

THE AQUINAS REPORT

AQUINAS CATHOLIC SCHOOLS MAGAZINE FOR FAMILIES, FRIENDS, & ALUMNI



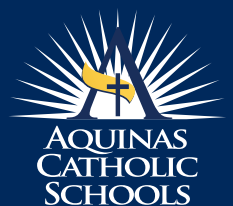
What's Inside:

2019-20 School Year

Spring Sports Report

CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES

2019 Valedictorians



SUMMER/FALL 2019

THE AQUINAS REPORT

SUMMER/FALL 2019

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AHS Yearbook Club and Chandra Frydenlund

A THANK YOU TO AQUINAS REPORT VOLUNTEERS

Maureen Breuer, Jennifer Small and Mary Stanton

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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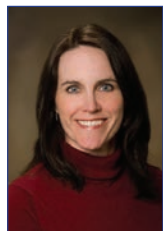


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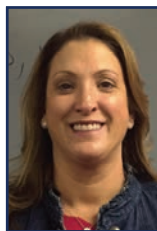
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Fr. Dhein



Denise Ring



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MISSION STATEMENT

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

Report From The Dean

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

I write to you to introduce myself as I take on the role of Dean of the La Crosse Deanery whose office places me, in consultation with the pastors of the supporting parishes, as the pastoral authority of the system. I come to you with a rich history of Catholic education from my elementary education at St. Joseph in Grafton, Wisconsin; middle school at Immaculate Conception in Eau Claire and high school at Regis. I continued my Catholic education receiving a bachelor degree in Catholic Studies and Philosophy from the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minnesota. I then went on to major seminary at St. Paul Seminary still at St. Thomas. My final degree is in Canon Law from Catholic University of America in Washington D.C.

My first priestly assignment included being Chaplain and instructor at Regis High School and Middle School. I was a supporting pastor for the Regis Catholic School system for nine years, after which I was transferred to Genoa where I functioned as pastor and principal of St. Charles Parish and School. So almost all of my life I have been involved in Catholic education as a student, instructor, chaplain and administrator.

While the Bugolds and the Ramblers are rivals in the sports world, in the areas of Catholic education and living the gospel, there are no rivalries, only partners, in the mission of faith. I look forward to working with the Aquinas community to assist our parents, the primary educators of their children, in their responsibilities to educate their children particularly in the ways of faith. As our faith in Jesus Christ touches all aspects of our earthly lives, the education of our youth must intertwine the Christian values taught by our Lord into every academic discipline and every extracurricular activity. It is only when we allow God's grace to enter into all our decisions and endeavors that we will be able to fulfill the greatest commandment: to love God above all and our neighbor as ourselves.

Wishing each of you a great 2019-2020 school year.

In Christ,

Very Rev. William A. Dhein
Dean of La Crosse



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REPORT FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Dear Alumni and Friends,

I am excited to share with you our school system's financial performance for the school year that ended June 30, 2019. In this issue of the Aquinas Report, you will see that our schools ended the fiscal year in a strong financial position. I welcome your questions and feedback at any time.

I am proud to share with you our Vision 2028 Strategic Plan that was completed last year. Aquinas Catholic Schools established a team of stakeholders to develop a new strategic plan that will drive our purpose for the next ten years. In my message, you will see our new mission statement, our core values, and our four main pillars of success. With each pillar, there are set goals and action plans.

Aquinas Catholic Schools Pillars of Success

1. CATHOLIC IDENTITY

- a. To strengthen our role as a Catholic faith partner with our families and local parish communities.
- b. To Expand our positive impact on the greater community.

2. TEACHING AND LEARNING

- a. To develop dynamic and innovative learning opportunities for each student
- b. To deliver educational excellence through innovation focusing on faith, academics, the arts, co-curricular, athletics, wellness, and service.

3. RESOURCES AND SUPPORT SYSTEMS

- a. To achieve long-term financial sustainability
- b. To maintain and develop infrastructure necessary to support student needs.

4. GOVERNANCE

- a. Maintain the mission of the Church under the direction of the Diocesan Bishop.
- b. Remain essential to the future of the Church in western Wisconsin.

I invite you to go to our website (aquinascatholicschools.org) for the entire strategic plan. The collaboration of our faculty, pastors, parents, benefactors and students has driven our vision for our future.

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

God Bless.



Ted Knutson '80
President, Aquinas Catholic Schools



2018-19 ACS Financial Report

REVENUE

| | |
|--|--------------------|
| Tuition, Choice & Special Needs Funding | \$4,688,000 |
| Parish Support | \$2,450,000 |
| Development Revenue and Foundation Support | \$ 901,000 |
| Other: Childcare and Athletics | \$ 522,000 |
| Total Revenue | \$8,561,000 |

EXPENSES

| | |
|---|--------------------|
| Wages and Benefits - All Departments and Programs | \$ 6,138,000 |
| Instructional Activities and Technology | \$ 578,000 |
| Facilities: Capital Improvements, Building Usage, Building R&M, Utilities | \$ 813,000 |
| General Administration | \$ 435,000 |
| Other: Childcare, Athletics (does not include wages or stipends) | \$ 222,000 |
| Total Expenses | \$8,186,000 |
| Total Net Income | \$ 375,000 |

How is 2018-19 Net Income Allocated?

\$128k Special Needs Designated Funding

To be utilized for 2019-20 and future Special Needs Programming expenditures.

\$247k Operating Activities - Operating Reserves Fund

To be utilized towards \$1.7M high priority facilities improvements & per Reserve policy.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Aquinas Foundation provided over \$450k in support to the school system in 2018-19...

(General Support, Tuition Aid Scholarships, and Special Projects)

In addition to the Operating Income and Expenses listed:

Aquinas Catholic Schools received over \$200k in donations for restricted purposes in 2018-19...

School Fundraising generated almost \$100k in net revenue for special projects...

The Athletic Booster Club generated \$90k in net revenue fundraising to support athletic programs...

The Music Parents Group generated \$26k in net revenue fundraising to support music programs...

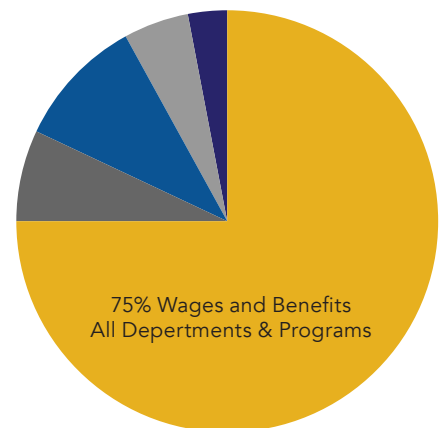
The Mardi Gras events generated \$18k in net revenue fundraising to support school programs...

Average Cost to Educate a Student at Aquinas

Grades 4k - 12th

\$8,700 in 2018-19

\$8,400 in 2017-18



Expenses at a glance



Cathedral Elementary School Report

Summer was busy with building improvements and projects, combined with energy and entertainment from Camp Cathedral children. Mrs. Val Breidel and Mrs. Nicole May continued to provide wonderful summer opportunities for Aquinas Catholic School children, as they ventured to area swimming pools, Wisconsin Dells, Arcadia and Sparta, as well as their annual afternoon at Riverfest, walks to the local library, and ice cream at The Pearl and Ranison's. It was a fun filled summer!!!

The focus of building improvements was the main lobby roof, as well as cleaning up the north and south entrances. Both brick planters and the brick walls by the flag pole area were removed. Our 'front' and 'back' doors are now welcoming and safer for children, families, and our school setting. In addition, our lighting and wiring in the main lobby and office were updated in July.

As the 2019-20 school year began, we welcomed two new staff members to Cathedral Elementary School: Miss Erin Wirth – grade 1, and Mrs. Kristine Selberg – school counselor. It is exciting to have new staff members who choose to be part of Catholic education.

Our weekly prayer services focus on how we can be HEROES like the saints. Children have focused on ways to pray and speak with Jesus; shine their light through kind words, actions, and smiles; give to those less fortunate via our monthly "Children Feeding Children" food collection, and be leaders, daily, at school and at home. Cathedral students are doing a great job! The genuine desire to be saint-like is heartwarming.

Please know that your hard work and prayers in supporting our school are always welcome and are greatly appreciated.

In service of your children,

Patty Gallagher-Kosmatka, '79



St. Patrick Elementary School Report

It's with great joy and excitement we welcome new and returning students, families and staff to the 2019-2020 school year. We also welcome Ms. Lauren Harris to our teaching staff serving as our kindergarten teacher. Lauren is a graduate of Aquinas High School and brings her love of learning and passion for teaching into the classroom.

Our youngest students in preschool three and four started the school year with a new piece of playground equipment purchased by our Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) and installed by a group of amazing volunteers over the summer. Students and staff are grateful for the continued support and dedication of our parent volunteers and PTO community.

