

# Mack Messenger

MCDONELL AREA CATHOLIC SCHOOLS MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI, FAMILIES, AND FRIENDS No. 2 - 2023



## Mission & Vision

*MACS is proud to announce its new mission and vision!*

### INSIDE

- 2023 Graduation
- A family in tune with the MACS mission and vision
- 2022-23 Financial & Donor Reports



MCDONELL AREA  
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Est. 1882

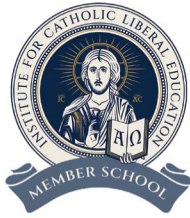
Centered on Jesus Christ and His Church, we partner with families to nurture young people's spiritual, intellectual, physical, and moral formation through a PreK-12 Catholic liberal arts education and vibrant student life of discipleship, athletics, and the arts.





*Education for Life*

Witness the Difference of Catholic education.



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#TheMackWay



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The Mack Messenger is published twice a year by the McDonell Area Catholic Schools (MACS).

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Faith | Honor | Academic Excellence | Healthy Living

Community | Servant Leadership

#TheMackWay

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Share your photos and information with us!

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McDonell Area Catholic Schools believe that all the information within this publication is true and accurate to the best of our knowledge. Please contact us for any inaccuracies.

## Chippewa Falls Parishes

### St. Charles Borromeo

Rev. Msgr. Michael Gorman  
Associate Pastor Rev. Alex Kren  
Dcn. Dan Rider



### The Church of Holy Ghost

Very Rev. Jesse Burish, Dean  
Associate Pastor Rev. Brandon Guenther



### The Church of Notre Dame

Very Rev. Jesse Burish, Dean  
Associate Pastor Rev. Brandon Guenther  
Dcn. Kevin DeCook



Thank you to the area priests and parishioners for your support of Catholic education.

## Chippewa Falls Deanery Supporting Parishes

### Holy Cross, Cornell

### The Church of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, Jim Falls

### St. Anthony, Drywood

Rev. Eric Linzmaier, Dcn. Kurt Zakrzewski

### St. Bridget, Springfield

Very Rev. Jesse Burish,  
Associate Pastor Rev. Brandon Guenther

### St. John the Baptist, Cooks Valley

Rev. Victor Feltes,  
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### St. Paul, Bloomer

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Associate Pastor Rev. Chinnappan Pelavendran

### St. Peter the Apostle, Tilden

Rev. Msgr. Michael Gorman, Dcn. Dan Rider  
Associate Pastor Rev. Alex Kren

### All Saints Catholic Parish, Boyd, Cadott, Stanley

Rev. William Felix '73, Dcn. Ned Willkom



# 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.







**Fr. Jesse Burish**  
Chippewa Falls Dean

## From the Dean

### Very Reverend Jesse Burish

## Announcing the new MACS Mission and Vision

This year we have introduced our new MACS mission and vision statements. These are more than just words posted around our buildings or found on MACS letterhead. They not only tell the world what is important to us as a school system and what we

stand for, but they also provide guideposts for our leadership in establishing goals for the future. Allow me to elaborate on just three components of our mission statement (pg 1).

#### **"Centered on Jesus Christ and His Church"**

As Catholic schools, Jesus Christ and His Church are front and center. We are not just a fancy private school or one that merely draws its inspiration from the Catholic tradition. We are first and foremost about every child, family, faculty,

and staff member becoming a better disciple of Christ in His Church. If we settle for less than, we're wasting our time.

#### **"We partner with families"**

Parents are the primary educators of their children in the faith, and the faith is spread best when the whole family is formed together. We thank you for the opportunity to partner with you in your child's education and formation in the Faith.

#### **"PreK-12 Catholic liberal arts education"**

'Liberal' comes from the Latin liber, which means free. Through formation in the arts and sciences, the student is given an education for freedom in Christ as He reveals Himself through His Church. This is more than just preparing the student for college or for a good job. We become truly free persons the more we know, love, and live the Truth of Jesus Christ.



**Molly Meinen Bushman '98**

## From the President

### President Molly Meinen Bushman '98

## Envisioning the Promise of Catholic Education

Why do we exist? Whom do we serve? Who do we want to be? What will we achieve?

Last school year, our MACS Strategic Plan Steering Committee pondered and, ultimately, answered these four big questions in order to articulate our new Mission and Vision statements (pg 1). I invite you - our alumni, parents,

and friends - to briefly contemplate these same questions and see if you find some of your own responses reflected in our work. I hope that you do. After all, McDonell Area Catholic Schools is not just an institution, but rather a community, with a common thread connecting our past tradition, present reality, and hope for the future.

Another way to understand a mission statement is as a "brand promise," while the vision statement summarizes how the school will fulfill that promise in the next 5-7 years. As I write this, five committees of dedicated stakeholders are developing strategic goals and objectives to make our Vision a reality. Over the next few months, we will vet and refine

these goals and objectives to become our 2030 Strategic Plan. Many thanks to all of the various committee members for their diligent work to bring our plan to life!

In this issue, you will see some of the ways we are already living our mission and striving toward our vision, including our feature alumni story on Megan Hanson '23 and her parents, long-time MACS teachers Sean and Paula Hanson (pg 8-9). In addition to alumni updates, we are also excited to highlight many of the ways our MACS students are growing in faith, wisdom, strength, and virtue through a strong partnership between parents and educators.

As we carry the torch that has burned brightly for 142 years, your financial and prayer support make it all possible. Our A.B. McDonell Vision Fund, the cornerstone of all fundraising at MACS, saw unprecedented success this past year to help support the learning needs of our growing student population! (Donor report pg 12-14) Thank you and thank God for you. Your generosity helps make our mission and vision a reality, allowing MACS to become "a beacon of faith, hope, and love."



## Fine Arts Awards 2023

Thank you to all of our senior student performers for sharing your talents on stage: instrumental, vocal, and theatrical. Congratulations to all the 2022-23 fine arts students, Cloverbelt Conference, Solo & Ensemble, theater participants, and medal winners not featured.

**Fine Arts Award,  
National School Choir Award,  
Louis Armstrong Jazz Award,  
& John Philip Sousa Award**

Megan Hanson

**Woody Herman Jazz Award**  
Beth Gilbertson

**Gilmore Award for Band**  
Christin Abbe

**Excellence in Musical Theatre**  
Eva Bushman

## 2023 National Honor Society Inductees

Frederick Blair

Abigail Bresina

Sarah Buchmann

Carlee Chittendon

Jonah Christopherson

Olivia Clark

Karley Ferguson

Madeline Geissler

Isabel Hartman

Olivia Heidtke

Maria Herron

Kylee Jenson

Kiara Leinenkugel

Prudence Maloney

Ryan McCarthy

Lauren Misfeldt

Sean Rasmus

Tessa Roach

Katie Ruf

Sophia Schmidgall

Gretta Sokup

Anna Thaler

Alexander Tokarski

Morgan Wirtz

Cashton Wojcik



## McDonell Central Catholic High School's Second Annual 2023 Spring Stage Play

# The Inn Around the Corner

A lovable romantic comedy by Hannah Kroll

Directed by Frank Rineck '16

Co-directed by student Malaki Suckerman '23

### MAIN CAST MEMBERS

Monte—Fred Blair

Vera—Eva Bushman

Clara—Lily Edison

Edward—Paul Tetrault

Alice—Ella Rubenzer

Billy—Elyse Bushman





# 38th Annual Excellence in Education

The Chippewa Falls Area Chamber of Commerce hosted the 38th Annual Excellence in Education Banquet on Wednesday, May 3, 2023. This event honors the top 5% of graduates from Chippewa Falls area high schools, along with the students' most influential educators.

This year MACS was blessed to send to the event Ms. Megan Hanson with her most influential educator, Mr. Justin Kuehl, Ms. Sydney Retzlaff with her most influential educator, Ms. Mary Jo Sprunk, and Ms. Eva Bushman with her most influential educator, Mrs. Mary Chovan King '69. Each student and educator had the opportunity to highlight the best qualities they found in each other.

**Megan Hanson** said of Mr. Kuehl, "Mr. Kuehl incorporated faith, reason, relationship, and excellence while teaching his students the truth about human nature. He guided my reasoning about reality and taught me how to think, write, argue, and speak well. In his classes, through the study of literature, I learned how to read and interpret complex writing as well as how to see the world through the eyes of the authors who understood it best. Mr. Kuehl accepted nothing less than my best."

