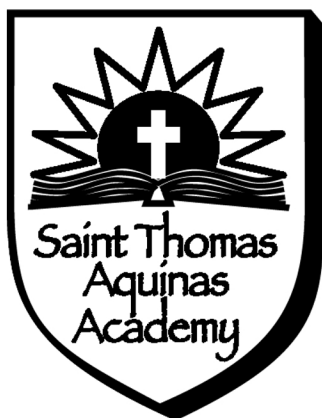


SAINT THOMAS AQUINAS ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

Fall 2022



*D*ear Alumni, Families and Friends,

I would like to thank everyone who helped Saint Thomas Aquinas Academy in the last year.

We enjoyed a revitalization of some very important traditions. We expanded our capacity to reach all learners, and we improved vital technology in our historic buildings. In 2021-2022, the hard work of our staff brought the annual Auction back to the gymnasium and allowed us to open the doors to alumni and friends once again for sports, events, and fundraisers. Thanks to the determination and creativity of our parents and students, we also saw a return of the Windsor Players. Finally, essential steps were taken in the process of integrating technology into our classrooms. Significant upgrades were made to both our connectivity and teacher tools, putting WiFi access points in every room and smartboards in many.

This year, we aim to build our programs in ways that reflect the needs and ambitions of our students. We are teaching new upper level math courses to juniors and seniors that prepare them for real-life applications, while still providing college credit calculus and precalculus. We are expanding partnerships with area higher education, shadowing, and career exploration with our 8th-12th grade students. Our middle school students are being offered a greater selection of electives in the fine arts with choir, band, and forensics. In combination with the existing strengths of our school, all of these things aim to provide the best education in the area.

We continue to be Christ-centered. With the return of field trips last year, our Elementary students were able to visit the Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help in Champion and St. Francis Xavier Cathedral in Green Bay. This experience was both spiritual and academic. We were also able to reinstitute Christian service hours among our high school students to embrace our Catholic, servant-minded leadership in the community. As we trek forward, Saint Thomas Aquinas Academy promises to be the faith based education our kids, community, and our world need. I am blessed with the opportunity to lead the Academy inspired by the life and teachings of Jesus Christ once again in 2022-2023.

Thank you and God bless,

Jon Keepers
Principal

ELEMENTARY CAMPUS

141 S. Wood Ave.
Peshtigo, WI 54157
715-582-4041
715-582-1165 fax

email: elemsec.staa@gmail.com

MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL CAMPUS

1200 Main Street
Marinette, WI 54143
715-735-7481
715-735-3375 fax

email: hssec.staa@gmail.com
jrhsec.staa@gmail.com

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IN THE SPOTLIGHT

The Class of 2022 graduates can be described as strong, inquisitive, and multi-talented. A tight knit group, these young men reflect the values of hard work and dedication.

Blake DeDamos was the Valedictorian, Joseph Pisani was the Salutatorian, and Wyatt Poquette was Senior Class President. Father Matthew Faucett, a graduate from the class of 2011, gave the Commencement address. He spoke to the graduates about the importance of friendship, joy, and the bonds that last a lifetime. He reminded them of the influence of faith, family and community and the impact it carries from the past and will always be a part of their futures.

These young men were recognized for their academic, athletic and individual achievements with awards, scholarships, and special presentations. They will be pursuing careers in technology, the Marine Corps, and law enforcement..



Wyatt Poquette, Joseph Pisani, and Blake DeDamos.



HAPPY RETIREMENT!

Anita Folgert has spent the last 27 years at the Academy sharing with hundreds of students her love of books, the joy of reading, and the importance of faith.

Always busy as a parent, a Librarian and a friend, she never stood still. She created engaging environments in her libraries, and was willing to lend a hand; helping with improvement projects, working fundraising events and supporting those around her.

We wish her a fond farewell as she enters retirement and gets to enjoy the benefits of grandchildren, gardening and travel.

LOST AND FOUND

Our website has changed! Has your address changed?

We have many alumni who have moved once, twice or ten times since graduation, and we miss staying in touch!. If you know of classmates who might be considered "Lost", share this link with them, or update your own contact information if you are making a move. This will help us to stay up to date and help you "get the band back together" when it is time for a reunion!

<https://www.saintthomasaquinasacademy.org/alumni-update-form>

Visit us often at www.saintthomasaquinasacademy.org

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

TITANS TAKE THE M&O

Our football Titans finished the regular season with an unblemished 8-0 record and took the M&O Conference Football 8 man championship! Their strong performance on the gridiron was led by head coach, Dale Lange '75.

Two Academy students were two-way starters for the 8-man co-op with Lena, and there were a total of 8 players selected for the 2021 All Conference Team.

