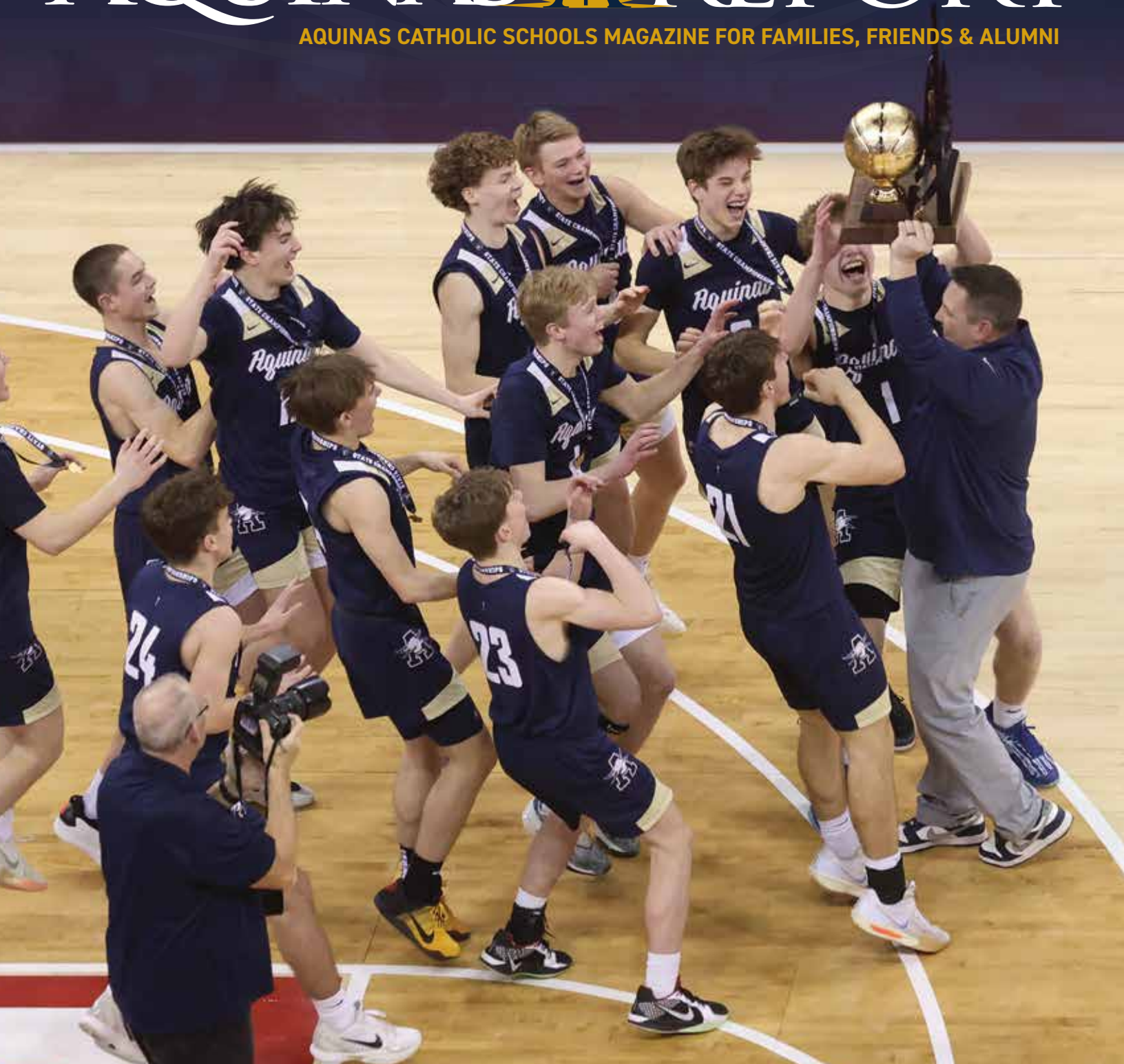


# THE AQUINAS REPORT

AQUINAS CATHOLIC SCHOOLS MAGAZINE FOR FAMILIES, FRIENDS & ALUMNI



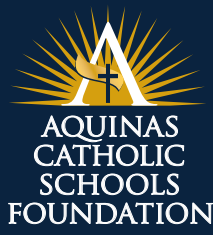
Aquinas Boys Basketball 2025 WIAA Division 4 State Champions

[SCHOOL REPORTS](#)

[BLUGOLD SPORTS](#)

[UPCOMING EVENTS](#)

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The Aquinas Catholic Schools Foundation is an independent entity that exists to support Aquinas Catholic Schools in its mission to change lives through an affordable, accessible and high-quality Catholic Education.

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National Blue Ribbon School

2008

2013

2017

# THE AQUINAS REPORT

SPRING 2025

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J.T. Gilbert  
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Kate Moll  
Blessed Sacrament Elementary School

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Cathedral Elementary School

Angela Koblitz  
St. Patrick Elementary School /  
Vice President Aquinas Catholic Schools

**Thank You to Aquinas Report Volunteer**  
Kathy Keppel

## Aquinas Report Publication

The Aquinas Report is published twice a year. Every effort is made to ensure accuracy of the information published.



## A Letter From Our Dean

As I gaze out my stairway window, I get a view of the building progress happening to the new Fr. Rossiter Early Childhood Center being built at St. Patrick Parish. The building will be finished by the beginning of the new school year of '25-'26. With these new classrooms, we will increase the number we can accommodate of the little ones in the beginning of their educational adventure.

I remember the class of 2025 when they were just the little ones at St. Patrick's School. I hold this class a little closer in my heart seeing it was they, when they were in 3rd grade, who made me a prayer quilt when I had my left leg amputated. I still look at the squares each student made, and some were very prophetic.

I see: Rachel, who made a fox, a wise animal, and is now graduating as a Valedictorian. Trey made a shamrock; he is an honor student who also was outstanding in football, basketball and track. Jon, an excellent football player and honor student, made a cross, and he has received the new campus ministry award for outstanding leadership in Christian service. And Sophia, who made a star, with her radiant smile she was once again the lead vocal in the school musical.

How I watched these little ones grow into such fine young men and women because of their years in the Aquinas system. I will miss seeing them as they venture forth, but I know Aquinas has prepared them well. I look forward to the many new little ones that will come through the doors of our new building. With confidence, I know Aquinas will prepare them well as the future honor students, athletes, performing artists and leaders in Christian service. I am proud to be a supporter and a part of their educational formation.

Gaudeamus Igitur Class of 2025!

Msgr. Kachel ('82)  
Dean of the La Crosse Deanery



## What's Inside this Issue

Letter from the President . . . . .	4
Aquinas Human Capital Fund Update. . . . .	5
School Reports. . . . .	6
Aquinas Music Department Highlights . . . . .	10
Blugold Sports Report . . . . .	12
Class Reunions and Gatherings . . . . .	26
Alumni & Friends Recent Gatherings . . . . .	28



## 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.

## Our Core Values

### 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



Fr. Rossiter Early Childhood Center groundbreaking ceremony at St. Patrick's School.

## A Letter From Our President

Dear Aquinas Alumni and Friends,

As we reflect on this remarkable year at Aquinas Catholic Schools, our hearts are filled with deep gratitude – for your prayers, generosity, and enduring love for our mission. Through God’s grace and your faithful support, our community continues to grow not only in numbers but in spirit.

This year, we launched a comprehensive Mental Health Program to support the emotional and psychological well-being of our students and staff. In partnership with our dedicated school counselors and Driftless Recovery Services, this initiative has already made a meaningful impact, and it also includes Employee Assistance for our 130+ faculty and staff. Inspired by this effort, our students took the lead by forming a Mental Health Club – a peer-driven space to promote awareness, support, and compassion.

At the heart of all we do is a vibrant spiritual life. Weekly Mass, Eucharistic Adoration, and student-led prayer groups help our students grow closer to Christ. The Gospel is alive throughout our campus – in our hallways, our classrooms, and in the quiet moments of reflection and service.

Academically, our students continue to excel under the guidance of faculty who view their work as a calling. We’ve also taken an important step in launching a new fund dedicated to faculty and staff salaries, honoring the commitment and excellence of those who inspire and lead our students each day.

Whether it’s in standout arts performances, breakthrough STEM projects, or meaningful service-learning experiences, our students are thriving. The energy on campus is electric – this is truly a year of growth, gratitude, and grace.

Your support makes all of this possible. Thank you for believing in our mission and for investing in the future of Aquinas Catholic Schools. You are remembered often in our prayers, especially during school Masses.

Please don’t hesitate to reach out – I would love to reconnect or meet for the first time. May God continue to bless you and your families.

With deep appreciation,



*Ted Knutson*

Ted Knutson ('80)  
President  
Aquinas Catholic Schools



## MENTAL HEALTH INITIATIVE PROGRAM UPDATE

We are excited to announce that our partnership with Driftless Recovery Services has expanded. Brett Knutson and BethAnn Raes, both licensed therapists at Driftless, have agreed to meet with students individually at all of our Aquinas Schools. This has greatly enhanced our mental health services.