Mr. Kuehl said of Megan, "Megan is a singular example of a humble servant. Whether she is helping out with a task in the classroom or playing the organ last minute for a packed church, Megan is always willing to quickly and quietly take on the challenge. She never asks for reward or recognition, and her example is one we should all be willing to follow, even though most of us do not have near the academic or musical talent she has been blessed with. Her humility, personality, perseverance, and talent will lead her to be quite successful in life."

**Sydney Retzlaff** said of Ms. Sprunk, "Ms. Sprunk never forgot to make each student feel loved and appreciated. Each day we were greeted with a warm smile. She made learning fun and exciting whether it be through reading books by her favorite author, Patricia Polacco, or learning the days of the week with a fun song. I still use the lessons she taught me every day and will not forget how important she made me feel."

Ms. Sprunk said of Sydney, "Why wouldn't a teacher want to go to their classroom each morning when there were children like Sydney waiting to absorb your next lesson? Although a quiet little girl, Sydney was also a tenacious, curious, attentive alternative learner, a creative student, and a very hard worker. She was the proverbial sponge, but being a wonderful student wasn't all that encompassed Sydney. She had a tender heart. She was so very kind and helpful to other children. I know what I saw in Sydney in kindergarten will be carried into her future."

**Eva Bushman** said of Mrs. King, "Mrs. King is a very engaging teacher who is dedicated to her students' learning.



Left: Megan Hanson with Justin Kuehl. Center: Sydney Retzlaff with Mary Jo Sprunk. Right: Eva Bushman with Mary King

She has been instrumental in teaching me how to express my ideas in writing and to discern the meanings of complex texts. She also inspires me to work hard through her own commitment to teaching. I am lucky to have had the opportunity to learn from her, and the lessons she has taught me will undoubtedly remain with me throughout my life."

Mrs. King said of Eva, "As Jane Austen said in 'Pride and Prejudice,' 'indulge your imagination in every possible flight.' I can always view Eva 'boarding' that flight and taking it to new horizons. Whether in any literature or writing class, the intensity and vigor which she approached the material was 'out of this world.' Her love for learning and yearning to be involved in many social causes only confirms that she will soar in all of her future endeavors, for as Jane Austen also said, 'it isn't what we say or think that defines us but what we do.'"



## Carolyn Volrath *Our Unsung Hero*

Also honored at the 38th Annual Excellence in Education Banquet was MACS' Carolyn Volrath as an unsung hero in the Chippewa Falls education community. McDonell Principal, Eric

Wedemeyer, presented the honor.

"The selection of Carolyn Volrath for this honor was easy but it is a struggle putting a short tribute together for her," said Wedemeyer. "Carolyn has been working in our system for the past seven years as the Administrative Assistant at our St. Charles Borromeo Primary School. To our entire MACS staff, parents and students she is a true hero...because she is so steadfast in the way she goes about everything, her versatility and dependability often gets taken for granted. Our system has become so programmed to count on her going above and beyond for the students and for the staff.

"She is known to be the 'mind of reason' in our system. All staff and students go to her with concerns. She is always willing to listen and offer her wise advice. She is the smile to start the day, and her smile after school makes anyone that sees her looking forward to the next day. She has a way of making everyone around her feel truly important."



# Congratulations Class of 2023!

On May 19, 2023, 52 McDonell Central Catholic High School graduates entered into the gymnasium, accompanied by the cheers of proud family, friends, and supporters. In attendance were the Chippewa Falls priests: Chaplain Reverend Ethan Hokamp, Very Reverend Jesse Burish, Monsignor Michael Gorman, Reverend Justin Kizewski, and Associate Pastor Reverend Brandon Guenther. Dean Very Rev. Burish delivered the invocation.



**Mason Beaudette**

Principal Eric Wedemeyer '92 welcomed the audience. Before continuing the commencement ceremony, Mr. Wedemeyer called special recognition to graduate Mason Beaudette for his commitment to serve in the U.S. Navy. Mr. Wedemeyer continued his piece by congratulating the class of 2023 and imploring them to remember, not only the good times, but also the hardships that got them to

where they are, explaining that each adds to the growth of an individual.

Mr. Wedemeyer introduced Salutatorian Rebecca Baier. Rebecca kept her speech short and sweet, reminiscing on the years that led them to this day. "McDonell is one big family that is a great example of a loving community full of people who prepare us for our futures," said Rebecca. "We wouldn't be where we are or who we are today, without all the love and support that's been given along the way. My wish for my classmates as we move to the next chapter is to do what it takes to make YOUR happily ever after."

Megan Hanson, Bishop Award of Excellence recipient and Valedictorian, was next to the stand. "Do not be afraid," stated Megan. "I often think of this phrase from the gospel of Matthew, chapter 14, verses 26-33... Just as He called St. Peter, God is calling each of us to great things." Megan ended her speech by encouraging her peers. "Let nothing hold you back. God is stronger than your fear... Let go of your fear, jump into the water, and keep your eyes on Christ. Trust in God, and He will not let you sink."

After a performance from the McDonell Choir, Valedictorian Eva Bushman took the stand. "Dreams are what motivate us to work hard; they give life purpose," Eva said. "Although it's scary and new, I am confident that the class of 2023 will rise to the challenge and continue to accomplish incredible feats. It is my most sincere hope that my classmates will never stop dreaming; that the infinite possibilities for our futures will spark hope, and we will spend our whole lives striving to accomplish new dreams."

Following Eva, Valedictorian Sydney Retzlaff took the stand. "As we leave this building, the events and the experiences will become distant memories as a new journey with strangers begins," Sydney told her peers. Sydney continued by sharing precious memories of school days gone by. Sydney concluded by asking her fellow graduates, "Who do you want to be when you grow up? How do you want to impact the people that you encounter everyday? A successful career is important, but it shouldn't be the only thing that defines you."



## McDonell Central Catholic High School Class of 2023

**LtoR Front Row:** Alyssa Ferguson, Arlyona Hazelton, Grace Goettl, Sydney Retzlaff, Ella Schemenauer, Salome Dumon, Isabelle Keck. **Second Row:** Megan Hanson, Greta Thornton, Marley Hughes, Josie Witkowski, Evelyn Willi, Rebecca Baier, Eva Bushman, Rhiannon McChesney. **Third Row:** Andrew Bauer, Nathaniel Hauser, Dale Tetrault, Viktoriia Kuchma, Christin Abbe, Alba Pueyo Calvo, Mason Beaudette. **Fourth Row:** Benjamin Biskupski, Edward Mittermeyer, Francesc Montoya Alberola, Emily Thaler, Jenna Geist, Alyssa Herr, Maia Irwin, Aidan Leet, Beth Gilbertson. **Fifth Row:** Francesco Padrin, Thanh Le, Asher Rozowski, Carter Grill, Aidan Misfelt, Carter Stelter, Brady Rubenzer, Evan Eckes, Jacob Burrier. **Sixth Row:** Griffen Soku, Donald Fritz, Sammy Vallejos Duque, Dominick Escoto. **Seventh Row:** Malaki Suckerman, Buchanan Huss, Keagan Galvez, Luke Youngquist, Paul Pfeifer. Andrew Plendl not featured in this photo.

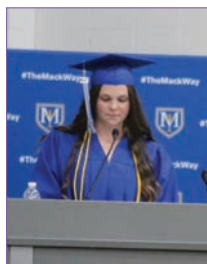
People are going to remember you by the way you make them feel."

Following Sydney's speech, the Academic Achievement medals were presented by President Molly Bushman '98 and guidance counselor Kelsey Jimenez. Each recipient maintained an "A" average throughout their high school career: Rebecca Baier, Andrew Bauer, Eva Bushman, Salome Dumon, Grace Goettl, Megan Hanson, Marley Hughes, Thanh Le, Francesco Padrin, Alba Pueyo Calvo, Sydney Retzlaff, Ella Schemenauer, Evelyn Willi, and Josie Witkowski.

Finally, after a performance from the McDonell Band, Mr. Frank Rineck '16, delivered his commencement speech. "I wanted to use my own senior quote to guide my speech for you today. It was a short line from David Bowie: 'I don't know where I'm going from here; but I can promise you it won't be boring.'" Mr. Rineck warned his students, "We can make plans for our futures, but we can't get too attached to them. The best thing you can do is brace for impact." Mr. Rineck's final piece of advice was to listen and "don't gauge your success on how 'exciting' your life is, but on how you feel when you begin and end your day."

