AQUINAS REPORT

Aquinas Catholic Schools Magazine for Families, Friends & Alumni



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HONOR ROLL OF GIVING

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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.







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Letter from the President
School Reports
Class of 2023
Blugolds Sports Report
In Tribute and Memorials
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Financial Report
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Dear Alumni and Friends,

Jerry Bock and Sheldon Harnick wrote the popular musical hit from Fiddler on the Roof, "Tradition." The song sums up the musical as the core of tradition is not changed but expanded in new ways into the next generation.

Tradition is defined as "a transmission of customs or beliefs from one generation to generation." We value the teachings, morals and values which have been given to us by Christ through the Church. Aquinas Catholic Schools has a strong tradition of passing on not only Catholic values, but a quality education based upon strong work ethics.

Graduates of the Aquinas System carry with them the Aquinas Traditions into many walks of life. Aquinas Traditions have regenerated communities, workplaces and family life all over the United States. We are proud as we continue to carry on the Traditions of Christ within our Aquinas Family. We know our traditions, our values and the Gospel message will continue to grow wherever our graduates settle. We are proud of who we are as a family. We are proud of our tradition.



God Bless, Msgr. Steven Kachel Dean of La Crosse





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

Dear Aquinas Catholic Schools Alumni and Family,

This fall, I begin my seventh year as President of our Aquinas Catholic School system. As a graduate of Saint Patrick's in Onalaska and of Aquinas High School (1980), I am honored to lead over 130 faculty and staff and 1,050 plus Catholic School students! Your Catholic School system in La Crosse is reaching new heights daily!

We strive each and every day to live our mission of: "Aquinas Catholic Schools is a Christ-centered family devoted to nurturing students of all faiths through educational excellence in its vibrant Catholic traditions." Our core values to direct our actions: Faith, Integrity, Excellence, Leadership, and Dignity. This year, we said goodbye and happy retirement to several long-time faculty and staff members. Mrs. Kathy Curti (34 yrs), Kevin Schreiner (31 yrs), Maureen Grenisen (29 yrs), Val Breidel (25 yrs), Paul Chenier (24 yrs) and Dan Kammel (11 yrs). They are true role models for our children and fellow staff members.

I want to thank you all for your wonderful financial support we receive annually from our alumni and friends. Your ongoing support has allowed us to address our teacher/staff wages, capital building improvements and keep our schools affordable.

I hope that you enjoy this issue of the Aquinas Report. Please stop by Aquinas the next time you are in La Crosse. I would enjoy visiting with you and showing you our great schools. I also invite you to participate in our annual giving program. Your financial support is exceedingly important as we continue to offer the highest quality Catholic education available. The Blugold pride is as strong as ever!

May God continue to bless you and your families,



Ted Xnukon
Ted Knutson ('80)
President, Aquinas Catholic Schools

Pictured left to right: Ted Knutson, Mike Desmond, Joe Gaspard, and Dan Coughlin





3:00PM-8:00PM

at Aquinas High School (Cameron Street Parking Lot)

SWEEPSTAKES DRAWING @ 6:00PM

Grand Prize

\$15,000 MSRP Discount from Clason Buick GMC or \$10,000 Cash

Plus additional cash prizes





Call (608) 784-0707 for entry details!



GAMES & ACTIVITIES



FOOD & DRINKS



LIVE MUSIC



CATHEDRAL

ELEMENTARY

As our students enter the doors of Cathedral Elementary School, they will see our core values at Aquinas Catholic Schools proudly displayed on banners. Those core values are faith, integrity, excellence, leadership, and dignity. Our faculty and staff work hard every day to model these values and teach our students to encompass these principles as they grow daily in mind, body and soul.

Looking back at the 2022-2023 school year, we feel blessed that we can incorporate our faith and the seasons of the church to celebrate feast days, Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter and the many traditions of our faith. Through these celebrations, our goal is to connect with one another inside the school but also to reach out to our community and even other parts of the world! During the school year, our students collected clothing, food, personal items, and money for Catholic Charities along with supplying local food pantries with needed items. Our families participated in the annual Easter basket raffle along with student dress down days to raise money for our sponsored child, Mischell, from Casa Hogar in Peru.

One of the highlights of the school year is Catholic Schools Week. This year it began with our All Schools Mass celebrating the Feast of St. Thomas Aquinas. Our students loved singing along to the beautiful music and participated in bringing up the gifts. Cathedral students enjoyed celebrating with the Aquinas High School band, and dance, wrestling and basketball teams. They made Valentine's Day cards to put in the Meals on Wheels deliveries, along with cards for the nursing homes, as outreach into our community.

One of our favorite events is providing a family breakfast so students can enjoy having their loved ones with them in school. Cathedral is so fortunate to have such amazing families and this is a great way for us to show our appreciation back to them.

Our students also enjoy going off campus for field trips. These adventures included a corn maze, apple orchard, the Owl Center, Lark Toys, Myrick Park, the Children's Museum, Touch a Truck, Shrine of Guadalupe and even to some of the other schools within Aquinas Catholic Schools to see family and friends. We concluded the year with trips to the ice cream shop and a fun field day to celebrate a year packed with learning, activities, giving, and a lot of laughter in between.

We continued our summer with Camp Cathedral providing a safe place for children within our ACS family to have fun and be with friends. Campers went to parks, pools, zoos, the Wisconsin Dells and more! We also had tutoring taking place over the summer months. Therefore, we remain active even when school is not in session.

Cathedral Elementary School would like to thank our families, supporting parishes, alumni, and friends! We would not be able to accomplish all that we do if it were not for people like you who have a passion for our Catholic school system. Please pray for us as we continue to pray for you.

Peace in Christ.

Tara Key Tara Key

Principal, Cathedral Elementary School













BLESSED SACRAMENT

ELEMENTARY







The 2022-23 school year at Blessed Sacrament School was filled with growth, new adventures, and fun! The students came in ready to be back together and ready to learn. Our teachers really supported the students to think creatively and collaborate as a team.

The beginning of the year was all about settling into new routines and building relationships. Students were eager to get back to work and loved the new STEM classroom that Mr. Duffy moved into. Throughout the year, Mr. Duffy integrated various STEM projects to support problemsolving skills and allow student creativity to take the lead. Our Vex Robotics, funded by Ashley Furniture, were a huge hit! Students created bots, coded them independently, and completed against one another in tug-of-war and soccer competitions.

Concerts were back in person to start the year, so our Harvest and Advent programs were a fun way to begin the Advent season. The band and orchestra members showed an impressive amount of talent, as did the vocals. Mrs. Grinde, Mr. Schafer, and Miss Steger put in a tremendous amount of effort to have these shows run smoothly and it definitely showed!

Another highlight from the year was Catholic Schools Week being kicked off by our AHS pep band and dance team. Throughout the week, we were able to connect with students from other buildings by having a game day with Cathedral with High School helpers. We collected items for the Catholic Charities - La Crosse Warming Center, had a Vex Robotics competition and finished out the week with an all-school Speed Stacking competition. The students practiced the different cup stacking events during physical education for three weeks before the competition.

It was a fun week of celebrating Catholic Faith and Schools!

After Easter, time really began moving quickly as our spring concerts and May Crowning took place. May Crowning is one of my favorite events as we honor Mary, our Mother. During the month of May we honored Mary as the Mother of Jesus and her difficult journey. Our sixth graders led a beautiful prayer service for May Crowning. During this special service, we created an altar for Mary in the front of Blessed Sacrament Parish that stayed up through the month of May.

The last weeks were filled with field trips and ended with sixth grade commencement. Our students were overjoyed to have opportunities to visit Villa Louis, The Woodlands, Mississippi Museum in Dubuque, Iowa, Niagara Cave, and the Track Meet at the Onalaska High School. With so many events, I must thank the outstanding staff of Blessed Sacrament for being flexible, dedicated, and student-centered! They are willing to change schedules, take additional students, and work together to fit everything in before the end of the school year.