In addition, at the high school, a student-led mental health club has started called **Mind Over Matter**. The mission is to promote mental health, by raising awareness, providing support and education and by providing a safe space for students to discuss mental health issues.

About 25 motivated students get together every other week to talk about ways to advocate and support other students. They will lead the effort to bring in speakers of interest to students, such as anxiety, depression and substance use. They have also initiated the “Mental Health Minute” which occurs weekly at Aquinas during lunch in which students can meet freely and casually with a licensed therapist.

May is Mental Health Awareness Month and **Mind Over Matter** has planned several awareness activities.

# INVEST

## IN THE BEST

HELP US GROW THE  
**AQUINAS HUMAN CAPITAL FUND**

### Invest in the Best Hits \$7.7M – Final Stretch Ahead

Since 1927, Aquinas High School has proudly educated generations of students, nurturing their minds, bodies, and souls. Our mission – to provide the very best 3K-12 experience that is rooted in faith – relies on the strength and dedication of our exceptional faculty and staff.

Nearly 50 years ago, forward-thinking alumni and friends founded the Aquinas Foundation to help transition from a primarily religious faculty to a lay faculty, ensuring we could continue attracting and retaining outstanding educators.

That same vision drives our “**Invest in the Best**” campaign, which was announced a little over a year ago.

With faculty salaries currently starting 30% below those of local public schools, this effort is focused on providing competitive compensation to those who make Aquinas so special.

We are thrilled to share that we have already **surpassed our short-term goal of \$7 million and have currently raised \$7.7 million** in pledges and commitments. We are deeply grateful to our alumni, families, friends and corporate partners who have stepped forward in support of this important mission – thank you for helping us reach this exciting milestone.

As we approach the final stretch, we’ll be making a focused push to complete

the **active solicitation phase by July 2025**. Through continued giving – including estate gifts, new commitments, and strong investment performance – we are confident we will reach our **ultimate goal of \$10 million** in the years ahead.

Again, to those who have given, please accept our deep appreciation for your generosity. If you have not contributed, please prayerfully consider joining us in this effort. **Invest in the Best—invest in the future of Aquinas Catholic Schools.**

To learn more, please visit  
[www.aquinascatholicschools.org/invest-in-the-best](http://www.aquinascatholicschools.org/invest-in-the-best)

Kathy Keppel (‘79)  
Aquinas Foundation President



#### Three Generations of Teachers

Pictured left to right: **Tom Lee**, social studies teacher; **Adam Poellinger**, principal; and **Dave Reinders**, substitute teacher. Dave taught and coached Tom. Tom taught and coached Adam. All three shared the 2007 football state championship. All three are currently on staff at Aquinas.



## INVEST

### IN THE BEST



GIVE ONLINE





# SCHOOL REPORTS

Aquinas Catholic Schools, through its vibrant Catholic tradition, aspires to be the premier educational choice, empowering students to fulfill their God-given potential for the betterment of all.



## CATHEDRAL ELEMENTARY

At Cathedral Elementary School, our students are actively engaged in a rich and well-rounded academic program. They explore subjects including religion, mathematics, English language arts, science, social studies, music, physical education, technology, Spanish, art, and guidance. Students in grades 5K-2 take the STAR assessment three times a year to monitor their progress in reading and math. Parents are involved through at least two parent-teacher conferences annually, where we discuss each child's academic, social, and emotional development. We are committed to making families feel welcomed and connected, and we take pride in maintaining consistent communication throughout the year.

Spiritually, our students embrace the traditions and values of our faith. During Lent, they participated in the Stations of the Cross each week and raised money for our sponsored child, Mischell, from Casa Hogar, along with other Diocesan mission initiatives. Six of our students represented Cathedral at the All Schools

Mass, bringing up gifts during the celebration of the Feast of St. Thomas Aquinas. Our second graders completed preparations for their First Communion at our supporting parishes. Once all received this sacrament, we honored Mary with a May Crowning – a beautiful celebration of faith and a meaningful milestone as our second graders near the end of their time at Cathedral.

Our commitment to community service is strong throughout the school year. During Advent and Lent, students collect food and personal care items for organizations such as WAFER, Catholic Charities, and other Diocesan missions. We also enjoy special visits from groups like the Mardi Gras Krewe and the Shamrock Club, giving students the opportunity to learn more about the people and cultures within our local community.

We're proud to be part of the greater Aquinas school family. Throughout the year, we connect with other Aquinas students – whether it's visits from the

high school dance team and band, eighth graders sharing their original books, fun interactions with Blessed Sacrament students, or celebrating together at Aquinas Fest. These experiences help our students feel a strong sense of belonging as Bugolds, surrounded by siblings, cousins, and friends.

Finally, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to our families, supporting parishes, alumni, and friends. Everything we do is made possible by your continued support and your dedication to Catholic education. Please keep us in your prayers, as we keep you in ours.

Peace in Christ,

Tara Key  
Principal, Cathedral Elementary School





# BLESSED SACRAMENT ELEMENTARY

Blessed Sacrament School had a great 2024–2025 school year! We're enjoying the spring sporting season. The camaraderie built through practices, games, and travel continues to strengthen our Aquinas Family. Several of our sixth-grade students are participating in Aquinas Middle School's Track and Field and Tennis teams, helping them form early connections with their future classmates and easing the transition to middle school.

We are also thrilled to have dedicated band and orchestra teachers this year. They were instrumental in preparing students for our Veterans Day Program, as well as the Harvest and Advent Concerts. With approximately 50 students enrolled in these growing elective programs, we are proud to support our students as they explore and develop their musical talents. We were treated to outstanding Spring Concerts at the end of April.

## 3rd Grade Math

Third graders have completed their multiplication and division facts and will continue to practice them daily. At home, we encourage extra practice with 6s, 7s, 8s, and 9s, which are often the most challenging. They also wrapped up a graphing unit by designing and conducting a survey and graphing the results. Currently, they are working through a measurement unit and will soon move into geometry.

## 4th Grade Math

Fourth graders are diving into fractions. They are learning to identify equivalent fractions, compare them, and simplify to lowest terms. Soon, they will begin adding and subtracting fractions, including mixed numbers and improper fractions. Throughout this unit, we are continuing to review multiplication and division facts and strengthen critical thinking skills.

## 3rd Grade Social Studies

Third graders enjoyed creating Southeast Region dioramas to show their understanding of landforms, animals, waterways, and the homes of the Chickasaw people. Now, they are exploring the Southwest Region and are looking forward to creating projects focused on national parks located in the area.

## 3rd & 4th Grade ELA Update

In ELA, students have been hard at work mastering verbs, including helping and linking verbs, perfect tenses (past, present, and future), and irregular verbs. Their new skills are being applied in journal writing, where we've seen great progress and confidence. Additionally, students have been improving their cursive handwriting. Many third graders are beginning to write portions of their journals in cursive, while several fourth graders are writing full entries in cursive – an exciting milestone in their writing development.

## Physical Education Highlights

In PE this quarter, third and fourth grade students focused on hand-eye coordination by practicing dribbling, balancing, and bouncing with various balls and paddles. It was a joy to see their progression from individual practice to interactive partner activities. Fifth and sixth graders spent the quarter refining their skills in fair play, coordination, and striking control through badminton and pickleball tournaments. The highlight was our first annual Pickleball Bash – an energetic morning filled with competitive matches and excellent sportsmanship. Students also participated in a March Madness-style NCAA Men's Basketball Bracket Challenge during our basketball unit while continuing to develop essential basketball skills like shooting, passing, and dribbling. Their dedication and growth were truly impressive.

## Service-Learning and Community Building

Sixth graders led a Christmas-themed service-learning project at Cathedral School, organizing activities such as musical chairs, ball toss, arts and crafts, and BINGO for younger students. This experience beautifully demonstrated the values of Aquinas Catholic Schools and showcased our students' leadership, compassion, and service.

As the school year concluded, we celebrated our faith at May Crowning, honored our active students through field trips and the 5th/6th Grade Track Meet, and recognized academic growth and accomplishments at commencement.

In Partnership,

Kate Moll  
Principal, Blessed Sacrament







## ST. PATRICK ELEMENTARY

I hope this letter finds you in good health and spirits. I am excited to share some of the wonderful events and milestones that have taken place at St. Patrick School over the past five months. It has truly been an exciting and meaningful time for our school community.

### 1. Academic and Spiritual Growth

Alongside our academic achievements, we have continued to place a strong emphasis on the spiritual development of our students. In a momentous celebration, we recently had the honor of baptizing two of our students during an all-school Mass, which was a beautiful moment for our faith community. Additionally, our second grade students participated in the Sacrament of First Communion in March, marking an important milestone in their spiritual journey. During the season of Lent, our students engaged deeply in the reflection and traditions of the Church. As part of our observance, we hosted the Stations of the Cross, where students walked through the solemn stations, reflecting on the passion of Christ. During Holy Week, our 6th graders presented the Living Stations, bringing the story of Christ's passion to life in a moving and powerful way for the entire school community.