President Molly Bushman '98, MACS Education Commission Chair Mr. Andy Shakal, and Very Rev. Jesse Burish conferred upon the graduates their diplomas. Assisting was guidance counselor Kelsey Jimenez as Mr. Wedemeyer called off names. After receiving their diplomas, the 2023 graduates went on to celebrate the joyous evening with their families and friends.

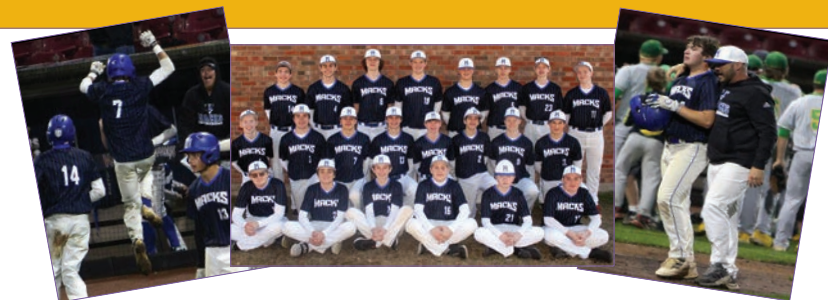
Congratulations class of 2023! Our community prays for your future endeavors and for each of you to be life long learners. We are confident that by the will of God, each and every one of our graduates will be a positive transforming force in society.



**Rebecca Baier**



# Varsity 2023 Spring Athletics



**Macks Boys Baseball team tied for third in the State Semi-Finals.**



**Macks Girls Softball team tied for third in State Semi-Finals.**



**Macks Boys Golf team came in first at the Cloverbelt Conference and fifth at State.**



**Macks Boys Track & Field qualified for State in three events.**

**Macks Girls Track & Field qualified for State in four events.**



## Join us!

**Support and cheer on our student-athletes, from the stands or from the comfort of your own home, as they pursue athletic greatness and sportsmanship.**



Check out our athletics schedule and join us in the stands by scanning the QR code.

Or check our Facebook page for livestreams of our athletic events!





# MACS in Motion



## Teaching Virtues through Play

Primary and Elementary P.E. Teacher  
Valerie Siegenthaler

MACS in Motion started out as a typical “Track and Field Day” and has since developed into individual and team challenges centered around virtues for the students at St. Charles Borromeo Primary and Holy Ghost Elementary schools. The event is made up of 8-10 different stations that range from individual activities using virtues such as charity, prudence, or fortitude and also include team challenges that may require trustworthiness, respect, or perseverance while working in groups of mixed grade levels.

The excitement of the day begins when all volunteers, students, and staff members in the two schools put on their MACS in Motion t-shirts, which are donated by wonderful and generous sponsors. Our gracious volunteers are made up of parents, guardians, and grandparents of the students. They help guide the students to learn and demonstrate the virtues throughout the event, and link the activities to scriptures from the Bible. With God’s hands in the plans, it truly is a day for the students to see how the virtues relate to all aspects of life even during fun and challenging games and activities.

One of the favorite stations each year is the obstacle course in which the kids practice fortitude. The students climb over mats and jump over hurdles that may be a bit out of their comfort level, but endure the challenge and try their best... most often finding enjoyment and a sense of pride for their accomplishment.

“Water Cup Relay” is another favorite station in which the kids work as a team to fill their team’s bucket with water while balancing a frisbee of water on their hand. The volunteers challenge them to do different movements such as skipping, walking backwards, etc. The virtue practiced is patience as some of their teammates may not be as fast, nor as careful, spilling some of the water while moving to the team’s bucket.... Ooops! Remembering to be patient with one another and trusting that everyone is trying their best, the students can focus more on cheering on their teammates while enjoying the refreshing, spilled water.

The last activity of the day is the “Tug-of-War” when the groups of mixed grade levels from Holy Ghost compete against each other. Everyone’s perseverance is put to the test to see how long they can last, pulling the rope to help their team compete and hopefully win. It’s fun to see the amazing things that can happen when they practice their virtues and work together.

MACS in Motion is held on the last Monday of the school year. It is a wonderful opportunity for students, staff, and families to come together and celebrate our MACS family.







## The Hanson Family

LtoR: Jack, Caroline, Megan '23, Sean, and Paula Hanson celebrate Megan's graduation from McDonell Central Catholic High School.

### Keeping in TUNE with the MACS mission and vision

MACS strives to serve as a beacon of faith, hope, and love for every family that opens their hearts to the workings of a Catholic education. MACS is a place for anyone, be they student, staff, or family member, to learn about the unconditional love of God. Wherever a person may be on their journey of faith, MACS is here to support them and walk with them.

In a recent episode of the Mack Chat podcast, Sean and Paula Hanson, with their daughter Megan Hanson '23, shared their stories of coming into the Catholic faith

“MACS really just changed me. It's how the Lord kept me close to him.”  
-Paula Hanson

while at MACS. The Hanson family has been with the MACS community in every facet and has seen the workings of the MACS mission and vision from every angle. Sean and Paula are MACS parents, Megan has been a student and is now an alumna, and presently, each of them is a member of the MACS staff.

Sixteen years ago, Paula joined MACS as the middle and high school Band Director. Prior to her employment at MACS, she had fallen out of the Catholic faith. “I was raised a cradle Catholic, but I fell away from the faith in college like so many do,” Paula explained.

“The beginning of my return [to Catholicism] was working at MACS.” While Sean and Paula were not going to Mass consistently on Sundays, the regular exposure to the faith influenced Paula, and subsequently the rest of the Hanson household, to turn to God.

When Paula came to MACS, she never thought that she would stay. She initially planned for her employment to last for two years and serve as a mere stepping stone towards bigger and better jobs. However, she fell in love with the

community and ended up spending five years in her position. “MACS really just changed me. It's how the Lord

kept me close to Him,” she tearfully reflected. “MACS is very special to me and it is truly a family.” Those initial two years

are long since past. The former Paula who had fallen away from Catholicism, with no plans to return, is now, not only the current Holy Ghost Elementary Music and Band Instructor, but also the Director of Religious Education at Holy Ghost Parish.

During the five years Paula was working as the MACS middle and high school band director, Sean was working in a similar field at Stanley/Boyd



Paula and Sean take turns serving as conductors for the Notre Dame Middle School Spring Band Concert.



Public School. "He would come home frustrated from teacher in-services, while I was coming home from teacher in-services at MACS feeling so invigorated. I began to pray for my husband that he would find a job like mine," Paula stated. God answered her prayer, but the reward did not come without trials and lacked no humor from God once it was fulfilled.

"Basically, we were jobless in the summer of 2012," Sean said. Sean had resigned from his job at Stanley/Boyd for a band director position at Chi-Hi. However, in a turn of events, the job offer from Chi-Hi was rescinded. Meanwhile, Paula had already made the decision to stay home with their new baby, Caroline. With three children at home, one of which was a newborn, and no source of income, the Hanson family was very fearful of the future. Both Sean and Paula began frantically applying for the same positions. They applied at six different schools and were passed over each time. "After feeling a bit discouraged, I started praying the rosary every day in hopes of getting a job," Sean said. A month later, by happenstance, Sean ran into former MACS Communications Director, Cathy Greenseth, who informed Sean of the open position for the MACS middle and high school band director, the position Paula had previously held. Sean applied and secured the job that he continues to hold to this day. "After going to new teacher formation and being reinvigorated with the faith, I knew MACS is where I belonged," Sean stated.

When it came time to send their children to school, MACS was the natural choice for Sean and Paula. "I always appreciated being in a Catholic school, you can talk about God whenever and wherever," Paula reflected. Paula went on to inform us that her children would often come home from school sharing stories of where their teachers integrated God into the subject material. Sean and Paula appreciated the lessons of the faith that their children learned as it helped them as parents teach their children the faith. "When our kids were little, praying with them was super awkward," Paula explained. "Where we were sending them, we knew we had a partner, so while Sean and I were figuring out our faith, we

felt safe sending them to a school where they would be upheld in their faith."