In Partnership,

Kate P. Moll

Kate R. Moll

Principal, Blessed Sacrament School



ST. PATRICK

ELEMENTARY

Wow! What a great year! The 2022-2023 school year was filled with many gifts and talents shared by our students and staff. However, the greatest gift we have been given this year is our faith. Our Catholic faith is why we exist, and we should be proud to share it in all that we do.

Our staff and students shared our faith each and every day by beginning our day with prayer and ending it with prayer. A few other ways we continued our faith throughout the year was by attending weekly Masses, praying the rosary, and having our 3rd and 4th graders attend the Eucharistic Miracles that our Aquinas Middle School 8th graders presented. In addition, our students put their faith in action through the public witness of the Corporal Works of Mercy Walk, kindness and anti-bullying events, participating in collections of nonperishable food items, shoes, baby items for Mayo's Kindness Cupboard, and financial donations for special charitable events throughout the year.

The new STEM Lab was a highlight of the school year. Students experienced 3D printing, Legos, and programming robots. The lab allowed students to explore, problem solve, and use their critical thinking skills. For the 2023-24 school year we will be adding a magnetic wall to the lab.

Throughout the year, our students attended many field trips. A few of the places visited were the Capitol in Madison, Niagara Cave, Eagle Bluff Environmental Learning Center, The Shrine of our Lady of Guadalupe, Lark Toys, The National Eagle Center, and Viterbo University. These trips allowed our students to collaborate

with their peers, explore new environments, and utilize these experiences as a tool to enhance their learning.

Catholic Schools Week is always a special celebration because it is unique to Catholic Schools. This year we kicked the week off with the Aquinas High School Pep Band and dance team visiting our school. There was a lot of laughing and dancing during their visit. Our parents joined us for a special breakfast, and the attendance was outstanding. We have the best parents. We ended the week with our PS3 and K4 students going boot skating and our K5-6 students going to High Roller for roller skating.

The 22-23 school year has encompassed many activities celebrating our faith and having fun with our teachers and classmates, learning new things and receiving the relentless support from our terrific families.

The students and staff at St. Patrick School are thankful for the continued support from our parents, parishes, and the Aquinas Catholic School system.

Angela Koblitz

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







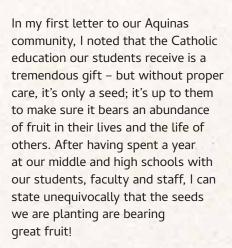






AQUINAS

MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL



As Catholic schools, we are enormously proud of the opportunities we provide our students to grow their faith. Throughout this school year, we have celebrated Mass weekly for both our middle school and high schools, often individually as schools, sometimes as an entire building. While we were unable to "launch" a Kairos retreat this year for our juniors and seniors, we have laid the groundwork to do so next year. This will be a wonderful opportunity for some of our students and faculty to take time away from everything - school, athletics, etc. – and deepen their relationship with God. This Spring, our 8th Grade students – inspired by Blessed Carlo Acutis - prepared Eucharistic Miracles projects that they shared with our Aquinas elementary school students. Lastly, we are enormously excited about adding a campus minister to our faculty and staff this Fall. This person will be a critical faith leader in both our schools, helping our faculty and staff, our students and our families grow closer to God.

Aquinas Middle and High School students continue to excel in their academics. This year we were excited to begin our first official year of the Viterbo collaborative, as well as a partnership for credit at Western Technical College for our Accounting and Personal Finance courses.

In April, we were incredibly excited to honor five graduating Seniors at the WKBT / News 8 Honor Banquet. All five of these Seniors were the Class of 2023 valedictorians. While five valedictorians may be a lot for one school, all five students achieved a perfect GPA in their high school career and are well-deserving of the title. Our high school students took Advanced Placement (AP) exams in ten different subject areas – from AP Psychology to AP Biology – to potentially earn college credits.

At the end of May, we graduated eighty-seven 8th Graders – welcoming them to the high school – and graduated our sixty-six Seniors, now prepared for college and career. Lastly, our faculty and staff have worked very hard on creating a unified bell schedule for the coming school year. While there will, of course, be some growing pains as we adopt this new schedule, we are excited for the opportunities it will provide for both schools as we move forward.

continued...





AQUINAS

MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL

...continued

Our students continue to excel in extra-curriculars. Our high school theater department presented a beautiful performance of The Little Mermaid in the Fall and a wonderfully staged, and quite humorous, production of Arsenic and Old Lace in February. Our middle school presented Captain Louie, Jr. in March – a fun musical with a powerful message. Two of our high school students presented at the Junior Achievement state competition and over fifty of our musicians received recognition at the state solo and ensemble competition.

In the Fall, our boys' soccer team made it to the state tournament (the first time in ten years) and our football team became back-to-back state champions. This Winter, our girls' basketball team made it to the state championship game in Green Bay and multiple wrestlers became

state champions. Our Dance Team was also a state champion in Jazz and state runner-up in Pom. In addition, our middle school students won the academic portion of the Brains and Brawn competition, competing against Catholic middle school students from across the diocese. This Spring, our Pi Robotics team made it the world championships in Houston, the first time since their inaugural year. Our baseball team made it to the state championship in early June, leaving as the state runner-up.

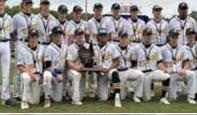
What a year it has been for our Aguinas Middle and High Schools!

May God bless you, your families, and our Aquinas Catholic Schools,

Andrew P. Bradley

Andrew R. Bradley, Principal















CONGRATULATIONS

to PiRhobotics for their outstanding season!

They qualified for FRC Championship (Worlds), in Houston, TX, where they competed with 600 of the top teams from around the world and finished #11 on their field!



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DENTING HOVEMBER 11, 2023







YVE ROJAS



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AQUINAS CATHOLIC SCHOOLS
GOLD GALA

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brad.reinhart@aquinasschools.org





Valedictorian
Alexa Neumeister



Kyle Gagermeier



Valedictorian
Estella Weisse



Valedictorian Tessa Foor



Valedictorian
Shealyn Bahr



Salutatorian
Grace Butler

AQUINAS HIGH SCHOOL 2023 GRADUATING CLASS

Calvin Anderson

Work Force

Isabel Antonie

Viterbo University Undecided with a dance minor

Elizabeth Bagniefski

University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Archeology and Anthropology

Shealyn Bahr

Marquette University **Biomedical Sciences**

Sophie Bishop

University of Wisconsin-La Crosse Undecided

Holly Blakeley

Appalachian State University Political Science

Nevaeh Bolstad-Sayre

Western Technical College Human Resources

Grace Butler

Marquette University Biomedical Science/Pre-Dental

Collin Conzemius

University of Wisconsin-La Crosse Undecided

Benjamin Corsi

University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire Marketing

Ethan Darveaux

University of Wisconsin-Stout Mechanical Engineering

Macy Donarski

University of Montana Communicative Sciences and Disorders

Sydney Emineth

Milwaukee School of Engineering Architectural Engineering

Robert Flege

University of Wisconsin-La Crosse Biology/Biochemistry

Jackson Flottmeyer

Winona State University Undecided

Tessa Foor

University of Wisconsin-Madison **Nutritional Sciences**

Kyle Gagermeier

Benedictine College Finance

Emma Gilberts

Minnesota State Mankato Nursina

William Grob

Viterbo University Biochemistry

Lars Gundersen

Western Technical College Undecided

Gretta Gyllander

University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire Undecided

Sara Gyllander

Minnesota State Mankato Marketing

Calvin Hargrove

University of Wisconsin-La Crosse Business Administration

Jacob Hillebrand

University of Wisconsin-Stout Manufacturing Engineering

Barbora Hnizdilova

Capilano University Psychology

Brody Hollett

University of Wisconsin-La Crosse Computer Science

Henry Horstman

Winona State University Undecided

Katherine Kaiser

University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Journalism and Creative Writing

