

DECEMBER 2022
CHRISTMAS EDITION



CIRISH Connections

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION • ST. AGNES • ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON • SPRINGFIELD CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL



— SPRINGFIELD — CATHOLIC — SCHOOLS —

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION SCHOOL

3555A S. Fremont
Springfield, MO 65804
417.881.7000
Principal: Mike Johnson
Assistant Principal: Ashley Harris

ST. AGNES SCHOOL

531 S. Jefferson
Springfield, MO 65806
417.866.5038
Principal: Paige Duda

2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR

Springfield Catholic Schools
Central Office
2340 S. Eastgate
Springfield, MO 65809
417.865.5567
SpringfieldCatholicSchools.org

ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON SCHOOL

2200 W. Republic Rd.
Springfield, MO 65807
417.887.6056
Principal: JoAnne Bailes

SPRINGFIELD CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

2340 S. Eastgate
Springfield, MO 65809
417.887.8817
Principal: Jeanne Skahan

IRISH Connections

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Stories written and edited by
SCHS Journalism students.



Mrs. Swam's Earth Science class went to
Giboney Cave to explore Karst topography.

“Oh come all ye faithful.”

ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SPRINGFIELD- CAPE GIRARDEAU OFFICE OF THE BISHOP



DEAR FRIENDS,

“O, come, all ye faithful,” Adeste Fideles, are words so familiar to us during the Christmas Season. Each verse of the song ends with the hopeful expectation, “Oh come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord, “Venite adoremus, Dominum.”

As we enter into the Christmas Season, it is my honor to pray for all our families throughout southern Missouri. In the midst of all the busyness, I pray that each family will take the time to truly prepare your hearts for the coming of Christ our Savior. How can we prepare our hearts? Well, it may sound like a contradiction, but in the midst of the activities of the season, could you give yourself the luxury of slowing down? Do something spiritual for you and your family. Make a point, as a family, to go to Confession at a penance service. Attend an extra Mass as a family. Decorate the Christmas tree and then pray the rosary at the conclusion of that activity. Display an Advent wreath and mark the passing of the days with the lighting of candles. Ultimately, each one of us is invited to prepare the heart so that Christ may be born anew.

the busyness. People decorate and shop and prepare special foods because the birth of Christ is special. However, what I would encourage them to do is to make a visit to the Blessed Sacrament every time they went shopping. If you make three trips to go shopping, then begin or end the shopping with a visit to your local parish or adoration chapel. If everyone would do that, then the words of the song would ring true, “Oh, come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.”

As your Bishop, it is my honor and privilege to keep you in my prayers. Be assured of a special remembrance on Christmas Day and throughout the Christmas season. As I place your hearts in the manger to be united with the holy infant, may this be the best Christmas ever!

Merry Christmas and a blessed, holy, happy New Year.

Most Reverend Edward M. Rice
Bishop of Springfield-Cape Girardeau

When I was a pastor, I realized it was useless to tell people not to get caught up in all



IMPORTANT DATES 2023-2024 STUDENT REGISTRATION

Registration is required for each student every year.

FEBRUARY 1ST THROUGH 28TH

- Active Catholic form
- Facts Grant and Aid
- Endowment Scholarship

FEBRUARY 28, 2023

- All applicable information must be submitted

APRIL 14TH THROUGH MAY 1ST

It is enrollment time!

MAY 3

- Open Enrollment for new families



“AND THE WORD BECAME FLESH”



DEAR SPRINGFIELD CATHOLIC SCHOOLS,

BY SISTER CECILIA ANN REZAC, M.S.



“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory.” (John 1:14) This verse from the Gospel of St. John gives us reason to rejoice and to be filled with Christian optimism.

this love through Eucharistic Adoration and Processions, service opportunities, human formation, and various acts of charity.

It may seem today there are plenty of reasons to get discouraged and dance with despair, but our Catholic faith is a beacon of hope! So often our culture no longer helps us transmit the faith and that is why our Catholic schools are so vital!