### 2. New School Addition

A significant event for us in the past few months was the groundbreaking of our new school addition on March 1st. This expansion will provide additional space for classrooms and a new main office to support the growing needs of our

students. We are thrilled about the future opportunities this new space will bring to our students, enabling them to grow and thrive even more in their educational journey.

### 3. School Community Events

We kicked off the new year with a celebration of Catholic Schools Week in January. This was a time for our school community to reflect on our faith, celebrate our academic achievements, and strengthen the bonds that make our school such a special place. Throughout the week, we participated in various activities, including themed dress days, service projects, and community-building events. Our students had the opportunity to participate in a variety of fun and engaging activities during the winter months. Students in grades 3-6 enjoyed a day of roller skating, while our younger students in PS3-2 had a blast visiting an indoor playground. Additionally, our school hosted a series of "Minute to Win It" games that encouraged teamwork and friendly competition. It was a great way for students to bond and have fun together while also learning valuable lessons about collaboration. Our school also worked hard to give back to those in need. Through a fundraiser for Father Joe Walijewski's Project Milk, we raised an impressive \$4,000, as well as collected 236 boxes of cereal for the Hunger Task Force. This initiative was an excellent example of our students' commitment to helping others and making a positive impact in our community.

In February, we held our annual Father-Daughter Dance, a special event that brought together over 160 girls and their dads. The evening was filled with laughter, dancing, and cherished memories. It was a wonderful opportunity for families to bond and celebrate the strong relationships within our school community. During the month of March our school proudly marched in the St. Patrick's Day Parade. It was a festive and spirited occasion, with students, teachers, and families coming together to celebrate the joy of the season and our shared heritage. It was a wonderful way to showcase school spirit and community pride. We held our much-anticipated all-school talent show. Students of all ages showcased their incredible talents in music, dance, and performance. The event was a huge success, with many students expressing themselves creatively and sharing their hard work with the school community. It was a true celebration of the unique gifts our students have to offer.

These are just a few of the highlights from an enriching and eventful five months. As we continue our journey through this academic year, we look forward to more opportunities for growth, reflection, and service to our community.

Thank you for your continued support of our school. We are excited about the future and all that we will accomplish together.

Angela Koblitz ('92)  
Principal, St. Patrick School





## AQUINAS MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOLS

As we completed the second half of the 2024–2025 school year, I continue to be amazed by the energy, commitment, and spirit of our Aquinas community. Serving as principal this year has truly been a blessing. Each day offers a new reminder of how special our schools are – where faith, academics, and personal growth intersect in meaningful and lasting ways. It has been a joy to see our students continue living out Aquinas Catholic Schools' mission.

The spring semester has been filled with tremendous activity and success in all areas – faith life, academics, arts, and athletics. Our students continue to rise to the occasion, representing our schools with pride and purpose.

One of this year's most powerful experiences was the Kairos Retreat for our high school juniors in the fall and spring. This four-day retreat, done in partnership with Regis High School, allowed students to step away from their daily routine and encounter Christ more intimately and personally. Through student-led conversations, small group interactions, and quiet reflection, students grew not only in their faith but also in their relationships with classmates and mentors. "Kairos impacted me because it helped me learn more about myself and build better relationships with others. I would definitely recommend going on Kairos because it helps you be at peace with everything and not constantly stressed and overwhelmed," stated a student participant.

Our high school students have also excelled in many co-curricular areas. We proudly celebrate state championships in dance (pom), boys' basketball, and boys' ski. These accomplishments reflect the incredible hard work of our student-athletes and coaches. Fall and winter sports overall have seen great success across the board, both in performance and in sportsmanship.

Beyond athletics, our high school students have showcased their many talents through music, theater, and academic competitions. Students participated in the Dorian Festival, Solo & Ensemble, and Chamber Ensemble competitions, where they performed with skill and passion. Our high school play, *Ruby's Story*, was a wonderful display of talent, teamwork, and creativity.

In academic competitions, our students shined in robotics, math meets, and business contests, earning recognition and awards. These opportunities allow our students to grow as well-rounded individuals – confident, capable, and grounded in faith.

Our middle school students have also had a remarkable semester. Their athletic teams enjoyed strong seasons this fall and winter, and they learned lessons in teamwork, dedication, and perseverance. The middle school play, *The Velveteen Rabbit*, was a great success, and it was clear how much time and heart our students poured into it.

Aquinas Middle School also lived out our Catholic mission in service through the "Stuff the Bus" food drive, where students collected over 1,400 pounds of food for the

WAFER Food Pantry. They also proudly competed in the Diocese of La Crosse Brains and Brawn Competition, finishing 2nd place in the Brains category!

Our 8th-grade students are engaged in a fantastic career unit, where they apply classroom learning to real-life scenarios – analyzing home purchasing, interest rates, and budgeting. They also had the unique opportunity to meet with local professionals, many from our Aquinas family, to learn more about various career paths. These experiences help students begin to see how faith, learning, and real-world living are connected.

Thank you to the entire Aquinas community – parents, teachers, students, alumni, and friends – for your unwavering support. It's your commitment to our mission that makes Aquinas such an exceptional place to grow, learn, and live out our Catholic values.

Blessings,

Adam Poellinger ('08)  
Principal  
Aquinas Middle School and High School



# AQUINAS MUSIC DEPARTMENT

## '24-'25 School Year Highlights



Received an Exemplary Award at State for a perfect score.



The chamber ensemble was nominated for an exemplary award at the state music contest in Eau Claire. They received a perfect score.



St. Patrick's Day Chamber Stroll.



Percussion Ensemble placed first at State music contest.



Bus ride to Tennessee.



The saxophone ensemble received a first place rating at State.



Band and Chamber at the Titanic.



Dorian Band Fest at Luther College.





Jazz Combo performing at the Spring Concert.



Exemplary Award at State for piano.



Dinner at the Hatfield & McCoy dinner show.



Pirate Voyage!



Pep Band performing at the State Basketball game.



At the Top of Anakeesta.



Riding the Chondola to the Top of Anakeesta.



Dorian Honors Orchestra.





## BASKETBALL



Photo Credit Cameron Reinhart '27

**BOYS BASKETBALL**

Head Coach: Brad Reinhart

Season Record: 26-3

Conference Place Finish: 1st (T)

Playoff Finish: State Champions WIAA D4

**Season Highlights:**

Aquinas Holiday Tournament Champions, Win at Midwest Players Classic, Undeclared Non-Conference, 3 conference losses by a combined 8 points, 1st Conference Championship since 2011, Regional, Sectional, and WIAA D4 State Champions. Set team records for 3 point field goals made, games played, total points scored. Sweep of La Crosse Central, City Championship.

**All-Conference Selections:** 1st Team - **Logan Becker**; 2nd Team - **Trey Bahr**, **Calvin Bahr**; HM - **Brayden Young**, **Finley Strom**; Sportsmanship - **Vincent Bahr**

**All-State Selections:** WBCA All-State 1st **Logan Becker**

**Other post season awards:**

WBCA All-Star **Trey Bahr**; D4 State Tournament

Team MVP **Trey Bahr**, 1st Team **Logan Becker**, **Finley Strom**

WBCA All-Star Coaches: Brad Reinhart and Matt Johnson

**GIRLS BASKETBALL**

Head Coach: Dave Donarski

Season Record: 23-5

Conference Place Finish: 1st

Playoff Finish: Sectional Finalist

The team started the season with a 1-3 record after playing stiff competition to begin the year, but won 19 straight games in route to a 23-5 record. Under the leadership of our three seniors **Brooklyn Rohr**, **Emma Dobbins** and **Kathryn Salvodelli**, the Lady Bugolds enjoyed another successful season by capturing their 11th straight MVC title with another perfect 12-0 record. In addition, the ladies continued their MVC consecutive win streak which sits at 114 wins in a row. After rolling through regionals and the sectional semi final, their season came to an end with a 4 point loss to eventual state champion Cuba City.

The Bugolds had several players awarded with All-Conference honors headlined by **Samantha Davis** a 1st team All-Conference and player of the year standout, **Emma Dobbins** and **Ava Fernholz** who received 2nd team All-Conference, and **Eva Willenbring** and **Olivia Passehl** were also named honorable mention along with **Kathryn Salvodelli** being recognized as our sportsmanship winner. **Samantha Davis** was honored for her stellar performance this season by receiving WBCA 1st team All-State honors as well.