Samuel Kearney

Northern Michigan University Sustainable Business

Botond Kiss

Returning to Hungary to Finish School

Naomi Koch

Marquette University Nursing / Air Force ROTC

Alexa Komay

University of Wisconsin-Platteville Criminal Justice and Forensic Investigation

Emily Kreichik

The Catholic University of America Hispanic Studies with a Pre-Law Concentration

Kareese Kruger

Grand Canyon University Psychology

Luke Lawton

Western Technical College Criminal Justice

Damien Lee

Work Force

Kalynn Lenser-Sjolander

Cinema Makeup School Special Effects

Aaron Lepak

Work Force

Nicholas Meier

University of Wisconsin-Platteville Computer Science

Taliya Michlig

Western Technical College Radiography

Zachary Morgan

Saint Mary's University Biology

Alexa Neumeister

University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire Nursina

Iris Neve

Minnesota State Mankato Nursing / National Guard-Medic

Hannah Noelke

University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire Psychology

Joseph O'Flaherty

St. Olaf College

David Ortmeier

University of Wisconsin-Platteville Engineering

Autumn Passehl

Saint Mary's University Psychology

Amina Rabindra

Loyola University Chicago Psychology and Neuroscience

Gabriel Rogers

Work Force

Alexandra Roupe

University of Wisconsin-Madison Biology

Riley Ryan

Western Technical College Psychology

Abigail Schelfhout

Western Technical College Nursina

Isaac Schumacher

University of Wisconsin-Stout Construction Management

Maria Schwinn

University of Wisconsin-La Crosse Undecided

Jack Servais

University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire Nursing

Bobby Skemp

Saint Mary's University Computer Science

Devon Skemp

University of Wisconsin-Whitewater Accounting and Finance

Caitlinn Smith

Work Force

Henry Suttie Loras College

Engineering

Andrew Sutton

University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire Business / Marketing

Oliver Thrush

Biola University Cinema & Media Arts

Isabel Timm

University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Public Health

Esmeralda Valera

Marquette University International Business

Estella Weisse

University of Wisconsin-Madison Environmental Engineering

Frank Wilson

Work Force

Aaron Zoroufy

Iowa State Civil Engineering

AQUINAS HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR FINE ARTS AWARDS



National John Philip Sousa Award: **Alexa Neumeister**



Outstanding Color Guard Award: **Emily Krejchik**



Harold Jerue Memorial Scholarship: **Jack Servais**



Outstanding Percussionist Award: **Aaron Zoroufy**



National Orchestra Award: Louis Armstrong Award: Amina Rabindra

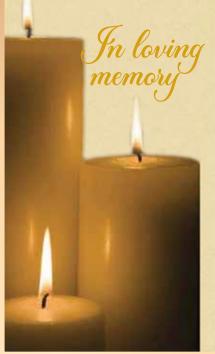


Jacob Hillebrand

The John Philip Sousa Award is given in recognition of outstanding achievement and interest in instrumental music, for merit in loyalty and cooperation, and for displaying high qualities of conduct in band.

The National Orchestra Award is presented to the instrumentalist that continually contributes to the success of the chamber ensemble and for exemplifying the highest standard of conduct.

The Louis Armstrong Award was developed to honor the high school brass player who exhibits superior dedication, musicianship, and creativity.



Andrew "Drew" Joseph Coleman | April 28, 2005 - December 6, 2020 | Class of 2023



AQUINAS HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR ATHLETIC AWARDS



Father Rossiter Award

The Father Rossiter Award is for overall outstanding career or individual performance by a Senior athlete.

Female:

Autumn Passehl

Male:

Andrew Sutton Collin Conzemius



The Jane Baker and Mike Pitz Awards

The Jane Baker and Mike Pitz Awards are given to athletes who have a good attitude, are highly motivated, hard working, inspirational and enthusiastic.

Jane Baker Award: Naomi Koch

Alexandra Roupe Mike Pitz Award: **Jackson Flottmeyer**



Olympathon Award

The Olympathon Award goes to the top Senior three-sport athlete.

Female:

Macy Donarski

Male:

Calvin Hargrove



Scholar **Athlete**

The Scholar Athlete Award is given to student athletes who excel both in the classroom and in their chosen sports.

Female:

Shealyn Bahr

Male:

Robert "Tate" Flege



Lee Gilbert Service Award

The Lee Gilbert Service Award is for significant contributions to an athletic program and/or team(s).

2022

Todd Sommerfeldt La Crosse Tribune

2023

Dan Kammel Aquinas



AQUINAS HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS



Dick Lomen Family McDonald's Youth Achievement Scholarship: Shealyn Bahr

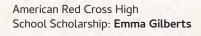
Aaron Hass Memorial Scholarship: Zachary Morgan, Samuel Kearney

Health Science Academy Scholarship: Grace Butler



La Crosse Lions Club Scholarship: Abigail Schelfhout, Isabel Antonie

National Honor Society Scholarship: Shealyn Bahr



La Crosse Rotary East Scholarship: Isabel Timm

La Crosse Jaycees Scholarship: Shealyn Bahr, Samuel Kearney

Kiwanis Club Scholarship: Samuel Kearney

Vivian & Clayton Veum Scholarship: Alexa Neumeister

Peter DeCicco Scholarship: Sydney Emineth

William & Lorna Vafeas Art Scholarship: Oliver Thrush

Jay F. Leinfelder Memorial Scholarship: Calvin Hargrove, Jackson Flottmeyer

Borton Construction Scholarship: Isaac Schumacher

George P. & Evelyn Miller Scholarship: Tessa Foor

Luminary Scholarship: Samuel Kearney

Marian Dorothy Pavela Pro-Life Nursing Scholarship: Emma Gilberts

Bishop's Award: Robert "Tate" Flege



The Live Like Drew Award: Robert "Tate" Flege, Jackson Flottmeyer

WIAA Scholar Athlete Award: Robert "Tate" Flege, Shealyn Bahr

Aguinas Class of 1976 Alumni Scholarship: Aaron Zoroufy, Hannah Noelke

M & M Memorial Scholarship: Sophie Bishop

Edward & Ella J. Poehling Scholarship: Estella Weisse

Charles J. Mathy Jr. Scholarship: Shealyn Bahr, Esmeralda Valera

Donald & Louise Schams Memorial Scholarship: William Grob, Isabel Antonie

La Crosse Tribune Extra Effort Award: Caitlinn Smith

La Crosse Tribune Extra Effort Rotary Club Award: Nevaeh Bolstad-Sayre, Caitlinn Smith

Western Technical College Scholarship: Luke Lawton

Oktoberfest Gemutlichkeit Foundation Scholarship: Esmeralda Valera

French Island Lion's Club: Alexandra Roupe

DAR Good Citizen Award: Alexa Neumeister

WFCA Hall of Fame Scholarship: Damien Lee

Rotary Club of La Crosse Service Above Self Award: Katherine Kaiser

A.J. Petras Scholarship: Kyle Gagermeier

Coach Nockels Memorial Scholarship: Henry Suttie

Drew Coleman Memorial Scholarship: Luke Lawton

Aguinas Booster Club Robert Kachel Scholarship: Joe O'Flaherty, Sara Gyllander

















SPORTS REPORT: SEASON SUMMARIES

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Head Coach: Dave Donarski **Season Record:** 28-2

Conference Place Finish:

MVC Champions **Playoff Finish:** State runner-up

Season Highlights

The girls basketball team went undefeated in conference, winning the MVC Conference Championship for the 9th consecutive year. The Blugolds returned to the state championship game this season which is the 6th time over the past seven years that they have done so. After a convincing semi-final game win over Michicot, the Blugolds fell to Laconia in a hard fought battle. Our seniors leave us with a legacy of success being one of the most decorated groups in program history with a career record of 96-9.

