



# MCDONELL AREA CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Est. 1882

1316 BEL AIR BLVD., CHIPPEWA FALLS, WI 54729 • TEL 715.723.0538 • FAX 715.723.1501 • WWW.MACS.K12.WI.US

**Our Mission:** Centered on Jesus Christ and His Church, we partner with families to nurture young people's spiritual, intellectual, physical, and moral formation through a PreK-12 Catholic liberal arts education and vibrant student life of discipleship, athletics, and the arts.

**Our Vision:** MACS will be a beacon of faith, hope, and love by inspiring each student to embrace his or her identity as a beloved son or daughter of God, while discovering and developing their unique gifts. We will immerse students and families in an authentic Catholic culture which fosters love of truth, beauty, and goodness. We will challenge all students to pursue academic excellence, critical thinking, and intellectual inquiry. We will prepare McDonell graduates to be a transforming force within society, sharing the Gospel and working for the common good as productive, virtuous citizens.

Education Commission Agenda  
**Tuesday, April 15, 2025, 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.**  
**McDonell Library/Media Center**

AGENDA	LEAD		NOTES
<b>Welcome and Call to Order (5 Minutes)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Welcome</li><li>• Prayer</li></ul>	Chad Priest	5:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Andy led us in prayer.</li></ul>
<b>Evidence of Mission/Vision (5 Minutes)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Review Mission and Vision</li></ul>	Chad	5:35	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ben represented McDonell well at the schools Kolby club community event. Mary reported that Ben did a wonderful job articulating our programs and mission.</li><li>• Shout out to Fr Kren out at the Chrism Mass and several students led a rosary service in the chapel.</li></ul>
<b>CONSENT AGENDA (10 Minutes)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">March Minutes</a></li><li>• Finance and Facilities Report</li><li>• Technology Report</li><li>• Advancement Report</li><li>• Long-Range Planning Report</li><li>• Enrollment Report</li><li>• Student Services Report</li><li>• Principals' Reports</li><li>• Dean of Academics Report</li></ul>	Chad	5:40	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No objections to approving minutes and consent agenda.</li></ul>
<b>Reports from Parish and Student Representatives (15 Minutes)</b>		5:50	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• St Charles having an Easter meal, all invited.</li><li>• Holy Week this week</li><li>• Fr Tim Oudenhoven will be interim Pastor for Notre Dame, Holy Ghost, and St Bridgets.</li></ul>

<b>Guest Presentations (40 Minutes)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Budget (20 Minutes)</li> <li>Annual Strategic Plan Update (20 minutes)</li> </ul>	Scott & Molly	6:05	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Budget was presented by Scott &amp; Molly.</li> <li>No objections to the budget, all approved.</li> <li>Strategic plan update was provided (slideshow attached and linked <a href="#">here</a>).</li> </ul>
<b>Commission Chair (10 Minutes)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Commission Bylaws Adoption</li> </ul>	Chad	6:45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bylaws were reviewed. Updates and a formal resolution will be provided for approval.</li> </ul>
<b>President's Updates</b> See above	Molly		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>See above</li> </ul>
<b>NEXT Education Commission Meeting</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Listening Session</li> <li>Principal Assessment Reports</li> </ul>	Chad	6:55	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Thursday, May, 15 2025               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meeting will be 5-6 PM and listening session will be 6-7 PM.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Closing Prayer and Adjourn	Priest	7:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chad led us in prayer</li> </ul>

### Membership

Attended	Name	Expertise/Committee	Current Role/Parish/Term
X	Chad Brady	Construction Management & Owners Representation  Executive Committee LRP Committee Finance/Facilities Committee	Chair  Holy Ghost Rep  Term 2.1
X	Andy Shakal	Staff Engineer  Executive Committee Strategic Plan Steering Committee	Vice-Chair  St John's Rep  <b>Term 2.3</b>
X	TJ Proue	Attorney von Briesen & Roper S.C.  Long Range Planning Committee Co-Chair	St Charles Rep  Term 3.2
X	Brian Eslinger	Eslinger Insurance  Committee Assignment - Open	All Saints Rep  Term 2.1
X	Tamara Bohaty	Bohaty Trucking	Holy Cross Rep  Term 2.1
	Erin Brick	Biology & Theology Degrees & Homemaker	Holy Ghost Rep

