



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 - Summary

September 21, 2023

5:30 p.m. McDonell Library

AGENDA

LEAD

NOTES

Welcome and Call to Order <ul style="list-style-type: none">•	Andy Molly	5:30 p.m. Andy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Welcome by Chair
Prayer	Priest		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prayer led by Chair
Evidence of Mission/Vision <ul style="list-style-type: none">•	Andy	Andy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reviewed new Mission and Vision• Fr Kren Sacramental Life and Faith Formation• Virtues and beauty in the classrooms• Holy Ghost drop off and pick up is very welcoming• Athletics - seniors are proving to be good leaders within fall sports
CONSENT AGENDA <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Finance and Facilities Report• Technology Report• Advancement Report• Long-Range Planning Report• Enrollment Report• Principals' Reports• Dean of Academics Report• Student Services Report	Andy		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• August meeting was first gathering with Mass, dinner and the Chair shared goals.• Consensus
Reports from Parish and Student Representatives			<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ben Siegenthaler, junior representative will join us in the October meeting• St John's Pork Steak event

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> President and Advancement will be visiting all parishes in the deanery
Committees/Department Presentation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Food Service Director <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Healthy Snack Store Strategic Plan Steering Committee update 	Aaron Kasper Molly/Andy/ Erin/Matt		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Food Director proposes to have a “Snack Shack” It offers nutrition to provide students in the morning and from after lunch until after school activities. Time available 7:30 a.m.-7:45 a.m. and again 3:30 p.m. - 3:45 p.m. The snack options will align with DPI requirements and would be approved through the Wellness Committee Store would be in the cafeteria Are there any suggestions to who can help support this. A great way for one of the organizations to make money. Strategic sub-committees are on track to submit to the committee on time Sensing great energy around the process
Commission Chair <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome Ben Siegenthaler as new Junior class representative 2023-2024 Commission Goal review 	Andy		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ben will begin attending at the October meeting Chair presented Commission Goals - no questions followed
President’s Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joint school board meeting in November - date change Director of Communications posted 	Molly		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> November meeting is the annual joint meeting with CFAUSD (MACS hosts this year) Meeting will be at St Charles Parish Fellowship Hall, 810 Pearl St, Chippewa Falls beginning at 5:00 p.m. (thank you to a donor) Dinner will be provided. September 27, MACS hosted the Protect Young Eyes event. Great parent participation. Central Office staffing update.
NEXT Education Commission Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Listening Session Detailed Enrollment Report President’s Annual Goals 	Andy/All		Thursday, October 19 , 2023 5:00 p.m. 5-5:30 listening session 5:30 - 7 meeting
Closing Prayer and Adjournment	Priest		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Closed with Glory Be

Membership

X	Andy Shakal	Staff Engineer	Chair/St John’s Rep 1st Term
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		Executive Committee Finance & Facilities Committee Strategic Plan Steering Committee Long Range Planning Committee	
X	TJ Proue	Attorney Wiley Law S.C. Executive Committee Long Range Planning Committee Co-Chair	St Charles Rep 2nd Term
EX	Brian Eslinger	Eslinger Insurance Strategic Plan Embracing Our Community Committee	All Saints Rep 1st Term
X	Tamara Bohaty	Bohaty Trucking Long Range Planning Committee	Holy Cross Rep 1st Term
EX	Erin Brick	Homemaker (Biology and Theology degrees) Strategic Plan Steering Committee Ad Hoc Dress Code Committee	Holy Ghost Rep 1st Term
X	Chad Brady	Software Consultant Executive Committee LRP and Finance/Facilities	Vice Chair/Holy Ghost Rep 1st Term
X	Mike Crawford	Access Security Sales and Estimations Finance & Facilities Committee	Notre Dame Rep 2nd Term
X	Matt Elstran	Hideaway Resort & Francesca Resource Center Strategic Plan Steering Committee	Notre Dame Rep 3rd Term
X	Scott Siegenthaler	Assistant Director Financial Aid UWEC Long Range Planning Committee	Notre Dame Rep 2nd Term
	Vacant		Sacred Heart Rep
EX	Tracy Bormann	Director of Human Resources Advancement Advisory Committee	St Bridget's Rep 2nd Term
EX	Justus Busse	Deputy Chief Fire/EMS Safety and Emergency Procedures Co-Chair Ad Hoc Pandemic Committee	St Charles Rep 2nd Term
EX	Regi Geissler	Registered Nurse HSHS Safety and Emergency Procedures Co-Chair Ad Hoc Pandemic Committee	St Charles Rep 2nd Term
EX	Victoria Prince-Silvas	Ad Hoc Tuition	St Paul's Rep 1st Term
EX	Diane Herron	Homemaker Faith Boosters	St Peter's Rep 2nd Term
			At-Large Rep 1st Term

Ex-Officio

EX	Fr Jesse Burish	Chippewa Falls Deanery	Dean
EX	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	Admissions Coordinator System Communications

Student Representatives

X	Frederick Blair	McDonell Area Catholic Schools	Senior Representative
EX	Ben Siegenthaler	McDonell Area Catholic Schools	Junior Representative

Reports

Director of Finance and Facilities Scott Sokup

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Director of IT Josh McCormick

- Ordered 12 new staff laptops for new teachers, and to replace some older devices
- Had to replace 1 Promethean board due to display issues, it was covered under warranty
- Responded to 78 work tickets since the start of the school year
- Completed a second demo of FACTS SIS, and scheduled a second demo for Skyward for potential replacements of Infinite Campus
- Our elementary security camera system went down, routed elementary cameras to our HS/MS system as a short term solution while a new NVR server has been ordered to replace the elementary system.