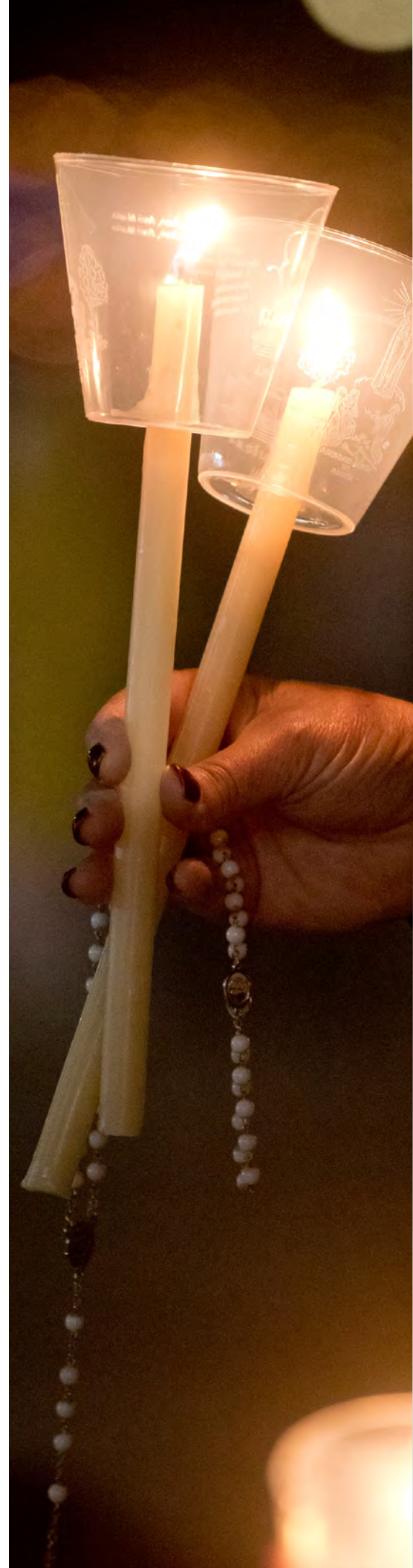
We are blessed with amazing faculty and staff that share their time and talent to not only build intellectually strong students, but students who are ever growing spiritually, mentally, emotionally, and physically. Our wonderful parents and benefactors assist and support us in so many ways to keep our schools open and operating at the highest level possible.

Our school system theme this year is “Hearts on Fire”. The three hearts pictured in the logo are those of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, the Immaculate Heart of Mary, and the Chaste Heart of St. Joseph. Hearts are one of the universal symbols of love. Our Catholic schools this year are focusing on different expressions of love portrayed by the Holy Family. We will try to emulate

Jesus came to earth as an infant to capture hearts and to remind us of who we are and to whom we belong. We are God’s children, children of a King, the King of Peace! God sent to earth His only begotten Son as a pure act of love. Love leads to union and communion. We need to spend time with the ones we love, so I pray that this Christmas season may find you spending time with your family and friends. But, do not forget to spend time with the Lord who loves you unconditionally, infinitely, and eternally. You were created to love, for love, and by Love.

With the inception of the new year, we have a committee that plans to put out a series of podcasts focusing on the beauty of who we are in God’s sight and how to live and embrace true happiness and love. Please stay tuned for “Be filled: Theology of the Body for Every Day”.

Sister Cecilia Ann Rezac, M.S.
Director of Schools



CBNO.BIZ

CATHOLIC BUSINESS NETWORK OF THE OZARKS

Support those who support you!

Visit CBNO.BIZ for Catholic owned and operated businesses and business professionals who support the Springfield Catholic Schools System. CBNO.BIZ your go to list for your goods and service needs.



Upcoming Events

JAN
18
2023

CBNO Mixer - Tax Advice

It's tax season! Get some tax advice from the experts from FORVIS! Location TBD

FEB
15
2023

CBNO Spring Mixer

Everyone is invited to the CBNO Spring Mixer! More details to come!

MAR
29
2023

CBNO Mixer - Spring Cleaning

Our friends from Seminole Décor Center are going to give you some tips and ideas for your spring projects!

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION SCHOOL

BY ASHLEY HARRIS, ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

✪ The first semester at Immaculate Conception has been a blessing from God. The 2022 National Blue Ribbon Award was bestowed upon Immaculate Conception. This award was only given to 297 schools in the United States. Of these, only 22 were Catholic schools. Mr. Johnson, Mrs. Wilson, and Ms. Ballenger were blessed with safe travels to Washington D.C. to accept this prestigious award. This is a great testament to the hard work our teachers and staff put into creating a high achieving school while working tirelessly to bring Christ to our students every day.