The rain did not keep participants from turning out for our 10th annual 5K race. This community event helped raise money to update our phone system and promote wellness for our students and families. After the race, games and food were available for families in the gym. The race collected first aid items for the Exchange, an organization in La Crosse that helps families on the verge of or experiencing homelessness.

Each fall we remember Unity Day as a time to promote kindness in our school and community. Members of our St. Dominic Savio Leadership Club led activities focused on kindness in our school and community. After a short assembly, students worked with younger buddies on activities designed to raise students' awareness about being kinder to their siblings and friends. Each student and staff member made a footprint and wrote down what they might do to promote kindness in our school.

We are grateful for the continued support of our Aquinas and parish communities.

Sue Amble, Principal
St. Patrick Elementary School



Blessed Sacrament Elementary School Report

Blessed Sacrament School welcomed 198 students for the 2019-2020 school year on August 27. This year we welcomed Ms. Kristine Selberg as school counselor, Mrs. Jennifer Spencer who works in a dual role in our school office and as a paraprofessional, and Mrs. Tamara Weinberger as a paraprofessional providing academic support to our students in classrooms.

There is much excitement in our classrooms each and every day. This year our teachers and students are using new resources in science. Teachers received training in order to guide students to learn through exploration, analysis, application, and explanation—in short, to think like scientists. The program utilizes a three-dimensional learning approach and prepares students with the tools and habits of mind needed to apply scientific reasoning and solve STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) problems relevant to everyday life. It will be a new learning curve for all. We have also continued to build upon the reading and writing program that we implemented last school year. We are seeing great results. Students in fourth grade attended the Vernon County Fair to learn more about Wisconsin agriculture. Students got an up close and personal account from students who were exhibiting dairy and beef cows, goats, rabbits, chickens, and pigs. The students looked at the other exhibits and visited the cooperative building to learn how cooperatives benefit members. We enjoyed fresh cheese curds, cheese sticks, yogurt, and milk! A great day!

This year our school joined with the La Crosse County Health Department in its Safe Routes to School Program. Each Wednesday morning at 7 a.m., two staff members and students who arrive to school early start out on the mile route of the Walking School Bus adding to the ranks of walkers as they walk the neighborhood arriving back to school about 7:25 a.m. Lots of fun for all! We hope to add a second route on the east side of Losey Blvd. soon.

Our school schedule was redone last year to provide for an activity time each day to accommodate instrumental music rehearsals.



Blessed Sacrament School Report Continued...

This year we added some enrichment activities to that time as well. Grade 5 & 6 students can participate in Robotics, Wellness Activities, Art and Music enrichment as well as a Currents Events News Quiz Bowl. Students were really excited about the new playground equipment as construction was completed in September. We are grateful to the many families and benefactors that have already made donations to this project and/or participated in fundraising events. We are hoping to have the nearly \$70,000 collected by the end of December.

Finally, a couple of notes from the end of the last school year. On May 22, Ayden Townsend (Gr. 6) made his First Communion during our school Mass. Fr. Raj was able to assist with both Ayden's First Reconciliation and First Communion, and it was such a joy for all the students to witness these Sacraments, which are at the heart of our mission as Catholic schools. At the reception following the 6th Grade Graduation Mass on May 30, several scholarships to Aquinas Middle School were presented to students who demonstrated academic achievement, growth in subject matter, and service to school, church, and community. The Soaring Eagle Scholarship is presented to the top overall 6th-grade student. This year's Soaring Eagle was Claire Miller, daughter of Adam & Jessica Miller.

Kay Berra, School Principal




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your community?



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2. Choose **Aquinas** as your participating non-profit
3. Citizens will make a donation to Aquinas

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Aquinas Middle and High School School Report

Aquinas Middle School - The focus this year for Aquinas Middle School is all about building relationships in your communities: your school community, parish community and the community of La Crosse. To that end, students and teachers have already delivered pumpkins to a local nursing home, displayed positive messages around the building to remind classmates how special they are, and started planning our annual "Stuff the Bus" food drive which has a goal of donating 3,000 pounds of food to a local food pantry. Academically, students are getting a lot of hands-on learning experiences including working on a STEM project with Lego Mindstorms in 7th grade. This is a cross-curricular project that is enjoyed by all and gets students programming and working on critical thinking skills. Seventh grade also took a trip to Norskedalen and toured St. Rose Convent. Eighth grade has done many exciting hands-on science experiments, visited the Middleton Center for Performing Arts to see a Chamber Theater Production out of Boston, and started preparing for Battle of the Books. Overall we are busy and off to a great start!



Aquinas High School - We had have two new programs that started up this fall. The first is called REACCT, run through CESA 4, a program to coach student writing and critical thinking. Debbie Hanson is our writing coach who comes on Monday's to assist with student writing and collaborate with English teachers. Her coaching and writing skills have been used by students at all levels. The second program that was kicked off in October was American Medical Pathway (AMP) Honors Program. The AMP Honors program is a closed network of medical professionals, health care industry leaders, associations, and students. AMP's expert contributions create a daily flow of content relating to different medically-based platform goals: building students with strong academics, strong character, volunteer experiences, and networking bona fides, as well as creating community in the platform. The Anatomy and Physiology and AP Biology classes are a part of this beta trial run for this power group.

Denise Ring, School Principal





Love + Teaching

Forever an Aquinas Teacher!

This past year at Aquinas, we bid farewell to a number of valued teachers and staff. Mrs. Mari Erickson, Mrs. Mary Tierney, Mrs. Tracy Servais, Mrs. Becky Wilhelm, and Mrs. Amy Gleason retired. They have dedicated themselves to the community here at Aquinas Catholic Schools. We want to wish them good luck as they begin new chapters in their lives.

St. Patrick Elementary School:

Mrs. Becky Wilhelm retired after 40 years in Catholic education. She taught at St. Johns/St. James Elementary School in La Crosse. Becky taught first grade and also helped start the 5-year-old kindergarten program at St. John's/St. James. She happily spent her last 14 years at St. Patrick Elementary School.

Aquinas High School:

Mrs. Mary Tierney taught in the Aquinas System for 21 years. Mary started at St. Patrick's teaching 6th, 7th and 8th grade Math and Computer Science, as well as 6th grade Religion and Social Studies. She then moved to Aquinas Middle School and spent 14 years teaching 7th grade Math and Religion. She started the Thinking Cap Quiz Bowl Team, was co-leader of the Yearbook Club, developed a new Basic Math Class, and was involved in many STEM Activities. Mary will stay active with the Aquinas family through her grandchildren.

Blessed Sacrament and Cathedral Elementary School:

Mrs. Mari Erickson devoted 36 of her 38 years in education as a Catholic school educator. Most of her 16 years of classroom teaching was at Holy Trinity School in La Crosse, but she was also a classroom teacher at Blessed Sacrament School, Cathedral Elementary School, Amherst Elementary School (Amherst, WI), St. Francis Cabrini School (Tacoma, WA), and Albritton Middle School (Ft. Bragg, NC). After receiving her masters in school counseling, she spent the remainder of her 22 years as a school counselor. She was the first elementary school counselor at Holy Trinity School and in the Coulee Catholic Schools/Aquinas Catholic Schools System.

Blessed Sacrament Elementary School:

Mrs. Amy Gleason has 35 years of experience as a Catholic school teacher. Amy spent 33 of those years at Cathedral Elementary School teaching 4-year-old kindergarten. She hopes to spend more time with her youngest daughter and foster son. Amy says, "I will miss all the wonderful families at Cathedral!"

Blessed Sacrament Elementary School:

Mrs. Tracy Servais taught Kindergarten at St. Thomas More School for 8 years. She helped to move the program from half day to all day kindergarten. After the consolidation occurred, Tracy moved to Cathedral Elementary School where she taught first grade for 19 years. Tracy loved teaching kids to read and was active in creating book clubs led by parents, grandparents, and teachers. She also enjoyed hosting birthday lunches and student VIP lunches with parents.

Falling into The 2019-20 School Year



Welcome all new faculty and staff!!

Cathedral Elementary School

Ms. Erin Wirth is teaching first grade at Cathedral Elementary. Erin enjoys teaching at a Catholic school, as it has always been a calling of hers. Erin grew up in a Catholic family and attended Catholic school throughout the entirety of her childhood. She is excited to teach at Cathedral Elementary because of the smaller class sizes, as it provides for more opportunities for enhanced learning, and creates a sense of community. Teaching at ACS allows for strong family collaboration, which is crucial for a child's success. Lastly, Cathedral carries out the mission of service. Erin feels there is nothing more important and gratifying than to serve one another and God.

Shared Teacher at Cathedral Elementary School and Blessed Sacrament School

Ms. Kristine Selberg is the new Student Services Counselor. Kristine grew up attending Catholic school. Later she went to UW- La Crosse, where she became intrigued with the study of childhood behavior. She knew that she wanted to help children, so she earned her M.S. in School Counseling from UW-Stout. Kristine began her professional career with the Augusta School District where she worked as an elementary counselor for 20 years. Mrs. Selberg feels very blessed to return to the La Crosse area, and is especially thankful to be able to work in the Catholic school system with elementary students once again.