Director of Advancement Libby Leinenkugel

Hello Commissioners! I'm happy to share an update with you on activities from the Advancement Department.

Amber Leibrandt, Advancement Services Coordinator, has hit the ground running. She is doing an excellent job at crossing the T's and dotting the I's. You may recall she was brought on board to help with fundraising events for MACS, but this has led her down some additional paths. She has spent some time helping to get the new Mission/Vision signage designed and also helping to get some of our brochures updated. She wants to ensure that our events are accurately represented with our latest marketing materials, etc. Amber is also helping us plan the first A.B. McDonell Vision Fund donor appreciation event, which will be held October 18th. This is an invitation event, where we will take donors on tours of all 3 buildings and will then host a reception for them. Molly and I will give updates to the donors on where things stand with the schools and future planning opportunities. We are very much looking forward to this event as it will help us remind people why we have the A.B. McDonell Vision Fund, our annual fund, to support the operations of our schools. Look for future communications to be shared on this fund from us. Amber and I are also working with various MACS faculty/staff on grant opportunities to help fund specific projects within the classrooms and buildings. Amber's time has truly been invaluable for us.

We thank you for your support and hope to see you enjoying some delicious spaghetti at Spaghetti Spectacular on November 12th - and don't forget, we have business deliveries on Monday, November 13th (within Chippewa Falls)! The Committee has been hard at work to make this year's event even better than last. Enjoy the warm sunshine while it's still here!

Admissions Coordinator Kathleen Adams

Grade	Total Students 2022-23	Returning Students 2023-2	New Students 2023-24	Total Students Enrolled 2023-24
4K	0	0	25	25
K	39	0	39	39
1-2	57	58	10	68
3-5	120	104	6	110
6-8	124	123	25	148
9-12	206	175	24	199
Total	545		129	589

Long Range Planning - TJ Proue

Principal Reports

St Charles

Preschool:

- 3K & 4K Remodeling is complete.
- The new rollout of 3K & 4K is going well.
- CGS will begin on September 18th for 4K and September 22nd for 3K

K-2:

- Literacy/Math baseline fall assessments completed - Student Support Services team and classroom teachers did a great job of assessing our students to see how we can best meet their needs going forward in math and literacy.

Building & Atmosphere

- Our building has been working on building virtues into everything we do. For example, I add a "Fellowship Friday" where we reflect on the week as a building. I talk about different ways that I have seen our virtue being shown in our build.
- Paws for Virtues - This year we will highlight and discuss different virtues for each month. During that month, teachers and staff will model and praise students exhibiting that virtue or other good habits that support our mission and vision. When a teacher witnesses a student demonstrating a virtue, they will take time to positively acknowledge that student's effort in building the habit of virtue. Weekly, students will be given the opportunity to reflect on their habits/actions and will be given a 'paw' for their progress that will be added to their classroom chart. Once the chart is filled, the class will earn a puzzle piece to our school-wide mystery puzzle. The puzzle will be a picture of something of beauty, truth, and goodness. Once it is complete, as a whole community we will celebrate together. When celebrating together this will remind us that we are building a beautiful, good, and true culture. This is a fun and creative way to build strong habits and virtues that our students can share within our community.
- Camp Macks - The Summer program was a success.
- We have two amazing field trips planned for all of St. Charles. We will be going to the apple orchard and pumpkin patch as a whole building 3K-2nd grade.

Holy Ghost

Walking: Holy Ghost started "walking time" in the morning. When students are dropped off between 7:20 and 7:40, they walk around the perimeter of the parking lot. The purpose of walking together in the morning is threefold, all connecting with the mission of McDonell:

- 1) Mind: Teachers have noted that students are more settled as they enter the classrooms in the morning. There are also studies that say kids test better, read better and learn more readily after physical activity. Walking also helps reduce stress, depression and anxiety.
- 2) Body: It's healthy to have daily physical activity.
- 3) Spirit: Kids enjoy talking with their friends, often feeling uplifted with the experience. God created us to be in community with each other, and this is strengthening that!

Prayer/Pledge: Holy Ghost also started gathering for morning prayer and pledge (as well as Terrific Tuesday) right after walking time. This is also for the benefit of a strengthened community. As the Lord says, "For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them" (Matthew 18:20).

Virtues: MACS system is focusing on virtues this year to help the students form good habits. Teachers have seamlessly woven our September virtue of "prudence" (doing the right thing) into many lessons and activities throughout the day. Each of the teachers have chosen a virtue to focus on for their yearly goal.