Before the school year even began, our teachers were hard at work throughout the summer preparing for the 22-23 school year. In August, we welcomed our families back with excitement at the annual Ice Cream Social. Students and parents met their new teachers and greeted old friends. As we gathered for our first All School Mass, our new associate pastor, Father Peirano, consecrated our school year. It was a beautiful way to begin a year of learning and spiritual growth.

This fall has been busy inside and outside of the classroom learning through activities, service projects, and field trips. In the Early Childhood wing of our school, students are learning life's most important lessons of how to play with others, communicating needs, and the love of God and all His creations. Our kindergarteners are beginning to learn to read using our SuperKids curriculum. And the teachers have been showing the students how to be independent learners through the use of carefully crafted learning centers. Kindergarten took their first field trip to Rutledge Wilson Farms where they learned all about farm animals. In October, there was also an educational

visit from the Springfield Fire Department that taught the students about fire safety.

The joy of learning continues throughout the elementary classrooms. First grade welcomed grandparents with an adorable performance followed up with cookies, lemonade, and classroom visits. They

“Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.”
Proverbs 22:6

also visited the high school for Halloween trick-or-treating. Second grade students wrote book reports and decorated pumpkins like a book character. Pete Oswald, award winning author of The Good Egg, commented on the creativity of one of the pumpkin characters. First Reconciliation for second grade was successful. Students dutifully prepared for their first confessions and accepting of God's grace. Second grade was well prepared for this by working with their sixth grade prayer buddies. Third grade are following Bishop Rice's advice in saying a decade of the Rosary when they come in from recess. They are learning to read to learn, versus learning to read, and eager to write

everything in cursive. Fourth grade students have been focusing on literacy and culminated the unit on literature studies with a visit to the Moxie to watch “Winn Dixie”.

Our middle school has many exciting and formative activities taking place. The middle school students are embracing their role as leaders in our building. These students have stepped up to be part of our Guardian Angel program, helping our younger students during morning arrival and transitions to classrooms. They also led our school in a living rosary on Our Lady of the Rosary this October. During Irish Choice some 6th, 7th, & 8th grade students are participating in service and outreach projects to help others such as Operation Christmas Child boxes. Seventh grade had the wonderful experience of visiting Wonders of Wildlife and getting to dissect squid. Wonders of Wildlife followed up with an additional experience of dissecting sharks in our science lab here at Immaculate Conception. The eighth grade gained a deeper appreciation for government on their annual field trip to Jefferson City. With a tour of the state capitol, a journey into the past with a visit to the Missouri State Penitentiary, and ice cream at Hiland our eighth grade certainly made some lasting memories.

The Bible encourages us to gather and maintain connection with each other and build a community of love. We continue to foster and celebrate the community we have created over the years with the continuation of traditions in the church and our school. The parish picnic was a huge success with bounce houses, BBQ, and the Minions movie. Muffins with Mom and Donuts with Dad brought parents into

the school to celebrate the love of family. The Book Fair was a success with students and families buying more books than ever. Fright Night continued this year and was bigger than in years past. Families came to enjoy games, face painting, glow parties, bounce houses, dinner, and socializing all while in costume. The Christmas season was celebrated with Breakfast with Santa where families were invited to attend Mass and then enjoy games, crafts, and chats with Santa. Most importantly, we continued to look to Christ as the reason for celebration through the holiday season.

We want to thank all the teachers, parents, parishioners, and community members who continue to support our Catholic schools in prayers, service, and monetary contributions. Your support helps us to continually guide our students towards discipleship. “Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.” (Proverbs 22:6).

SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS:

- National Blue Ribbon Award
- IC Robotics team is headed to State Championship for their invention.
- Two Immaculate Conception students placed in the top three of the Law Day Essay Competition put on by Springfield Metropolitan Bar Association.
- The Irish 8th graders went undefeated in the 2022 football season.
- The Springfield Catholic Cross Country team placed third in State.



ST. AGNES CATHEDRAL SCHOOL

BY PAIGE DUDA, PRINCIPAL



Annual Guardian Angel Mass.



Ella Herman, Carleigh Marler and Charlotte Belden making Guardian Angel bracelets.



Faith Spilker and Ezra Wasson help to lead the Living Rosary.

