



# MCDONELL AREA CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Est. 1882

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**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 McDonnell graduates to be a transforming force within society, sharing the Gospel and working for the common good as productive, virtuous citizens.

Education Commission Agenda  
**Thursday, March 20, 2025, 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.**  
**McDonnell 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>Fr Kren lead the 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>Dorian music festival took place earlier this month and we had a few participate.</li> <li>Mission trip was late February, several students went on this trip to Peru. Everyone has shared that the trip was well worth it and had a positive impact on everyone's lives. Positive feedback from the mission administration. Thought is to continue biannually - not sure if winter or summer going forward.</li> <li>Mass attendance by high schoolers at Sunday Masses has increased. Including adoration hours at Goldsmiths</li> <li>Eric gave a shout out to Mary Huffcut for her involvement and drive to implement our Catholic Liberal Arts Education curriculum and keeping everyone on track with the mission.</li> </ul>
<b>CONSENT AGENDA (10 Minutes)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">February 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> </ul>	Chad	5:40	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Molly will email out enrollment presentation.</li> <li>This years inductees for National Honor Society was the largest ever.</li> <li>Half of this years seniors are not planning to attend the senior trip.</li> <li>No objections to last months minutes or this months consent agenda.</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Principals' Reports</li> <li>• Dean of Academics Report</li> </ul>			
<b>Reports from Parish and Student Representatives (15 Minutes)</b>		5:50	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monsignor Gorman is retiring after 45 years. June 21st is his party.</li> <li>• Fr Burish is departing for Rome at the end of April. April 12th at 5:30 at the GREC.</li> <li>• NHS is putting on a drive for monetary and supply donations.</li> <li>• Seminary trip was a great trip, a lot of participation.</li> <li>• Kolby club presented to Holy Ghost students, and was well delivered and received.</li> <li>• Healing Mass this Sunday at Immaculate Conception. Mass at 10:30 with adoration and healing service to follow.</li> </ul>
<b>Guest Presentations (40 Minutes)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Building our Future: Feasibility Study brief presentation and Q&amp;A</li> <li>• Academics/Curriculum</li> </ul>	<p>Adam from PIM</p> <p>Mary Huffcutt and Diane Hietpas and Vanessa</p>	6:05	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Molly introduced Adam and the process underway to determine the feasibility of the capital campaign.</li> <li>• June 19th is the date that Adam and team will be presenting the results of the study to the Commission. Adam is here to present the process and next steps in preparation of reviewing the study.</li> <li>• Looking at schools advancement function and how the campaign will work with the current processes.</li> <li>• Case statement development has begun. Significant facilities changes have been identified.</li> <li>• Working to put group together that would be potential financial partners and heavy supporters of the school. A subset of them will be interviewed to gauge awareness and levels of participation (monetary and volunteerism) in the campaign.</li> <li>• If anyone on the commission knows of anyone that would be willing to participate, please send them to Molly and Amber know.</li> </ul>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Critical to have the right people in the room.</li> <li>● Need the Commission involved every step of the way and championing the process.</li> <li>● Case statement will be assembled by May 1st. Interviews will begin the first week of June.</li> <li>● Reports and Presentation handed out is attached.</li> <li>● Student support services program - 2025 overview presented by Diane and Vanessa - Kids are assessed at the beginning of the school year and a plan is assembled with the teacher. Ongoing review with the parents occurs twice per month. Meeting with students regularly but varies by student. Some daily, some weekly. Quarterly reports are required to be sent to parents but try to meet with parents more regularly.</li> <li>● Liberal Arts Education - presented by Mary.</li> <li>● We are still in partnership with the University of Dallas.</li> <li>●</li> </ul>
<b>Commission Chair (5 Minutes)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Discuss WIAA potential rule changes</li> </ul>	Chad	6:45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● With the new rules presented to be voted on at the WIAA annual meeting, our AD works with admin and coaches to come up with plan for voting and implementation.</li> </ul>
<b>President's Updates (5 Minutes)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <a href="#">Staffing Updates</a></li> <li>● Spring Spectacular March 29th</li> <li>● Blessing Ceremony/Campaign Feasibility launch update</li> </ul>	Molly	6:50	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Blessing of the new land is April 23rd from 4-6.</li> <li>● Process consultant provided input on more effective teamwork of the staff. implementation of the recommendations has begun and is ongoing.</li> </ul>
<b>NEXT Education Commission Meeting</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Budget</li> <li>● Principal Reports (Assessment)</li> </ul>	Chad	6:55	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Tuesday, April, 15 2025 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Scott Sokup &amp; Molly</li> <li>○ Jamie, Gwen, Eric</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Closing Prayer and Adjourn	Priest	7:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●</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  Term 2.3
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
X	Erin Brick	Biology & Theology Degrees & Homemaker  Strategic Plan Steering Committee Ad Hoc Dress Code Committee	Holy Ghost Rep  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
X	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
	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
X	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
X	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**