Blessed Sacrament School

Mrs. Jennifer Spencer joined the Blessed Sacrament Elementary team. Jennifer and her husband, Tim, have been married for twenty-six years. They have two grown sons who are Aquinas High School graduates. Aaron is currently serving our country in the United States Air Force, and Ryan will graduate this spring from Western with an associate degree in Digital Media and Photography.

Aquinas Middle School

Lynn Biddick is happy to be substituting for Tammy Reigel this year as the Middle School Vocal Music Teacher. She was previously the Choir Director at Viroqua Area Schools, where she taught both Middle and High School students. Lynn particularly likes teaching, so she was thrilled that there was a position open here at Aquinas Middle School. In her spare time she enjoys singing, writing songs, and playing several instruments.

Aquinas High School

Mr. Ryan Garza is the Business Education Teacher. Ryan is currently pursuing his Doctor of Education in Curriculum and Instruction. His past experience includes two years of teaching 5th and 6th grade Social Studies. Mr. Garza's interests include sports, traveling, fitness, and competing in Tough Mudder competitions.

Aquinas High School

Mrs. Jean LeJeune is a paraprofessional working in the Academic Resource Center to support students in their academic needs. Jean is a licensed Special Education Teacher for grades 7-12. Before coming to AHS, Jean taught for 22 years at Horicon High School. Her last four years were spent implementing a program for individuals with intellectual and physical disabilities at St. Vincent/Bellin Hospitals in Green Bay. Jean retired from public education to help care for her aging mother and to spend more time with her family. Jean enjoys traveling, painting, reading, and hiking.

St. Patrick Elementary School

Mrs. Lauren Harris is the new Kindergarten Teacher for St. Patrick Elementary School and graduate of Aquinas class of '08. Mrs. Harris has always wanted to be a teacher. She student taught at La Crescent-Hokah Elementary School and was also a paraprofessional for two years in the St. Paul Public School District. Mrs. Harris loves to spend time with her family; she has two daughters; Estelle, who is two, and Emmy, who is eight months. They enjoy visiting zoos in different cities and reading.

Aquinas Middle School/High School

Mrs. Joni White enjoys being part of the paraprofessional team at AMS and AHS. Joni and her husband, Mike, recently celebrated their 20th anniversary. They have two children, Andrea and Kyle, who are both students at ACS. You will often see Joni and Mike at athletic events, supporting their children and other Aquinas athletes.

Aquinas High School

Mr. Steven Schroeder is the new Physical Education Teacher. Steven says his favorite part of teaching is developing relationships with students and being able to have a positive impact on their lives. Mr. Schroeder grew up in West Union, IA, and moved to La Crosse two years ago. Steve and his wife Rachel were married in June.

Aquinas High School

Mr. Mike Schramm loves being the new Religion Teacher. Mr. Schramm has worked in religious education for the last seven years. His favorite part of teaching is forming and building relationships with young people. Mike enjoys time with his wife and children talking, playing, and reading together.

Aquinas High School

Ms. Angie Stephens is the new Administrative Assistant. Angie is most excited about working in an environment that helps push students to their full potential. Ms. Stephens is a serious Green Bay Packers fan from Winona, MN.

Aquinas Middle School/High School

Mr. Aaron Peckham is the new Physical Education Teacher. Aaron wants to provide a positive learning environment for all his students so they can achieve lifelong goals. He also hopes to empower his students to become better people. In Aaron's spare time he enjoys watching sports and spending time outside fishing and kayaking.

Aquinas Middle School

Mrs. Barb Clements has joined the paraprofessional team for Aquinas Middle and High School. She loves working with students and helping them to achieve their potential. Barb and her husband, Joe, have seven children, 6 of whom are graduates of ACS. The youngest is a senior and will graduate in May 2020. She enjoys many activities with her husband, children, and grandchildren.

Aquinas High School

Mrs. Gretchen Taeger is excited to be back teaching math at Aquinas High School. Gretchen received her Biomedical Engineering degree from the University of Iowa, and then returned to school to attain her teaching license in mathematics. Mrs. Taeger loves spending time at home with her family, which includes her husband Rick, and her three children, Sam, Finley, and Ruby.

Aquinas High School

Mrs. Melissa O'Neill is happy to be working as a paraprofessional supporting students in the high school in the Academic Resource Room. Melissa was previously a classroom teacher in the public schools and an adjunct instructor at Western Technical College. She loves to spend time with her children, Rory and Reagan who attend Blessed Sacrament. In her spare time, she enjoys reading, running, cooking and spending time with her children and her husband, Timothy.

TEACHER Spotlight

RECOGNIZING SUPERIOR EDUCATORS

Learn more about the inspirations and motivations of our AQUINAS educators!

MaKayla Lucey- Blessed Sacrament Elementary School - 5th Grade

(Aquinas Alumni '11)

What is your favorite thing about teaching at Aquinas Catholic Schools? My favorite thing about teaching at Aquinas Catholic Schools is the members in our school community. I enjoy working with the students and their families. I am also grateful for the teachers and staff who support me in my work as an educator. I enjoy watching students' excitement as we explore new concepts in the science classroom through hands-on activities.

What do you hope to accomplish throughout your career at ACS? I hope to educate and encourage students to learn more about the different fields of science. Also, I wish to guide them to evolve in their religious faith and maturity and grow into responsible young adults.

Why did you want to teach at a Catholic School? My Catholic school education made me who I am today. I am a graduate of the Aquinas Catholic School system, and I worked in the after-school program at Blessed Sacrament while attending college. There I realized my love of working with kids of all ages. When the opportunity to teach in the system came after I graduated, I felt this is where I needed to be.

Bruce Martin - St. Patrick Elementary - Physical Education

What excites you about the new school year? Seeing the kids again and getting to be part of their days on a regular basis excites me. I love seeing the growth physically, mentally and socially that they have had since I saw them last. I also get to work with an amazing team of people starting with our Principal Sue Amble, our School Secretary Melissa Bowen, and a caring and loving group of staff members who put the kids' best interests first each day.

What is your favorite thing about teaching at Aquinas Catholic Schools? The Kids! They are the reason I wake up excited each morning and the reason I chose this profession. Their passion for learning and having fun while doing it is so rewarding. Next would be the parents. They have been incredibly supportive in my 26 years at St. Patrick School.

Why did you want to teach at a Catholic school? I spent 1st-8th grades at St. Mary's Catholic School. My mother was a major influence in living the Catholic faith daily. After my initial teaching career in an area public school, I looked to the Catholic schools to get back to the root of who I was as a person and who/what I wanted to surround myself with daily, that being kids and parents who shared the same founding principles of the Catholic faith that I try to lead in my life.

Jennifer Johanns - Cathedral Elementary School - 2nd Grade

What is your favorite thing about teaching at Aquinas Catholic Schools? My favorite things about teaching at Aquinas Catholic Schools are the energy and passion it provides in a student's education, how Christ is at the forefront of all knowledge and learning, and the unity between all schools in the system. Aquinas Catholic Schools inspires me to be the best teacher I can be.

What excites you about the new school year? I am excited and privileged to teach a new group of students, and I love the energy, joy and happiness they bring to my work day. I am eager to watch my students grow academically, socially and in their faith. I love seeing my students realize their capabilities and potential when using a growth mindset. I am excited to see my students receive their First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion and to help lead the Rosary Prayer Service and May Crowning Celebration this year. I love planning lessons and special activities with my co-partner. We make a great team! I am blessed with another year of teaching!

Why did you want to teach at a Catholic School? As an alumnus of a K-12th grade Catholic education and Eau Claire Regis High School, I knew about Aquinas and was elated to see a few open teaching positions. I am such a firm believer in Catholic Education that I only applied for these openings and didn't consider applying at an area public school. I want to teach in a school where the name "Jesus" can be said freely. I want to teach in a school where feast days and holy days are celebrated and where the Catholic faith can be integrated into all subject areas! Catholic Schools run in my blood thanks to the passion and commitment of my parents. Catholic Schools are what I know and are a part of me. I wouldn't want to be anywhere else. The Aquinas Catholic Schools Mission Statement answers this question perfectly for me: Aquinas Catholic Schools is a Christ-centered family devoted to nurturing students of all faiths through educational excellence in its vibrant Catholic tradition.



Jennifer Johanns



Bruce Martin



MaKayla Lucey

Mary Reeck - Aquinas Middle School - 7th Grade - Social Studies

(Aquinas Alumni '78)

What do you hope to accomplish throughout your career at ACS? Each year, I look forward to sharing my enthusiasm for learning and high sense of Christian values with my students, hoping it will have a lasting impact on each student. My goal is to provide a caring, encouraging environment of mutual respect in my classroom enabling each of my students to grow as a whole person and motivating them to learn to their fullest potential.

What excites you about the new school year? I look forward to stimulating curiosity and the desire to learn in each of my students through both the enthusiasm shown in my teaching and my demeanor. I will continue to strive to positively touch the lives of each of my students and prove to them that they can have many successes if they really put forth the effort.