**Head Coaches:** Shandy Scheidt & Connor Lonning  
**Conference Place Finish:** Girls 2nd, Boys 2nd  
**Playoff Finish:** Boys & Girls Sectional Champions,  
 Girls runner-up at State, Boys 5th at State

#### Season Highlights:

The boys' team would win Sectionals for the second year in a row, the 15th time since 2006 and qualify for State for the 17th time. They would finish 5th at State. **Declan Gregg** would win it all, finishing first in a field of 152 of the best runners in the State, with the second fastest time ever run by an Aquinas runner on the Ridges Golf Course in Wisconsin Rapids. In the 61 years (beginning in 1964) that Aquinas has offered the sport of cross country, there have been 3 state champions: 1997-Anne Faas (now Dr. Anne Schmidt), 2006-Zachary Wilhelmy, and now, in 2024, **Declan Gregg**. For the second consecutive year and the 7th time since 2007, the girls team won Sectionals and qualified for State for the 10th time. The girls 2nd place finish at State was the Aquinas girls' cross country team best finish ever since Aquinas entered the WIAA in 2000; previous best finish was in 2014, 4th place. The girls 2nd place point total was only 3 points behind first place. In the 44 years that Wisconsin has offered the sport of girls' cross country in 3 divisions, only 3 times has the State championship been settled by less than 3 points: (1993-2 points, 2009-1 point, 2012-2 points). Only two other times has the margin been 3 points: 1996 & 2010.

#### All-Conference Selections:

**Emily Bagneifski** & **Sanjana Musafir** 1st team,  
**Caitlin Wengel** 2nd team, **Delan Gregg** &  
**Thomas Gorman III** 1st team, **Kaleb Azene** 2nd team

#### All-State Selections:

**Declan Gregg** was selected by the Wisconsin Cross Country Coaches Association to First Team All-State.



## DANCE

**Head Coach:** Amy Fortner

**Playoff Finish:** State- 1st in D6 Pom, 5th in D3 Jazz  
 Regionals- 1st in Jazz

#### Season Highlights:

The Aquinas High School Dance Team competed in the Ashwaubenon Dance Invitational on Saturday, Dec. 7th, 2024 and placed 1st in D3 jazz and 1st in D6 pom!

**Elsa Fortner** and **Riley Wiczek** competed in the solo competition, consisting of 247 solo entrants. Elsa placed 1st in D6 and advanced to the solo finals, where she competed again and placed 4th among all entrants; and Riley placed 2nd for her solo in D6. At the Little Chute Dance Invite on Dec. 14, 2024, Aquinas' Dance Team took first place in D6 pom and 3rd place in D3 jazz. **Elsa Fortner** took 1st place for her solo and **Riley Wiczek** placed 2nd for her solo routine. The team competed at the Kaukauna Dance Classic on Jan. 11th, 2025. In the team category, the girls placed 1st for their D6 pom routine, and in a very close competition, the girls placed 3rd for their D3 jazz routine. In the solo category, **Elsa Fortner** placed 1st, **Riley Wiczek** placed 2nd, and **Avonlea Stanley** placed 4th. The dancers had the honor of performing their competition Pom routine during the pre-game show on the court at a Bucks game this past December!

#### All-State Selections:

**Elsa Fortner**, **Avonlea Stanley**, and **Riley Wiczek** were awarded All-State for their solo performances.

#### Other post season awards:

Recipients of WACPC Academic All-State:

**Grace Anderson**, **Charlotte Berendes**, **Lauren Dahl**,  
**Brooklyn Elskamp**, **Elsa Fortner**, **Lily Fukuda**,  
**Ava Robinson**, **Aly Small**, **Avonlea Stanley**,  
**Riley Wiczek**

**Head Coach:** Tom Lee

**Season Record:** 11-2

**Conference Place Finish:** 7-0,  
1st place in the Coulee Conference

**Playoff Finish:** Lost in the D4 semifinals

#### Season Highlights:

Due to our run of 3 straight state championships in Division 5, the Aquinas Bugolds were promoted to Division 4 due to the WIAA "success factor" that was implemented. The theme for the 2024 season was "Challenge Accepted." The Bugolds opened the season playing against very strong programs.

In week 1 non-conference action, we defeated Prairie du Chien and the small school player of the year by a score of 14-12. The following week we traveled to Columbus and were defeated by this state power by a score of 20-16. We ran the table in conference. The highlight was a comeback victory against West Salem in the de facto conference championship game to win 20-18. This gave us the #1 seed in the D4 playoffs, and assured us of home games through the quarterfinals of the state playoffs. After defeating Edgewood and Lodi, we got another opportunity to play Columbus.

In a game that we trailed by 14 with 3 minutes remaining in a wild game, we scored a touchdown, converted a 2-point play, recovered an onside kick, scored another touchdown, then kicked a PAT before stopping Columbus and winning the game. The atmosphere was electric! We then faced eventual state champion Racine St. Catherine's. The game was tied in the 4th quarter with a chance to return to Camp Randall. We fell 6 points short and were disappointed to not have one more week together. But as a team we talked about how, if we knew we'd be in that position during the 4th quarter at the beginning of the season, every single player and coach would have signed up for it.

#### All-Conference Selections:

**Jacob Thornton** (sr.)-QB-1st Team

**Max Maliszewski** (sr.)-Offensive Line-1st Team

**William Flottmeyer** (jr.)-Offensive Line-1st Team

**Jon Kearney** (sr.)-Offensive Line-1st Team

**Logan Becker** (jr.)--Wide Receiver-1st Team

**Trey Bahr** (sr.)-Defensive Back-1st Team

**Tyson Martin** (jr.)-Inside Linebacker-1st Team

**William Flottmeyer** (jr.)-Defensive Line-1st Team

**Kyle White** (sr.)-Running Back-2nd Team

**Cullen Pittman** (sr.)-Outside Linebacker-2nd Team

**Waylon Hargrove** (jr.)-Outside Linebacker-2nd Team

**Trey Bahr** (sr.)-Wide Receiver, Kicker-Honorable Mention

**Chase Schams** (jr.)- Offensive Line-Honorable Mention

**Waylon Hargrove** (jr.)-Wide Receiver-Honorable Mention

**Brady Lee** (so.)-Defensive Back-Honorable Mention

**Logan Becker** (jr.)-Special Teams Returner-Honorable Mention



#### All-State Selections:

**William Flottmeyer** (jr.)-Defensive Line-  
Wisconsin Football Coaches Association

**Jacob Thornton** (sr.)-Wisconsin Football Coaches  
Association Academic All-State

#### Other post season awards:

**Max Maliszewski** (sr.)-Offensive Line-  
Wisconsin Football Coaches Association All-Region

**Logan Becker** (jr.)--Wide Receiver-  
Wisconsin Football Coaches Association All-Region

**Trey Bahr** (sr.)-Defensive Back-  
Wisconsin Football Coaches Association All-Region

**William Flottmeyer** (jr.)-Defensive Line-  
Wisconsin Football Coaches Association All-Region

**Jon Kearney** (sr.)-  
Wisconsin Football Foundation Scholar Athlete

**Jacob Thornton** (sr.)-QB-

All-La Crosse Tribune-1st Team

**Logan Becker** (jr.)--Wide Receiver

All-La Crosse Tribune-1st Team

**Max Maliszewski** (sr.)-Offensive Line-

All-La Crosse Tribune-1st Team

**William Flottmeyer** (jr.)-Defensive Line-

All-La Crosse Tribune-1st Team

**Trey Bahr** (sr.)--Wide Receiver & Defensive Back-

All-La Crosse Tribune-1st Team

**Jon Kearney** (sr.)-Offensive Line-

All-La Crosse Tribune-2nd Team

**Isaac Schelfhout** (sr.)-Defensive Back-

All-La Crosse Tribune-2nd Team

**Kyle White** (sr.)-Running Back-

All-La Crosse Tribune-Honorable Mention

**Tyson Martin** (jr.)-Linebacker-

All-La Crosse Tribune-Honorable Mention

**Brady Lee** (so.)-Defensive Back-

All-La Crosse Tribune-Honorable Mention



**Head Coach:** Alex Parsons  
**Conference Place Finish:** 2nd  
**Playoff Finish:** Regional Champions,  
 3rd Place Sectional Finish, 7th Place  
 State Finish **Tenny Makepeace**

**Season Highlights:**  
 Regional Champions at Trappers Turn in Wisconsin Dells as a team, Individually seeing **Tenny Makepeace** have great success at the state match! As a coach it is the hope to watch your team grow together throughout the season. It was clear for me this happened along the way. For example, the girls assisted in making one another belong to the team, persevere through challenges in and outside of sport, and create positive memories that can help inspire them in future pursuits.

**All-Conference Selections:**  
**Emma Dobbins** 1st,  
**Tenny Makepeace** 2nd, **Molly Swift** 2nd

**All-State Selections:**  
**Emma Dobbins** Honorable Mention,  
**Tenny Makepeace** Honorable Mention

**Other post season awards:**  
**Sarah Mullenbach** Sportsmanship Award  
 MVC Conference **Tenny Makepeace**



## WEST SALEM COOP

**Head Coach:** Carrie O'Hearn  
**Season Record:** Undefeated in Conference and all meets except McLellen, Sectionals, State  
**Conference Place Finish:** Champions  
**Playoff Finish:** Sectional Runner Up, 8th at Division 1 State

**Season Highlights:**  
 This team has had an amazing season. The team is coming off their back to back 2nd place finishes at state last year in division 2 and worked really hard to return to the state tournament as division 1 competitors. All 16 gymnasts on the team helped motivate and push each other every day in the gym to be the best team they could be. This team won the Coulee Conference championship at both the JV and the Varsity level for the 4th year in a row. A week later, they earned the Sectional Runner up title, making history for the first West Salem Co-op team to ever qualify for the Division 1 Team state tournament. The team showed their determination and confidence ending on beam with 5 stuck routines jumping them from 5th place to 2nd in the final round of competition at Sectionals. At the State Tournament, the team placed 8th and Kennedy Garbers and Hayden Rohde competed individually on Bars. The team will miss the leadership of seniors Kennedy Garbers, Hailey Ives, and **Layla Hirschboeck**.