Megan

# MACK Chat

Hosted by Mrs. Molly Meinen-Bushman '98



Episode Sponsor:



CHIPPENAW TALKS, WI



EPISODE 39: All in the Family

Guests: Megan Hanson '23, Paula Hanson, Sean Hanson



Tune in to the Mack Chat Podcast and listen to the full interview with Paula, Sean, and Megan '23 Hanson by scanning the QR code above.



Megan plays piano for the McDonell High School Christmas concert

attributes the foundation to her faith to her education at MACS, recognizing the benefits of starting her Catholic education in primary school. However, she reflected that while the school may have helped pave the way, her parents have been her primary educators in her faith.



...and the french horn.

"It's because my parents were with me while I was growing in my faith and experiencing deep conversion that I love God today and that I have experienced His love," Megan explained. "It has really helped having good teachers who have put that love and relationship into words and to have been taught the doctrine."

As a family, the Hansons are well known for their musical prowess.

"For me, music is a very natural thing," Megan explained. Megan continued by reflecting on the first time she was asked to play at Mass. "It took some convincing. My mom explained to me that my gifts were for God and this gift I have, I was meant to share it for the good of the church and souls... It has blossomed from something natural to something that God has made supernatural and able to lead others to Him."

MACS is privileged to have been a nurturing force toward the Hanson family's faith. We are blessed to walk with them, and many other families, on the journey of faith. The path to the faith is not linear and can often be filled with uncertainty. However, by the grace of God, and with a little help from a supportive and faithful community, anyone can come to know God's love.



Did we forget to mention she also sings?



# Education Commission

Committed to the formation of our mission & vision

Chairperson

Andy Shakal

## On a mission

As many Mack Messenger readers know, last year a committee began working on the new Strategic Plan for MACS.

The first task of this committee, composed of MACS staff, Education Commission members, and other members of the Catholic community, was to draft new Mission and Vision statements. The new Mission statement reads, "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." Much could be said about this statement in its entirety, or about any particular clause thereof. I will only focus on its beginning: "Centered on Jesus Christ". At the heart of a Catholic school, that is, at its core, there can be no one other than Jesus Christ, who is the source of our life, and its destiny. He himself said, "I am the vine, you are the

branches. He who abides in me, and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me, you can do nothing." In considering this verse from the Gospel of John, the Catechism of the Catholic Church in #2074 says, "the fruit referred to in this saying is the holiness of life made fruitful by union with Christ. When we believe in Jesus Christ, partake of His mysteries, and keep His commandments, the Savior Himself comes to love, in us, His Father and His brethren, our Father and our brethren." So, through our mission, which is to be centered on Jesus Christ, we are attached to the vine that allows his divine life to flow in us, making us holy, allowing us to bear the good fruit that we were created to bear, and thus further God's kingdom. By being centered on Jesus Christ, MACS will continue to inspire its students to lead holy lives, loving their Father in Heaven, and bringing Him to the world, which is the fundamental mission of the Church.



To learn more about our education commission and our new chaplain, tune into the Mack Chat podcast by scanning the QR code above.

## Recognizing Our Staff!



### Reverend Alex Kren

Please welcome Fr. Alex Kren as our new chaplain at McDonell Central Catholic High School and Notre Dame Middle School. Ordained in June 2023, Fr. Kren is originally from Neillsville, Wisconsin. He is a sports fanatic and connects well with our students, including his niece who is a middle school student!



### Mrs. Gwen Doyle

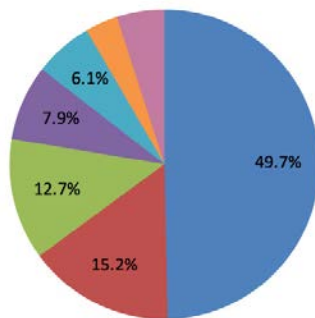
Please welcome Mrs. Gwen Doyle as the new principal of Holy Ghost Elementary School. Mrs. Doyle was most recently the Notre Dame Middle School religion teacher and a school leader on the MACS Catholic Mission Team. Gwen has ample leadership experience as a former Director of Religious Education at a local parish, and is pursuing principal licensure through Viterbo University. Mrs. Doyle stated, "My experience and time with the middle school team has inspired me to broaden and deepen the mission of MACS with the school community at Holy Ghost, ultimately helping all of us live and serve in the Spirit of Jesus Christ."



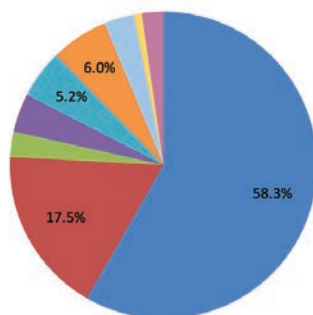
### Mrs. Jamie Dodge

Please welcome Mrs. Jamie Dodge as the new principal of St. Charles Borromeo Preschool & Primary School. Mrs. Dodge was most recently a MACS first grade teacher and, previously, the Early Childhood Center Director. Jamie has earned her masters in education with an emphasis in special education, and is working toward her principal licensure through Viterbo University. "I look forward to continuing to learn and grow in this leadership role at MACS. I love this system, the staff, the students, and the families very much," said Mrs. Dodge. "Education is a huge part of my life and who I am. I feel incredibly blessed that God has brought me to MACS and has continued to guide me to grow here."





REVENUE 2022-23  
\$6,240,612



EXPENSES 2022-23  
\$6,196,097

**49.7% Tuition & Fees**  
**15.2% Parish Support**  
**12.7% Advancement & Fundraising**  
**7.9% Early Childhood Center**  
**6.1% Other income**  
**3.4% Athletics**  
**5.0% Food Service**

**58.3% Wages & Salaries**  
**17.5% Emp Benefits & Taxes**  
**2.7% Athletic**  
**4.0% Instructional**  
**5.2% Administrative**  
**6.0% Facilities & Utilities**  
**3.2% Technology**  
**0.8% Childcare Supplies**  
**2.3% Food Service**

## Student Tuition Costs for 2022-23

Grade Level	Tuition	Average Cost to Educate
Kindergarten Parish	\$3,050	\$12,000
Kindergarten Non-parish	\$4,314	\$12,000
Grade 1-5 Parish	\$3,111	\$12,000
Grade 1-5 Non-parish	\$4,401	\$12,000
Grade 6-8 Parish	\$3,142	\$12,000
Grade 6-8 Non-parish	\$4,444	\$12,000
Grade 9-12 Parish	\$4,466	\$14,000
Grade 9-12 Non-parish	\$6,302	\$14,000
Parish family cap with 3 students	\$9,064	
Parish family cap with 4+ students	\$10,764	
Non-parish family cap with 3 students	\$11,227	
Non parish family cap with 4+ students	\$12,927	

### Tuition Costs for 2022-23

MACS had an average tuition increase of 3% for the 2022-23 fiscal year.

Thank you to all alumni, parishioners and businesses that supported MACS in 22-23, your generosity has enabled MACS to keep tuition affordable.

Families who belong to a supporting parish and meet the criteria for active supporting parish member, qualify for the supporting parish assisted tuition. Financial assistance is available for active parish members based on need. MACS participates in the Wisconsin Parental Choice Program (WPCP) and the Special Needs Scholarship Program (SNSP).

## Finance Reports Charts

The Financial Report reflects MACS's unaudited financials for the 2022-23 Fiscal year. The pie charts show what was received and expensed in the various categories for the year 2022-2023. MACS finished the year with operating revenues of \$6,240,612 and operating expenses of \$6,196,097. This resulted in an operational gain of \$44,515 excluding the non-cash depreciation expense. Enrollment was up 7.3% for the 22-23 fiscal year when compared to 2021-2022 enrollment. The school was eligible for some COVID related grants, which are reflected as income in our statement.

### Scrip Gift Card Sales

Scrip sales were \$1,310,104 for the 2022-23 fiscal year. Total Scrip profit was \$43,144, after giving \$29,502 back to families in the form of a tuition credit, and \$5,644 back to clubs and parishes.

Scrip gift cards are a fundraising program where anyone can purchase over 80 different local and national business gift cards we have on inventory in our MACS Central Office. Thank you to the businesses and families who participate in this win/win program!

## Facilities & Finance Committee

The Facility Committee and the Finance Committee works to ensure that MACS is strategic in their resource management to ensure quality education and a safe learning environment. Committee members are appointed by their parish.