All-Conference Selections

MVC Player of the Year:

Macy Donarski

MVC 1st Team: Macy Donarski
MVC 2nd Team: Samantha Davis
MVC Honorable Mention: Autumn
Passehl and Maddie Murphy
MVC All-Sportmanship: Shea Bahr

All-State Selections

WBCA 1st Team All-State Division 4:

Macy Donarski and Samantha Davis

WBCA Honorable Mention All-State

Division 4: Autumn Passehl

AP 1st Team All-State: Macy Donarski

AP Honorable Mention All-State:

Samantha Davis

Other Post Season Awards

All-Tribune Player of the Year:

Macy Donarski

All-Tribune 1st team:

Macy Donarski and Samantha Davis

All-Tribune 2nd team:

Autumn Passehl

All-Tribune Honorable Mention: Shea Bahr and Maddie Murphy

BOYS BASKETBALL

Head Coach: Brad Reinhart **Season Record:** 17-9

Conference Place Finish: 3(T)

Playoff Finish: Regional Semi-Final

Season Highlights

Season highlights included epic battles with Onalaska and Central, a Midwest Players Classic victory over Caledonia, a team trip to Wisconsin Dells that ended with a close victory over Dodgeville, and winning 12 of 13 games to start the season.

All-Conference Selections

Walter Berns was voted 1st Team
All-Conference, Andrew Sutton
earned 2nd Team All-Conference,
Tanner Peterson & Shane Willenbring
were honorable mention All-MVC, and
Sam Kearney earned the conference
sportsmanship award.

Other Post Season Awards

Walter Berns and Andrew Sutton received second team all-area honors awarded by the La Crosse Tribune.

Academic All-State & All-MVC: Andrew Sutton, Zach Morgan, Sam Kearney Juniors: Sam Dickinson, Kole Keppel, Jonathan Skemp, Shane Willenbring, and Freshman: Logan Becker. The team's cumulative GPA fell just .06 short of being a top 3 Division 4 all-academic team.

GIRLS GOLF

Head Coach: Andy Foley Conference Place Finish: 4th Playoff Finish: Sectionals

Season Highlights

The Lady Blugold golf team had a successful season and each golfer improved! The 2022 varsity golf team: Amina Rabindra (Sr), Elise Tomashek (Jr), Tenny Makepeace (Sph),















SPORTS REPORT: SEASON SUMMARIES

GIRLS GOLF (continued)

Emma Dobbins (Sph), Evelyn Smith (Sph) and Molly Swift (Frosh), finished 4th in the conference, led by senior, Amina Rabindra. Many of the golfers made great strides in their scores and managed to have some fun while enduring all of the adversity throughout the season. In the MVC, Junior Elise Tomashek finished 12th, Sophomore Molly Swift finished 13th, Emma Dobbins finished 15th. This team missed the state tournament by 1 stroke. 2023 looks to be a promising team in the conference ready to make a state tournament run.

All-Conference Selections

2nd Team: Elise Tomashek
2nd Team: Emma Dobbins
Honorable Mention: Molly Swift
Sportsmanship: Tenny Makepeace

BOYS GOLF

Head Coach: Nick Dobbins Conference Place Finish: 6th Playoff Finish: Regional

Season Highlights

Multiple golfers scored their career bests!

All-Conference Selections

HM: Matthew Rabindra
Sportsmanship: Zach Morgan

Other Post Season Awards

Matthew Rabindra, Zach Morgan, Nathan Wintheiser, Simon Wieser -Academic All-State

GIRLS SOCCER

MAS BLUGOLDS

Head Coach: Damian Meza Season Record: 4-7-1 Conference Place Finish: 7th

Season Highlights

New players adaptation. Chemistry built between returning and new players. Built polyfunctional players; i.e. being able to play at different positions.

All-Conference Selections

1st Team: Danica Silcox 2nd Team: Naomi Kock, Alex Roupe HM: Grace Butler, Barcha Hnizdilova Sportsmanship: Nora Dickinson

BOYS SOCCER

Head Coach: Ryan Capwell Season Record: 16-8-2 Conference Place Finish: 6th Playoff Finish: State Semi-Finals

Season Highlights

2-1 victory over Arcadia in Sectional Semi-Finals and 2-1 victory over Northland Pines in Sectional Finals.

All-Conference Selections

1st Team: Andrew Sutton 2nd Team: Henry Horstman HM: Samuel Dickinson HM: Jonah Sdano

Sportsmanship: Joe O'Flaherty

Other Post Season Awards

Team Offensive MVP:
Andrew Sutton
Team Defensive MVP:
Jonah Sdano
Team Unsung Hero:
Jackson Knothe
Team Newcomer of the Year:
Harrison Griffith
Team Most Improved:

David Onyeabor

SPORTS REPORT: SEASON SUMMARIES

WRESTLING

Head Coach: Deke Stanek **Season Record:** 20-7 **Conference Place Finish:**

MVC Champion

Playoff Finish: Sectional Semi-Finalist

Season Highlights

The Aguinas Blugold Wrestling Team assembled what was arguably their best team ever. They started off the year with a 2nd place showing at the Devil's Duals 32 Invite and soon followed that up with a Championship at the prestigious 70 team Bi-State Classic. They beat the Division 1 (Marshfield) and Division 2 (Prairie du Chien) state runner-ups in duals, along with defeating Illinois State champions Washington Community HS. They held an overall dual record of 20-7, losing to some nationally ranked teams at the Clash Dual Tournament in January and went 5-0 in conference for their first Conference Championship in 25 years. The Blugolds also had several firsts when it came to the individual state tournament as they qualified 8 wrestlers, had 7 place winners, 5 finalists and 2 state champions, for their most ever in each category.

All-Conference Selections

1st Team: Roger Flege (106), Jake Fitzpatrick (113), Waylon Hargrove (132), Zach Malin (152), Tate Flege (160), Calvin Hargrove (170), David Malin (182), Tyson Martin (195), Brady Lehnherr (220).

Honorable Mention: Trevor Paulson (138), Jesse Penchi (145) Sportsmanship: Aaron Lepak

All-State Selections

State Champions: Tate Flege (152),

David Malin (170)

2nd Place: Calvin Hargrove (160),

Tyson Martin (195), Brady Lehnherr (220)

3rd Place: Jake Fitzpatrick (113)

4th Place: Roger Flege (106) State Qualifier: Jesse Penchi (138)

Other Post Season Awards

1st Team Academic All-State: Tate Flege, David Malin, Tyson Martin, Roger Flege 2nd Team Academic All-State: Brady Lehnherr

GYMNASTICS

Head Coach: Carrie O'Hearn Season Record: We ony lost 1 invite and placed 2nd at State Conference Place Finish: Sectional Champions, State Runners Up Playoff Finish: 2nd at State

Season Highlights

Broke the school record with a team score of 141.6 at the Conference Championship. Won Sectionals. Won State Runner up and had 4 individual competitors. Hailey Ives broke the Beam school record with a score of 9.6 and Taliya Michlig broke the floor school record with a score of 9.65 at the Conference Championship.

All-Conference Selections

Taliya Michlig - 2nd team All Around, HM Vault, 2nd team Bars, HM Beam, 2nd Team Floor Alex Roupe - HM Bars Natalie Peterson - HM All Around, 2nd Team Beam Hailey Ives - HM Vault, 1st Team Beam Kennedy Garbers - HM Floor

All-State Selections

Taliya Michlig - 1st Team Bars
Natalie Peterson - 1st Team Bars
Camdyn Lyga - 1st Team Floor
Kennedy Garbers - 1st Team Floor
Hailey Ives - 1st Team Beam
Alex Roupe - 2nd Team Bars
Olivia Maki - 2nd Team Beam











SPORTS REPORT: SEASON SUMMARIES

WINAS BLUGOLDS

DANCE

Head Coach: Amy Fortner Conference Place Finish: 1st for both pom and jazz Playoff Finish:

State: 1st in jazz, 2nd in pom

Season HighlightsState champions nine times!