**All-Conference Selections for Aquinas Team members:**  
**Layla Hirschboeck** 2nd Team Bars

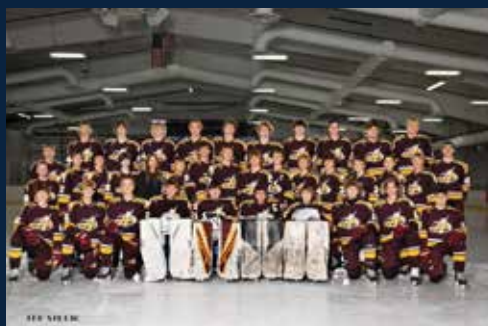
**Other post season awards for Aquinas Team members:**  
 Academic All State:  
 4.0+ = Gold, 3.75-3.999 = Silver, 3.5-3.749 = Bronze  
**Layla Hirschboeck** - Bronze, **Emily Lepak** - Silver  
**Cait Wengel** - Bronze  
 Most Improved Gymnast: **Cait Wengel**  
 Most Dedicated Gymnast: **Laney Reinhart**

**BOYS HOCKEY****Head Coach:** Charlie Marshall**Season Record:** 11-12-1**Conference Place Finish:** Tied for 1st**Playoff Finish:** Regional**Season Highlights:**

Winning a share of conference for 3rd straight season

**All-Conference Selections:**

Sportsmanship award-Simon Wieser

**GIRLS HOCKEY****Head Coach:** Jamie Olson**Season Record:** 4-16-1**Playoff Finish:** Lost Regional**Season Highlights:**

Some highlights this season included winning 3 more games than last year. Having multiple girls step up when players no longer could play, the unselfishness of girls playing different positions in order for the team to compete each night. The crazy loud bus rides to and from away games. And finally, the resiliency of this team exhibited throughout the ups and downs this year was awesome and truly brought the players closer together in the end.

**Head Coach:** Nick Bennett**Playoff Finish:** 2nd overall Division 2 at State**Season Highlights:**

Team Wisconsin placed 3rd at western nationals.

**Cullen Sackman** received a top run finish of 6th and

**Patrick Gundersen** 14th.

**All-State Selections:**

**Patrick Gundersen** and **Cullen Sackman** national qualifiers.

**Head Coach:** Ryan Capwell**Season Record:** 16-3-4**Conference Place Finish:** 2nd Place**Playoff Finish:** State Semi-Finals**Season Highlights:**

Two highlights for the boys soccer program. First the team finished undefeated in conference play with an overall record of 8-0-3. The second highlight was the team started with a 4-0 start, then lost two tough games and turned those losses into a learning experience with a 16 game unbeaten streak (12-0-4) that the team rode all the way to the state tournament.

**All-Conference Selections:**

**Vincent Bahr** -1st Team All-Conference **Jackson Knothe**- 1st Team All-Conference **Harrison Griffith**- 1st Team All-Conference **Simon Wieser**- 2nd Team All-Conference **David Onyeabor**- HM **Caden Schams**- HM **Matthew Rabindra**- Sportsmanship

**Other post season awards:**

Regional and Sectional Champions

**Head Coach:** Evan Huemoeller**Season Record:** 35-5**Conference Place Finish:** 1st**Playoff Finish:** State Qualifier**Season Highlights:**

2nd at State. Wins over Elkhorn, Kohler. **Kate Fortney** 2nd at State. Conference Champion

**All-Conference Selections:**

**Kate Fortney** 1st Team, **Tenzin Nelson** 1st Team, **Eva Willenbring** 1st Team, Sportsmanship, **Nora Dickenson** 1st Team, **Katelyn McGovern** 2nd Team, **Rosa Weaver** 2nd Team, **Alivia Ritter** 2nd Team, **Hadley Alderson** Honorable Mention, **Grace Levere** Honorable Mention, **Lyla Conway** Honorable Mention

**All-State Selections:** **Kate Fortney** 1st





**Head Coach:** Lauren Baeder  
**Season Record:** 24-6-0  
**Playoff Finish:** Sectional

**Season Highlights:**

**Bethany Hale** had 4 podium appearances at Sectionals. (200 Medley Relay, 200 Freestyle, 200 Freestyle Relay, 100 Backstroke)

**Lydia Hale** placed top 10 in the 100 Backstroke at Sectionals.



**Head Coach:** Danielle Dolan  
**Season Record:** 28-5  
**Conference Place Finish:** 1st  
**Playoff Finish:** WIAA Division 3 Runner Up

**Season Highlights:**

Highlights include winning conference and working hard in the playoffs to make it to the state championship match. A particular game that highlighted our season was our sectional semi final match against Cuba City where we won a thrilling 5 set match.

**All-Conference Selections:**

1st Team All Conference: **Addison Foor**, **Sammy Davis** 2nd Team All Conference: **Tessa Miskowski**, **Josephine Lawton** HM: **Kathryn Savoldelli**, **Zoe Emineth** Sportsmanship: **Emma Dobbins** Offensive Player of the Year: **Addison Foor** Coach of the Year: Danielle Dolan

**All-State Selections:**

All Tournament Team: **Sammy Davis**, **Addison Foor**  
 All State 1st Team: **Addison Foor**, **Sammy Davis**  
 All State HM: **Tessa Miskowski**

**Other post season awards:**

All Tribune 1st Team: **Addison Foor**, **Sammy Davis**  
 2nd Team: **Tessa Miskowski** and **Josephine Lawton**  
 Player of the year: **Addison Foor**



**Head Coach:** Deacon Stanek  
**Season Record:** 16-5  
**Conference Place Finish:** 2nd / 4-1 in conference  
**Playoff Finish:** Sectional Semi-finalist, finished year ranked 3rd in State

**Season Highlights:**

Qualified 9 wrestlers for the individual state tournament-tying our team record. **Lincoln Stanek** @ 106, **Martez Sheard** @ 120, **Tyler Paulson** @ 126, **Roger Flege** @ 132, **Trevor Paulson** @ 150, **Waylon Hargrove** @ 157, **Tyson Martin** @ 215, **Will Flottmeyer** @ HWT. Placed 5 wrestlers at the individual state meet. **Roger Flege** 3rd @ 132, **Trevor Paulson** 3rd @ 150, **Tyson Martin** 4th @ 215, **Martez Sheard** 5th @ 120, **Waylon Hargrove** 6th @ 157. Placed 3rd overall out of 70 Teams at the Prestigious Bi-State Invitational. Placed 2nd at the 20 Team "Duffy" Invitational in Port Washington, WI. Placed 2nd at the 30 Team Homestead Highlander Invite.

**All-Conference Selections:**

1st Team All-Conference- **Martez Sheard** @ 120, **Tyler Paulson** @ 126, **Roger Flege** @ 138, **Trevor Paulson** @ 157, **Tyson Martin** @ 215, **Will Flottmeyer** @ HWT, **Sophia Paulson** @ 145 (Girls)  
 2nd Team- **Lincoln Stanek** @ 106, **Waylon Hargrove** @ 150, **Isaac Miller** @ 175  
 Honorable Mention- **Grady Nicklay** @ 144, **Chase Schams** @ HWT  
 Sportsmanship- **Marcus Klar**  
 Conference Wrestler of the Year- **Tyson Martin**  
 Female Conference Wrestler of the Year- **Sophia Paulson**

**All-State Selections:**

Placed 5 wrestlers at the individual state meet  
**Roger Flege** 3rd @ 132, **Trevor Paulson** 3rd @ 150, **Tyson Martin** 4th @ 215, **Martez Sheard** 5th @ 120, **Waylon Hargrove** 6th @ 157  
 State Qualifiers (Did not place)- **Lincoln Stanek** @ 106, **Tyler Paulson** @ 126, **Will Flottmeyer** @ HWT, **Sophia Paulson** @ 145 (Girls)

**Other post season awards:**

Academic All-State-1st Team- **Lincoln Stanek**, **Roger Flege** and **Tyson Martin**. 2nd Team- **Trevor Paulson** and **Waylon Hargrove**  
 Honorable Mention- **Sophia Paulson** and **Isaac Miller**  
 Academic All-Conference- **Waylon Hargrove**, **Michael Jones**, **Roger Flege**, **Kristen Brynd**, **Ezra Barna**, **William Flottmeyer**, **Jon Kearney**, **Tyson Martin**, **Isaac Miller**, **Sophia Paulson**