		Strategic Plan Steering Committee Ad Hoc Dress Code Committee	Term 2.3
X	Bill Eddy	HVAC Project Manager  Committee Assignment - Finance/Facilities	Notre Dame Rep  Term 1.1
X	Scott Siegenthaler	Assistant Director Financial Aid UWEC  Long Range Planning Committee	Notre Dame Rep  Term 3.2
	<b>OPEN</b>		Sacred Heart Rep  Term
X	Tracy Bormann	Director of Human Resources  Advancement Advisory Committee	St Bridget's Rep  Term 2.2
	Justus Busse	Deputy Chief Fire/EMS  Safety and Emergency Procedures Co-Chair Ad Hoc Pandemic Committee	St Charles Rep  Term 3.1
	<b>OPEN</b>		St Paul's Rep  Term 1.3
X	Diane Herron	Medical Degree & Homemaker  Faith Boosters	St Peter's Rep  Term 1.3
X	Tony Willkom	Committee Assignment TBD	At-Large Rep  St. Charles  Term 1.1
	<b>OPEN</b>		At-Large Rep  TBD  Term (start fall 25-26)

#### Ex-Officio

	Fr Jesse Burish	Chippewa Falls Deanery	Dean
	Fr Alex Kren	McDonell Area Catholic Schools	Chaplain
X	Molly Bushman	McDonell Area Catholic Schools	President

X	Mary Huffcutt	McDonell Area Catholic Schools	Dean of Academics
	Eric Wedemeyer	McDonell Area Catholic Schools	Principal ND/McD 6-12
X	Gwen Doyle	McDonell Area Catholic Schools	Holy Ghost 3-5
X	Jamie Dodge	McDonell Area Catholic Schools	St Charles 3K-2
X	Scott Sokup	McDonell Area Catholic Schools	Controller

#### **Student Representatives**

X	Ben Siegenthaler	McDonell Area Catholic Schools	Senior Representative
	Lilian McDonald	McDonell Area Catholic Schools	Junior Representative

#### **Director of Finance and Facilities Scott Sokup**

- Budget for the 2025-2026 Fiscal year has been sent to all Commission Members, we will be reviewing on today's meeting and looking for an approval
- Working on Summer Projects list.
  - Floor scrub and wax at Holy Ghost
  - Floor Scrub and Wax at St Charles
  - Floor scrub and wax at McDonell classrooms, strip and wax commons and hallways
  - Paint several classrooms at McDonell
  - Paint hallways at St Charles
  - Refinish two classrooms hardwood floors at St Charles
  - Work on McDonell kitchen and walls to put up a moisture resistant panel as the paint is peeling
  - Replace broken bleacher boards at McDonell and work on the drive system
  - Carpet replacement at one of K rooms at St Charles
  - Clean up at the new land and maintenance of trails
- Facility committee met in April
  - Working on defining the finish floor type for the auditorium project so we can determine the level of floor prep during abatement
  - Working on AC/ air movement options with various vendors, Bill Eddie will be helping consult on this project.
  - Working on a plan for the new land for educational usage in the short term, practice field, trails and outdoor classrooms

#### **Director of IT - Val Knobloch**

- Interim Consultant to assist with transition to new IT Coordinator
- Review current network and replace/update MDF (main closet) system switches
- Review current and legacy server transition - Complete transition
- Review Hardware recommendations for transition from 1:1
- Review & update current technology plan and make recommendations as needed
- Review and certify eRate category 1 and 2 - Completed 3/26/25

- Update UPS data file for all 14 data closets on campus and prepare for replacement batteries and APC devices.