All-State Selections

All-State: Elsa Fortner All-State: Bella Helfrich

FOOTBALL

Head Coach: Tom Lee Season Record: 13-1 Conference Place Finish: 2nd in Coulee Conference Playoff Finish: Division 5 State Champs

Season Highlights

Coming off an undefeated 2021 State Championship season, the Blugolds spent the summer preparing to create a new legacy for the 2022 team in the season ahead. To outsiders it may have appeared that we had picked right up where we left off, as the regular season featured many lopsided Blugold victories. The reality is our coaches and players understood that we were not quite where we needed to be if we wanted to reach our full potential. We start 22 players, which is a big deal in a school of 300-ish students. Even though we were having success on the field we decided to be bold and make some changes to our lineup, moving players around from the defensive side of the ball to the offense, and inserting some other players to get them more snaps in different positions. Shortly after these changes, things began to click. We entered the final game of the

season undefeated at 8-0. We would play 8-0 West Salem and in a really good high school football game, West Salem came out on top 28-14.

The WIAA began using computer seedings for the playoffs for the first time in 2022. Due to our 1 loss, we were given the #3 seed. Blugolds cruised the play-offs with wins against Durand-Arkansaw, Northwestern, Colby, and Kewaunee. These wins earned the team a trip to Camp Randall Stadium in Madison where we defeated Mayville, resulting in back-to-back state championships!

All-Conference Selections

1st Team Offensive Line: Shane Willenbring

1st Team QB:

Jackson Flottmeyer

1st Team WR: Collin Conzemius

1st Team DB: Walter Berns

1st Team Inside Linebacker:

Calvin Hargrove

1st Team Outside Linebacker:

Damien Lee

2nd Team Offensive Line:

Brett Ziolkowski

2nd Team Offensive Line:

Isaac Schumacher

2nd Team Running Back:

Calvin Hargrove

2nd Team Tight End:

Damien Lee

2nd Team Kicker:

Jackson Flottmeyer

2nd Team Defensive Tackle:

Henry Suttie

Honorable Mention WR & LB:

David Malin

Honorable Mention Special Teams:

Sam Kearny

Honorable Mention Defensive Back: Kole Keppel

SPORTS REPORT: SEASON SUMMARIES

All-Conference Selections (continued)
Honorable Mention Defensive Back:
Anthony Miller

Honorable Mention Defensive Tackle: Brogan Timm

Honorable Mention Defensive End: Aaron Lepak

All-State Selections

WFCA 1st Team All-State QB: Jackson Flottmeyer

WFCA Honorable Mention All-State WR: Collin Conzemius

WFCA Honorable Mention All-State Inside Linebacker: Calvin Hargrove WFCA Honorable Mention All-State Outside Linebacker: Damien Lee

AP 1st Team All-State All-Purpose: Calvin Hargrove

AP 2nd Team All-State QB: Jackson Flottmeyer

AP Honorable Mention All-State Linebacker: Damien Lee

AP Honorable Mention All-State
Offensive Line: Shane Willenbring

Other Post Season Awards

La Crosse Tribune Players of the Year:

Jackson Flottmeyer & Calvin Hargrove

La Crosse Tribune Coach of the Year: Offensive Coordinator Steve Kramer

WFCA Academic All-State:

2022 senior class with a GPA of 3.48

WFCA Individual Academic All-State: Sam Kearny

WFCA Individual Academic All-State: Henry Suttie

Wisconsin Football Foundation 2022 Scholar Athlete: Henry Suttie

WFCA All-Star Game: Jackson Flottmeyer, QB

WFCA All-Star Game:

Calvin Hargrove, Inside Linebacker

WFCA All-Star Game:

Damien Lee, Outside Linebacker

WFCA All-Star Game: Tom Lee, Head Coach

WFCA All-Star Game:

Steve Kramer, Assistant Coach

SOFTBALL

Head Coach: Jenny Gallagher

Season Record: 7-15

Conference Place Finish: 6th

Playoff Finish:

Lost first playoff game to G-E-T

Season Highlights

After a slow start to the season, we made a lot of improvements with a very young team. Everybody worked hard and got better throughout the season. We went on a little bit of a streak at the end of the season, winning 4 out of our last 5 regular season games.

All-Conference Selections

1st Team: Elie Klar

2nd Team: Abby Ziolkowski

Honorable Mention: Tessa Miskowski

and Josie Erickson

Sportsmanship: Kathryn Savoldelli

BOYS HOCKEY

Head Coach: Charles Marshall

Season Record: 14-9

Conference Place Finish: Champions

Playoff Finish: Regional

Season Highlights

Winning conference outright for the very first time as a program. Other years were shared championships.

All-Conference Selections

1st Team: Tanner Bass,

Keaton Breske, Calvin Gilbertson

2nd Team: Owen Hoehn, Joseph Baranowski

Honorable Mention: Evan Johnson













SPORTS REPORT: SEASON SUMMARIES











VOLLEYBALL

Head Coach: Nellie George **Season Record:** 24-9

Conference Place Finish: Second Playoff Finish: Sectional Semi-Final

Season Highlights

The volleyball program is thriving! We saw a number of girls in the gym on August 15th that hadn't been seen in quite some time. Every level had great success this year. The JV and VR teams ended their seasons as winners of the Conference Tournament! Varsity ended the year with a 24-9 win/loss record. Varsity finished in third place at the Friendship Tournament in the Dells, had a second place finish at the Aguinas Invite, and finished as Champions of the Middleton Invite. Varsity finished second in conference play and was once again Regional Champions. There was a lot of progress amongst all levels this year and the future looks quite bright for our Lady Blugold volleyball teams!

All-Conference Selections

1st Team: Shealyn Bahr,

Macy Donarski

2nd Team: Addy Foor, Sydney Emineth Honorable Mention: Sammy Davis,

Iris Neve

Sportsmanship: Alex Roupe
Defensive Player of the Year:
Shealyn Bahr

All-State Selections

Honorable Mention: Shealyn Bahr, Macy Donarski

Other Post Season Awards

Addy Foor, Zoe Emineth

AVCA All-Region: Macy Donarski AVCA Best and Brightest: Shealyn Bahr WVCA All-Academic Individual: Shealyn Bahr, Macy Donarski, Sydney Emineth, Alex Roupe, Mary Niegelsen, Maddie George,

BASEBALL

Head Coach: Mike Dee **Season Record:** 24-3

Conference Place Finish: MVC Champions

Playoff Finish: State Runner-up

Season Highlights

Returning only 2 seniors, the young Blugolds had an impressive season, finishing with a record of 24-3 and a state runner-up trophy!

All-Conference Selections

Conference Player of the Year:

Calvin Hargrove

Conference Coach of the Year:

Mike Dee

1st Team: Calvin Hargrove,
Tanner Peterson, Will Deets
2nd Team: Eddie Peters

Honorable Mention: Kole Keppel,

Cullen Sackman

GIRLS TENNIS

Head Coach: Kevin J. Roop **Season Record:** 18-6

Conference Place Finish: MVC Champions

Playoff Finish:

Subsection - 1st, Section - 2nd

Season Highlights

We improved from 3-13 and last place in the MVC in 2021 to 18-6 and MVC champions in 2022. State singles qualifiers in Danica Silcox and Kate Fortney. Freshman Tenzin Nelson was 26-0 and section champion at 4s. Kate Fortney, Charlee Gauger, and Tenzin Nelson were section champions at 2s, 3s, 4s respectively. Grace Butler and Avalon Nelson were section champions at 3d.

All-Conference Selections

Danica Silcox, Kate Fortney, Charlee Gauger, Tenzin Nelson. Rosa Schwinn-Weaver was the sportsmanship award recipient.

Other Post Season Awards

Danica Silcox - MVC Singles Player of the Year

SPORTS REPORT: SEASON SUMMARIES

BOYS TENNIS

Head Coach: Kevin J. Roop Season Record: 18-5 Conference Place Finish: MVC Champions Playoff Finish: Sectional Champion -Team State Qualifier

Season Highlights

18 dual wins, repeat MVC champion, 4 conference flight winners (1s, 2s, 1d, 2d), seven all-conference team members, conference singles player of the year (Anderson Fortney), conference doubles team of the year (Mitchell Fortney and Shane Willenbring). Sectional champion/ state team qualifier for third consecutive year. Five flight section champions (2s, 3s, 1d, 2d and 3d), 52 out of a possible 56 points. Six players qualified for individual state (1s, 2s, 1d and 2d). All players advanced to the second round. Anderson Fortney took 3rd in Division 2 singles, best finish in singles by an Aquinas boy in the WlAA era.