# COLLEGE ATHLETIC PARTICIPANTS 2024-2025



Courtney Becker  
Drake  
Basketball



Walter Berns  
Iowa Central  
Basketball



Colin Conzemius  
UW-La Crosse  
Track And Field



Ryan Conzemius  
St. Johns  
Track And Field



Sophie Cowgill  
UW-Madison  
Dance



Will Deets  
Gustavus Adolphus  
Baseball



Lexi Donarski  
UNC  
Basketball



Macy Donarski  
University Of Montana  
Basketball



Jake Fitzpatrick  
Mankato  
Wrestling



Tate Flege  
UW-La Crosse  
Wrestling



Jackson Flottmeyer  
Winona State  
Football



Calvin Hargrove  
UW-La Crosse  
Baseball



Barcha Hnizdilova  
Capilano University  
Basketball



Preston Horihan  
UW-La Crosse  
Football



Kahler Key  
St. Cloud  
Baseball



Theresa Knutson  
Germany  
Professional Hockey



Brady Lehnerr  
UW-La Crosse  
Football



David Malin  
UW-Madison  
Wrestling



Maddie Murphy  
UW-Stevens Point  
Basketball



Fiona O'Flaherty  
St. Olaf  
Tennis



Joe O'Flaherty  
UW-La Crosse  
Tennis



Joe Penchi  
UW-La Crosse  
Wrestling



Eddie Peters  
Xavier  
Baseball



Natalie Peterson  
UW-La Crosse  
Swim



Tanner Peterson  
Winona State  
Baseball



Abby Schelfhout  
Western  
Volleyball



Danica Silcox  
UMD  
Tennis



Andrew Skemp  
St Olaf  
Cross Country/Track



Jonathan Skemp  
Navy  
Cross Country/Track



Will Skemp  
St. Olaf  
Football



Henry Suttie  
Loras  
Football



Andrew Sutton  
UW-Eau Claire  
Soccer



Jacy Weisbrod  
Northern Michigan  
Basketball



Andrea White  
St. Thomas  
Track And Field



Shane Willenbring  
South Dakota State  
Football







————— *Save The Date* —————

# AQUINAS WALL OF FAME

**FRIDAY • AUGUST 29, 2025**

7:00 pm: Wall of Fame introduction at halftime of the football game

**SATURDAY • AUGUST 30, 2025**

5:00 pm: Social Hour, 6:00 pm: Dinner & Induction Program

## **2025 Honorees:**

Tom Deters '69  
Greg Mathy '80  
Julie (Kakuska) Pichler '85  
Michael Nockels '87  
Ross Moline '98  
Claudia Castro '98  
Bronson Koenig '13  
Coach Barb Stanke  
1960 & 1961 Football Teams



The Aquinas High School Athletic Wall of Fame was started in 2005 to honor the individuals, teams, and coaches who left their mark on Aquinas Athletics. To nominate someone, please scan the QR code to download a nomination form. Email your completed form to [mike.desmond@aquinasschools.org](mailto:mike.desmond@aquinasschools.org).

**NOMINATION FORM**





# ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Jenifer Servais and Ann Macheledt  
*Aquinas Class of '87*



Bell tower of  
Mayo Clinic's historic  
Plummer Building in  
Rochester, MN.



## Our Season of Love When We Needed It Most

Just when we start to lose faith in humanity,  
we get a sign of hope that human love is here to stay.

Shared with permission from Jenifer Servais via Substack.

### **The greatest gifts in life are right in front of us, if we let them in.**

In March 2001, my dear friend Ann invited me and another friend to dinner and then to see the award-winning Broadway production of *RENT* at the Ordway in St. Paul. This musical featured the song *Seasons of Love*. The lyrics propose measuring a year of life as 525,600 minutes, celebrating each moment in a year of life in cups of coffee, laughter, and strife. What a delightful sentiment to relish those wondrous moments of joy, sorrow, and the mundane in life.

This play's profound message struck Ann and me deeply, moving us to tears by the end of the show. Its powerful message iterated how we must treat each other with compassion, lift each other up, and support each other when we're down, regardless of our differences. It pointed to the force of true human love. What an amazing gift this must feel to receive. I couldn't imagine what it would be like. Would I even know it to fully take it in?

Twenty-four years later, through prednisone-filled hallucinations and sleeplessness while recovering from my kidney transplant, this memory came back to me. My family, closest friends, and wider circle of friends had freely and authentically expressed such human

love and kindness to both me and my donor, sending prayers and well wishes. It filled my heart beyond what I knew I could possibly feel. This could only be my very own season of love until I realized it wasn't mine alone. Here's how it came about.

### **Wanted: Living Kidney Donor**

I started my evaluation for a living kidney donor on November 20, 2023. A month later, when I received word that I made the transplant list, I reflected on my life and whether I deserved such a gift. I prayed I was a decent human being who gave back and cared for, supported, and inspired others.



Deep in my soul, I knew I had a lot to live for, but who could consider giving me their kidney? I didn't want anyone to feel obligated or pressured to make such a sacrifice. At best, I hoped for an altruistic donor as that's the only person I could imagine coming forward.

When I told Ann about needing a donor, she said without hesitation, "I'll do it! ... but only if I'm a direct match." That's my Ann. I didn't expect her to say anything different. She's that way, always cheering on and supporting her friends when they're down. It comes naturally to her as her whole family is so full of love.

I understood her pause because becoming a donor required time, as well as spiritual and self reflection, not to mention rigorous medical testing. She signed up and started testing in August 2024.

### **A Humble, Selfless Gift**

I was careful to give Ann space to process what she was experiencing as she progressed through testing. We spoke often on the phone, but we didn't dwell on the transplant, apart from what her next steps were.

As December 2024 rolled around, I knew the transplant and donor teams would meet soon and I'd find out how Ann fared through the process. My instincts—not the most reliable source—told me we weren't a match.

Ann and I made plans to catch up on Thursday, December 19. When she called, we talked for almost an hour about everything but the transplant. That wasn't unusual for us because we always had a lot to catch up on. Little did I know my husband was listening in and secretly wished we'd get on with it already.

Then, she said, "Last week I found out I'm a match. I know I should have told you sooner, but I needed to process everything, especially the guidance from my medical team and mentors. I also needed time to deeply reflect on and pray about whether I wanted to become a donor. So, I've decided I want to give you my kidney."

To know Ann is to know that, apart from her fun-loving personality, she is a selfless, thoughtful person, full of love, kindness, and humility. In the very

moment she vowed to be my donor, the universe aligned, angels sang hallelujah, and harp strings flourished. All was right in the world, proven not just by science, modern medicine, or good genes, but by a much higher force. It was God's will.

It made sense. Ann and I had been part of each other's lives since we were toddlers, back when I lived on 16th and Market in my hometown of La Crosse, WI. We played basketball against each other in middle school and reunited in high school.

In the late '80s, Ann and I both transferred to UW-Eau Claire and ended up being roommates. During our 20s, we shared many adventures together and gallivanted around the Uptown neighborhood of Minneapolis where Ann lived.

### **A Waterfall of Prayers, Love, and Support**

Despite Ann's declaration to become my donor, I sensed an uncertainty in her voice—like she wasn't convinced yet. I didn't fault her because it was a big decision not to be made lightly. She told me how she turned to her faith to guide her through the process. For her as for me, it was a mind, body, and spiritual journey to face our fears about the screening process and look at the positives to come from it.

When I spoke with Ann in January, she said: "We're going to put faith over fear. Let's do this!" That's all I needed to hear.

This story was no longer about me; it was about us and forever would be. We were about to enter a new level in our friendship, promising to always be there for each other. I felt complete gratitude to Ann and God for saving me, and I'd forever be indebted to Ann for her incredible gift.

I posted a simple update to Facebook and kept Ann anonymous because she wasn't quite ready to go public. Then, on the night before our last round of tests, Ann posted her news to Facebook. The word was out, and the response was tremendous with Ann's friends and family and mine wishing us well and praying for us. We were filled with an abundance of love and support from every person who responded—people who knew Ann, not me; people who knew me, not Ann; and people who knew us both. To see so much unity and kindness over our friendship and journey was equally moving as it was motivating.



### **Once in a Lifetime**

This journey was built on faith in each other, in our care team, and our friends' and families' support. Putting prayer and positivity forward was the only way Ann and I knew to go about this journey because what-ifs and worry don't solve anything.

Ann and I had no words as we received the outpouring of love, prayers, well wishes, and words of kindness. I only knew to be grateful and give thanks to God for his blessings, for watching over us, and for giving us strength and courage.

Ann and I had experienced the most incredible gift of love and kindness—our very own season of love—knowing it's an absolute gift in any lifetime. We knew it, we let it in, and we let it fill our hearts and our spirit. While it might seem like a once-in-a-lifetime event, we're committed to it for the rest of our lives.

Ann and I are convinced that, despite the disruption, nonsense, and hate swirling around in the news, peace, love, and kindness will always win and unite us as humans. These beautiful, selfless qualities will prevail if we are open to both receiving them and giving them freely. That is the season of love.