**Director of Advancement Amber Leibrandt:**

- 

**Enrollment Coordinator - Mary Beth Pfeiffer**

- 

**Long Range Planning - TJ Proue**

- 

**PRINCIPAL REPORTS**

***St Charles Grades 3K-2 - Principal Mrs Jamie Dodge:***

- **Review:**
  - **Franciscan Friars Visit St. Charles!**
    - We were blessed to welcome the Franciscan Friars to St. Charles this week! They shared about their vocation and the incredible work they do in service to God and others. Our students loved singing songs with them and had the opportunity to ask thoughtful questions about their lives and faith. It was a joyful and faith-filled visit that left a lasting impression on everyone!
  - **Virtue Puzzle Completed!**
    - Throughout the month of March, our students worked hard to demonstrate virtuous habits—showing kindness, respect, responsibility, and more. As a reward for completing our Virtue Mystery Puzzle, they earned a well-deserved Ice Cream & Popsicle Social!
    - At the end of the day last Friday, we all gathered outside to enjoy our special treat. The students had a blast playing together on the playground and the field—it was a joyful way to celebrate their positive choices and our strong school community!
  - **Learning from Each Other**
    - Over the past few weeks, our teachers had the opportunity to observe their colleagues in action—focusing on areas they wanted to grow in or learn more about. Whether it was classroom management, instructional strategies, or student engagement, our staff shared how valuable it was to see their peers' strengths in action.
    - The feedback I received was incredibly positive, and it was clear that this experience sparked inspiration and meaningful reflection. I plan to make this a regular part of our professional growth, offering peer observations once in the fall and once in the spring moving forward. We grow stronger when we grow together.
- **What's Happening Now...**
  - We will be participating in a Statewide Tornado Drill on April 10th.
  - Father Nowicki will be visiting our students on April 11th.
  - Only 3 more sessions left of Ignite the Light.
- **Coming Soon...**

- We're looking forward to a very special *Terrific Tuesday* on April 22! We'll begin the day by **raising the Alleluia**, joyfully celebrating the Easter season as a school community.
- Also on April 22nd, we'll join together with **MACS middle school students** for **#TheMACWay**, participating in a variety of activities that celebrate faith, community, and our shared values. It's sure to be a day full of connection, joy, and school spirit!
- Join us for our **Spring Hymn Festival** on **Thursday, April 25th at 12:30 PM** at **St. Charles Borromeo Church**. Our students have been working hard to prepare beautiful music to praise God and celebrate the joy of the Easter season. Families and friends are warmly invited to come and experience this uplifting musical event!
- We have two meaningful **Mission Days** coming up, offering our students and families the opportunity to support others in our wider community:
  - **Thursday, April 17:** We will be collecting donations for "**Single Mom Saturday**," a special event where single mothers receive free car maintenance and get to enjoy a fun day with their children.
  - **Thursday, May 9:** We will gather donations in support of **Agnes' Table**, an organization that provides meals and support for those in need.
- All school Field Trip to Irvine Park on **May 16th**.
- Teacher & Staff Appreciation Week is **May 5-9th**.
- Macs in Motion on **May 19th**
- **All School Adoration** on **May 19th**.
- **First Communion Celebration Mass** on **May 21st**
- **4K Graduation** on **May 21st @ 5-7 pm**.

### ***Holy Ghost 3-5 - Principal Mrs Gwen Doyle***

#### **Review:**

- Holy Ghost students went to see the Fly Dance Company at the Heyde Center. The group talked about the culture of Hip Hop in a very engaging presentation, and some students got to go up on stage and try out some dance moves. They spoke about the importance of eating healthy and working hard.
- Holy Ghost students are being encouraged to call out other students on showing virtues and then present these paws during Terrific Tuesday assemblies to encourage moral development and faith-based living in their peers.
- Holy Ghost teachers are taking turns observing each other to encourage professional growth through shared strategies and stronger collaboration and trust– ultimately leading to greater student success.

#### **Current:**

- This is a busy testing month!
  - Easy CBM: Taken by 4th and 5th grade to measure reading and math growth
  - Forward: Taken by Choice students
  - Acadience: Taken by 3rd grade students to measure reading and math growth

- **MAPS: Taken by all students to measure reading and math growth.**
- **CLT: 5th graders will be piloting the Classical Learning Test this year to potentially replace MAPS across all grade levels. We hope that the data and analysis will better align with our Catholic Liberal Arts approach and better guide our instruction.**
- **The system will have a tornado drill on Thursday, April 10th.**
- **Our virtue of the month is MODESTY: “Be pure in what we say and do!”**

