



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

Education Commission Minutes
Thursday, September 19, 2024, 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.
McDonell Library/Media Center

AGENDA	LEAD		NOTES
Welcome and Call to Order (5 Minutes) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Welcome• Prayer• Introduce new Student Representative Lilian McDonald and new ND representative Bill Eddy	Chad Priest Chad	5:30	Fr. Burish led Prayer of St. Francis
Evidence of Mission/Vision (5 Minutes) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review Mission and Vision	Chad	5:35	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Eric shared story of new student being mentored by current student and positive feedback• St. Charles school staff and students gathered for prayer for people hurt at apple orchard (community incident), students expressed that prayer is the best way we can help someone• Lilian shared the "Finding Jesus" game for homecoming was a success for community building
CONSENT AGENDA (5 Minutes) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Finance and Facilities Report• Technology Report• Advancement Report• Long-Range Planning Report• Enrollment Report• Student Services Report• Principals' Reports• Dean of Academics Report	Chad	5:40	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Football decision shared by Eric: after significant deliberations and football program stakeholder feedback; we will be filling to transfer to 11 man program in 2026, considering "fast track" option for 11 man in 25 season (subject to WIAA approval) as 8-man program will be ineligible for playoffs starting 2025 due to

			<p>3-year average enrollment over 200 at high school</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deadline to submit is October 1, 2024 • Important to develop a cohesive youth program with the goal of a minimum of 8-10 boys per grade playing
<p>Reports from Parish and Student Representatives (15 Minutes)</p>		5:45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St. Charles parish council: desire that MACS families are active parishioners, Msgr. Gorman would like to meet these families; St. Peter's school dwindling in size; encouraged that MACS students are being given time to attend EDGE/Lifeteen • ND: Convent is down, bricks are available for anyone to take; Adoration chapel is open again • HG: church is shut down for renovation/painting with anticipated reopening on December 22nd at 10:30 a.m. (Bishop will attend to bless new altar); need for more HG volunteers for Oktoberfest Booth • Ben: Homecoming week this week, FB game is Friday, dance 8-10 Saturday; fall sports going strong, pep rally Friday at 2:30 p.m.; student attendance is going well
<p>Guest Presentation (15 Minutes)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mental Health Services Coordinator 	Kelsey Jimenez	6:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <input type="checkbox"/> MHC Committee Presentation • suggestion to check how many parents are accessing new resources
<p>Catholic Mission Team Updates (10 Minutes)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mission Trip • Other 	Fr. Kren	6:15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Casa Hogar trip in February: 7 current applicants (juniors/seniors), may open up to younger students; need one more chaperone • Seminary bball tourney Feb 28-March 2
<p>Dress Code Report (10 Minutes)</p>	Principals	6:25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jamie: common infraction at SC is wrong color shirt; works hard to communicate this with parents, will use clothing exchange closet to offer suitable shirts if needed; wants to provide parent resources • Gwen: common infractions at HG are purple shirts, joggers; forgotten PE clothes are also part of dress code policy • SC/HG discussing adding a plaid option • Eric: normal day is "business casual" while Mass day is "semi-formal/business formal"; themed weeks/days can be a challenge on what is acceptable e.g. "twin day"; issues arise on especially hot days (modesty) or cold days (hoodies); boys are required to wear ties on Mass days;