- Facilities split off from Finance this month and had our first meeting. We worked on the Auditorium refresh as well as discussed maintenance for the new land acquisition.
- Working on the 25-26 Budget. Budget will go in front of the Finance Committee the last week of March, and then will be presented to the Education Commission on **April 15th**.
- Summer Project planning is underway, we will have a full list for the commission in the upcoming months. Will focus on waxing floors, painting some classrooms and hallways at the various buildings.
- We are in the process of converting our payroll system to Paycor. This is about an 8 week implementation process, and we just completed the first initial data upload to Paycor. At this point we expect to have the system live in June. The new system will have electronic time cards, employees can request time off electronically and managers can approve electronically. This should cut down a lot of the paperwork we process each payroll, and reduce the data entry work for each payroll. As we get further down the line in the implementation process we will have a full communication out to all staff and some training modules for them to complete.

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

- Val Knobloch will be filling the role of IT Director till someone new is hired. Val works about 20 hours a week on average.
- We are still working through the details of how the Department will be structured, and will likely complete that work by the end of March or early April.

### **Director of Advancement Amber Leibrandt:**

- **A.B. McDonell Vision Fund:**
  - Annual Fund Goal of \$300,000 update: We are at 146% of goal at \$439,261 with 369 gifts from 262 donors. 27 new donors to the organization.
  - What can the Commission do to support? Education is the key. Like, Engage, and Share SM posts, consider supporting the vision fund with any size gift and encourage others to be engaged. It would be amazing to say that we have 100% support from our Education Commission.
  - The MACS Alumni Giving Competition has launched. March 1-April 15th. We have engagement from the Boomers and Generation-X so far. This is year two of a grassroots effort to primarily engage the 2022-1980 alumni in annual giving. The effort encourages school engagement and class comradery through peer reach out.
- **Major Gifts/Capital Campaign Prep:**
  - We continue to cultivate feasibility study members. We have secured Partners in Mission (PIM) to start the feasibility study pre-work. We have a working timeline, documents, and due dates in place. Katie Thieman and Adam Ehrmantraut, PIM Consultants spent a day here on-site to help us prepare for the case statement development, financial rationale, ongoing timeline, and answered any campaign related questions. Thank you to those who have submitted names for the feasibility study. It is not too late, feel free to send any additional names you have by April 1st.
- **Planned Giving:**
  - We are receiving Declaration of Intent forms from the initial mailing to the planned giving donors on our list. If you would like more information about our Planned Giving Program, McDonell Future of Hope Alliance, please reach out. We are still on track to hard launch the new planned giving program in the Spring in the Mack Messenger. The Advancement article for the Spring Mack Messenger will include an article about the impact of an estate

gift, the Dupey Estate which enabled us to make the recent land purchase. We will also publish a list of Future of Hope Alliance and Legacy of Hope members.