☀️ Time sure flies when you are having fun! St. Agnes has been full of wonderful events, celebrations, and learning this first semester. Our Guardian Angel Mass was one of the highlights of the fall as we watched our eighth graders take on the very important leadership role for our first graders. The ceremony captures so much of who we are here at St. Agnes and is the beginning of a beautiful relationship that we will have the honor of witnessing throughout the school year. October was also marked with beautiful traditions that come with the liturgical year including our living Rosary in the cathedral and celebrating the saints. Our PreK all dressed as saints and visited the Catholic Center staff for some trick or treating with their Saint Parade. The third grade completed research on a saint and hosted their parents for an afternoon of presentations.

Signs of our faith in the classroom have manifested in such lovely ways this semester as students have begun their own acts of service. Fifth grade brought the corporal works of mercy to life through donation drives and serving needs within the building. Our middle school continues to serve our building daily through helping with parish and diocesan events, cleaning the cathedral, and serving as our safety patrol

in the mornings. Fifth and sixth grades have held wonderful student-led fundraisers such as bake sales and jewelry making with proceeds to benefit The Kitchen.

Our St. Agnes Middle School students have had some unique learning experiences this semester and continue to amaze us with their extracurricular accomplishments. Our athletic teams found many successes this semester, but more importantly, made us so very proud with their spirit of hard work, commitment, and cooperation. Our English teacher Mrs. Stufflebam led our students through a mock trial, they learned about the beautiful tradition and symbolism behind Dias de la Muertos in their Spanish course, and attended a special showing of the new documentary on St. Mother Teresa. Our 8th graders visited the Crystal Bridges art museum and will have some great events hosted by our high school in the spring. They will be graduating before we know it! Our Student Council has been very active this semester implementing some great new community building activities for our school. In particular, they hosted a school-wide dodgeball tournament. Each team was a mix of first through eighth graders which was a fun way to make connections and a wonderful leadership opportunity for our older students.

Home and School hosted many wonderful community events this semester including donuts with dads, boofest, grandparents day, pumpkin carving contest, and many class parent breakfasts. They also hosted a very successful Irish gold card sale, and our Coach Spitz was a great sport getting slimed by the winning class. We are so grateful for all the time and thought that they put into making our school such a welcoming and fun place to watch our students grow.

November was marked by a very successful book fair, literacy day, and canned food drive to support our food pantry during the holiday season. We then quickly welcomed the beginning of Advent—one of the most beautiful seasons in our liturgical year with our weekly school prayer services. Fr. Lewis and I want to thank all the teachers, parents, and community members that have supported our school as we continue to guide our youngest disciples. It is difficult to fully express our gratitude for the faith and trust you place in our school each day. During this Advent season, we pray you feel the peace of Christ surround your families and the hope of the New Year fill your homes.



PreK students dressed as saints to celebrate All Saints' Day.

SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS:

- Our elected Student Council Officers: Zoe Roberts, Ada Vilkins, Charlie Fairchild, and Carleigh Marler
- Our fall and winter Irish athletic teams including an undefeated football season, our 7th grade volleyball team taking 3rd place in the Springfield tournament, and a 3rd place for our Cross Country team in the Missouri Middle School Championship
- 7th Grader Lucas Todd for being selected to perform with the Southwest Central Jr. High Honor Band

ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON SCHOOL

BY JOANNE BAILES, PRINCIPAL



✪ The 2022-2023 school year opened with our “Hearts on Fire,” welcoming the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with love. Each day we follow the example of the Holy Family providing us ways to grow in holiness and love. This year, along with our fellow diocesan schools, we joined in a consecration of the Three Hearts of the Holy Family - The Sacred Heart of Jesus, the Immaculate Heart of Mary and the Chaste Heart of St. Joseph. If you are ever in the building, you will see examples of how our teachers have incorporated the Hearts of the Holy Family in their daily lessons. Each class has a banner outside their classroom displaying the Heart of their classroom. Every student added the name of a person who needs encouragement through prayer on the Holy Family Prayer Tree which is displayed in the school cafeteria.

In August, with the help of SEAS Home and School, we welcomed old and new friends with our annual Ice Cream Social. Students and families were able to visit the classrooms, meet their teacher(s) and gather information about various school organizations. It was a beautiful afternoon and a great way to begin the year.