All-Conference Selections

1st: Anderson Fortney,
Joe O'Flaherty, Shane Willenbring,
Mitchell Fortney
2nd: Sam Dickinson,
Patrick Gundersen, Lars Gundersen
Sportsmanship: Tegan Schott
Players of the Year listed above.

All-State Selections

1st Team: Anderson Fortney

Other Post Season Awards

Third place at team state.

TRACK & FIELD

Head Coach: Geoff Wilhelmy
Season Record: Boys finished 7th
at State meet, Girls did not place.
Conference Place Finish:
Boys 6th / Girls 6th
Playoff Finish:

Regionals: Boys-3, Girls-3 Sectionals: Boys-5, Girls-19 State: Boys-7th, Girls-did not score

Season Highlights

Collin Conzemius' performance at State was spectacular. He defended his 100 & 200 State titles, and anchored the 4 x 100 relay to a 3rd place finish.

All-Conference Selections

First Team: Boys: Collin Conzemius,
Dave Malin, Logan Becker
Girls: Alaina Elias, Alexa Myre,
Autumn Passehl, Maddie Murphy
Second Team: Boys: Jonathan Skemp
HM: Eli Horstman, Andrew Sutton

All-State Selections

Collin Conzemius - winner of the State 100m & 200m and finished 3rd in the State 4 x 100 relay with Dave Malin, Logan Becker, and Jackson Flottmeyer.

Season summaries for the following sports were not submitted prior to the publication deadline: Girls Hockey, Ski/Snowboard, and Boys & Girls Swimming.







SPORTS REPORT: SEASON SUMMARIES



Head Coach: Geoff Wilhelmy Season Record: See below Conference Place Finish: Girls: 4th at Conference, Boys: 3rd at Conference

Playoff Finish:

Girls: 5th at Sectionals

Boys: 2nd at Sectionals, 16th at State

Season Highlights

Girls: The 2022 team consisted of 16 girls, with 7 establishing themselves as the varsity: 5 seniors: Sara Gyllander, Naomi Koch, Alexa Neumeister, Maria Schwinn-Weaver and Bella Timm and 2 freshmen: Bethany Hale, Alexa Myre. Over the 10-week season, Alexa Myre and Naomi Koch traded leading the Lady Blugolds with four races each. The team would finish 4th at Conference then 5th at Sectionals.

Boys: The boys' team was the smallest in 20 years with only nine members, none of whom were seniors. Jonathan Skemp would lead the Blugolds in all 11 races, achieving First Team All-Conference honors and finishing 12th at State in a field of 151 runners. Aquinas' second runner was Joey Hirschboeck, who also played on the soccer team, and was able to race only four times. His racing was decisive though, competing in both the conference and sectional meets and helping the boys to qualify for State for the 15th time in the last 17 years. A trio of freshmen would hold promise for the future: Caleb Azene, Oliver Buck and Anthony Petullo.

All-Conference Selections

1st Team: Jonathan Skemp
2nd Team: Declan Gregg, Joey
Hirschboeck, Naomi Koch, Alexa Myre
Honorable Mention: Bethany Hale
Sportsmanship: Holly Blakeley,
Tim Barrett

Other Post Season Awards

The Boys Cross Country Team earned Academic All-State Recognition

Remembering Coach John "Jack" Vach ('69) May 10, 1951 - April 8, 2013

2023 marks the 10 year Anniversary of Coach John "Jack" Vach's passing. Jack was an Aquinas graduate (class of 1969), a teacher at St. James Catholic School in La Crosse, and the coach of countless basketball and softball teams. He spent 8 years coaching the Aquinas Girls Middle School and Aquinas Girls High School JV softball teams.

Jack was an ever present figure and source of strength and inspiration for many... especially on the ball field. As a coach, he was a friend, a mentor and a leader. Sadly, while coaching an Aquinas JV softball game at Pammel Creek Park in April of 2013, Jack passed away from a heart attack. He left this world doing what he loved - coaching.



His widow, Ruth Vach ('73), and their children Kevin Vach ('04) and Sara Vach ('11) worked with the Town of Shelby this summer to install a bench in his honor, overlooking the very same baseball field where Jack passed away. The bench will provide the perfect shady spot for anyone watching a baseball game at Pammel Creek Park on Hwy 33.

Pictured to the left: Coach Vach with the 2012 Aguinas JV Softball Team.

Pictured to the right: Ruth Vach and Jack's brother, Jim Vach ('71)







in Loving

Our Recently Deceased Alumni

1936

Dolores (Albel) Zabolio

1939

Betty (Skemp) Curtis Dorothy (Clements) Plamann

1941

Esther (Pitz) Fransen

1942

Msgr. Bernard McGarty Mary Lou (Haumschild) Scibroski

1943

Marcella (Bina) Hundt

1944

Robert Daley Sr.

1945

Jean (Papenfuss) Haugen Margaret (Finley) Holt Patricia Kimball

1946

John Zanter

1947

Margaret Gavahan

1948

Mercedes (Norby) Welch

1949

Mary (White) Marcou Mary Ann (Sinniger) Mudd Richard Reget Marilyn (Bruha) Wood

1950

Warren Faas Francis Furlano Lucille (Ritter) Krause Norm Suhr 1951

Michon Desmond, FSPA Betty (Sinniger) Jirsa Marie (Hegenbarth) Meyers

1952

Audrey (Olson) Markos Richard Puent Patricia Senn James Zoerb

1953

Mary (Downey) Brennan Darlene (Hegenbarth) Kammel Charlotte (Betthauser) Moratz Richard Vaughn

1954

Gladys (Fries) Goldsmith Elizabeth (Murphy) Snyder Ronald Stupka

1955

Mary Jo (Wecker) Halama Marty Konop Michael Lyga Therese Skemp

1956

Robert Marcou

1957

Colleen (Gallagher) Balsamo Michael Faas Steven Pitsch

1960

Harold Johnson Jerry Roesler Carol (Priebe) Thompson Allen Werth 1961

James Berry Richard Bigley Kathleen (Gschwind) Brodbeck Robert Devine Thomas Dunham Gerri (Engelcke) Leum Cathy (Banasik) Stark Mike Trussoni

1962

Patricia (Weigel) Goyette Susan (Finn) Strittmater

1963

Jane (Mueller) Deignan Carl Kirschner Michael Pitsch

1964

Robert Grathen
Thomas Kendhammer

1965

Steven Banasik

1966

Sharon (Stalsberg) Clappier Douglas McConaghy Mary Beth Rudolph Julie (Paulson) Short Patricia (Muehr) Stilp

1967

David Ott Suzanne Probart

1968

Donald DeBoer Jeanne (Palmer) Burns Marlene (Bott) Grosch Kathleen (Sheetz) Mahlke 1969

Anthony Esmond James Webb Dave Weiland

1970

Thomas Davy

1972

William Malin

1975

Richard Branson

1977

Ann (Freybler) Burrow

1980

Stephan Haug

1982

Michael Devine

1983

Vickie (Thaldorf) Wagner

1984

Paul Schmidt

1987

Michael Roth

1989

Elizabeth Breuer Dawn Caplan

1995

Timothy Curtis

Friends of Aquinas

Jim Adducci
David Arneson
Elaine Bonsack
Mary Ann Bradley
George Brown Jr.
Richard Dee
Donna Dorn
Don Ebert

Myron Gierszewski
DuWayne Gronning
Phil Hahn
Irene (Schmidt) Hendricks
Bill Heinz
Modonna Hundt
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Bill Patterson
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Carol Schreiner
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GIFTS GIVEN JULY 1, 2022 - JUNE 30, 2023

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Derek & Maria Peterson

Mike Desmond Kathryn Anne Desmond

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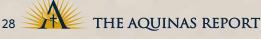
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Remembering Mary (Fuchsteiner) Nelson



Mary 'Fuchsteiner' Nelson was an Aquinas graduate from the class of 1965 and she's a shining example of what it means to be a Blugold.