What is your favorite thing about teaching at Aquinas Catholic Schools? My thirty-five plus years is evidence that I love teaching at Aquinas Catholic Schools. Moving from teaching in the elementary grades to the middle grades, I have always found comfort in being able to integrate my faith into my teaching - being able to be myself and express my beliefs and values. Working with exceptional colleagues, parents, and especially working with students who are eager to learn has made my teaching experience at Aquinas Catholic Schools rewarding.



Barb Grob



Mary Reeck

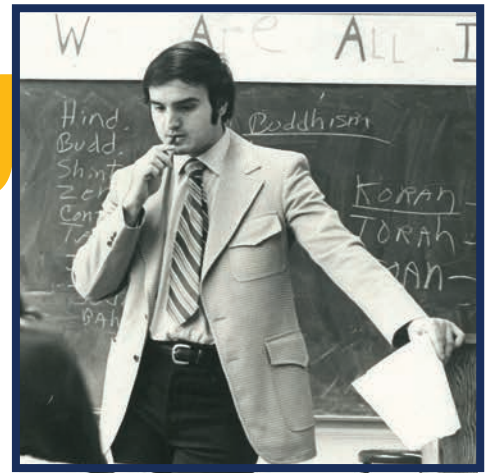
Barb Grob - Aquinas High School - All Grades - Religion

What excites you about the new school year? I am so excited to spend another year with my group of sophomores and getting to know the new freshmen. I am excited to have Father Nate Kuhn in our community. I am excited to work on vocations, scripture, and the Sacraments. I am excited to see the kids excel academically, socially, athletically, and spiritually. I absolutely love going to school every day and sharing my faith, sharing my passion for God, the Church, for Mass, and for the Traditions.

What is your favorite thing about teaching at Aquinas Catholic Schools? My favorite thing about teaching at Aquinas High School is that I get to share my faith with young people. When the students get excited about learning about religion, connecting what they have learned and how to live out their faith, it makes the faith come alive. I get to see their growth and maturity not only as young adults, but also as Disciples of Christ. I not only get to teach theology, also I get to help the kids get to Heaven.

Why did you want to teach at a Catholic School? In my career at AHS, I hope that kids learn the appreciation of the Catholic faith, its value, and how important it is to share our gifts with others. They will develop habits of kindness, helping others, and changing the world. I hope to form lasting relationships with my students and their families.

Remembering Steve Murray a beloved teacher and friend!



1949-2018

A heartfelt thank you to the family of Steve Murray, a long time teacher at Aquinas Catholic Schools. Steve was a beloved Dean of Students and teacher at Aquinas High School for 21 years. He passed away July 5, 2018. Through the generosity of the Murray family, the teachers from Aquinas Middle and High School attended an Encountering Christ Retreat at St. Mary's University in Winona, MN in July. Teachers and staff enjoyed a day of reflection, prayer, and camaraderie while discussing the importance of their vocation and keeping students and themselves connected to their Catholic faith. This lovely gift was an excellent way to remember Steve and the legacy that he left at Aquinas. His wife, Bonnie and children Ben, Jessie, Dan, Steve, David, and Catherine, planned the entire day, bringing in speaker Brother Armand Alcazar, FSC, and, having mass with Fr. Robert Horihan. Most of his family was able to attend, including his grandson Isaac and daughter-in-law Robyn.



2019

Aquinas High School Athletic Wall of Fame

Six former high school student-athletes, one coach, and one team highlighted the 2019 Aquinas High School Wall of Fame Class, including Elizabeth (Reiman) Bartsch, Patrick Callahan, Sheila Clements, Coach Dan Coughlin, Jeff LeClaire, Greg Pederson, Bridget (Becker) Rabb, and the 1993 WISAA State Champion Football Team.

Elizabeth (Reiman) Bartsch '94



Elizabeth (Reiman) Bartsch, class of '94, was a three-year letter winner in volleyball and softball, a four-year letter winner in basketball, and the recipient of the Olympathon Award in

1994. Bartsch was awarded all-conference, all-region, and all-state honors in both volleyball and basketball during her career, and was named the conference basketball player-of-the-year in 1994. At the time of her graduation in 1994, she was Aquinas' all-time leading rebounder and 2nd all-time leading scorer. Bartsch accepted a full basketball scholarship to attend UW-Green Bay where she started 116 games and surpassed 1,000 points in her career. In 1997-1998 her team won the MCC Conference Championship and advanced to the NCAA Women's Basketball Tournament.

Sheila Clements '81



Sheila Clements, class of '81, was a four-year letter winner in basketball and softball and three-year letter winner in volleyball. While at Aquinas, Clements earned numerous recognitions for

her achievements in basketball, softball, and volleyball including multiple 1st Team All-City, 1st Team All-CWCC Conference, and conference player of the year honors during her freshman through senior years. Some of the highlights of her athletic career include playing on Aquinas' first girls' basketball and softball teams and participating in the Wisconsin High School State Tournaments. The 1977 - 1981 basketball teams she played on achieved an impressive combined record of 77-8. Clements graduated as the Aquinas school record holder for basketball assists with 133 during her illustrious career. Clements went on to accept a full athletic scholarship to attend Illinois State University and play softball, where she was a member of multiple conference championship winning teams.

Coach Dan Coughlin '68



Coach Dan Coughlin, class of '68, has roots in the Aquinas football program dating back to the 1930's when his father, Thomas was a member of the team. Coughlin was an Aquinas football

player himself in the 1960's, playing under Hall of Fame Coach, John Michuta. He began teaching at Aquinas and serving as an

assistant coach on the football team in 1972. In 1991, Coughlin was named the Head Football Coach. Under Coughlin's guidance, and the support of his talented, tireless assistant coaches, Aquinas won a number of city and conference championships. In 1993, Aquinas won its first state football championship, followed by another in 1995. After many years in the CWCC, Aquinas joined the Mississippi Valley Conference in 2000, and in 2007 AHS Football earned the WIAA Division 5 State Championship. After 41 rewarding years, Coughlin announced his retirement from teaching and coaching in 2013. Coughlin's individual awards include being named La Crosse Tribune Football Coach of the Year in 1993, 1995, and 2007, and induction into the Wisconsin Football Coaches Hall of Fame in 2017.

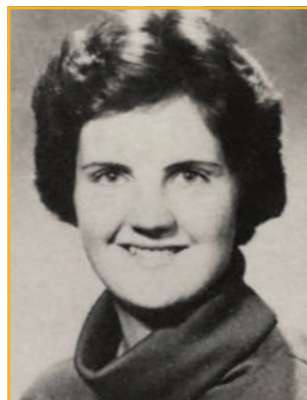
Greg Pederson '71



Greg Pederson, class of '71, competed at the varsity level in cross country, basketball, and golf each year from 1968-1971. The teams he played on won four city and four conference titles.

The 1969 and 1970 golf teams went undefeated in match play, placed 2nd at state golf (1969), and won the 1970 state golf championship. The 1970 basketball team played in the state tournament after pulling off "one of the biggest upsets in WISAA Region I history" over Regis High School. Greg was a unanimous selection to the 1970-1971 All City Basketball Team and received the Aquinas Olympathon Award that year. Greg attended St. Norbert College in De Pere from 1971-1973, playing golf and basketball. He attended UW-Platteville from 1973-1976, graduating with a B.S. in Civil Engineering.

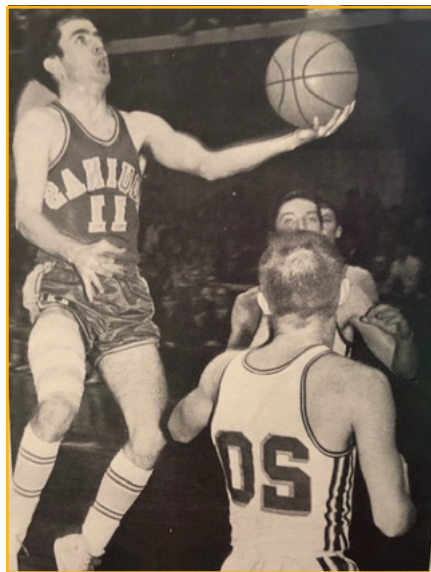
Bridget (Becker) Rabb '79



Bridget (Becker) Rabb, class of '79, was a standout athlete at Aquinas, accumulating nine varsity letters in cross country, basketball, and track and field. Rabb's basketball accomplishments include winning the city title and being named to the All-City

Team in 1977, winning the city title, conference championship, and advancing to setate in 1978 while being named the City Player of the Year and Conference Player of the Year, and being named to the All-City Team in 1979. Rabb was also a decorated track athlete. Her accomplishments on the track include winning the track and field team state title in 1976, 1977, and 1978, setting a new state record in the 800 yard run in 1977, and being named All-City and All-Conference all four years. Rabb went on to play basketball and to participate in track and field at UW-Madison and UW-La Crosse, however, her collegiate career was cut short due to injuries.

