edward Denning
John Leinfelder
Delores (Smikla) Lauer
George Pearse

1950

Charles Skemp
Robert Fitzsimmons
Richard Krause

1951

William Larkin
Shirlee Mae (Knutson) Schams
Charles Buelow

1952

William Larkin
Shirlee Mae (Knutson) Schams
Richard Gilles

1953

Richard Larkin
Janice (Merfeld) Jungen
Mary (Spika) O'Donnell
Shirley (Heinz) Hill

1954

Delores (Becker) Strasser
Karen (Borseth) Powers
Tom Farrell
Clarice (Norby) Dunn
Rudolph Schmidt

1955

Elizabeth (Hass) Quidileg
Ed Sullivan
Donald Collins
James Jungen
Raymond Smith
Carl Noelke

1957

Carol (Engebretson) Larson

1958

Joan (Bakalars) Bron
Harry Kubiak III

1959

Kathy (Weiss) Wagner

1960

Laveta Molling

1956

Beatrice (Biesen) Gilles
Gerald Miller

1961

Terence Hess
Mary Musselman Howe

1963

Mary (Shimshak) Sharlow

1964

Michael Davis

1965

Dennis Kline

1967

Liz Hill Hennig

1969

Kevin Kendhammer

1970

Robert C. Leisgang
John Wais
Gary Quillin

1971

Dorothy (Mansheim) Formella
William Stetter

1974

Paulette Hundt

1977

Barbara (Pittman) Lawler
Michael Pavela

1988

David Juen

1989

Lance Schmitt

2003

Jamie Sue (Korth) Tennant

Friends of Aquinas

Tammy Reigel
Leora C. (Strasser) Kish
Patricia Gatzlaff
Margaret Fitzpatrick
Delores (McCann) Melde
Dave Vruwink
Richard McDougal

Darlene Krause Stegen
Fr. Joseph Follmar
Wilma Viner
Mike Squier
Jerome Boge
Wilfrido Yutuc



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Avoid taxes on transfers of up to \$100,000 from your IRA to support our cause.



Satisfy some or all of your required minimum distribution for the year.



Reduce your taxable income, even if you do not itemize deductions.



Make a gift that is not subject to the 50% deduction limits on charitable gifts.



Use your rollover to make payments on an existing pledge to us.

There is a way to take your required minimum distribution, skip the tax and make a meaningful gift to support Aquinas Catholic Schools this year - the IRA Charitable Rollover.

It's Easy To Do!

Instruct your retirement account custodian to send any amount (up to \$100,000) to us this year. Because our charity is tax exempt there is no tax paid on the transfer. All or a part of your required minimum distribution will be met and the money goes straight to work, benefitting our students immediately.

Create Your Legacy With An IRA Charitable Rollover Gift

If you are 70½ or older, you can use your individual retirement account (IRA) to support our Blue Ribbon Schools. Making an IRA charitable rollover gift to us will lower the income and taxes from your IRA required minimum distribution this year.

Please call or visit our website to learn about how you can create your legacy by making an IRA charitable rollover gift this year.

IRA CHARITABLE ROLLOVER

**70½
OR OLDER**

**DIRECT UP TO
\$100,000**

This information is not intended as tax, legal or financial advice. Gift results may vary. Consult your personal financial advisor for information specific to your situation.

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Gold Gala Support has Aquinas Catholic Schools Equipped for Home Learning!

The Aquinas Catholic Schools Foundation Gold Gala Committee, along with the students and teachers at each of our five schools, would like to express our sincerest appreciation to families and businesses who have supported the ACS Technology Improvement Initiative by way of the Gold Gala event since its inception in 2014. As a direct result of your generous outpouring of support, the four Gold Gala events have raised \$275,000.00 that has been allocated to refresh, enhance, and grow the technology infrastructure our school system relies upon daily to carry out our mission. Your contributions have also provided Chromebooks in our elementary schools, established a 1:1 device educational model at Aquinas High School, and funded professional development opportunities for teachers that centered on utilizing this new technology to help students learn in new ways.

During the uncertain times faced by teachers and students as the COVID-19 pandemic saw schools close their doors and families directed to stay home, it was evident that the school leaders, teachers, and students at ACS were equipped to continue teaching and learning without skipping a beat. As plans were set into motion, students and teachers began to connect in new ways. Homeroom was now a class Zoom meeting. Dining rooms, kitchen counters, and couches became student work space. Google Classrooms filled with assignments and interactions between student and teacher. While the educational surroundings may have changed, the connection between student and teacher remained strong and the educational process was able to continue successfully and without delay. We are very grateful to have made these great strides over the past 5 years because of your support!

Planning is underway for the 2020 Gold Gala. The focus of the event will shift towards supporting STEM educational initiatives within each of our schools. We look forward to a time in the coming months that we can again gather together as the Aquinas Family in support of our students and staff. We are excited to welcome Yve Rojas ('87) back to Aquinas as our celebrity auctioneer. Yve was a contestant on the CBS show Survivor season 21 in Nicaragua and currently serves as an auctioneer and speaker. A very talented performer, Aquinas High School P.E. teacher Mr. Steve Schroeder, will provide live music for the event. The Gold Gala will feature a refreshed live auction to go along with the amazing ambiance and Aquinas cheer you have come to expect. Be sure to make plans to join us on Saturday, November 14th.

The Gold Gala Committee
Aquinas Catholic Schools Foundation

2019 Aquinas Marching Band Trip



To Disney World and Beyond!

Seventy-five band members and chaperones embarked on a week-long bus trip to Orlando, Florida. The Aquinas Marching band was once again selected to lead the Afternoon Parade- "Share a Dream Come True." The band led by drum major Rylan Schneider and in front of Cinderella's Castle which was lined with thousands of spectators. It truly was a magical experience and an opportunity of a lifetime for these high school band and colorguard members. The band stayed in Kissimmee and traveled to Clearwater for a sunny day at the beach. Included were daily trips to Epcot, Magic Kingdom, Universal Studios, and Islands of Adventure. The band members spent the last day at Hollywood Studios and celebrated Thanksgiving dinner at Planet Hollywood before heading home.



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St. Patrick Elementary - Blessed Sacrament Elementary - Cathedral Elementary



Our Mission

Aquinas Catholic Schools is a Christ-centered family devoted to nurturing students of all faiths through educational excellence in its vibrant Catholic tradition.