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Learn more about  
using your IRA to  
make an impact!

## Reduce or Eliminate Income Taxes on Your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD)

Paying taxes on your IRA distribution is now a little less required. When you choose to make a qualified charitable distribution (QCD) rather than take your RMD, you will not pay income tax on it.

## Replace Your IRA's RMD with a QCD

Just as you would take a QCD to offset your IRA RMD, you can apply some or all your QCD to a charitable gift annuity (CGA). The CGA gives you fixed payments for life at favorable rates.

With a QCD, you distribute money from your IRA, but rather than take the funds yourself, you distribute them to a beloved organization of your choice. When you do, you receive benefits for your charitable decision.

The QCD applies only to IRAs. However, it is possible to transfer funds from other accounts to your IRA to take advantage of this option. Call your financial planner or our office for more information.

While the rules regarding the QCD and the QCD to CGA are relatively simple, you must follow them exactly. Your financial planner can help you learn the details, and can tell you the maximum amounts you can use.



## Qualified Charitable Distribution

Turn your IRA rollover required minimum distribution into annual income

You pay no  
income tax on  
the distribution

You don't have  
to apply all of  
your RMD to  
your QCD

If your spouse  
has an IRA, he  
or she can make  
a QCD as well

While it is a good idea to avoid paying taxes on an RMD, what if you could do even better? What if you could change your RMD (or what would be your RMD) into payments for life? While the IRS likes acronyms (IRA, RMD, QCD), let us give you one of ours you will love. It is the CGA. It stands for charitable gift annuity, and it gives you something even better than the QCD.

## The QCD Gives You a Choice

- You pay no income tax on the distribution. We also pay no tax.
- You don't have to apply all your RMD to your QCD. You can distribute some to our organization and some to yourself, paying income tax on that amount.

## Other Things to Keep in Mind

- The maximum amount you can use changes each year. Contact us for this year's limit.
- The distribution must be made to the nonprofit. You need to make sure the organization is a qualified 501(c)(3) charity, like ours.
- Because you never paid income tax on the QCD, you will not receive an income tax deduction.

The names and images shown here are representative of typical donors and may or may not be actual donors to the organization. Under federal rules your benefits may be different from this example. Please contact us for your specific benefits.

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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.

24PY13



# in Loving

## MEMORY

### Our Recently Deceased Alumni

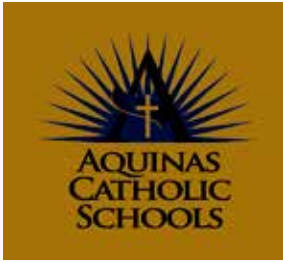
<b>1942</b> Bertha Hoch	<b>1954</b> Suzann (Kane) Balduzzi Gary Larkin Anthony Van Ert	<b>1962</b> Philip Murray	<b>1968</b> Sharon (Ebner) Pagel Mary Young
<b>1944</b> Mary R. Hartley		<b>1963</b> John Fuchsteinder Gerald Sheehan	<b>1969</b> Katherine (Davies) Collister
<b>1945</b> Betty (Dusso) Riley	<b>1955</b> Marilyn (Sheehan) Groves Albert Locy Jeanine (Anderson) Rhode Edward Weber	<b>1964</b> Gary Hesse Linda Maas	<b>1973</b> Margaret (Davies) Herbeck
<b>1946</b> Marilyn (Purdy) Carroll	<b>1956</b> Carol (Hammes) Bakkestuen	<b>1965</b> Paul Roesler	<b>1974</b> Joseph Hengel
<b>1947</b> George Kleinertz	<b>1958</b> Mary Grabski Rhea (Hundt) Iverson	<b>1966</b> Ronald Brueggen Greg Hanifl Jacqueline (Sapuder) Komperud Kathleen (Weber) Spinner	<b>1975</b> Michael Ferris
<b>1949</b> Kathleen (Nekola) Collins Paul Lyga	<b>1960</b> Dennis Boardman David Leuck Terrence McGaffrey Ronald Naegle	<b>1967</b> Patti (Koelbl) Cuddy Thomas Dolle Gary Weigel Steven Weiland	<b>1978</b> Terry Bye John Speer
<b>1950</b> Richard Coughlin Mary (Glotz) Kellogg Theresa (Eden) Woodruff	<b>1961</b> Ken Ducke Ed Faas Verda Grabinski Robert Jaekel		<b>1987</b> William Gelatt
<b>1951</b> Dolores (Simons) Strittmater			
<b>1953</b> Joan (Merfeld) Faas			

### Friends of Aquinas

Jeffrey Cooley	Janet Ring	Kathleen Vehrenkamp	Tom Eddy
Michael Taylor	Deborah (Maliszewski) Klug	Rosa Wittenberg	Thomas Franzini
Eileen Knothe	Robert Tourdot	Tom Umhoefer	Theresa Schuttenhelm
Dorothy Guldán Ahne	Donna Spangler	Barb Melster	Michael Egle
Evelyn (Zimmerman) Rutz-Thornton	William O'Leary	Pamela Lessiter	







Aquinas Catholic Schools Foundation  
315 S. 11th Street  
La Crosse, WI 54601  
608-784-0707  
brad.reinhart@aquinasschools.org  
aquinasschools.giftlegacy.com



Visit our Gift Legacy  
Page to Learn More!

# *Beneficiary Designation Gift*

## ONLINE TOOL



### Make a Future Gift of Retirement Assets

Search For My Custodian:

## *Free, Fast and Informative*

What if you had a tool that gave you simple but effective ways to provide for your family, while also saving you taxes? As a bonus you can more easily support causes important to you.



Check out our NEW  
Beneficiary Designation  
Gift Tool

## *Private, Powerful, Plainly Written*

Our website features a few tools where you can learn ways to lower taxes and even increase income. One helpful tool to help you plan your legacy is the Beneficiary Designation Gift tool. You can do all this in the privacy of your home, with no obligation or cost.

## *Save Taxes, Time and Trouble*

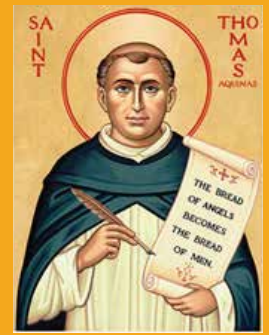
Be sure to check "Notify us of your beneficiary designation gift" in the online tool. Most people hold most of their wealth in investment, checking and retirement accounts. Yet few know this simple way of using them in tax-wise ways. Learn how filling out a simple form (you may already have) can accomplish so much.

Explore the Beneficiary Designation Gift tool on your own and with your tax advisor. However, we are always here to help. Contact us for even more tax-savings ideas.

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. The names and images shown here are representative of typical donors and may or may not be actual donors to the organization. Under federal rules your benefits may be different from this example. Please contact us for your specific benefits.



# ST. THOMAS AQUINAS SOCIETY OF PLANNED GIFTS



In appreciation of those generous donors whose legacy will live on through their planned gifts to the Aquinas Catholic Schools Foundation, which will help to ensure current and future generations of excellence at Aquinas Catholic Schools.

Marcella (Cleary '41) Amundson	James L. Kiffe '42	Sue Quillin '79
Frances M. Balduzzi	Agnes (Ott '35) Kimpel	Tom Rachubinski '73
Theodore P. Banasik '55	Robert H. Klein '37	Dale & Priscilla Reinhart
Earl & Elaine Bonsack	Celia Koll	Cody Rickaway '07
James F. Boschert '49	Joseph E. Kratt	Lois Riepel '52
Marvin & Ruth (Troyanek '39) Bossler	John G. LaFleur '62	William T. Riley '60
John Bissen '36	James Maney '39	Lou & Mary (Servais '48) Ritter '48
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Lorraine F. Johnson	Edward W. & Ella J. Poehling	Francis E. Zahn '37
James Jungen '55	Patrick M. Pralle '60	John F. Zanter '46



To learn more about how you can join the St. Thomas Aquinas Society for Legacy & Planned Gifts, please visit [aquinasschools.giftlegacy.com](http://aquinasschools.giftlegacy.com), or contact Brad Reinhart at (608) 784-0707 [brad.reinhart@aquinasschools.org](mailto:brad.reinhart@aquinasschools.org)



# CLASS GATHERINGS

## *Class of 1947*

Meets the second Monday of each month at 8:00am at The La Crosse Family Restaurant, 2120 Rose Street, La Crosse

## *Class of 1954*

Meets the first Monday of each month at 9:00am at Tom Sawyer's, 136 Clinton Street, La Crosse  
Contact: Donna (Zellmer) Puent at 608-788-4137

## *Class of 1955*

Meets the second Tuesday of January, April, July & October at 9:00am at Perkins Restaurant, 9428 Highway 16, Onalaska  
Contact: Grace Binner Smith at 608-667-6085 or gracemi80@gmail.com

## *Class of 1957*

Meets the second Monday of February, April, June, August, October, and December at 9:00am at Tom Sawyer's, 136 Clinton Street, La Crosse  
Contact: Phil Hess at 608-788-9417, James Schams at 608-784-3316 or Mary Ferguson Wakeen at 563-529-9071