Patrick Callahan '67



Patrick Callahan, class of '67, was a three-time letter winner in basketball, two-time letter winner in track and field, two-time letter winner in cross country, and one-time letter winner in baseball. During Callahan's

basketball career he was a member of the 1000-point club in basketball, having accumulated 1,211 points during his career. Callahan accepted a full basketball scholarship to attend St. Norbert College where he played in 122 games.

Aquinas High Athletic Wall of Fame Continued...

Jeff LeClaire '93



Jeff LeClaire, class of '93, was a standout athlete in the sports of football, basketball, and track and field throughout his entire career at Aquinas. He was a four-year varsity starter on the basketball team, and a three-year starter on the football team, where he played wide receiver his sophomore year, and quarterback and defensive back his junior and senior years. LeClaire earned many recognitions for both football and basketball including All-City, City and Area/ Player of the Year, Conference Player of the Year, and All-State honors. LeClaire broke the school and city all-time basketball scoring records, amassing 1,732 points during his decorated career. LeClaire went on to play basketball at UW-Eau Claire for legendary coach, Ken Anderson.

1993 State Championship Football



The 1993 State Championship Football Team accomplished a feat that no La Crosse team had ever done before. Since the WISAA established a playoff championship series in 1969, and the WIAA followed in 1976, no La Crosse high school had won a state football championship. Aquinas ended that drought when the Blugolds beat Winnebago Lutheran, 21-0, in the WISAA title game at Camp Randall Stadium. The Blugolds had made four previous state title trips, but were held scoreless in each contest. That drought ended when Sean Stephens caught a 2-yard pass from Brian Pitsch to take a 7-0 lead in the first quarter. Steve Stenslien rushed for 239 yards and two touchdowns while winning the title of game MVP. The final score was 21-0 completing a 10 -2 season, and bringing home the first state football championship in La Crosse high school history.



Elizabeth (Reiman) Bartsch accepting her award.



(From left to right)
Greg Pederson '71, Bob Daley '71,
Tom Larson '71, and Mike Desmond '71

42nd Annual Aquinasfest

Thank You To Our Aquinas Fest Sponsors

Clason Buick GMC • Schneider Heating and Air Conditioning
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Rush Creek Ranch • Smile Care Dental • Bakalars • Stanek Dental • Klauke Investments & Insurance
Krause Konstruction • Balduzzi's Lumber

This year's Aquinas Fest marks forty-two years of festing.

Aquinas Fest successfully raised over \$45,000 for the ACS Foundation in support of our schools. Kidfest was a success with families enjoying caricatures, kids games, and inflatables. The parents and alumni enjoyed the beer garden and dancing with live entertainment from Ryan Sauter. The festivities continued at the football game against Fennimore and drawing the big raffle winners. We want to say thank you to all sponsors, volunteers, and event attendees who made this event possible.

Congratulations to our Raffle Winners!

\$ 10,000 Cash Prize

Mary Gerke - La Crosse, WI

\$1,000 Cash Prize

James Frantz - Shreveport, LA

\$500 Cash Prize

Greg & Evenell Furlan Genoa, WI



Mary Gerke ('70) accepts her grand prize check from Aquinas Development Director Brad Reinhart.

\$100 Cash Prize

Nancy & Tim Haggerty - La Crosse, WI

\$100 Cash Prize

Joe & Kate Poehling - La Crosse, WI

\$100 Cash Prize

Ryan Lium La Crosse, WI



Congratulations Blugolds

Class 2019!

Aquinas Catholic Schools graduation festivities kicked off with the annual Baccalaureate Mass held at St. Joseph the Workman Cathedral. The Commencement celebration was held in the Reinhart Athletic Complex. The class of 2019 had 82 graduates walk across the stage and received their diplomas. We had a chance

to hear from FOUR Valedictorians. Families, friends, students, staff, and fellow alumni gathered throughout the week to celebrate the many accomplishments of our newest alumni. Congratulations Class of 2019, and good luck on your future endeavors!



From left to right
Giselle Fisher, Samuel Orlan, Claire Dolan, and Alexis Harwick

Our Valedictorians

Claire Dolan:

Parents: Thomas & Michelle Dolan
Claire is attending University of Minnesota with a major in biology. Claire plans on applying to either PA or medical school pursuing a career in the medical field.

A few words from Claire:

My fondest memories in high school were playing volleyball and soccer. I served as the president of NHS, the treasurer of the Mission Club, and volunteered for Impact! Aquinas Catholic Schools has given me a foundation for both my faith and academics, but I think I learned the most from all of the relationships I built with both my teachers and fellow students. I have grown to appreciate that small community more now that I go to a college with over 30,000 students!

Giselle Fisher:

Parents: Waide & Maria Fisher
Giselle is attending Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut with plans to go into the medical field.

A few words from Giselle:

Throughout my short time in college, the valuable lessons that I learned in high school have become clear to me. The most valuable skill included how to learn. Although many topics in college may be more challenging than in high school, Aquinas pushed me to gain academic independence by isolating topics that I did not understand and enjoying the process of researching those topics. Specifically, I am interested in biological sciences because they have shown me a mindset and lens from which to learn about the development of living beings.



Alexis Harwick:

Parents: Edward & Kelly Harwick
Alexis is attending Marquette University in Milwaukee, WI. She plans to major in Psychology and Social Welfare and Justice with a minor in English Creative Writing.

A few words from Alexis:

I am very excited for my new adventure at college! My goal for college is to pursue my doctorate in psychology for my Juris Doctor degree. At Marquette I am involved in the University Honors Program, student services, psychological research, Live Poets Society, and The Melodies, an a cappella group. Some of my biggest accomplishments at Aquinas were Wisconsin Academic Excellence Scholar, AP Scholar with Honor, Charles J. Mathy, Jr. Scholarship recipient and being one of the 2019 Valedictorians.

Samuel Orlan:

Parents: Krista Clements and Stephen Orlan
Sam is attending the University of Wisconsin - Madison. Sam is pursuing a double major in computer engineering and music.

Sam's most significant accomplishments at Aquinas:

Sam was captain of the robotics team, AHS Orchestra, was a part of the Spanish National Honor Society, and also received recognition with the National Merit Scholars. Sam also received many scholarships, including George Ryan Class of 1922 Scholarship, University of Wisconsin - Madison Computer & Electrical Engineering Summer Launch Program Scholarship, and Vivian and Clayton Veum Scholarship.



2019 Salutatorian

Angela Ellis:

Parents: Jean and Richard Ellis
Angela is attending Carleton College in Northfield, MN.

Angela's most significant accomplishments at Aquinas:

Angela was on the forensics team and was involved in the Aquinas High School Student Government, where she represented the Senior class, and was apart of the Spanish National Honor Society.

"Your education is a dress rehearsal for a life that is yours to lead."