The committee meets regularly to review financial results, the budget, investments and facility and maintenance projects. In addition, they discuss news and trends that may impact Catholic Education. Committee members include the parish representatives and the President, Controller and Business Manager at MACS.

### Parish Reps on Committee 2022-23

Jamie Leibrandt	Chair/St. Charles Borromeo
Michele O'Connor	St. Charles Borromeo
Tom Eder '85	St. Charles Borromeo
Mike Dubiel	St. Charles Borromeo
Barry Bremness	Church of the Holy Ghost
Robert Konop	Church of the Holy Ghost
Skip August	Church of the Holy Ghost
Chad Brady	Church of the Holy Ghost
Diane Schmidt	St. Paul, Bloomer
Mike Crawford '88	Vice-Chair/Notre Dame
Deacon DeCook	The Church of Notre Dame
Bruce Mlsna	The Church of Notre Dame

### Ex-Officio 2022-23

Very Rev. Jesse Burish	Dean
Msgr. Michael Gorman	Deanery Elected Pastor
Andy Shakal	Edu. Commission Chair
Scott Sokup '88	Controller
Molly Meinen Bushman '98	President

# Your donation today is their *Education for Life.*



## Our 2022-23 A.B. McDonell Vision Fund

Thank you for making the A.B. McDonell Vision Fund a success for the 2023 fiscal year. It is the sum of all gifts received through donations. The gifts we receive fall into many categories, including the general fund, student tuition assistance, memorials, matching employer and restricted gifts. The McDonell Area Catholic Schools' fiscal reporting year is July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023. Your donation July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024 will be recognized in the next annual report.

### 1940'S

1941  
Helen Anderl Zutter  
1946  
James & Patricia Popple Bembnister (HC)  
**John & Jeanne Congdon**  
**McCluskey (GC)**  
1947  
**Katie Thornton Knopp (GC)**  
Gene Mower (HC)  
Gyda Nadreau  
**Norbert Sedlacek (XC)**

1948  
Jean Lynn Aslin  
James & Patricia Popple Bembnister (HC)  
Ann O'Donnell Egan  
Don & Bette Smith Wild  
**Ramona Yakesh Zumbrock (DC)**

1949  
Cecilia Turany Nelson  
**Marlene Peloquin Rooney (JC)**

### 1950'S

1950  
John & Barbara Hughes  
John & Carol Fox Konerik  
Donald & Estelle Rada

1952  
Ralph Congdon  
Irvin Kressin  
Mary Klaes Matthews  
Patricia Rubenzer Peloquin  
**Stephen Steinmetz (XC)**  
Dayton & Eileen Swoboda Reed  
Charles Wilbur

1953  
Glenard & Dorothy Hebert Lieder  
Lavonne Stoeher Marquie  
Mary Kuechenmeister Thornton

1954  
William Janc  
Darrell & Jeannette Lynn (HC)  
Jean Dietzler Merchant  
Joan Mezmarich  
Charlotte Bowe Prince  
Don & Bette Smith Wild  
1955  
Lawrence & Patricia Thibedeau Nicolai  
**Jon Rubenzer (JC)**  
Joseph & Betty Wucherpfenning Ryan

1956  
Francis & Doris Gaier  
**Vernon & Shirley Meinen (PC)**  
Vernon Steinmetz  
William Zumbrock (HC)

1957  
Anonymous  
David Hebert  
**Ellen O'Neil (EC)**  
Geraldine Felix White-Marko

### 1958

Donald Bischel  
Kenneth Butak  
**Irvin Geissler (JC)**  
Gretchen Schwahn Gruenke  
Ronald & Barbara Kleinheinz Lambert  
Stephen & Sue Onsager Meinen

### 1959

Thomas & LaVonne Bernier Dejno  
**Judy Horvatin Gaier (JC)**  
Don & Claudia Hable  
James & Kathleen Kleusch LeClerc  
**Dick & Judy Monarski (JC)**  
Arline Schleppenbach Taylor  
Mike Weigand  
Darlene Rubenzer Wright

### 1960'S

1960  
Anonymous  
Carol Akan  
Ruth Nicolai Hagedorn  
Neil & Kathryn Derks Haselwander  
John Hillery  
Charles & Crystal Jasper  
Stephen & Sue Onsager Meinen  
William Piotrowski  
John & Barbara Nowak Rasmus  
**Clarence & Diane Stoffel (JC)**  
Steve & Susan Klaes Zimmerman

1961  
Bob & Anne Monarski Ganka  
Robert & Mary Jenneman (HC)  
Dennis & Sally Andrejeski Wrucke

### 1962

**Robert & Bonita Aubart Gelina (EC)**  
Robert & Monica Steinmetz  
Penzenstadler  
John & Barbara Nowak Rasmus  
Jane Bowe Schill

### 1963

Ted & Anna Bowe  
Ronald & Betty Krall Bresina  
**John & Gail Hanson (JC)**  
Arnold & Diane Ritzinger  
Thomas & Joan Schwartz

### 1964

Betty Meinen Bohl  
Judy Geissler Bowe  
**John & Linda Pitsch Brantmeier (JC)**  
Steve & Linda Cyr  
Robert & Robin Hedrington Hassemer  
Michael & Joanne McAleer  
Daniel & Diane Seckora O'Connell  
Donald & Carol Loiselle Porn  
Terry & Cheryl Wedemeyer

### 1965

Anonymous  
Pat Hartman Bertrand  
Gregory & Mary Monarski Holub (HC)  
**Kristen Hanson Koiles (JC)**  
Roxanne Rooney Kuss  
Carl & Jane Kleusch Laveck

Scan the QR code to donate  
to the Vision of MACS





John Lubs (GC)

Daniel & Diane Seckora O’Connell  
Tom Scheidler

1966

Anonymous (HC)  
Timothy Arntz  
Harold & Kathleen Boos Dachel  
Ann Loew  
Mary Piotrowski  
Eugene & Bonnie Swoboda Schindler

1967

Terry & Mary Kay Kuba Bodeen  
Harold & Kathleen Boos Dachel

Curtis Frazier (JC)

Chuck & Jo Frenette (JC)

Robert & Robin Hedrington Hassemer  
Jeanne Hebert  
Kenneth & Cindy Sinette Johnson  
Ron & Rosemary Grzegozerski  
Keefer (XC)

Patricia McDonell  
Pat & Susan LaRue Quinn (HC)  
Leroy & Susan Schmidmayr  
Schamberger (HC)  
James Smola  
Dennis Steinmetz  
Mark & Karen Hawke Thomas  
Tom Voitl (JC)

1968

Mary Cinquegrana  
Scott & Kathie Emerson  
James Hebert  
Jane Hebert Lefler  
Carol Rowan Shepard  
Sally Pfankuch Simmerman  
William Thornton  
Donald & Carolyn Cote Weibel

1969

Jerre & Susan Decker Eckes  
Kathy Murphy Goettl (JC)  
Douglas & Kathryn McDonald Hughes  
Ronald & Mary Chovan King  
Dan Krhin  
Dale & Mary Jo Fukey Meredith (HC)  
Jackie See

1970’S

1970

Anonymous (GC)

Patrick Bischel & Joy Bergeron (GC)

Lee & Jane Flug  
Robert & Susan Gindt Konop  
Dale & Mary Jo Fukey Meredith (HC)

Jack & Mary Jo Tealy Stelter (EC)

1971

Randy & Marilyn Bowe  
Robert & Connie Daniel  
Jeff & Alice Buchberger Heinzen (JC)  
Gordy Meinen & Nancy Nelson-  
Meinen (XC)  
Paul & Rose Joas Thornton

1972

Paul & Mary Anne Bembnister (HC)  
Joe & Sharon McDonald Cade (JC)  
Suzanne Eder (EC)  
James Larson  
William & Sandy Raawe Schumacher

1973

Wayne Boos (HC)  
Dave & Julie Bembnister Clark  
Mark & Sandra Geissler Gobler  
Michael & Karen Marquie Lutz  
Gary & Debra Goettl West

1974

Bruce & Deb Tannler Heath  
Robert & Susan Gindt Konop  
Jeff & Sharon Farley Martin  
Jeff Mayer (HC)  
Catherine Berg Peck