			<p>for the most part compliance is pretty good on normal days</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Could uniform/dress code exchange be extended up to grades 6-12? • Would the school ever consider uniforms for middle-high school? mental health positives referenced by Mrs. Jimenez • Chair will talk with Erin Brick (chair of ad hoc dress code committee) and bring to a future agenda
Commission Chair (10 Minutes) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nearing End of Terms • Upcoming Events 	Chad	6:35	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See Below List • Erin Brick and Andy Shakal nearing end of second term (need to consult pastor regarding extension to third term) • TJ Proue and Scott Siegenthaler nearing end of third term (need replacement) • Two at-large openings • Need representative for tuition committee
President's Updates (15 Minutes) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Plan Progress: Action Plan in progress (tabled to October) • Joint listening session planning for October • Annual Seclusion and Restraint Report: 0 incidents 2023-24 	Molly	6:45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint meeting sounds appropriate, need to ensure that timeline is tight and the meeting does not drag on. • Parents will be invited to presubmit questions
NEXT Education Commission Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listening Session • Safety Committee/EMEROPS triennial review 	Chad	7:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thursday, October 17, 2024 • TWO HOUR MEETING due to listening session
Closing Prayer and Adjourn	Priest	7:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fr. Kren led a Glory Be

Membership

X	Chad Brady	Construction Consultant Executive Committee LRP Committee Finance/Facilities Committee	Chair Holy Ghost Rep Term 2.1
X	Andy Shakal	Staff Engineer Executive Committee	Vice-Chair St John's Rep Term 2.3

		Strategic Plan Steering Committee	
X	TJ Proue	Attorney von Briesen & Roper S.C. Long Range Planning Committee Co-Chair	St Charles Rep Term 3.2
	Brian Eslinger	Eslinger Insurance Committee Assignment - Open	All Saints Rep Term 2.1
EX	Tamara Bohaty	Bohaty Trucking	Holy Cross Rep Term 2.1
EX	Erin Brick	Homemaker (Biology and Theology degrees) 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
	OPEN?		Sacred Heart Rep Term
XV	Tracy Bormann	Director of Human Resources Advancement Advisory Committee	St Bridget's Rep Term 2.2
EX	Justus Busse	Deputy Chief Fire/EMS Safety and Emergency Procedures Co-Chair Ad Hoc Pandemic Committee	St Charles Rep Term 3.1
EX	Victoria Silvas?		St Paul's Rep Term 1.3
EX	Diane Herron	Homemaker Faith Boosters	St Peter's Rep Term 1.3
	OPEN		At-Large Rep Term
	OPEN		At-Large Rep Term

Ex-Officio

XV	Fr Jesse Burish	Chippewa Falls Deanery	Dean
XV	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
EX	Kathleen Adams	McDonell Area Catholic Schools	Executive Administrative Assistant

Student Representatives

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

Director of Finance and Facilities Scott Sokup

No report

Director of IT Josh McCormick

- We have been awarded a grant to get our buildings digitally mapped. This will provide first responders and 911 telecommunicators with interactive maps in case of emergencies in our building. We are currently exploring vendors to complete this.
- Connections from FACTS to WISEdata have been completed for state reporting
- New software for our libraries are being implemented
- We have responded to 92 work tickets since the start of the school year

Director of Advancement Amber Leibrandt

1. The Annual Advancement Plan has been created, reviewed, and approved. Annual Fund, Major Gifts, Events, and Planned Giving all have goals that coincide with their areas.
2. A.B. McDonell Vision Fund will kick off Sept. 26th. As an Education Commission member, please consider supporting the Annual Fund. A.B. McDonell Vision Fund (Annual Fund) is at 10% of its goal as of today.
3. Advancement is planning an alumni visit to the Madison, Milwaukee, Chicago area in November.
4. Both our Fundraising Events have moved. Sunday, January 26th we will kick off Catholic Schools Week with the MACS Spaghetti Spectacular and Kids Carnival. The Spring Gala will be held on Saturday, March 29th.
5. Advancement is creating a soft launch of the revamped planned giving program this fall with a formal public launch in the Spring Mack Messenger. New program name: MACS Future of Hope Alliance for planned gifts and MACS Legacy of Hope members for fulfilled estate gifts. As part of a comprehensive planned giving marketing campaign, I joined Mike Stoffel with the McDonell High School Foundation on a podcast together. This will drop mid to end of October.
6. We continue to work towards cultivating existing relationships within our donor community and creating new relationships within our alumni and friends networks. We recently hosted a reception for the Chisholm family, who came into town from multiple states to intern Dr. Tom's ('48) brother, David Chisholm, Jr. ('42).
7. Our Corporate Sponsors have grown to 21 as of today. (We may be expecting a couple more) Please see our recognition posters posted in the commons or visit our website page and consider thanking or supporting those businesses who support us.