—Nora Ephron





Zanna Alexander

Western Technical College

Annie Balduzzi

University of Sioux Falls

Lance Baumgartner

Western Technical College

Madeline Belland

Western Technical College

Alessandro Berns

Florida International University

Eva Brenengen

Western Iowa College

Sophie Brown

U of Minnesota- Mankato

Maggie Burgmeier

Edgewood College

Emma Burke

U of Wisconsin-La Crosse

Eve Capelli

U of Wisconsin - Platteville

Ava Curti

Viterbo University

Claire Dolan

U of Minnesota- Twin Cities

Angela Ellis

Carleton College

Giselle Fisher

Yale University

Maxwell Gauger

Western Technical College

Kaitlyn Genelin

U of Minnesota- Twin Cities

Peter Glodosky

University of Iowa

Felix Goliwas

Western Technical College

Aaron Gongaware

Bowling Green State University

Ethan Gregg

U of Wisconsin-La Crosse

Allyson Grossbach

Winona State University

Claire Hale

Western Technical College

Gabrielle Hargrove

Winona State University

Alexis Harwick

Marquette University

Madeline Herlitzka

U of Wisconsin-La Crosse

Christine Hlavacka

Winona State University

Elizabeth Hlavacka

Viterbo University

Elizabeth Horstman

Edgewood College

Katerina Houser

Arizona State University

Yuzhi Huang

U of Wisconsin-Stout

Benjamin Hundt

Western Technical College

Matthew Jankowski

University of North Dakota

Katharine Joslyn

Colorado State University

Jack Keil

Western Technical College

Mitchell Komay

Winona State University

Taylor Kudron

Winona State University

Bridget Kusmitch

U of Wisconsin-La Crosse

Brooke Langen

U of Wisconsin-Madison

Colby Lawrynk

Went into the workforce

Bryce Lee

Winona State University

Adalberto Lopez

Western Technical College

Hao 'Louis' Luo

Hope College

Gracie Malin

Madison Area Tech College

Jackson Mashak

U of Wisconsin-La Crosse

Ava McLain

U of Wisconsin-Stout

Lane Meddaugh

Western Technical College

Brandon Merfeld

Saint Mary's University of Minnesota

Gracie Mertes

University of Minnesota - Twin Cities

Bryant Meyer

U of Wisconsin-La Crosse

Benjamin Nagel

Viterbo University

Natalie Oelke

Lake Superior College

Samuel Orlan

U of Wisconsin-Madison

Laura Papenfuss

Western Technical College

John Papke

Western Technical College

Faith Platt

U of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Aaron Puent

U of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Claire Riley

U of Wisconsin-Stout

Alexander Rodenberg

Northern Michigan University

Matthew Rogers

Western Technical College

Jacob Savoldelli

U of Wisconsin-La Crosse

Sydney Schamberger

Carroll University

Megan Scheidt

Winona State University

Dana Schulte

Viterbo University

Hunter Schultz

Iowa State University

Sudha Schultz

Lawrence University

Sydney Skemp

Drake University

Grace Smith

Lawrence University

Zachary Stoffel

Milwaukee School of Engineering

Elizabeth Sutton

U of Wisconsin-La Crosse

Carolyn Swift

Western Technical College

Caleb Taggart

U of Wisconsin-La Crosse

Shelby Thicke

University of Bemidji State

Robert Uehling

Saint Mary's University

Anna Van Riper

Viterbo University

Xamong Vang

U of Wisconsin-La Crosse

Kathryn Wanders

University of Arkansas

Megan Watt

Western Washington University

Evan Weber

U of Wisconsin-Eau Claire

Yufei Wu

Arizona State University



2019

Fine Arts Soiree

The Fine Arts Soiree recognizes students and their families in the Aquinas Fine Arts Program in theatre, music, and art.

Congratulations to all of the award recipients:

Matthew Jankowski: John Phillip Sousa Award

Lexi Harwick: Outstanding Theatre Award

Sudha Schultz: Harold R. Jerue Memorial Scholarship
and Louis Armstrong Award.

Sydney Skemp: Outstanding Senior Vocalist Award

Caleb Taggart: National Choral Award

Sophie Brown: National Orchestra Award



Annual Aquinas Athletic Banquet

Brandon Merfeld: Olympathon Award

Megan Scheidt: Olympathon Award

Jacob Savoldelli: Mike Pitz Award

Giselle Fisher: Scholar Athlete Award

Elizabeth Hlavacka: Jane Baker Award

Annie Balduzzi: Father Rossiter Award

Evan Weber: Scholar-Athlete Award

Shelby Thicke: Jane Baker Award

Ethan Gregg: Mike Pitz Award



“Winning isn’t everything, but wanting to win is.” Vince Lombardi



Spring Sports Report



Girls Soccer

The Aquinas girls' soccer team had a successful season. The team had several new players who quickly integrated into the varsity team, making it possible for the team to rotate many players into several different positions. This enabled everyone to find new skills, while honing and perfecting old skills at the same time. New coaches brought a unique new style of training. The girls adapted well to this, which led to teamwork and success on the field.



One of the highlights of the season was the impressive amount of goals the girls were able to score. There were several matches where Aquinas scored 10 goals, and many more matches with 5 or more goals. The team ended up finishing with a winning record and placed in the top half of the conference. The team advanced to the regional final, where their season came to an end. All in all, the girls had a very successful season. They were able to grow closer as a team and develop their skills in an impressive manner.



Boys Tennis

The 2019 boys tennis season was one for the books. With many new athletes out for the team, the varsity line up changed drastically from the previous year. The team's overall record was a tough fought 6-8. The number three doubles team of Will Cambio and Ethan Schamberger ended up placing first in sectionals completing the season with only one loss to Onalaska. The number one singles player Aaron Puent and number two singles Marc Fortney each received conference awards. The team graduated two seniors who will be missed dearly, Robert Uehling and Aaron Puent. The team is looking forward to a strong 2020 season!



Boys Baseball

The 2019 Aquinas High School Baseball team was led by three amazing seniors: Matt Jankowski, Jacob Savoldelli, and Brandon Merfeld. These seniors were the leaders and the heart and soul of the team this year. It was an unusually cold spring that canceled many games in the area, but the Blugolds battled through these adverse conditions and played all 26 baseball games. The Blugolds started off the season with a 4-0 win over Westby and finished the season with a tough loss to Westby in the regional semifinals by a score of 8-3. The Blugolds finished the season with an overall record of 16-12. We want to wish our three seniors the best of luck as they pursue their college careers.

Girls Softball

The Aquinas softball team put together another successful season, finishing with a record of 14-9. The season began with a trip to Orlando, Florida where the team got a chance to compete in three games, enjoy the nice weather, and go to different theme parks.

Once the Blugolds got back into town they faced a difficult five game stretch where they lost three out of five, including giving up runs in the opponent's last at bat to lose against two quality teams, Onalaska and Altoona. The Blugolds then went on a hot streak, winning six games in a row, outscoring their opponents 64 to 19 in that span. The team then hit a rough patch, dropping three conference games in a row. The team responded nicely, including two come from behind victories scoring seven runs the final two innings to beat Prairie du Chien, and a walk-off homerun delivered by Bri Bahr!

Next, came the playoffs, where the Blugolds took down Platteville on a walk-off ground ball by Colby Lawrynk in the bottom of the 9th inning to win the Regional Championship! The Blugolds season would end in the following game, losing a hard fought game to Dodgeville in the Sectional Semi-finals.

Special congratulations to Annie Balduzzi for being selected to the All-Sportsmanship team in the MVC. Congratulations to Sydney Schamberger and Elizabeth Horstman for being selected Honorable Mention. Congratulations to Kayla Bahr for being selected Second Team All-MVC. Congratulations to Megan Scheidt for being selected First Team All-MVC, First Team All-District, and Honorable Mention All-State in Divisions 3 through 5! Congratulations to Gracie Malin for being selected First Team All-MVC, Runner up to Player of the Year in the MVC, First Team All-District and First Team All-State! Go Blugolds!

Boys Golf

The Aquinas boys golf team was a young team including five freshman, one sophomore, and a brand new coaching staff. The team, now coached by Tony Genelin, was a tight knit group that looked out for each other. Freshman, Sam Dobbins was named Honorable Mention All-Conference. In addition, both Dobbins and fellow freshman Ben Swift advanced to the sectional state golf tournament as individuals. The team is very optimistic about the future of the program moving forward and is looking to surprise area teams next year in conference and state tournament play.



Boys & Girls Track & Field

Most teams would be disappointed if they won only three games in a 17-game season, but in the sport of track & field, it's not how many meets that you win, but which ones. The Aquinas Blugolds won the last three meets of the season, Regionals, Sectionals and State to emerge as State champions. Their performance was extraordinarily balanced with sprinters, relays, distance runners, and field event specialists contributing to the 58 points that easily surpassed second place Wild Rose with 43 points. School records were set in two events. The 4 x 200, consisting of Bryant Meyer, Evan Weber, Jackson Mashak and Lukas Beck lowered the school record three times, once at sectionals and twice at State. Jackson Mashak and Ben Hundt would join Evan Weber and Bryant Meyer to win the 4 x 100 relay. Lukas Beck also won the 100 meters and 200 meters, setting a school record time in the 100 meters with 10.73. Evan Weber added 5 more points in the 100 meter with a 4th place finish, as did Bryce Lee with a 4th place finish in the shot put. Ethan Gregg added eight points with a second place in the 3200 meters.

After two days of competition at the State meet, with 64 events completed, there was only one left, the 4 x 400. The Lady Blugolds amassed 28 points, tied for first with Edgar HS. Junior Lexi Donarski placed in the 100 (5th), 200 (3rd) and the long jump (3rd) and anchored the winning 4 x 200. The 4x200 quartet also included Andrea White, Courtney Becker, and Grace Gyllander, and set a new school record. Courtney Becker also placed 6th in the high jump. But now, the final event, the 4x400 would determine who would be crowned the State Champion. Edgar High School also had a relay team in the 4 x 400, and the race between Edgar and Aquinas would determine the State Champion. The outcome of the race was in the hands of Andrea White, Karlie Meyer, Shelby Thicke and Megan Scheidt. Aquinas had the lead going into the final leg before Fennimore's anchor moved into first. Megan Scheidt held on to second through the tape, sealing Aquinas' team victory. The Lady Blugolds victory, in conjunction with the boys, made history. Only four times in the 47-year history of Wisconsin State Track & Field has the same school won both the boys and the girls' state championship.





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



We all desire significance - to lead happy and fulfilled lives surrounded by family and friends.

For many of us, there is a compelling need to make a difference - to leave a lasting impact on the people most dear to us and the world in which we live. The search for significance and desire to plan for the future leads many to ponder their legacy. What kind of legacy will you leave? A bequest is perhaps the easiest and most tangible way to have a lasting impact on the people and organizations that mean the most to you. A bequest may also be an effective way to make a gift to charity and lessen the burden of taxes on your family and estate.