1975

Bill & Jean Wenzel

1976

Theodore & Janice Blum  
John & Julie Hibbard  
Edward & Liz Thornton

1977

Rodney Bowe  
Duane & Bernadette Lynn Hull  
Dave & Donna Jacobs  
Bruce & Colleen Krejci  
John & Ellen Emerson Perrenoud  
Pete & Kathy Marquie Sokup

1978

Jerry & Mary Wermund Jacobson (PC)

Bryan & Julia Schemenauer  
McGann (JC)

David & Patty Baier Schimmel  
Pete & Kathy Marquie Sokup

1979

Jim & Jane Wermund Ford  
Laurie Armstrong Francis  
Gary & Carol Gindt  
Wesley Moskal (JC)

1980’S

1980

Dan & Deb Krejchi Dahl  
Michael & Karen Marquie Lutz  
Joe Maurer (JC)  
Becky Meinen Rubenzer

1981

Tom & Mary ‘H16 Huffcutt

1982

Wayne & Pam Franz  
Brian & Sue Zwiefelhofer Rineck

1984

Elmer & Barb Krista Eckwright  
Todd & Debra Baier Schemenauer

1985

Paul Miller & Julie Gaier

1986

Michael & Lisa Goettl Stoffel (XC)  
Troy & Julie Prince Van Sleet

1987

Steve & Mary Beth Amelse Pfeifer

1988

Troy & Julie Prince Van Sleet

1989

Michael Akan  
Todd Bowe  
Mitch & Kathi Rice (JC)

1990’S

1992

Eric & Angie Wedemeyer  
Mike & Jennifer Wedemeyer

1994

Brock & Alyssa Schneider Cooley (HC)  
Matt & Libby Cyr Leinenkugel

1995

Josh & Amy Meinen

1996

Ryan & Dani Markquardt Stelter (JC)

1998

Pat & Molly Meinen Bushman (HC)

1999

Nicholas Bohl  
Zachary & Christina Smiskey Meinen

2000’S

2000

Mark & Melissa Beaudette Grill  
Jacob & Emilee Hepfler  
Curtis & Theresa Kremer  
Nate & Kari Roesler Stepp (XC)

2003

Charles & Jaynee Armstrong Brannen  
Hiep & Mary Phung (HC)

2006

Nathan Martell

2008

Joseph Rider (JC)

2010’S

2010

Jennah Burggraf Fenter

FRIENDS

Kathleen Adams  
Jon & Karen Andersen

Anonymous (PC)

Michael & Lori Abraham  
Glenn & Judith St Arnault  
Brenda Boehm  
Erica Boehm

Jon & Tamara Bohaty (EC)

Roger & Catherine Bohl  
Chad & Tracy Bormann  
Mrs. Don Bowe  
Rick & Judi Bowe  
Barry & Lori Bremness  
Charles Brion

Daniel & Rachel Brion (JC)

Bill & Jennifer Buescher

Robert Buonincontro  
Megan Burggraf  
Very Rev. Jesse Burish (HC)  
Justus & Amanda Busse  
Logan & Amanda Butterfield  
Sandy Chamberlain (HC)  
Robert Chapman (HC)  
Kari Clemens

DJ & Sarah Cooper (JC)

Teresa & Wayne Dachel  
Thomas & Crissie Dassow  
Jill & Peter Doermann  
Matt & Rhonda Elstran  
Amanda & Ryan Empey  
Roxanne Farmer  
Chris & Tracey Fischer  
Mark & Heather Flashinski  
Carolann Gardner

Gary & Pat Gray (PC)

Rik & Cathy Pieper Greenseth H’14  
Kevin Gullo & Michelle Irwin-Gullo  
Betty Hedrington

Andrea & Kevin Hess (JC)

John Higgins  
Kim & Dave Hoff  
Carson Honaker

Marian Hunt (JC)

Janice Janc (JC)

Shannon & Christopher Jaeger  
Leroy & Patty Jansky  
Jeff & Julie Jernigan  
Kelsey & John Jimenez  
Donnell Johnson  
Valerius Knobloch  
John Krebsbach

Jerry & Mary Kuehl ‘H12(XC)

Daniel Kwosek  
Tom Lambert (HC)  
Rodney & Peggy Lazarz  
Monica Laux  
Jamie & Amber Leibrandt

ABMVF Annual Giving Categories

(GC)

Father Charles F.X. Goldsmith Circle  
Annual Gift \$15,000+

(PC)

Father Eugene Phelan Circle  
Annual Gift of \$10,000 - 14,999

(EC)

Sister M. Estelle Circle  
Annual Gift of \$5,000 - 9,999

(XC)

Sister Mary Francis  
Xavier Circle  
Annual Gift of \$2,500 - 4,999

(JC)

Mary and Lizzie  
Jennings Circle  
Annual Gift of \$1,000 - 2,499

(DC)

School Sisters of  
Notre Dame Club  
Annual Gift of \$750 – 999

(HC)

Rev. Theodore  
Hegemann Club  
Annual Gift of \$500 – 749

Rev. Edmund Sturm Club  
Annual Gift of \$250 – 499

Christian Brothers Club  
Annual Gift up to \$250

Lee Ann Lien  
Thomas 'Jake' & Peggy  
Leinenkugel  
Charles & J.M. Lorentz  
Brandon & Danielle  
Mittermeyer  
Joe & Julie Monarski  
Raymond & Barbara Nazer  
Ken & Peggy 'H14 Nehring  
Barry & Mary Nesja (HC)  
Mary Ellen Ostrowski  
Colleen Parente da Costa  
Robert & Barbara Parkhurst  
Pat Pecha  
Joe & Abby Petefish (HC)  
Dung Pham (HC)  
**Richard & Kristen Plendl (JC)**  
Julie Pomietlo  
**Jeanette Prince (JC)**  
**Viola Prince (JC)**  
Alison Prochaska  
Janet Prueher  
Deacon Dan & Julie Rider  
Jill Ritchie  
**Karla & Paul Roach (JC)**  
Brian & Denise Roesler (HC)  
**Steve Roesler 'H14 (XC)**  
Kendra Rogers  
Rick & Jennifer Rubenzer  
**Andy & Rita Shakal (JC)**  
Diane & Dick Schemenauer  
Christie Schmock  
Barb & James Schofield  
Eric & Mary Beth Schubert  
Donald & Rizza Schulze (HC)  
Nancy Scobie  
Thomas Seipel  
Darci & Tony Sikora  
Seth & Tracey Smiskey (HC)  
David & Susan Staudacher  
Taylor Stewart  
**Mike & Rita Sullivan (DC)**  
Nick Talford  
Lynn Tobkin  
Nicole Troyer  
Scott & Anne Wahl  
Gerald & Carol Way 'H12  
Tom Weyenberg  
Robert & Virginia Wierman  
Paul & Mary Wiley  
Dcn. Ned & Lou Ann Willkom  
Steve & Maggie Wojan  
David Yarrington  
**Jaclyn Yule (GC)**  
Jeff & Margaret Zander (HC)

**BUSINESS & COMMUNITY FRIENDS**

**All Saints Church (XC)**  
American Legion Post 77  
**AnnMarie Foundation (EC)**  
**Ann Marie Foundation (XC)**  
Bushman's Lake Hayward  
Retreat & Canvas Town  
Events (JC)  
**Catholic Women's Club (JC)**  
**CF Products (XC)**  
Chippewa County Dairy  
Promoters  
Chippewa Falls Oktoberfest  
**Chippewa Valley Financial Services (EC)**  
Chippewa Valley Raptors  
Softball (DC)