8. The Fundraising Policy phase 1 has been rolled out and is in effect and seems to be going well.

Admissions Coordinator VACANT

- September Count is Friday, 9/20/24
- Anticipated enrollment is 596 students 4K-12 (1.5% net increase)
- Non-DPI numbers: 10 students 3K (space for 6 more), 40+ students Supers I and II
- More comprehensive report scheduled for January
- Planning to hire new Enrollment Coordinator and Advancement Support asap

Long Range Planning - TJ Proue

Principal Reports

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

- All day 4K has been going well.
- Vision Screening will be held at St. Charles and Holy Ghost on Thursday, September 19th by the Lions Club.
- 4K has its first mass day on Friday, September 27th at 9 am at McDonell Chapel.
- We have our first all-school field trip to Ferguson's apple orchard on October 3rd.
- Mrs. Walker (our Kindergarten teacher) has created a new after-school program for our 4K-2nd grade students called Ignite the Light. [Ignite the Light](#) is a club that will be following Dr. Fizzelbop's lead in deepening our understanding of faith through experiments, prayer, and discussions! This group will meet twice a month. We currently have 31 students enrolled. Mrs. Walker and other teachers at SC will be running this program.
- We have the Living Rosary and Goodies with Grown-Ups on October 16th.
- We are working on having adoration offered to students 4K-2nd grade starting in November.
- Parent Teacher Conferences are all day this year on October 24th from 9-12:30 pm & 3-6 pm.

Please remember the following dress code policy:

- Lately, the most common infractions I have observed are students wearing shirts of the wrong color. When students are out of dress code, the following steps are taken:
 - 1) The teacher sends an email to the parents after the first infraction.
 - 2) A note is then sent home, which needs to be signed.
 - 3) The principal makes a phone call to the parents.

My parents are very responsive and understanding, and I only had to make one phone call last year. It seems that new families may need reminders, so in the future, I think it would be helpful to emphasize this when new families come in for a tour.

Holy Ghost Grades 3-5 - Principal Mrs Gwen Doyle

- Teachers and students are really enjoying our new math curriculum “Math in Focus.” I have heard a lot of positive feedback.
- I have been teaching the students the school/system song. We are singing it at the end of our weekly assemblies (Terrific Tuesday). This is a highlight of my week!
- Mass in the Little Theater is going well.
- Virtues: MACS system is continuing to focus on virtues to help the students form good habits. This month’s virtue is “justice” and we highlighted St. Katharine Drexel as a model of justice. She started many schools as a way for making education available to all, especially African Americans and Native Americans.
- Student Council: Votes are in! Reese Deringer is the new Vice President and Harlow Krumenauer is the new President. We had many close races for class representatives, but they will all be great leaders: Finn Walden, Kate Knopps, Graham Willkom, Finley Erickson, Patrick Petefish, Ellie Meyer, Madalyn Anderson. Our first agenda items are as follows
 - -Creating tour notes for interested donors and families that tour the building.
 - -Practicing tours
 - -Bully-awareness month presentation
 - -Setting up a schedule for greeting at the door
 - -Setting up a schedule for reading prayer at Terrific Tuesday assemblies
- Staff Updates: At our upcoming staff meeting, we will be writing out our Community Commitments to strengthen our culture and will also be discussing the report card grading window. Teachers chose a goal for the year based on Catholic Liberal Arts including, but not limited to: narration, nature study, socratic seminar, and picture study. Our PLCs will focus on defining our math standards/attainments. All teachers will be communicating with parents at least once each trimester to share how they are doing in regards to the facets of our mission statement: intellectual, moral, spiritual, physical.
- Dress Code: Lately, the only infractions I saw consistently are purple shirts, joggers, and athletic shorts. Another common infraction is forgetting phy-ed clothes or MACKS crewneck sweatshirts during the week (this one just changed this year, so I offer grace). If students are out of dress code, 1) an email is sent to the parents on the first infraction, 2) then a note is sent home that needs to be signed, and 3) a phone call/meeting is made. Parents, so far, have been very responsive. There have only been 2 emails sent so far this year. I’ve had a few conversations with students and they are also responsive.
- Please pray for a music teacher! Trying to shift gears between music teacher and principal is my biggest challenge.