AN EASY GIFT TO MAKE

A charitable bequest is a bequest written in a will or trust that directs a gift to be made to a qualified exempt charity when you pass away. One benefit of a charitable bequest is that it enables you to further the good work of an organization you support long after you are gone. Better yet, a charitable bequest can help you save estate taxes by providing your estate with a charitable deduction for the value of the gift. With careful planning, your family can also avoid paying income taxes on the assets they receive from your estate.

PLANNED GIVING BRIEF

What LEGACY will you leave?

LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT
I, the undersigned, *Janet Doe*
declare this to be my will.

A bequest is one of the easiest gifts to make. With the help of an advisor, you can include language in your will or trust specifying a gift to be made to family, friends or charity as part of your estate plan.

A BEQUEST MAY BE MADE IN SEVERAL WAYS:

- ▣ Gift of a percentage of your estate
- ▣ Gift of a specific asset
- ▣ Gift of the residue of your estate

Certain types of property pass outside of a will or trust. These assets require that you name a beneficiary by completing a beneficiary designation form. To make a bequest of these assets, you should contact the company or entity from which you purchased the asset. Below are a couple of examples:

BEQUEST OF AN IRA

A retirement asset like an IRA account makes an excellent bequest to charity. If the IRA were given to your family, much of the value would be depleted through estate and income taxes. By designating charity as the beneficiary of part or all of your IRA, the full value of the gift is transferred tax free at your death and your estate receives a charitable deduction. If you wish to leave your IRA to your spouse at your death, you may also designate charity as the secondary beneficiary of your account. Contact your IRA or retirement account custodian to obtain a beneficiary designation form and make a bequest from your IRA.

BEQUEST OF INSURANCE POLICY

An insurance policy makes a nice bequest to charity. As an asset of your estate, an insurance policy is taxable at your death. However, if the policy is gifted to charity, your estate avoids paying tax on the value of the policy and receives a charitable deduction for the gift. You may generally name anyone as beneficiary of your insurance policy and change your designation at anytime. Contact your insurance company to obtain a beneficiary designation form and make a bequest of your policy to charity.

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.

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 help to ensure current and future generations of excellence at Aquinas Catholic Schools.

Marcella (Cleary '41) Amundson
Frances M. Balduzzi
James F. Boschert '49
Marvin & Ruth (Trojanek '39) Bossler
John Bissen '36
Richard Carter
Vernon F. Dale
Frank Daley
Henry C. Eden
Dr. Robert & Carole Edland
Ruth M. Gallagher
Lorraine F. Gay
Eleanore Hackner
Marian Hammes '34
John B. Janis
Lorraine F. Johnson
James L. Kiffe '42
Agnes (Ott '35) Kimpel
Robert H. Klein '37
Celia Koll
Joseph E. Kratt
John G. LaFleur '62
John H. Leisgang '55
Earl G. Lowe
Virginia (McCann '41) Lukas
Julius & Dorothy (Roesler) Manske '36
James Maney '39

Patricia McCabe '52
Kenneth McQuillen '47
Norman L. Meir '38
Marie Meyer & Jerry W. Morrison
Erma May (Thimmesch '40) Mosser
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Blugold

Alumni Anecdotes

Minneapolis All Alumni Social

We want to say THANK YOU to all of our alumni and friends who joined us for an awesome night in Minneapolis this past October. A special thanks to Justin Gillette ('99) for arranging access to the Minneapolis Club for the social. We are truly grateful for the support of all of our alumni and friends.

2019 Class Reunions



Class of '52



Class of '69



Class of '79



Class of '84



Class of '89



Class of '99

Kate Kerrigan class of '89 is a mosaic artist who now lives in Redmond Oregon. Kerrigan has been a mosaic artist for 20 years. She studied classic techniques and materials in Venice and Ravenna, Italy. Katie's exhibit "Depressions of Driftless" will be held at the Pump House Feb 28th-April 1st. The opening reception is Friday, Feb 28th from 5-7pm. We hope everybody can attend.



Gayle Flaig '81, Administrator of the Early Childhood Programs for Regis Catholic Schools in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, is a strong advocate for early childhood education. On May 30, she was recognized for her hard work and dedication. Flaig received an Outstanding Achievement Award at the 18th annual Children's Legacy Luncheon in Eau Claire. The event, presented by the Children's Museum of Eau Claire, honors individuals who have made important and lasting contributions on behalf of children in the Chippewa Valley.



Monthly Class Gatherings & Reunions

Class of 1947

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

Class of 1955

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

Class of 1954

Monthly Breakfasts: The class of 1954 will be having breakfast the first Saturday of each month at 9:00 a.m. at King Street Kitchen, 7th & King Street, downtown La Crosse. Contact: Donna (Zellmer) Puent (608) 788-4137.

Class of 1957

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

Class of 1960

Monthly Meetings: Aquinas Class of 1960 members meet on the 4th Tuesday of each month for lunch. Please contact Micki (Bicha) Banasik at 608-788-2717 if you would like to join.

Class of 1961

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

Class of 1964

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

Class of 1975

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

Reunion - Class of 1950

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

STAY IN TOUCH

Planning a class reunion? Contact Brad Reinhart for class lists and reunion updates.

Brad Reinhart - 608.784.0707 - Email: brad.reinhart@aquinasschools.org

30th Annual Aquinas Golf Scramble

The Annual Aquinas Golf Scramble was held on Wednesday, July 10, 2019, at the golf club at Cedar Creek in Onalaska, WI. It was a perfect day for golf, friends, and fun. This year's event featured 159 players on 53 teams and was held with the support of many generous sponsors. The event brought alumni spanning six decades together with current and past parents and many friends of Aquinas. Those in attendance at the dinner celebrated that nearly \$20,000 had been raised to provide Aquinas Catholic Schools families with need-based tuition assistance.

2019 Aquinas Golf Outing Champions

A Flight - 64

Will Welch, Ben Gierszewski, and Chris Marx

B Flight - 63

Dustin Hundt, Joel Dettwiler, and Bob Geary

C Flight - 66

Tom Kratt, James Lockley, Tom Dolan



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Save The Date
31st Annual
Golf Scramble
July 8, 2020



ALUMNI — REST IN PEACE

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1940: Lorraine (Houlihan) King, Catherine (Stephan) Banasik, Raymond Feyen

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1943: Beverly (Roesler) Burritt

1944: Maxine (Cody) Kroner, Dolores (Stubert) Weber, Marian (Stellick) Pavela, Phyllis (Spah) Jorgenson, Donald Schams

1946: Therese (Murphy) Johnson, Sigrid (Stefferd) Mueller, Lois Schomers, Eugene Wilder

1947: Wayne Swinghamer

1948: Donald Houlihan

1949: Joan (Schams) Arneson, Ervin Malin, William Roubik, John McCann

1950: Carol Ann (Sexaur) Pahl, Marilyn (Froegel) Lawrence

1951: Mary (Fisher) Bina

1952: Mary Jane (Hansen) Goodenough

1953: James Anderson, Donna (Shay) Rattle, Dr. Eugen Bakalars

1954: Roberta (Allen) Dickson, Patricia (Ostrander) Kerrigan, Margaret (Ritter) Linden, Norbert Hammes, Robert Twite

1955: Gloria (Lichtie) Freehill, Alice Svec, Barbara (Cross) Murray, Kenneth Wing,

1956: James Chrisan, Eugene Brown, Rita F. (Marco) Clark, Joan (Bicha) Schreier

1957: Everett Servais

1958: Mary Elizabeth (Coney) Strasser, Jaqueline (Sarner) De Kayrel

1959: Lucy (Lauermann) Springer, A. Judith (Adams) French

1960: Jean (Niebuhr) Sciborski, Lois (Phelps) Hanson, Ronald Guanella, Ruth Ann (Hoesley) Jay, Sandy (Olsen) Kirkpatrick, Steve (Zemlo)

1961: Ruth Ann (Abnet) Johnson, Barbara (Plamadore) Machkovich, Thomas Opsahl, Michael Collins, Carol (Wuezel) Russell, Gerald Sokolik, Terence Hess

1963: Susan (Merrell) Schafer, Richard Kerska

1965: Diane Walters, John Barris, James Engh

1966: Helen (Binbaum) Perlich

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Eugene Rust
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Northern Battery
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Sean O'Flaherty
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Peter & Susan Sayner
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Susan Schams
William Schams
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James & Marjorie Schiefelbein
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July 1, 2018 Through June 30, 2019

THANK YOU FOR MAKING CATHOLIC EDUCATION AFFORDABLE!

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Barbara Quillin
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Mary Ellen Robertson
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Mark & Karen Ritter
David & Julie Rho
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Frederick Skemp
Mary Skemp
Robert C. Skemp
Mark & Carolyn Steingraeber
Jane & Douglas Vinson
Dorthea Haberman
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Patrick Houlihan

Sandy Olsen Kirkpatrick

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Amy Beth Klein

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Kathleen & James Henderson
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Sharon Miller
Loretta Nockels
Ryan & Jennifer Olson
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Joe & Susie Pavela

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In Tribute & Memorials

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Kathleen & Case Wewerka

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Martin Petersen

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Kathrine Zimmerman
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Alice Engelhard Gassere
Kennith Graves
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Philip & Sheila Murray
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Lorraine Sokolik
Arlene & Roger Young

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Ruth Roesler
Scott Roesler
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Lloyd Wuensch
Linda Barbour
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Paula Hilby
Albert Hohfeld
Teresa Hollnagel
Sharon Honeck
Patrick Houlihan
William & Jan Howes



Memorials

Lloyd Wuensch Continued...