Junior Ethan Braley was named First Team All Conference Kicker, and senior Blake DeDamos was named First Team All Conference Offensive Lineman. Players Blake DeDamos, Logan Shallow (Lena) and Lane Whiting (Lena) were named to the rosters of the Wisconsin Football Coaches Assoc. 8-Player All-Star game. The team is looking forward to another strong season this year.



"The happy man in this life needs friends." – Saint Thomas Aquinas

THE WINDSOR PLAYERS ARE BACK!

The Windsor Players have been reinvented this year. Under the direction of Chris Gromala '97, students are once again under the lights and delighting audiences.

This year's production of *Born to be Wild* was a successful re-launch of this group and allowed Middle and High school students to participate on the stage with sets, tech and behind the scenes.

A special "paddle raise" opportunity at the annual Auction provided additional funding for the group which will be used to update the lighting and sound capabilities for future productions.

We look forward to a new production in the coming months!



IN THE SPOTLIGHT



SO NICE TO SEE YOU!

Thank you to everyone who supported the Annual Auction this year. We were so excited to be able to be live and in person once again. There is nothing like having time to sit and visit, see classmates and friends and share in the traditions and excitement of the day. There were many exciting and lively bidding wars and thanks to the many volunteers and supporters it was a successful event.

Student athletes were thrilled to be able to have fans in the stands for many games this year. Volunteers were welcomed back into the buildings and on field trips, and we got to see people's faces again.

The coming year will have many more opportunities to gather together including a return to Oktoberfest, live and in person!

Save the date for October 22nd, 2022, gather your friends, family and classmates to join in the fun!

Celebrating these Landmark Reunion Years!

50 YEARS - CLASS OF 1972

40 YEARS - CLASS OF 1982

30 YEARS - CLASS OF 1972

25 YEARS - CLASS OF 1997

10 YEARS - CLASS OF 2012

IN MEMORY

Gifts were received this year in memory of the following alumni, friends and supporters.

Frank & Irene Anderson
Mike Beland
Rita Benesh
Earl & Jackie Boschaert
Henrietta (Wilke) Charland
Sister DeLourdes
Joan Rettke Dory
Tom Dory '55
Laura Ebert
Harold A Enderby, class of 1961
John R Falk, class of 1976
Richard Faucett
Connie Fletcher
David, Jim & Tony Galazen
Mary Ann Gardon
Michael Goyette
Eugene & Cecelia Groleau

Our Class of '74 Classmate
Tinky Haines
Glenn & MaryAnn Hamilton
Ethel (Langer) Hannot '42
Steve Herning
Nancy Kuehl Hofer
Deceased Members of the
Hunting/Falkenberg Family
Mr. & Mrs. Francis Jacques
Ken Kleuskens
Loren, Lloyd & Lyle Lange
Francis Langer
John Lauerman
Bernadine Kubiak Madsen
Dean & Mary Magnin
Edward Malechuk

Jacqueline Mathy
Leo R. McGuire
Dallas & Morrie Neuville
John & Clarice Plouff
David J Roland
Donald Joseph Roland
Marie Brault Salfai
Agnes Sauve
Werner Schomaker Sr.,
Werner Schomaker Jr.,
Lucille Meyers Smith '53
Arvid (Jim) Teschner
Deacon Jerome Thetreau
Doris Brown Vieth '38
Kenneth M. Vieth
Betty Wawrzon
Mr. Harold Zahorick

IN HONOR

Gifts were received this year in honor of the following alumni, friends and supporters.

Family of Marlene (MacBride) Aissen
Father Celestine

Class of '52
Class of 1990

Fred & Celeste Meintz
Mary Woleske

ACADEMY NEWS

ELEMENTARY MOMENTS



Art Class



Celebrating Christmas



Visit to the Shrine of our Lady of Good Help



Chain reaction Day - Student Council



Reading Buddies



Catholic Schools Week

A MESSAGE FROM THE BUSINESS OFFICE

One point three million dollars, is the total cost of education for our students in the coming year. That sounds like a huge number, but in reality, it is not. Did you know that Saint Thomas Aquinas Academy is one of the lowest cost schools in the Diocese of Green Bay, which is one of the lowest cost Catholic School systems in the entire United States?

The average cost to educate a student at Saint Thomas Aquinas Academy is \$7,500 per student. We have over 170 students enrolled this year which comes to approximately \$1,300,000. How do we fund this?

- Tuition (including revenue from the Wisconsin School Voucher program) will be about \$700,000 or 53.9% of total costs.
- Next, we receive \$238,540 in support from Holy Family, St. Mary, and SS. Edward & Joseph parishes. This is another 18.3% of the cost of education.
- The remaining 27.8%, or \$361,460 comes from: fundraising events such as Oktoberfest, the Auction, and raffles.
- Direct appeals to our alumni and other benefactors
- Gifts and scholarships from the Marinette Catholic Central Foundation and other donors.
- Scrip program purchases.
- Income from other funds and bequests set up to benefit the Academy.