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

Daily Schedule

There have been some small changes with our middle school daily schedule. Mack time and Care & Share assemblies are all scheduled on Wednesdays this year. For these to accompany mass on Wednesdays limits the disruptions that come with multiple alternative schedules throughout the year. Also, band, music and study hall have been moved from 2nd period to 3rd period in the daily schedule.

Homecoming week

Homecoming week 2024 is this week (Sept. 16-20). The student council and our Sophomore class advisors designed a very fun and exciting week of events for our students. There is a different themed dress day for the week. Homecoming court was announced on Tuesday with the king and queen being crowned at the pep rally later in the week. The football homecoming game is Friday evening at 7:00. The week concludes with the Homecoming dance on Saturday evening at McDonell High School. This years' theme is Candy Land.

Middle school and High School assessments

Middle School fall MAP assessments have begun this week and will conclude next week. MAPs data will be discussed by our teachers and interventionists to determine student baselines and progress. Juniors will also take the PSAT on Oct.15 that will be proctored by our school counselor, Mr. Baiert. We have over 40 students (last year 18) signed up to take this exam.

Teaching through Virtues

Both schools have started the year making a conscious effort to incorporate virtues onto our routines. Mr. Hanson is now teaching a middle school class that is all about virtuous living. Mack Time for both the middle and the high school are virtue centered. Our morning prayer references the virtue of the month and all of our teachers have been given resources to incorporate virtues into their classrooms. The intentional and consistent messaging is designed to take effect with our students in grasping the virtues and living them daily.

Teacher recognized

Kylee Jenson has identified Mrs. Mary King as her most influential Teacher. Kylee attends UW-LaCrosse and each year freshmen are asked to reflect on their educational journey leading them to college and select a truly exceptional educator that has genuinely influenced them in a positive way. Mrs. King is entering her 50th and final year teaching. All of them in the MACS system.

Dean of Academics Mary Huffcutt

Catholic Liberal Arts Education

- New teachers had induction from August 12-14. They learned about Catholic education and the liberal arts, spent time in Mass and discussions with Father Kren and Michael VanHemert, and looked over their assignments.
- All teachers had professional development on August 15-16. Sessions from University of Dallas and from "Beautiful Teaching" included: Close Reading; the techniques of narration and socratic method; What are good/great books; The power of fairy tales; Building classrooms with heart; Assessments. We also had two sessions by Jennifer Brady about growing in health with Christ in mind.
- Starting the process of organizing the components of being a Cardinal Newman Society honor school
- K-5 started their new math program, Math in Focus - Singapore Math
- Supporting schools in helping students grow in virtue

Accreditation

- Yearly reports are due in the beginning of October.

Student Support Services Coordinator Diane Hietpas

Special Needs Scholarship Program (SNSP) 24-25 enrollment

HS - 19 enrolled, 1 partial, 1 pending

MS - 18 enrolled, 1 pending

HG - 9 enrolled, 1 partial

SCB - 15 enrolled, 3 eligible but declined services

Title Reading and Math services from the public school.

Pending until allocation from the state is confirmed and new students are screened

One full time intervention position open at Holy Ghost

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	Thursday, April 10
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	Kathleen Adams and Molly Bushman	Jan	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	