Mary grew up in La Crosse in a loving family full of friendly and fun personalities. They instilled the value of a good education and its pathway to a better and more fulfilling future. Her family promoted service, positive attitudes, and consideration for others these traits stayed with Mary throughout her life.

At Aquinas, Mary was involved in the National Honor Society and sang with the Debonaires, a senior triple trio. Mary was in the top 10% of her class academically, and an honor roll student. She was intelligent, organized, prepared, and studious: along with having a fun social life with her many friends. Throughout high school, Mary would babysit during the summers and help with house chores. She eventually got a job in the kitchen of St. Joseph Nursing Home. It is in that job she learned the care and needs of others.

As her high school career was finishing, Mary knew she wanted to help, serve, and care. She developed a passion for nursing and it never dwindled. Due to her hard work and dedication at Aquinas and in her personal life, Mary won the highest scholarship offered the year she graduated – \$500 to put towards enrollment to St. Francis School of Nursing from the Women's Auxiliary of St. Francis Hospital.

Mary was an RN who worked as an ob/gyn/labor-delivery nurse at Appleton Regional Medical Center in Appleton, Wisconsin, for 32 years out of her 38 years working as a nurse. Her true identity shined. Mary received the Outstanding Employee Award from Appleton Regional Medical Center that recognized her performance exemplifying the highest standards of achievement in work at a hospital. Her coworkers would say she is caring, nurturing, and compassionate. She would think of others before herself and always had a cheerfully positive attitude.

Mary was a combination of the humanitarianism and empathy she learned from her family, mixed with the responsibility, respect, and integrity she learned from Aquinas. This, in conjecture with her God-given gift, made Mary a true hero.

Mary married an Aquinas classmate, Gordon Nelson, who together raised three sons. Mary sadly passed away in 2021 due to a pulmonary embolism. She was 73 years old.

Mary lived by the quote, "The character of a nurse is as important as the knowledge she possesses." She knew that one's personality is just as important as one's skill when acknowledging the welfare of another in any career or relationship. Mary knew that the skills she learned at Aquinas would be the first major stepping stone into building a future. The values Aquinas students learn – integrity, excellence, leadership, faith, and dignity - stay with you throughout our entire life.



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This level of donor investment reflects the spirit of generosity embodied by the founder of Aquinas High School, Bishop Alexander McGavick.

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The Franciscan Society honors the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration and their dedication to Aquinas since its inception in 1928.

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Brea Grace

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Kelly Greene

Pamela Griffith

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Richard Grosskopf

Char Gundersen

Mary Guthrie

Megan Marie Hafner

Michael J. Hafner

Timothy & Nancy Haggerty

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JULY 1, 2022 - JUNE 30, 2023

Blugold Century Club

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JULY 1, 2022 – JUNE 30, 2023

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Robert Schmidt

Suzanne & Calvin R. Schmidt

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

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Elvena W. (Barry '34) Slattery

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Leroy & Patricia (Platz) '50 Wannemuehler

Cleo Weber

Harry & Charlotte Woods

Francis E. Zahn '37 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, or contact Brad Reinhart at (608) 784-0707 brad.reinhart@aquinasschools.org



Aquinas Foundation Statement of Financial Position

ASSETS	JUNE 30, 2023	JUNE 30, 2022
CURRENT ASSETS		
Checking / Savings		
River Bank Checking	\$170,722.93	\$4,530.31
River Bank Money Market	\$10,719.34	\$10,632.71
TOTAL CHECKING / SAVINGS	\$181,442.27	\$15,163.02
OTHER CURRENT ASSETS		
Inter-Fund Transfer - Endowed Scholarship	-\$42,300.00	0.00
Inter-Fund Transfer - General	\$164,236.00	\$33,500.00
Inter-Fund Transfer - Schams	-\$73,500.00	-\$33,500.00
Inter-Fund Transfer NS Restrict	-\$48,436.00	0.00
Total Other Current Assets	0.00	0.00
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	\$181,442.27	\$15,163.02
OTHER ASSETS		
Donald Schams Scholarship	\$1,240,521.59	\$1,175,580.66
Endowed Scholarship	\$1,022,781.54	\$951,240.87
Endowment Trust	\$1,346,532.66	\$1,252,346.58
General Trust	\$2,253,380.38	\$2,582,463.54
Kiffe Guardian Angel	\$507,683.85	\$501,326.42
Kiffe Trust	\$1,628,973.97	\$1,515,031.87
Next Step Forward Restricted	\$3,533,491.20	\$3,286,333.59
Human Capital Fund	\$1,352,197.91	\$0.00
TOTAL OTHER ASSETS	\$12,885,563.10	\$11,264,323.53
TOTAL ASSETS	\$13,067,005.37	\$11,279,486.55
LIABILITIES & EQUITY		
Equity		
Donald Schams Scholarship Fund	\$1,142,080.66	\$1,357,933.95
Endowed Scholarship Fund	\$951,240.87	\$1,143,237.68
Endowment Trust Fund	\$1,252,346.58	\$1,446,319.66
General Fund	\$2,631,126.56	\$3,580,773.30
Kiffe Guardian Angel Fund	\$501,326.42	\$425,402.42
Kiffe Trust Fund	\$1,515,031.87	\$1,749,691.63
Next Step Restricted	\$3,286,333.59	\$3,644,795.85
Net Income	\$1,787,518.82	-\$2,068,667.94
TOTAL EQUITY	\$13,067,005.37	\$11,279,486.55
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	\$13,067,005.37	\$11,279,486.55



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

✓ IRA Charitable Rollover

Congress made permanent the law that allows people age 70½ or older who own an IRA to make gifts directly from their IRA to charity. For many people, this is the best tax-wise way to give. An IRA rollover gift will not be included in your taxable income and may qualify for your required minimum distribution. Contact us to learn more.

✓ Outright Gift of an Asset

If you wish to make a gift to support our cause this year but are concerned about preserving your cash resources, consider a gift of an appreciated asset. A gift of securities, business interests or real estate can provide you with significant income and capital gains tax savings, often exceeding the benefits of a cash gift.

✓ Donor Advised Fund (DAF)

If you are looking for an end-of-year deduction but want more time to make thoughtful giving decisions, consider a donor advised fund (DAF). Our organization can use your tax deductible gift to establish a DAF in your name. You can make grants from your DAF now and in the future to support our work and other causes you care about.

✓ Zero-Tax Gift and Sale

If you are planning to sell an asset like securities, real estate or a business, before you sell, consider a "zero-tax" charitable gift and sale. By making a gift of part of the asset before the sale, you can use a tax-saving charitable deduction to significantly lower or eliminate the capital gains tax on the sale.

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.

PLANNED GIVING BRIEF

Ending the Year Well



Get a head start on your year-end tax planning.

Consider these worthwhile strategies before the year's end.

Selling securities, real estate or a business this year?

Consider planning strategies to avoid capital gains tax

Own an IRA and/or 401(k)?

Maximize your deductible contributions

Expect to be in a lower tax bracket or can control income?

Shift income to this year

Extra medical expenses?

Establish a health savings account (HSA)

Age 70½ or older?

Make a gift from your IRA

Expect to be in a higher tax bracket?

Talk to your tax advisor for solutions to manage taxes

Have investment losers?

Sell to offset winners and lower your capital gains tax

Have state taxes, property taxes, medical bills?

Accelerate deductible expenses

May We Help?

If you would like further information, please contact us. We can help you create a plan that meets your needs and goals.