- **Events:**

- **March 29th:** MACS Spring Spectacular features the nationally renowned comedian, Dan Deibert, a plated meal by the same catering company that serves Country & Rock Fest VIP & Corporate, silent auctions, a fund-a-need, and more. The Virtual Silent Auction is Live with new items added daily. You do not need to attend the event to bid and win. The Fund-a-Need focus will be an auditorium revamp. The MACS Spring Raffle is doing very well. The committee is hoping to sell 2,500 tickets at \$20 per ticket securing \$50,000 just in gross raffle revenue. We have currently sold 739 tickets. We encourage our Education Commission Members to join us in supporting this new event. Raffle tickets and Event tickets are available online.
- **April 23rd from 4-6pm Blessing of the New Land:** Save the Date! We would like as many of our Commission members to be present as possible. This will be a land blessing by Father Burish and attended by many other special guests. Invitations will be coming soon.

- **Grants:**

- The 1Q 2025 Annmarie Foundation was approved for \$4,160.00. We were notified that the additional foundation grant will also be awarded for 25-26. The BEET grants, Davis Foundation, and Prevail Grants are pending. The US Bank Community Play Grant, DPI Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program Grant for School Year 2025-26 one application per site (4/11), Integrated Life Foundation Grant, WCRIS School Safety Grants, and Mayo Foundation Grant (4/1) will be applied for.

- **Operations & Administration:** We continue to work with Jillian to finalize process documents and workflow. Data management and updating continues to be both a key component to success and a definite area of opportunity. The Finance Department and Advancement continue to work on streamline workflows and ways to enhance reporting and reconciliation. The area of volunteerism is an additional area of opportunity as well as the continuation of collaboration between all MACS Boosters, committees, and organizations.

### **Enrollment Coordinator - Mary Beth Pfeiffer**

St. Charles Little Macks - Goal 14-16

7 enrolled, 8 pending

St. Charles Borromeo - Goal 157/Total enrolled 123

4K - 14 enrolled (24 needed)

Half day 4K - 3 enrolled (10 needed)

K - 30 enrolled

1st - 36

2nd - 40

Holy Ghost - Goal 110/ Total enrolled/in process 108

Notre Dame - Goal 145/ Total enrolled/in process 136

McDonnell - Goal 210/ Total enrolled/in proces 203 not including International Students

Saturday, March 22 - 3K, 4K, and Kindergarten Playdate & Open House

## Long Range Planning - TJ Proue

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## PRINCIPAL REPORTS

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

### Recap

- **February 27:** Our 4K students showcased their creativity at the **Art Show**. They did a beautiful job, and all their hard work truly shined!
- **March 4:** As a school community, we participated in the **burning of the palms** with Monsignor and Fr. Kern. We also **buried the Alleluia**, marking the beginning of Lent.
- A **nutritionist** visited St. Charles to speak with all students about the importance of healthy foods and habits. It was a great learning opportunity for everyone!

### Happening Now

- **Enrollment Update:** We've been focusing on enrollment, and spots are filling up quickly! We have **17 inquiries for 3K**, but we can only accept **16**, so we're nearing full capacity. For **4K**, we have **7 students** interested in the **half-day** option, so we'll be moving forward with that. If you know anyone interested in **St. Charles**, please refer them for a **tour** to learn more about our amazing school!
- **March 22 – Playdate Event:** We're excited to host a **playdate for current and incoming 3K, 4K, and K families** on **Saturday, March 22, from 9:30-11 am**. The event includes **gym activities, a craft, a snack**, and a chance for parents to meet with the principal and the enrollment coordinator. It's also a great way to build community!
- **Camp Macks Enrollment:** Enrollment for **Camp Macks** is open, and we already have **58 students signed up** for this summer! Spots are limited, so be sure to enroll soon.