#### **Future:**

- **We have fun plans for #TheMackWay Day on April 22nd and look forward to celebrating as a community and serving others. One addition this year will be welcoming high school students to lead a short activity on “Earth Day”. We will also walk to Chippewa Manor, decorate coffee cup sleeves, and have a Kahoot competition!**
- **We have two Mission Days coming up in the next month: Thursday, April 17th, we will be accepting donations for “Single Mom Saturday” in which single mothers get their cars serviced and also have a fun day with their kids. On May 9th, we will collect donations to support Agnes Table.**
- **Several field trips are in the works:**
  - **3rd grade is heading to Beaver Creek**
  - **4th grade is heading to the Chippewa Area History Center and Past Passed Here**
  - **5th grade is heading to the Shrine**

#### ***Notre Dame and McDonell Grades 6-12 - Principal Mr Eric Wedemeyer:***

##### **High School Scheduling Building**

Next year's High School students have begun registering for their classes for the 2024-25 school year next week. As we calculate numbers for each class section and start the process of building the course schedule for next school year. The teachers in all departments have met with school administration to voice any changes or needs for next year. Thank you to our School Counselors, Mrs. Jimenez and Mr. Baierl for working on leading this process.

##### **Lenten activities**

###### **Reconciliation**

Notre Dame and McDonell students had the opportunity to receive the sacrament of reconciliation on Monday, April 14.

###### **Stations of the Cross**

On Wednesday, April 16 two High School members of the MACS Kolbe club will lead the Stations of the Cross for our entire Middle School.

##### **International Students**

We are currently reviewing applications for International students. Our goal is to accept 10 Students from different countries to spend the '25-'26 school year at McDonell. Through this process we will be searching for host families for the students that we accept.

##### **High School Students honored**

Each spring we have students honored for high academic and athletic achievements. The Cloverbelt conference honors two scholars from each school as well as two scholar-athletes from each school in the conference. Each student honored selects their most influential educator. Below are the McDonell students honored at these banquets this spring and the educator that they selected.

Cloverbelt Scholar

David Andersen - Mrs. Greta Jorgensen

Olivia Heidtke - Mr. Scott Siegenthaler

Cloverbelt Scholar-Athlete

Kendall Hepfler- Coach Eric Wedemeyer

Cooper Mittermeyer - Coach Alex Baierl

In addition to the Conference scholar banquets the Chippewa Chamber of Commerce recognizes the top 5% of the graduating seniors from both Chippewa Falls public High School and McDonell High School. These students also get to choose and honor an influential person that has inspired them. Below are the McDonell students and their selected educator:

Excellence in Education

David Andersen - Mr. Peter Thoma

Olivia Heidtke - Mr. Tom Ruff

Sarah Buchmann - Deacon Sean Hanson

**#MackWay Day Plan**

On Tuesday, April 22 (Earth Day) both McDonell and Notre Dame students will participate in our annual MackWay Day. The day is set aside for community service and other community building activities for our students and staff. The day started with a breakfast being served to all students, staff and community members. Our Notre Dame students will spend much of the morning doing activities in the building and then walking to St. Charles school to read to our primary students and help in the building in any other capacities. The morning for our High School students has them split into several groups and traveling to various places for some community volunteer work. Teacher chaperones will lead groups to: Holy Ghost school, Christ Lutheran School, Irvine and Casper Park, Milestone Early Education Center, Dove Healthcare Center, Economy Furniture, Feed My People foodbank, Notre Dame church and the Chippewa Manor. The afternoon will allow for our students to display their theater, musical and athletic abilities with a talent show and a volleyball tournament. It was a wonderful day of bonding and growing within the mission of our school.

**Dean of Academics Mary Huffcutt**

- Nurturing Students discussion around Objective 4.1 & 4.2 took place. Goal 4: Challenge students to explore how their unique gifts may be used in their career choices and being productive, virtuous students.
- History refresh conversations at the Holy Ghost level. Looked over a resource from St. Patrick's curriculum.
- [April's virtue](#) information was sent to all staff. April's virtue is modesty.