## *Class of 1960*

Meets the fourth Tuesday of each month  
Contact: Micki (Bicha) Banasik at 608-788-2817 for location and time

## *Class of 1963*

Meets every fourth Tuesday at Barre Diner for breakfast at 8:30am. Meets annually on the second Saturday in September at 5:00pm at Bluffside Tavern

## *Class of 1964*

Meets the second Wednesday of each month  
Contact: Sue King at smasking\_suzanne@aol.com or JoAnn La Fleur at 608-399-3129

## *Class of 1975*

Meets the first day of each month at 12:00pm at Schmidty's Restaurant, La Crosse  
Contact: John Dvorak at 608-526-6090

## *Class of 1977*

Meets the second Friday of the month at various locations  
Contact: Paul Bruha at 608-317-4254 or visit the class website at [www.aquinas77.com](http://www.aquinas77.com)

# CLASS REUNIONS

## **Class of 1965 • 60 Year Class Reunion**

**Friday, September 12, 2025**

Freighthouse Restaurant - Hiawatha Room  
For more information email: [aquinasclassof65@gmail.com](mailto:aquinasclassof65@gmail.com)

## **Class of 1975 • 50 Year Class Reunion**

**Friday and Saturday, September 19-20, 2025**

9/19 Informal gathering, location TBD  
9/20 9:30AM Golf at Forest Hills, contact Paul Przywojski (608.780.3422; [paulprzywojski@gmail.com](mailto:paulprzywojski@gmail.com))  
1:00-3:00PM Euchre tournament in Aquinas Commons  
4:00PM Aquinas Tour  
5:00PM Dinner - Freighthouse Restaurant  
Social Hour starts at 5PM, Dinner at 7PM.  
**Hotel:** Radisson; use Aquinas 1975 Class Reunion  
**Contact:** [AquinasClass1975@gmail.com](mailto:AquinasClass1975@gmail.com)  
**Venmo:** @AquinasClass1975  
**Facebook:** Aquinas Class of 1975

## **Class of 1970 • 55 Year Class Reunion**

**Friday and Saturday, August 22-23, 2025**

8/22 11AM Welcome Luncheon at Pettibone Boat Club  
8/22 5PM Aquinas Night. Place: Bluffside Tavern. 5:30 - ?  
8/23 5PM All School Reunion at Freighthouse Restaurant

[www.aquinas70.com](http://www.aquinas70.com)

Contact: Richard Pearse for questions. [pearseiii@gmail.com](mailto:pearseiii@gmail.com)

## **Class of 1976 • 50 Year Class Reunion**

Dates and Specifics TBD. More info to follow.  
To keep up to date, visit the class Facebook page: LaCrosse Aquinas 1976  
Contacts: DeeDee (Miller) Burns: [dburns10130@gmail.com](mailto:dburns10130@gmail.com)  
Sue (Ruetten) Kratt: [skratt1957@gmail.com](mailto:skratt1957@gmail.com)

## **Class of 1985 • 40 Year Class Reunion**

**Friday and Saturday, June 20-21, 2025**

June 20, 2025 - Earl's Grocery and Saloon  
June 21, 2025 - Freighthouse Restaurant - Hiawatha Room  
For more information email: [laxaquinasclassof85@gmail.com](mailto:laxaquinasclassof85@gmail.com)

### **Having a reunion or class gathering? We can help!**

Contact Brad Reinhart at (608) 784-0707 or [brad.reinhart@aquinasschools.org](mailto:brad.reinhart@aquinasschools.org). Services include: class contact info, school tours, Masses, venue recommendations, mailing labels, and more!

# Congratulations

## TO THE 2025 FOUNDER'S DAY AWARD RECIPIENTS

Congratulations to our 2025 Founder's Day award winners! All of our winners have had a crucial impact on the development of Aquinas Catholic Schools and their respective communities. We were pleased to honor the following award winners this past spring:



### St. Francis Staff Award

**Maureen Grenisen** has been named the 2025 recipient of the St. Francis Staff Award, which honors former Aquinas Catholic Schools staff members who served with distinction and made a lasting, meaningful impact on students. Maureen's dedication and years of service positively shaped many in the ACS community. This award recognizes individuals who are no longer employed by the school and have been off staff for one to two years.



### St. Thomas Aquinas Award: Mary Jo Werner

**Mary Jo Werner** is the deserving recipient of the St. Thomas Aquinas Award, honoring her outstanding dedication and generous contributions of time, talent, and treasure to the Aquinas Schools. Her deep commitment to the educational mission of Aquinas is evident through her active involvement in key events and initiatives, including events like the auction, Aquinas Fest, the Parents Club, Booster Club, and Music Parents Club. Mary Jo has also played an essential role in supporting development fundraisers. Her impact extends beyond her school years, as she has continued to enrich Aquinas' extracurricular programs throughout her adult life. Mary Jo embodies the spirit of service and support that this award was created to recognize.



### Bishop John Paul Distinguished Alumni Award: Erik Snapp '86

**Erik Snapp**, a proud graduate of Aquinas Class of 1986, exemplifies the values and excellence celebrated by the St. Thomas Aquinas Award. He has made a lasting impact in his community, shown unwavering support for Aquinas, and achieved significant distinction in his professional field. Erik lives out his Catholic faith with integrity and dedication, making him a true embodiment of the spirit and mission of Aquinas.

### St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Award: Schneider Heating & Air Conditioning

Schneider Heating & Air Conditioning is honored with the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Award in recognition of its longstanding partnership with and unwavering support of Aquinas Catholic Schools and the Aquinas Catholic Schools Foundation. Through consistent generosity, collaboration, and commitment to Catholic education, Schneider Heating & Air Conditioning has played a vital role in helping Aquinas thrive. Their dedication to the mission and values of Aquinas makes them a model of community and corporate support.



NOMINATION FORM





## ALUMNI & FRIENDS RECENT GATHERINGS

Thank you to those who attended our recent Alumni Gatherings in Milwaukee, Phoenix and Denver. The groups enjoyed sharing memories, celebrating successes and connecting with other members of the Aquinas Family. Watch for more upcoming Aquinas socials in your region at: [www.aquinasatholicschools.org/alumni](http://www.aquinasatholicschools.org/alumni)

### >>> PHOENIX / 3.23.25 / Brewers Spring Training & Moxies



### >>> MILWAUKEE / 5.7.25 / The Brewhouse







Is there a group of Blugolds in your area? We would love to hear from you and explore the possibility of hosting a social in your region. Please contact **Brad Reinhart** at [brad.reinhart@aquinasschools.org](mailto:brad.reinhart@aquinasschools.org).





## AQUINAS BOOSTER CLUB

The Aquinas Booster Club meets the 2nd Wednesday of every month at 7pm in the Commons at Aquinas High School. All are welcome!

### BOARD MEMBERS

**Erin Klar ('01)**  
President

**Jessica Schams**  
Vice President

**Lance Hughey**  
Treasurer

**Kristy Holinka**  
Secretary

### ANNUAL EVENTS

Aquinas Booster Club Auction, Aquinas Booster Club Chicken Q

# 48<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL Aquinas Fest ..... 2025



**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19th**

at Aquinas High School (Cameron Street Parking Lot)



**GAMES & ACTIVITIES**



**FOOD & DRINKS**



**LIVE MUSIC**

## STAY UP TO DATE

with Aquinas activities by  
downloading the Activity Scheduler App  
or checking the calendar online.

### EVENTS CALENDAR





— *Save The Date* —

# AQUINAS GOLF SCRAMBLE

**WEDNESDAY • JULY 9, 2025**

**The Golf Club at Cedar Creek**  
2600 Cedar Creek Lane, Onalaska

The 36th annual Aquinas Golf Scramble is the perfect opportunity to enjoy a fun-filled day with friends while supporting a great cause.

Each year, this beloved event brings together golfers for an unforgettable experience—raising over \$20,000 annually for need-based tuition assistance. Your participation directly benefits families across all Aquinas Catholic Schools.



For more information on how you can play, sponsor, or volunteer at the 2025 Aquinas Golf Scramble, please contact Development Director Brad Reinhart at: [brad.reinhart@aquinasschools.org](mailto:brad.reinhart@aquinasschools.org) or 608-784-0707

REGISTER ONLINE







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La Crosse, WI

- ☐ Address change
- ☐ Duplicate mailings
- ☐ Remove from mailing list

**Please mail your request to:**

### **Aquinas Report**

315 11th Street South, Suite 2200  
La Crosse, WI 54601

(608) 784-0707  
or email [info@aquinasschools.org](mailto:info@aquinasschools.org)

**Aquinas High School • Aquinas Middle School  
St. Patrick Elementary • Blessed Sacrament Elementary • Cathedral Elementary**

*This institution is an equal opportunity provider.*

## **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.



## **Connect with Aquinas**

Visit us on Facebook, Instagram and Linked In @AquinasCatholicSchools



[AquinasCatholicSchools.org](http://AquinasCatholicSchools.org)