**Chippewa Valley YMCA (DC)**  
**Church of the Holy Ghost (GC)**  
**The Church of Notre Dame (GC)**  
**Cobblestone Hotel and Suites (EC)**  
The Country Register  
**Daredevil Marketing (JC)**  
D&D Hydroseeding  
**Economy Storage (JC)**  
Edward Rutledge  
Charities (HC)  
**Elite Cuts (JC)**  
Fill Inn Station  
**Fries Financial Group (XC)**  
Great Northern Corporation  
**Harold and Marian Hunt Family Endowment Fund Community Foundation of Chippewa County (DC)**  
Hideaway Resort (HC)  
**Holy Cross Church (EC)**  
**Horan Funeral Home (XC)**  
**H&R Electric (EC)**  
HSHS St. Joseph and Sacred Heart (JC)  
**John A. & Jane E. Mason Lubs Family Endowment Fund Community Foundation of Chippewa County (EC)**  
John R. & Ellen A.  
O'Neil Endowment  
Community Foundation of Chippewa County  
**Joseph W Joas Designated Endowment Fund Community Foundation of Chippewa County (XC)**  
**JW Logging (JC)**  
**Knights of Columbus (EC)**  
Loopy's (HC)  
**Mason Companies (EC)**  
**Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research (JC)**  
**McDonell High School Foundation (GC)**  
Midwest Chiropractic  
Neurology  
**Micon Cinemas (JC)**  
Midwest Home Supply  
Mouldy's Archery & Tackle  
**Nicolet National Bank (JC)**  
**Northwestern Bank (EC)**  
Oakleaf Clinics, The Counseling Room  
**One Automotive Group (JC)**  
OneFest  
Optimist Club 09-044  
**Pat & Gary Gray Family Endowment Fund Community Foundation of Chippewa County (JC)**  
RCU  
**Religious Care Foundation (GC)**  
**Riverbend Winery (DC)**  
**River Country Co-op (JC)**  
**Sacred Heart of Jesus Church (EC)**  
Sam's Club  
**Scheel's (JC)**  
**Senn Blacktop (JC)**  
**Skip and Jill Thaler Family Endowment Fund Community Foundation of**

**Chippewa County (EC)**  
Sokup's Market  
**Spring Street Sports (DC)**  
Stanley Theater and  
Tessy's Popcorn  
State Farm Insurance  
- Jeff Flaig (HC)  
**St. Bridget Church (XC)**  
**St. Charles Borromeo Church (GC)**  
**Stelter Inc. (EC)**  
**St. John the Baptist Church (JC)**  
**St. Paul's Church (XC)**  
**St. Peter the Apostle Church (GC)**  
Sue Decker Theatre  
Endowment Fund  
**Thaler Oil (XC)**  
Tilden Gun  
**Tilden Lion's Club (JC)**  
**Toycen Ford (JC)**  
**Turn 2 Athletics (DC)**  
Valley Sports Academy  
**WHG Companies LLC (JC)**  
Wiley Law S.C.  
William and Gertrude  
Casper Foundation (HC)  
Wisconsin Masonic  
Foundation (HC)  
**Wissota Transport (XC)**

**Honorary Gifts**

**Memorial Gifts**

Mike Bertrand  
Isaac Bohaty '18  
Charlotte Sullivan Bowe  
Eugenia T Stoffel Chapman  
Mary Cinquegrana  
Father Daniel Farley '76  
Joan Peloquin Ford '48  
Jeanne Schmidt Hancock '55  
Mig and Patricia Hebert  
Lee Hepfler  
Harold Hunt  
Herb Hunt  
Donna (Pouliot) Johnson  
Kathleen "Katie" Kopp '47  
Bernadine Larson  
Steve Plendl  
Carol Porn  
Dan Prince  
Gerald Prince  
Rose Schemenauer  
Walter Swoboda  
Brian Wogernese '08  
Darlene (Hunt) Yarrington

**In-Kind Donations**

715 Alive Outdoors  
A. Anderson's Jewelers  
ABC Balloon & Basket Company  
ACE Hardware

Anderson Take Out  
Bargain City & Country Treasures  
Buono's Baits  
Burger King  
Burly's  
Chippewa Pallet  
Cook Chiropractic  
Dairy Queen  
Davinci Therapeutic Massage  
Economy Storage  
Elm Acres Farm  
Envy Wellness  
Eric's Diamonds  
Fantasy Ink  
Fill Inn Station  
H&R Electric Inc.  
Hallie Nutrition  
Heartbreakers Bar & Grill  
Huckleberry's  
Jacobson's Meat Market  
JNE Meats  
Josef's Cheesecake  
JT Allard Mechanic & Welding Service  
Kwik Trip  
Lake Hallie Bar and Grill  
Leslie Huntington Mental  
Performance Training  
Marc-on Shooting  
Mason Companies  
Matt Leinie Studio  
McDonald Companies  
Noodles and Company  
Northern WI State Fairgrounds  
Oakleaf Clinics, The Counseling Room  
Ojibwa Golf and Bowl & Falls Bowl  
Olson's Ice Cream  
OneFest  
Premium Waters  
Rookie's  
Sam's Club  
Sandbar  
Andy & Rita Shakal  
Bernadine Sikora  
Sokup's Market  
Stelter Inc  
Sunbeam  
The Dam Bar  
The Snout Saloon  
The View  
Travis Hakes  
Troppo  
Wal-mart  
Wayside Bar and Grill  
West Hill Bar

**Matching Gifts**

We are blessed to live in a country where so many people and companies give back. Your employer may be one of them!  
**AbbVie**  
Hiep Phung '03  
**Caterpillar**  
Andy Shakal  
**Wal-Mart**  
John Abbe



# The Little Macks Project



Planting seeds of faith, learning and virtue

Dean of Academic Affairs & Accreditation  
Mary Huffcutt 'H17



"Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.'"

- Matthew 19:14

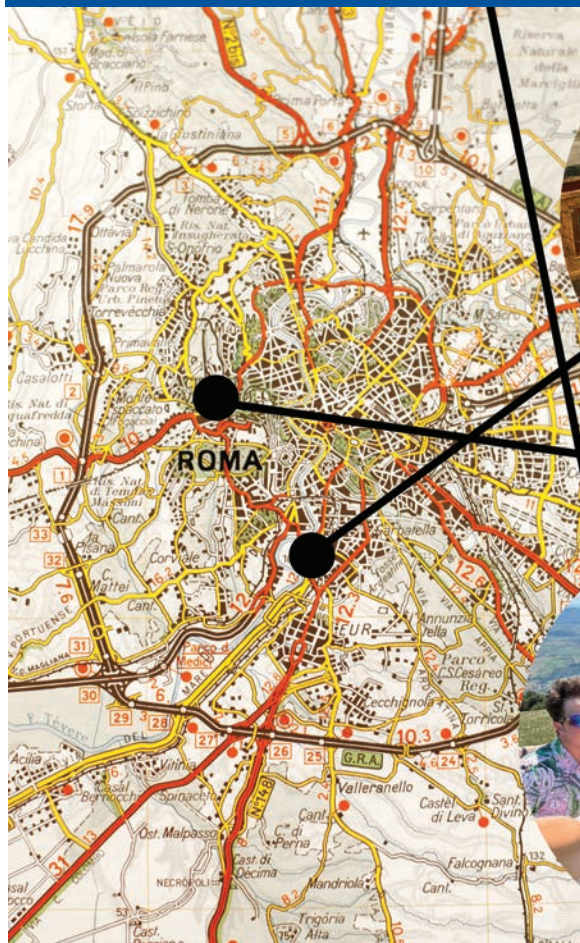
We are so excited about our St. Charles' Preschool 3K and 4K program, Little Macks. We are nurturing a Christ centered program for our little people. It is a process, but what we aim to achieve is good, beautiful, and true. In alignment with our Catholic Liberal Arts education, we are designing our classrooms with the Charlotte Mason philosophy in mind, as well as adding one day a week for our students to engage in The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (Catholic Montessori Program).

This summer, we started with the 3K room as well as the 4K open play room by bringing back the beautiful wood floors, coats of fresh paint, bringing in open-ended play, and learning materials that are simple and mostly made of natural materials. The walls are adorned with beautiful

art and images of Christ.

With the help of the University of Dallas, we are developing our Little Macks program to include faith, gentle learning, beautiful literature, virtuous habit reinforcement, outdoor/nature study, and the enjoyment of the arts.

We believe strongly in the direction we are going: a foundation of hope in all things that are good, beautiful, and true.



Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Wall



St. Peter's Basilica



Hiking in Assisi, home of St. Francis

## Roaming in Rome!

A small group of our students, with members of the MACS staff and parents acting as chaperones, went on a pilgrimage to Rome over the summer. Our students had the privilege of staying in Assisi, Italy, the birthplace of St. Francis. They were blessed to walk where the great saint once walked. From Assisi they were able to take a three hour train ride south to Rome and visit Vatican City and other various religious sights in the area. The pictures seen to the left are just a few of the amazing activities that our students were able to partake.