## Meeting Dates for 2024-25 Education Commission Meetings

August	Thursday, August 15
September	Thursday, September 19
October	Thursday, October 17 (Listening Session)
November	Tuesday, November 19 Joint CFAUSD (CFAUSD hosts this year)
December	Thursday, December 19
January	Thursday, January 16
February	Thursday, February 20
March	Thursday, March 20
April	Tuesday April 15
May	Thursday, May 15 (Listening Session)
June	Schedule Only If Needed
July	Generally, No Meeting

## Commission Presentations - Topic/Presenter/Meeting

Club/Committee/Department	Chairperson or Dept. Head	Month	Topic of Presentation/Notes
Mental Health	School Counselors	Sept	
Dress Code Update/Dialogue	Ad hoc committee chair/principals	Sept	
Listening Session	All	Oct.	Try to do fall survey in conjunction with the fall feedback survey
Safety Committee/EMEROPS	Safety Comm Chair	Oct.	
Advancement/Alumni	Amber Leibrandt and AA President	Nov	
Tuition and Salary Scale approval	Scott Sokup	Nov	
Music/Arts	Sean Hanson/Annette Hunt	Dec	
Athletics	Bryce Mederven and Greg Misfeldt	Dec	
Faith/Campus Ministry	Michael Van Hemert and Fr. Kren/CMC	Jan	
Enrollment/Admissions	?? and Molly Bushman	Feb	Also in monthly consent agenda
Technology	Josh McCormick	Feb	
Academics/Curriculum	Mary Huffcutt and Diane Hietpas	Mar	Tie in Nurturing our Students reports
Budget	Scott Sokup and Molly Bushman	April	New timeline with Diocese
Principal Reports - Assessments	Eric W, Gwen D, Jamie D	April	
Strat Plan Annual Update/Listening Session	Molly Bushman	May	
Long Range Planning	T.J. Proue and Fr Jesse Burish	As needed	

## Action Plan

**Overall Goal(s)** - Underlying objectives/goals may be chunked up over the next years to meet these overall goals.

1. Become more active as a commission.

<b>Goal</b> <i>What is "Point B" that I want to reach by the end of this school year? (Cross reference Strategic Plan if applicable.)</i>	<b>Current Status</b> <i>What is "Point A" i.e. what is the status of this goal</i>	<b>Objective</b> <i>Break down "Point B" into smaller bites, i.e. incremental goals to bridge the gap between Point A and Point B.</i>	<b>Strategies and Action Steps</b> <i>For each objective, list action steps with an estimated timeline.</i>	<b>Evidence of Success</b> <i>Please document your success! You can add links to other documents or reference meeting minutes.</i>
<b>Commissioners participate in faith formation activities.</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Pursue regular attendance/participation in faith formation events. Eg: Catholicism on Tap.</li> <li>- Commission participation in one faith based event this year would be wonderful.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Chair to connect with each commissioner regularly.</li> <li>- Commissioners should share upcoming activities over the course of the annual term.</li> <li>- Participation in evangelization opportunities.</li> <li>- Commission attend Catholicism on Tap or other faith based event.</li> <li>- Commissioners participate with the school prayer team.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Commissioners provide updates on activities participated in.</li> </ul>
<b>MACS Education Commissioners to strengthen the tie with their respective parish via regular communication with their pastor and parish council.</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Establish regular communication with pastor and parish council, regarding items covered at Education Commission meetings and events , activities, etc. at MACS.</li> <li>- Become engaged with those parents and students represented.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Commissioners establish meeting schedule with their respective pastor and parish council.</li> <li>- Chair to provide one pager after each meeting that can be distributed by each commissioner to their respective counterparts.</li> <li>- Chair can be available for participation in a discussion as required.</li> <li>- Commissioners invite parents and parishioners</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Copying the Chair and Vice Chair on your communications will help maintain continuity.</li> </ul>

			to the listening sessions and our commission meetings.	
<b>MACS Education Commission will ensure ongoing continuity in governance and update the bylaws.</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Vote for Chair &amp; Vice Chair for next term.</li><li>- Update bylaws for succession plan.</li><li>- Update bylaws with updated committees and other info as necessary.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Chair to work on a succession plan to present to the commission for comment.</li><li>- Chair to provide redlined bylaws for commission approval.</li><li>- Chair to hold vote in May.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Approved revisions</li><li>- Modified and approved bylaws</li><li>- Voting held</li></ul>