### Coming Up...

- **March 24 – Stations of the Cross:** On **Monday, March 24, at 1:30 pm**, we will pray the **Stations of the Cross** with Monsignor at the church.
- **March 31 – School in Session:** Due to the number of snow days, school **will be in session** on **March 31** to add more instructional time.
- **April 25 – K-2 Spring Hymn Festival:** Join us at **12:30 pm** at **St. Charles Borromeo Church** for our **K-2 Spring Hymn Festival!** The kids will be singing their favorite hymns from this year.
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*Holy Ghost Grades 3-5 - Principal Mrs Gwen Doyle:*

## Review:

Our math consultant visit resulted in a potential new communication to families to help parents understand what their children are learning and how they are doing.

Kayla Olmstead visited Holy Ghost to talk about nutritious food choices during physical education classes on Friday, March 7th. Students were receptive and engaged.

## Present:

Our virtue of the month is “Perseverance”, which means to keep going when things get tough. At our last assembly, we talked about telling each other, “You’ve got this.” Our student council created a bulletin board that reads, “When life gives you lemons, make lemonade.” We look forward to the Kolbe Club visiting on March 18th.

Book clubs continue to bring conversation and joy to students. 3rd grade is reading *Black Beauty*, 4th grade *The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe* and 5th grade *The Hobbit*. All students come with questions and are learning how to dig into the text and find evidence to support their answers throughout discussion.

Students are in the midst of a recorder unit in music class after reviewing note names and durations. Many students brought home their recorders over spring break to treat their parents!

## Future:

The 4th graders will take a trip to Madison on March 25th and will tour the Capitol, the History Center, and the Veteran’s Museum. This year, we have eleven parents chaperoning.

Student council just began our planning of #TheMackWay Day on April 22nd and look forward to high school students joining us to visit the Chippewa Manor as well as a few other activities centered around the facets of our mission: physical, moral, intellectual, and spiritual.

We will be looking to formulate our Act 20 promotion policy in May. This policy will help us more closely determine and set plans for the students who are reading below grade level. We are already a step ahead of the plan as we sent out Intervention letters to all students receiving intervention. Updates are sent home monthly as we talk about student progress at data talks.

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

### National Honors Society

On Monday, February 24 we formally inducted this year's chapter of the National Honors Society. 32 students were chosen by a select number of faculty for this year's chapter. This is the largest group that we've had in recent years. The ceremony was led by our NHS advisors Mrs. Greta Jorgensen and Mrs. Wendy Buchman. Honorees were selected under the four criteria: Scholarship, Character, Leadership and Service. Congratulations to our newest members! We now have a total of 59 students that are members of the NHS.

### High School Scheduling Building

Next year's High School students will begin registering for their classes for the 2024-25 school year next week. As this process continues we'll monitor the numbers for each class and create the sections for each class. 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.

### Class Retreats

On Monday, March 24 and Tuesday, March 25 will be faith retreat days for our Juniors and Sophomores. On these days, each class will be transported to Notre Dame GREC to participate in a full day retreat put on the NET team.

### Lenten activities

#### 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.

#### Reconciliation

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

### Senior Class Trip

Next week 27 of our 47 Seniors are traveling out east on their Class trip. They spend two days and nights in our Nation's Capital, one night in Gettysburg, PA after touring the battlefield before traveling to and spending the last two days of the trip in New York City.

### 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.

### New Attendance Policy Rollout

The new minimum attendance requirement has been added to the '25-'26 handbook that will be posted on our website by the end of next week. This policy requires all students to be present for 85% of the days for each class to achieve credit for the class.

### **Dean of Academics Mary Huffcutt**

- Continued work on the strategic plan. Goal is to have action plans for each of the objectives due by June 15.
- Working on history/social studies and world language curriculum cycle updates to reflect mission and vision for the 25-26 school year
- Holy Ghost 5th grade class will be piloting the summative assessment, Classical Learning Test. We are evaluating assessments to ensure we are using time wisely by getting information that will help drive instructional decisions and needed interventions.

## 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

<b>Club/Committee/Department</b>	<b>Chairperson or Dept. Head</b>	<b>Month</b>	<b>Topic of Presentation/Notes</b>
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	