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16CP043 1

Alumni Anecdotes

CAITLIN (LYGA) WILSON Class of 2005

Cultivating a Servant Heart: Insights from Servant Leaders

Follow along the inward journey of Servant Leaders as a number of community leaders and influential business people share insights and stories about their life's work.

Pre-order your copy here:

https://www.fulcrumbooks.com/product-page/ cultivating-a-servant-heart-insights-from-servant-leaders

MARK SUHR Class of 1975

Mark Suhr was awarded the **Savitsky Award** from the Beet Sugar Development Foundation (Society).

The Savitsky Award is the highest award available from the Society. There are no specific criteria for this award. It is given at the discretion of the Board of Directors, and must be by unanimous agreement of the Board. Congratulations, Mike!

Getting married? Family addition? Career move? Accomplishments? If you have an alumni update to share, please email Brad.Reinhart@aquinasschools.org



AQUINAS BOOSTER CLUB

The Booster Club's mission is to promote and provide financial assistance for any Aquinas Catholic Schools co-curricular activities through fundraising, donation and community support. Supported activities should promote school spirit, enrich the community and/or improve our surroundings.

Meetings are held on the 2nd Wednesday of the month from August through May at 7:00pm in the High School/Middle School commons.

BOARD MEMBERS

Tanya KeppelJustin HassTim WillenbringErin KlarPresidentVice PresidentTreasurerSecretary







Let's Celebrate!

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 - 608-788-4137

Class of 1955

Meets the second Tuesday of January, April, July & October at 9:00am at Tom Sawyer's, 136 Clinton Street, La Crosse Contact: Grace Binner Smith 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 608-788-9417, James Schams 608-784-3316 or Mary Ferguson Wakeen 563-529-9071

Class of 1960

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

Class of 1964

Meets the second Wednesday of each month Contact: Sue King smasking_suzanne@aol.com or JoAnn La Fleur 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 608-526-6090

CLASS REUNIONS

Class of 1963 - 60th Reunion September 9, 2023 at 4:30PM

Boot Hill Pub (1501 St. Andrews Street, La Crosse, WI) Cash bar, heavy appetizers • \$50 per person Contact: dpaque2020@outlook.com

Class of 1998 - 25th Reunion

Friday, October 6, 2023 at 7PM

Aquinas Home Football Game vs. Viroqua Veterans Memorial Stadium, La Crosse

Saturday, October 7, 2023

Aquinas High School Tour and Class Gathering •

Sunday, October 8, 2023

Family Picnic/Park Outing

Times and locations for both Saturday and Sunday are yet to be set. Details will be posted to the **Class of '98 Group Facebook Page** soon.

Class of 1961 - Birthday Party Luncheon October 13, 2023 at 11:30AM

Schmidty's Bar & Restaurant (3119 State Rd., La Crosse, WI) Spouses and significant others welcome RSVP to: Jim Dockendorff 920-336-9119 or jimdox43@gmail.com

If you would like your class reunion to be added here or to begin your planning process, please contact Brad Reinhart at 608-784-0707 or email brad.reinhart@aquinasschools.org.

EVENT RECAP: FOUNDER'S DAY April 23, 2023

Honorees: Julie Wagner, Mark Hansen, Phil (PJ) Esten ('91),

The Weber Group



>>> ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON AWARD / The Weber Group

Awarded to a business or organization that demonstrates a history of partnership with and support of Aguinas Catholic Schools and the Aguinas Catholic Schools Foundations.



PAST RECIPIENTS 2020-2021: Morrison & Associate, SC • 2021-2022: Clason Buick-GMC

>>> ST. FRANCIS STAFF AWARD / Julie Wagner

This award is presented to an Aquinas Catholic Schools staff member of long standing who made a significant impact on the students of Aguinas. This person is not a current staff member and has been off staff for at least one year.



PAST RECIPIENTS

1999: Fr. Robert Altmann Sr. Althea Meierotto

Sr. Lucille Kleinheinz

Lee Gilbert

2000: Fr. Charles A. Blecha

2001: Phil Hahn

2002: Kathleen Forslund Sr. Celine Schumacher 2003: Jack Nockels

John Michuta

2004: Sr. Celestine Cepress

2005: Sr. Geneva Kneer 2006: Sr. Judine Krane

2007: Sr. Margaret Mary Conway

Margaret Grelle

2008: David Reinders 2009: Mary Kroner

2010: Therese Dobson 2011: David English

2012: Charles Schmidt 2013: Mike Desmond

2014: Margaret Dineen

2016: James Vail 2017: Michael Drake 2018: John Stellflue

2019: Joe Gaspard

2020-2021: Sharon Tempke

2022: Jane Ryan

>>> ST. THOMAS AQUINAS AWARD / Mark Hansen

This award is given to a person who has made a significant contribution of time, talent, and/or treasure in assisting the students of the Aquinas Catholic Schools.



PAST RECIPIENTS

1999: Ralph & Joyce Clason 2000: Richard J. Campbell 2001: Marjorie Reinhart 2002: George E. Smith 2003: John & Donna Hansen

Family

2004: William Kerrigan

2005: Dr. Art Barbier

2006: Larry Lee

2007: Ken Morrison 2008: Henry Funk

2009: Joe Poehling

2010: Dr. George &

Margaret Ellenz

2011: Bruce Simones

2012: James Kiffe

2013: Bob & Cindy Klar

2014: Jim & Kathy McGettigan

2016: Mike & Denise Kachel 2017: Thomas "Tiny" Poellinger

2018: Michael Quillin

2019: Barbara & Dr. James Murphy

2020-21: Kevin Roop

2022: Michael & Sara ('86) Taggart

>>> BISHOP JOHN PAUL DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS AWARD / Phil (PJ) Esten ('91)

A graduate of Aquinas who has distinguished themselves in their community, has demonstrated support for Aquinas, has experienced significant achievement in their chosen field, and practices the Catholic fath.



PAST RECIPIENTS

1991: Phil Quillin

1992: Frank Uhler, Jr.

1993: Steve & Marian Pavela

1994: Mary Blaschke Paul Noelke

1995: Robert & Anita Funke Robert & Marie Daley

1996: Roger Ferris Ed & Sally Sullivan 1997: Sr. Mary Ann Gschwind Robert Skemp

1998: Robert Kreutz John Bissen

1999: Fr. Bernard McGarty Sr. Rita Rathburn

2000: Paul Poehling 2001: Bishop John Paul Anita Froegel

2002: Fr. Robert Cook

2003: John Kerrigan

2004: John & Barbara Leinfelder

2005: Don Gallagher 2006: Dr. Steve Pavela

2007: Michael Weissenberger

2008: James Maney 2009: Paul Schams

2010: Fr. Steven Kachel Ernest Tremmel 2013: Pat Gantert 2014: Steve Doll

2016: Bob Halaska

2017: Kathryn Keppel 2018: Anthony Binsfeld

2018: Anthony Binsfe 2019: Tim Murphy

2020-21: Mark Schneider

2022: Keith Balts

ALUMNI & FRIENDS RECENT GATHERINGS

Thank you to those who attended our recent Alumni Gatherings in Minneapolis, Phoenix, and Wauwatosa. 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: https://www.aquinascatholicschools.org/alumni





>>> WAUWATOSA / 5.17.23 / Draft & Vessel



EVENT RECAP: 34TH AQUINAS GOLF SCRAMBLE

The 34th annual Aquinas Golf Scramble was held on July 5th at Cedar Creek Golf Club. Teams of alumni, parents, friends of Aquinas, and businesses raised funds for need-based tuition assistance, which offsets the cost of tuition via scholarships. Thank you to everyone for helping make the day a huge success!

2023 Champions

Flight A: 61 Matt Nelson, Brett Nelson, Scott Nelson

Flight B: 61 Evan Pederson, Joe Pederson, Stuart Briston* Fr. Nate Kuhn, Fr. Alex Kren, Adam Kren

Flight C: 65 Hudson Schamberger, Tommy Kratt, Ethan Schamberger

*Won scorecard playoff





THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

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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.