As with years past, students in grades two through eight celebrated All School Mass together. Beginning the year with Mass is a special reminder of how the Eucharist brings us together as one family joining at God’s table. Following Mass, Fr. Kiefer performed a Eucharistic Procession in the school building, reminding all of us, as we begin a new year, that our journey is with Jesus.

The Saturday following the opening of the school year, SCS families and friends joined together for the 22-23 Soiree. The SEAS Soiree team, “got physical” to benefit our school system. Many thanks to the SEAS Soiree Team, SCS Central Office, the SCS Development Board and all those behind the scenes whose time and talent made the evening a success. It was heartwarming to see all our families working together to benefit our SCS students.

With the leadership of our 8th grade students, we celebrated Grandfriends Day. Each class hosted our guests with their special gift of song, prayer and support. It was a full house! We are already planning for next year’s event. In early October, for the Feast of our Lady of the Rosary, we offered a living Rosary. Our 8th grade students led by example leading the rosary while the entire SEAS student body, teachers, staff, and parents joined. It was a special morning reminding us of our devotion in honor of Mary and the mysteries of Jesus’ and Mary’s lives. In the spirit of Pope Francis and protecting Earth, we used biodegradable balloons and water-soluble string.

Throughout the year, we will focus on the Fruits of the Holy Spirit. Each month a student from each classroom that goes above and beyond displaying this virtue will be recognized for their Christ-like example.

Following in the footsteps of our Lord, SEAS students make it a priority to serve others in our community. This year we adopted the guests of the Ronald McDonald House Charities of the Ozarks. Our fourth grade students made care packages with snack and toiletries for September. In October, our fifth grade students helped clean the grounds of RMHCO and made prayer blankets for the residents. Each month, a class will serve, in their own special way, the guests of RMHCO, recognizing the importance of sharing God’s love with others. SEAS students also participated in the annual drive for Catholic Charities’ Lifehouse Crisis Nursery benefitting pregnant mothers during a time of need. Through the generosity of our students and families, we were able to donate nearly \$2,300 to the nursery.

For All Saints Day, our fourth and second grade students researched a Saint and prepared a report or display of their Saint, honoring the Saints of the Church. In the spirit of giving, we began our annual Pack the Principal’s Office Food Drive to support the St. Vincent de

Paul food pantry. Following the last day of the drive, our 8th grade leaders assisted parish volunteers with the sorting and packing the nonperishable items.

We returned from Thanksgiving break with the Advent season, a time of renewal. During Advent, students prepared their hearts asking for forgiveness and healing through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Throughout December, students brought in baby gifts that were donated to Lifehouse Crisis Nursery. In honor of Jesus’ birthday, we had a schoolwide birthday party celebrating the birth of Jesus.

There is much still to come at SEAS in the spring. As you may have seen in your parish bulletin, this year has been designated the “Diocesan Year” of the Eucharistic Revival. “The Revival is a grass-roots movement of Catholics, each responding to the gift of the Eucharist in their own way. The National Eucharistic Revival is meant to restore understanding and devotion to this great mystery.” SEAS teachers and staff are incorporating ways for students to participate in the Revival. The Eucharistic Banner Exhibit will be at SEAS in the spring. We are looking forward to the opportunity to have the display during our Catholic Schools Week open house.

We closed the first semester with a beautiful Christmas music program and band performance. Fr. Kiefer and I, along with all the SEAS students, and staff, wish each of you a peaceful Christmas season filled with God’s love and joy. We thank you for your continued support as we prepare our students as faith filled leaders. May Christ be with you and your family now and throughout the New Year!



SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS:

- Leah Speakes received **Most Distinguished Teacher Award**
 - SEAS met their goal selling **550 Gold Cards**
- SEAS raised **\$2,300** for Catholic Charities Lifehouse Crisis Nursery
 - 92% of families attended **Parent/Teacher conferences**
 - **Math Counts, Science Olympiad, and Robotics Teams** prepare for competition
 - SCS Junior High **Football Team** conference champs
 - SCS Junior High **Cross Country Team** took 3rd in conference
 - Second Grade received **Sacrament of Reconciliation**
 - **GOTR 5K** completed Nov. 6th



EMERALD 29 EVENING

PRESENTED BY



WELCOME TO THE JUNGLE

APRIL 1, 2023

WHITE RIVER CONFERENCE CENTER

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT

WWW.SPRINGFIELDCATHOLICSCHOOLS.ORG

SPONSORSHIP LEVELS



TIGER

\$10,000
(\$8,500 is tax-deductible)