It is thanks to the generosity of donors that our students were able to have the privilege of such a blessed journey. We pray for many more opportunities like this for more of our students in the future.



# Class Notes

## 1970s

### Debbie Geissler McDonald '71

Debbie and her husband Gary celebrated their 51st wedding anniversary on September 30, 2023 with a big party at the Notre Dame Welcome Center. Congratulations Gary and Debbie on a long and happy marriage with prayers for your continued bliss for the years to come!

### Jim Larson '72

Jim retired from Sokup's Meat Market, Chippewa Falls on September 30, 2022, after 48 years. Jim continues to attend Mass at St. Charles Borromeo Church where he has been a life long member.



Gary and Debbie '71 McDonald on their wedding day.



Jim Larson's 1972 senior yearbook photo.



## 2000s

### Kat Roesler Hanson '03

Macks Girls Volleyball Varsity coach, Kat Hanson, was named the 2022-23 National Federation of High Schools' Wisconsin Coach of the Year. Congratulations, Kat, on achieving this great honor and thank you for your years of dedication with our student-athletes!



Kat Roesler Hanson '03 cheering on her team and celebrating their victory at the 2023 State Volleyball Championship

## 2010's

### Thomas Longbella '16

Thomas continues to make headlines from the golf course! Thomas logged his second top-20 finish of the PGA Tour Canada season, tying for 19th place at the Quebec Open in July, 2023.



Thomas Longbella '16



Andrew Bauer '23 poses with his trophy from the WSGA Junior Boys Championship

## 2020's

### Andrew Bauer '23

Andrew recently graduated from McDonell Central Catholic High School, and already he is making headlines from the golf course! Andrew won the 100th Wisconsin State Golf Association's Junior Boys Championship in August, 2023, at the Legend at Bergamont, Oregon, WI.

Recent MACS Graduates **Paul Pfeifer '23, Dan Anderson '22, and Joey Thaler '20**, may attend different colleges, but they continue to reunite as friendly adversaries on the cross country trails in the WIAC.

## We want to hear about YOU!

From the womb to the tomb and life's blessings in between, we want to know what's new with you.

Send in your life updates to [mackmessenger@macs.k12.wi.us](mailto:mackmessenger@macs.k12.wi.us), so we can add your story to the Class Notes.



LtOr: Paul Pfeifer '23, Dan Anderson '22, and Joey Thaler '20 meet as opponents at a college level cross country meet.

-Picture from the Chippewa Herald



# Class Notes

## MEMORIAM

Please join the MACS community in prayerful memory of deceased alumni, parents, and friends.

**Virginia Gustafson Keyeski '47**

February 9, 2023, Chippewa Falls

**Norbert Anthony Sedlacek '47**

August 23, 2023, Chippewa Falls

**Claudia Zwiefelhofer Harings '48**

July 10, 2023, Chippewa Falls

**Marlene Ruppert Larson '49**

December 16, 2021, Chippewa Falls

**Nancy O'Neil McCarthy '50**

July 11, 2023, Renton, WA

**Jeannine Culbert Yohnk '50**

July 7, 2023, Chippewa Falls

**Carol Kaiser Tichey '51**

September 2, 2023, Chippewa Falls

**Norma Miller Licht '52**

June 18, 2023, Chippewa Falls

**William C. Moe '52**

October 1, 2023, Chippewa Falls

**David Kramschuster '54**

May 18, 2023, Liberal, KS

**James Lockbaum '54**

October 8, 2023, Chippewa Falls

**Charlotte Bowe Prince '54**

May 26, 2023, Eau Claire

**Yvonne 'Bonnie' Greening Briggs '55**

September 21, 2023, Chippewa Falls

**George J. Flint '55**

September 19, 2023, Lake Hallie

**Mary Bellmore Peterson '55**

July 2, 2023, Codott, WI

**Judith Brick Vaudreuil '56**

July 14, 2023, Chippewa Falls

**William Patterson '58**

October 17, 2022, La Crosse, WI

**Russell Rowan '58**

September 10, 2022, Chippewa Falls

**Maurice Wozniak '58**

November 24, 2022, Waupaca, WI

**Joan Goettl Matthews '60**

May 12, 2023, Anchorage, AK

**William 'Tex' Akan '61**

October 7, 2023, Chippewa Falls

**Kathleen Hillery Mandelert '62**

August 15, 2023, Chippewa Falls

**Donald Schwieters '63**

September 19, 2023, Chippewa Falls

**David Albert Gee '71**

September 6, 2023, Chippewa Falls

**Mike DuCharme '72**

May 28, 2023, Chippewa Falls

**Charles 'Whitehead' Peterson '74**

June 19, 2023, Chippewa Falls

**Patrick 'Hound' O'Connell '77**

September 4, 2023, Chippewa Falls

**William Lavicka '80**

October 4, 2023, Chippewa Falls

**Lori A. Berg '89**

May 21, 2023, Baldwin, WI

## MEMORIAL FRIENDS

**Ronald G. Bohl**

February 1, 2023, Chippewa Falls

**Lawrence Herman Boos**

June 15, 2023, Bloomer, WI

**Judy Rognholt Buntz**

September 3, 2023, Chippewa Falls

**Carmela Newman Duex**

September 29, 2023, Chippewa Falls

**Arlis Evert Hanson**

May 27, 2023, Chippewa Falls

**Marilyn Borgenheimer Holte**

June 16, 2023, Chippewa Falls

**Marcelline Schemenauer Morissette**

June 28, 2023, Chippewa Falls

**Steve Plendl**

May 17, 2023, Chippewa Falls

**Catherine Joyce Rada**

May 19, 2023, Chippewa Falls

**Carol Russell Schreiner**

May 20, 2023, Chippewa Falls

**David Turany**

August 7, 2023, Chippewa Falls

## Class of 1993:



Members from the class of 1993 gathered for a day of catching up and sharing memories on July 16, 2023, at Loopy's Saloon & Grill, Chippewa Falls.

# Class Reunions

## Class of 1958

The McDonell Class of 1958 celebrated its 65th reunion August 11, 2023 at the Fill-Inn Station in Chippewa Falls. The group shared drinks and stories for several hours to catch up with one another.



Top picture: Front Row LtoR: Kenneth Butak, Evelyn Moody Lockaum, Janice Postl Cloutier, Mary Duss, Mary Ann Martineau Shafer, Jane Cushman Hand, Janice Felix Nazer, James Maloney. Second Row: Thomas Prueher, Stephen Meinen, Mary Gehl Mayer, Larry Bresina, Sandy Arntz Shaurette Placek, Donald Bischel, Marie Tichey Legierski, Yvonne Zwiefelhofer, Francis Nazer, Joseph Overweis, Jack Geisler.

Bottom picture: Late to the 1958 group photo, but still eager to join the camaraderie, LtoR James Heerey, Susan Theissen Zhulke, and Rev. John Schultz.



## Class of 1968:



The McDonell Class of 1968 met for their 55th reunion on August 19, 2023, at Loopy's Grill and Saloon in Chippewa Falls. The group caught up with one another while enjoying drinks and hors d'oeuvres.



**PARENTS:** IF THIS ISSUE IS ADDRESSED TO YOUR SON OR DAUGHTER WHO NO LONGER LIVES AT HOME, PLEASE CALL THE ADVANCEMENT OFFICE WITH CORRECT ADDRESS: 715.723.0538 OR GO ONLINE: [www.mcdonellareacatholicschools.org/alumni/](http://www.mcdonellareacatholicschools.org/alumni/)

*If you have updated contact information or would prefer to receive the Mack Messenger in a different form (digital or physical) please contact the Advancement office at 715.723.0538 or [advancement@macs.k12.wi.us](mailto:advancement@macs.k12.wi.us)*



# 2024 MCDONELL AREA CATHOLIC SCHOOLS MID-WINTER MARDI GRAS

*Saturday, February 10th*

**SAVE THE DATE**

McDonnell Central Catholic High School  
1316 Bel Air Blvd., Chippewa Falls, WI  
[www.mcdonellareacatholicschools.org  
/support-macs/mardi-gras.cfm](http://www.mcdonellareacatholicschools.org/support-macs/mardi-gras.cfm)



## THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS



## THANK YOU TO OUR PROMOTERS



## THANK YOU TO OUR BACKERS



## THANK YOU TO OUR FRIENDS