Now, more than ever, families are coming to the Academy looking for a student focused, faith filled education and a safe environment. No child is turned away because of financial need. As the school continues to grow, your support is vital to the students at Saint Thomas Aquinas Academy both now and in the future. Thank you for your prayers and continued support.

ANNUAL GIVING CAMPAIGN SUPPORTERS

*Saint Thomas Aquinas Academy is grateful for the generosity and support of
all who have made contributions to our Annual Giving Campaign*

2021-2022

Marlene Aissen
Keith & Barb Akins
Joan Lauerman Alfredson
Anonymous
Janice (Audit) Anderson
Tom Anderson
Paul Anglehart
Michael Audit
Bud & Maureen Bakken
David Bahl
Karen R. Baker (Henke)
Stephen Behnke
Wendy Beland
Marge Berman
Judy (Panske) Beyer
Biehl Construction Co., Inc.
Michelle Biehl
Margo Hamilton Bissen
Bryan J. Borman
Paul Boschaert
Joseph Boucher
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Lyman Wocking
Mary Woleske
Mike & Margaret Wubben
Mary Jo Zilisch
Leo Zoeller

**reflects gifts received
between July 1, 2021 and
June 30, 2022*

Please let us know of any errors or omissions

ANNUAL GIVING CAMPAIGN

SHARE YOUR BELIEF

In 2022, the Academy is celebrating 146 years of Catholic education. We are blessed to be able to share this legacy and honor our founders who believed that Faith is an essential component of a strong education. Their vision and determination continues to impact and inspire our families and our community.

As the Academy continues to grow, so does our need for funding. The income from tuition, grants, parish contributions and fundraising events does not cover the entire cost of educating our students. This is why the Annual Giving Campaign is so important. It bridges the gap between income and expenses and makes it possible to meet the greatest needs of the school everyday.

Making a gift changes lives. Yours, and the lives of our students.

You are sharing the love of God with our students. You are being a faithful steward and sharing your belief in the outcomes of Catholic education. You are saying "Yes, I believe" to each of our students, impacting their future, the future of our Church, and our community.

This year, the Annual Giving Campaign has a goal of \$100,000. Your generosity makes a difference. Every dollar is important, and *no gift is too small* to count.

How can you give? You can send a check, donate securely online, make a distribution from your IRA (RMD), or a gift of appreciated stock. A monthly commitment helps ensure a regular base of support for the Academy and is easy to budget. All gifts are gratefully received and are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

Because you believe, the truth of a Catholic education is a reality for our students and our community now and in the future. With your strong leadership, we will continue to grow and strengthen our mission in the education of the mind and spirit to the glory of God.



• GIVE SECURELY ONLINE AT [HTTPS://WWW.SAINTTHOMASAQUINASACADEMY.ORG/SUPPORT-US](https://www.saintthomasaquinasacademy.org/support-us) •

• MAKE A MONTHLY COMMITMENT • WRITE A CHECK • MAKE A CASH GIFT •

Name: _____ Class of _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

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I Pledge \$ _____ Yearly - Quarterly - Monthly

_____ My check to St. Thomas Aquinas Academy is enclosed.

_____ Please charge my Credit Card:

Exp. Date: _____ / _____ CSC code _____

_____ I have included Saint Thomas Aquinas Academy in my estate plans

_____ I would like the Development Office to contact me.

Please tell us how you would like your gift to be recognized

_____ By name

_____ In Memory or _____ Honor of:

_____ I prefer my gift to be anonymous

Please direct my gift to:

_____ Greatest Need

_____ Tuition Assistance

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING
SAINT THOMAS AQUINAS ACADEMY,
HER STUDENTS AND HER MISSION



ACADEMY CALENDAR

Save the Date

OCTOBER

22 Oktoberfest

NOVEMBER

21-25 Thanksgiving Break

DECEMBER

Holiday Tour of Homes TBA

23- 31 Christmas Break

JANUARY

3 School Resumes

29 Catholic Schools Week begins

FEBRUARY

1-4 Catholic Schools Week cont.

CCAC Pizza Sale - TBA

Winterfest - TBA

MARCH

26 41st Annual Auction

APRIL

3-10 Holy Week / Easter Break

22 Home & School Rummage Sale

MAY

18 Baccalaureate Mass & Awards

19 Graduation - High School Gym

24 Middle School Awards

31 Last Day of School - Students

Please visit our website www.saintthomasaquinasacademy.org for all updated Athletic schedules, Alumni news and school updates.

MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL MOMENTS