- Two tables for 10
- Wine on tables (4 bottles on each)
- Access to the Rainforest Pre-party with hosted beer and unique cocktails and hors d'oeuvres
- Dedicated table bar server during dinner and auction with 40 drink tickets
- One hotel room at the Angler's Lodge for the evening of April 1, 2023

- Priority seating and table signage
- Name printed on all publicity, including event program, social media, etc.
- Special event night signage in lobby
- Name included on invitations mailed to 2,000 if committed by January 1, 2023
- Publicity in the Irish Connections magazine mailed to 4,500 families following the event.



ELEPHANT

\$5,000
(\$4,000 is tax-deductible)

- One table for 10
- Wine on Table (2 bottles) & 20 Drink Tickets
- Access to the Rainforest Pre-party with hosted beer and unique cocktails and hors d'oeuvres
- Priority seating and table signage

- Name printed on all publicity, including event program, social media, etc.
- Special event night signage in lobby
- Name included on invitations mailed to 2,000 if committed by January 1, 2023
- Publicity in the Irish Connections magazine mailed to 4,500 families following the event.



JAGUAR

\$2,500
(\$2,000 is tax-deductible)

- One table for 8
- Wine on Table (2 bottles)
- Access to the Rainforest Pre-party with hosted beer and unique cocktails and hors d'oeuvres

- Table signage
- Name printed on event program
- Publicity in the Irish Connections magazine mailed to 4,500 families following the event



MAGAW \$500

(\$400 is tax-deductible)

- Two tickets to the event
- Name printed in event program
- Please consider if you cannot attend or are already sitting at a sponsored table

THE SHAMROCK POST

THE SCHS NEWSPAPER WRITTEN BY SCHS STUDENTS



UNICEF Vice-President Ella Bauer handing out candy at the Trunk or Treat.

UNICEF: WORKING TO HELP KIDS THROUGH OUR COMMUNITY.

BY ABIGAIL STONE (11TH)

Springfield Catholic High School's Chapter of the United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF) held a Trunk or Treat fundraiser on October 19th. The organization raised \$270 to buy necessities for children in need. When the President of UNICEF, Avery Bowler, was asked what she loves the most about this organization, she said, "I enjoy serving others, and being able to serve kids around the world."

As for the future of the organization, the chairs are committed to organizing more fun and creative service projects. Their mission is to encourage the community to get involved in the foundation and help the kids in need. Service is an important part of our school and our faith, and UNICEF is a unique opportunity to give back to those less fortunate.

THE ISLES ARE FULL OF NOISES

PARKER FOSTER (11TH)

The air is always filled with the voices from our two choir groups—Concert Choir and Irish Singers. Within a single quarter, both groups managed to build up their respective music repertoires. Both groups presented such by performing at the fall concert. At the end of the concert, director Kathryn Cole had a special announcement to make. It turns out that Irish Singers have been invited to perform with the Springfield Symphony Orchestra, on December 11th, with other chamber choirs.

Each fall, singers from both choirs audition for honor choir. Seven students made honor choir, with junior Parker Foster and senior Emily Weiberg being in the top 25 and eligible to audition for All State.



Members of Honor Choir.

LEARNING ABOUT OUR CHURCH, FAITH, AND OUR ROLES IN IT.

BY ABIGAIL STONE (11TH)

Springfield Catholic prides itself on providing a curriculum structured around everything that a good Catholic should know about our Church, its history, and our part in it. This semester, the different classes are learning in depth about the many parts that constitute what it means to be Catholic. The freshman class watched the movie Moses, and are learning more about the lessons in the Book of Numbers. The sophomore class is learning about the Holy Trinity, and its significance in our lives. As for the seniors, they are studying heresies in the church, and are preparing to hold an in-class debate regarding the honor of the church and our faith.

The juniors have the privilege of being taught by one of our newest teachers, Mrs. Grace Tamburro. Mrs. Tamburro is leading them through discussion about a book titled Men Women and the Mystery of Love. This book discusses what the title would imply; the role that women and men play in God's love for us.



Father Allen Kirchner lecturing Sophomores about the Trinity, and the importance of reading Scripture.

WELCOME NEW STAFF!