Robert & Nancy Kaiser

Lorna Kirby

Richard & Barbara Konrad

John Leinfelder

Daryl & Sharon Melquist

Susan Milisch

Nany Padesky

Stephen & Marian Pavela

Dean Peterson

Mary Ritter

Shirley Role

Wayne & Jeanette Siffing

Samuel & Jean Skemp

Lorrain Sokolik

David & Barbara Skogen

Raymond & Marie Smith

Karla & Timothy Weihrouch

Janis & Kevin Westerman

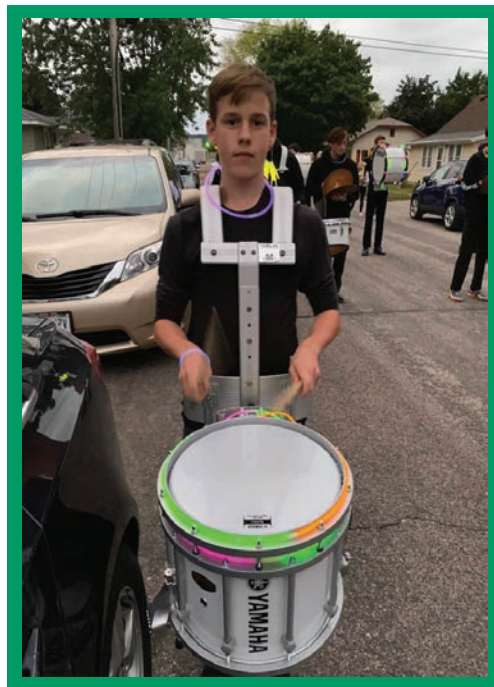
Ray & Sue Wuensch

Darlene Zitzner

Steven & Sally Miller

Deceased Members of the Class of 1959

Maureen Monk



Aquinas Catholic Schools Foundation

June 30, 2018 and 2019

Statement of Financial Position

| ASSETS | June 30, 2019 | June 30, 2018 |
|---|------------------------|------------------------|
| Current Assets | | |
| Checking/Savings | | |
| River Bank Checking | \$ 135,732.13 | \$ 396,650.31 |
| Total Checking/Savings | \$ 135,732.13 | \$ 396,650.31 |
| Other Current Assets | | |
| Due to/From - Endowed Scholarship Fund | — | \$ (2,500.00) |
| Due to/From - Legacy Fund | \$ (81,887.83) | \$ (213,561.21) |
| Due to/From - Next Step Fund | \$ 49,382.99 | \$ 216,061.21 |
| Due to/From - Next Step Restricted Fund | \$ 32,504.84 | \$ 0.00 |
| Total Other Current Assets | \$ — | \$ — |
| Total Current Assets | \$ 135,732.13 | \$ 396,650.31 |
| Other Assets | | |
| Investments Held at Trustpoint | \$ 8,417,325.43 | \$ — |
| Investments Held at JP Morgan | \$ 196,994.58 | \$ 7,309,874.25 |
| Total Other Assets | \$ 8,614,320.01 | \$ 7,706,524.56 |
| TOTAL ASSETS | \$ 8,750,052.14 | \$ 7,706,524.56 |
| LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS | | |
| Net Assets Without Donor Restrictions | | |
| Next Step Fund | \$ 1,296,139.67 | \$ 1,160,927.22 |
| Legacy Fund | \$ 1,519,332.53 | \$ 1,365,577.49 |
| Kiffe Trust Fund | \$ 1,330,899.34 | \$ 1,333,018.61 |
| Endowment Scholarship Fund | \$ 928,171.23 | \$ 664,709.10 |
| Endowment Trust Fund | \$ 1,100,139.96 | \$ 1,101,892.68 |
| Total Net Assets Without Donor Restrictions | \$ 6,174,682.73 | \$ 5,626,125.10 |
| Net Assets With Donor Restrictions | | |
| Kiffe Guardian Angel Fund | \$ 389,954.04 | \$ 327,356.30 |
| Next Step Restricted Fund | \$ 2,185,415.37 | \$ 1,753,043.16 |
| Total Net Assets With Donor Restrictions | \$ 2,575,369.41 | \$ 2,080,399.46 |
| Total Net Assets | \$ 8,750,052.14 | \$ 7,706,524.56 |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS | \$ 8,750,052.14 | \$ 7,706,524.56 |



Please prayerfully consider A gift to this year's Aquinas Fund Annual Campaign

What does it mean to give? It is not too difficult to look around and see a great deal of need. There are organizations and foundations, projects and important causes that all ask us to contribute our time, but more often, our means. And, while we may wish that we could help and give to everyone who asks, that is just not possible.



But how do we determine who gets our attention, time, and a share in of our limited resources? How do we distinguish between a nice idea and something that is truly impactful? I would assert that the efforts that bring about the greatest good and support the journey toward our heavenly goal are the most valuable opportunities we have. If we are able to make a difference in the life of another, if what we do can lead someone to establish or deepen a relationship with God and bring them closer to heaven, is this not participating in perhaps the greatest good there is?

Each year at Aquinas Catholic schools, we reach out and ask if you are willing to participate in such an opportunity. Our Catholic schools are a means by which our students are not only being educated and prepared for their future, but are also being taught the values and virtues that point to the a higher goal, of eternity. Each student is given the opportunity to participate in a family where faith is not a secondary concern, but at the core of who we are and what we do. We acknowledge that each and every student is a beloved daughter or son of God, and we strive to see them succeed in every aspect of their lives.

With this as a background, I would ask you to consider helping us carry on this mission by making a meaningful gift to the Aquinas Fund this school year. St. Paul reminds us that each of us lives in the freedom of God's love, and we each have the opportunity to share what God has given us. I pray that we may all find joy in being generous with our gifts and be filled with an abundance of His grace in doing his work.

In Christ,

Fr. Nate Kuhn
Chaplain - Aquinas High School

Visit

Aquinascatholicschools.org/aquinasfund
or use the enclosed envelope to
make your gift today!

Case for Support

The Aquinas Fund accelerates the overall excellence of Aquinas Catholic Schools by providing funding in support of the annual operating needs of our school system.

- Aquinas Catholic Schools project 2019-20 annual expenditures exceeding \$8.5 Million, or about \$8700 per child on average. Tuition alone covers only 55% of that cost.
- For the current year, more than 40% of ACS students will receive some level of tuition aid.
- **Donations to the Aquinas Fund help to bridge the gap between the actual cost to educate a student and the income received through tuition and parish support.**



Attention Aquinas Alumni!



STAY CONNECTED

Miss your Aquinas Blugolds classmates?
Want to reconnect? The 2020 Aquinas Catholic Schools Directory can help you do just that!

Starting soon our partner **Publishing Concepts, PCI**, will be **contacting you via mail, phone, and email** asking you to participate by **updating your alumni contact information**.

2020 Aquinas Catholic Schools Alumni Directory

Did you know?

You can help support Aquinas Catholic Schools just by doing your regular holiday shopping on Amazon? AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at AmazonSmile, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection, and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to your favorite charitable organization. Start your holiday shopping by visiting smile.amazon.com/ch/46-2553909, and you will make an impact for our schools.



#1 holiday hack:

When you buy your gifts at **smile.amazon.com**, Amazon donates.

amazonsmile

Founder's Day



Award Nomination Form

The Aquinas Schools Foundation is currently seeking nominees for recognition as part of the annual Founder's Day Celebration. If you would like to submit a nomination for one or all of the categories listed below, please complete this form and return it to 315 11th Street S, La Crosse, WI 54601. You can also submit a nomination online at www.aquinascatholicschools.org/founders-day.

SAINT THOMAS AQUINAS AWARD

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

I would like to nominate: _____

I believe this person is deserving because: _____

SAINT FRANCIS STAFF AWARD

This award is presented to an Aquinas Catholic Schools staff member of long standing, who has made a significant impact on the students of Aquinas Catholic Schools.

I would like to nominate: _____

I believe this person is deserving because: _____

BISHOP JOHN PAUL DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS AWARD

This award is given annually to a graduate of the Aquinas Catholic School System who has distinguished himself/herself in his/her community and demonstrated support for Catholic schools. He/she has made significant achievement in his/her chosen field and faithfully practices the Catholic faith.

I would like to nominate: _____


I believe this person is deserving because: _____



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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

 Visit us on Facebook!

Aquinas High School - Aquinas Middle School
St. Patrick Elementary - Blessed Sacrament Elementary - Cathedral Elementary



Our Mission

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