Student Council: Votes are in! Kynslie Hanson is the new vice president and Aubrey Willkom is the new president. Class representatives will be announced this week. We have some new ideas this year for the student council in hopes that they can work together to come up with ways to support our mission of strengthened physical, moral, intellectual and spiritual formation. Stay tuned!

Communication: Gwen Doyle is sending out a weekly communication entitled "Holy Ghost Happenings" to parents at the beginning of each week with highlights from the week, announcements, and upcoming events.

OPPORTUNITIES:

Dress Code: Both St. Charles and Holy Ghost are working on consistency with the dress code. We found many gray areas that will need to be clarified before finalizing next year's handbook.

PLC/CLA: Professional Learning Communities will meet next week to discuss how they are incorporating Catholic Liberal Arts in their classrooms. They each chose a goal for this month including, but not limited to: narration, nature study, socratic seminar, and picture study. We will also work on filling the gaps in evidence that arose through our accreditation self-study.

Grading: We've discovered inconsistencies with grading, reporting grades and teacher to parent communication between the teachers in each grade level. We will be working on improving the quality and consistency of our communication and feedback to parents considering the key components of student wellbeing outlined in our mission: intellectual, spiritual, physical and moral.

Notre Dame and McDonell

Daily Schedule

There have been some small changes with our daily schedule (mainly at the high school). Mack time is now on Tuesday afternoons, after lunch and will take the place of the resource period for the grade that is scheduled for Mack Time that week. Resource time is now in the middle of the day (4th period). Mass remains on Wednesdays (separate times) but the Middle School mass is in the morning and High School is in the afternoon (which is flipped from last year). Both schools will take part in an all-school mass every first Friday of each month.

Homecoming week

Homecoming week 2023 is this week (Sept. 18-22). 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 later in the week. The football homecoming game is Saturday at 1:00. The week concludes with the Homecoming dance on Saturday evening at McDonell High School.

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 at our in-service on Sept. 30. Juniors will also take the PSAT on Oct. 18 that will be proctored by our school counselor, Mr. Baierl.

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.

Dean of Academics Mary Huffcutt

Key Activities:

- **Virtue emphasis** - rollout through
 - Formation and implementation of a Virtue committee
 - Professional Development in Catholic Liberal Arts - Virtues held at August inservice
 - Support material ([Education in Virtue](#)) was distributed
- **Math transformation** - 7-year cycle process
 - June professional development with University of Dallas
 - Math team meetings for Catholic Liberal Arts alignment, self-review
 - Next meeting in October is to look over materials and resources
- **PreSchool Transformation**
 - Professional development in June
 - Continue to offer PD and support in transformation
- **New teacher induction**
 - New teachers attended a 3-day induction in August
 - Follow ups happen monthly from this end

- **Accreditation** annual report will be due at the end of September.
- **Strategic Plan**
 - Meeting with strategic plan nurturing students team to look at potential goals

Student Support Services Coordinator Diane Hietpas

St. Charles Borromeo: 6 FT and 1 partial enrolled in grades 1-2; 5 FT enrolled in K: 1 (.6) enrolled in 4K (total 13 students enrolled) [Increase of 4 seats](#)

Holy Ghost: 11 FT enrolled in grades 3-5 [Same as last year](#)

Notre Dame Middle School: 17 FT enrolled and 3 on the waitlist [increase of 4 seats](#)

McDonell High School: 18 FT and 1 partial enrolled [Decrease by .5 seat](#)

[Total number of SNSP students being served for the 23-24 school year: 60](#)

[57 full time students](#)

[2 partial students](#)

[1 \(.5\) student](#)

The majority of students qualify due to speech/language impairments or specific learning disability. We also have students qualifying under Other Health Impaired, Hearing Impairment, Autism, and Emotional Behavioral Disorder.

Fall benchmark testing is under way and will be completed by the last week in September. Data talks are scheduled for the first week in October and intervention schedules at all schools will be finalized based upon the results of the fall benchmarks.

Two intervention staff completed training this summer on the Orton Gillingham reading/language intervention program for students with dyslexia.

All staff at St. Charles were trained on administering the Acadience Reading Diagnostic test to pilot this year as our universal screener and progress monitoring tool. If we like the results, Acadience will be considered for K-6 next year.

Per DPI [state statute](#), for SNSP, the designee is reporting the following:

Annually by October 1, the principal of each school or his or her designee shall submit to the governing body a report containing all of the following:

1. The number of incidents of seclusion in the school during the previous school year. **0**
2. The total number of pupils who were involved in the incidents of seclusion reported under subd. 1. **0**
3. The number of children with disabilities who were involved in the incidents of seclusion reported under subd. 1. **0**
4. The number of incidents of physical restraint in the school during the previous school year. **0**
5. The total number of pupils who were involved in the incidents of physical restraint reported under subd. 4. **0**
6. The number of children with disabilities who were involved in the incidents of physical restraint reported under subd. 4. **0**

There were no episodes of restraint or seclusion with students in SNSP for the 22-23 school year.