BY EMMA BUCKTHORPE (11TH)

This school year, we welcomed seven new teachers to our Springfield Catholic High School family: Mrs. Becky Gould (English), Ms. Madison Knight (English), Mr. Alex Denny (Science), Mrs. Ta'lor Gold (Science), Mrs. Sara Swaim (Science), Mr. Zachary Merz (Social Studies), and Mrs. Grace Tamburro (Theology). We are beyond grateful to have these new teachers in our warm community.

"We are created for community, fashioned for fellowship, and formed for a family, and none of us can fulfill God's purpose by ourselves."

- Rick Warren

AN INTERVIEW WITH MRS. TA'LOR GOLD

Q: What made you want to join SCHS?

A: I wanted to join SCHS, because it was the first school that welcomed me with compassion and kindness.

Q: What is your favorite part about the SCHS community?

A: My favorite thing about the SCHS community is the fact that everyone and anyone will say hi to you — even if they don't know you! It makes me smile and it always makes my day so much brighter.

Q: If you could tell the world one quote, what would it be and why?

A: "May your neighbors respect you, trouble neglect you, angels protect you, and Heaven accept you" -Drake, because I love Drake more than any other rapper and this line speaks volumes.

STUDENTS PROVIDE SERVICE

PARKER FOSTER (11TH)

The dawn of a new year brings plenty of new service opportunities for students. During the summer, students attended Camp Barnabas, helping with one-on-one treatment for those with special needs. Mass-related service opportunities commonly come from our parishes. For example, students can work the IC Nursery on Sunday mornings, or they can help teach the Liturgy of the Word to children at St. Agnes Masses.

Halloween offered multiple opportunities, including St. Agnes and their Boofest, Trunk or Treat at the high school, hosted by UNICEF, and the movie night at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton.

With the induction of new NHS members, students can also be seen helping pick up trash from Blackman Road for Adopt-a-Street before school.

BAND IS GROWING

BY GIBSON O'DELL (11TH)

The band sounds better than ever! With this year bringing in 12 more Freshman who were eager to play, it sparked a new passion in the older students. At the football games they were playing loud and cheering on the team, and they are headed onto a competition at the end of December.



The band playing at a Hawaiian themed football game

UNITED HOUSES, SEPARATE VICTORIES

BY HAILEY MURPHY (12TH)

The SCHS House System has already held multiple competitions along with regular family times to bring smaller groups of students together. Some of the larger competitions that have been held include Kickball and Olympics. These are housewide events in which each of the four houses (Catherine of Alexandria, John the Beloved, Therese of Lisieux, and Michael the Archangel) compete with each other for house points. Other competitions and opportunities

for points have been held as well including mum sales and spirit awards. As of December 1, the current house points stand with Therese in first at 26, Catherine in second at 23, John in third at 22, and Michael in fourth at 14. These points however change frequently as new competitions arise.



Saint John leaders celebrating earning the first spirit points of the year for the Calling Ceremony

THE SHOW MUST GO ON

BY MARY SHARP (11TH)

Springfield Catholic High School's theater program has a history of putting on exceptional performances and this year was no different. Directed by Fr. Lewis and Anne Marie Coleman, and assisted by Mary Zimmerman, a combination of students from the high school and middle schools put on this year's musical, "Oklahoma!"

The first musical, written by Rodgers and Hammerstein, is based on Lynn Riggs' 1931 play, "Green Grow the Lilacs". Set at the turn of the twentieth century in the Oklahoma territory, "Oklahoma!" follows the story of two young cowboys vying with a ranch hand and a traveling peddler for the hearts of the women they love.



The cast of "Oklahoma!" after their performance on November 20th.

asked about her thoughts on this year's play, Maggie said "I'm obsessed with costuming for this show, and I love that we have such a big cast. We have a lot more people than we've had

for the past few shows and that's amazing. I'm glad so many more people are getting to experience theater."

HIGH ROLLER HOMECOMING

BY HAILEY MURPHY (12TH)

This year, our high school had another great homecoming spirit week. Students were allowed to dress on theme from Monday to Thursday with Friday being a Mass day. The themes were Jersey Day, Pajama Day, Adam Sandler Day, and Christmas Came Early. On Friday night, we had our Homecoming football game that ended in an unfortunate loss against Cassville. During halftime, our homecoming court was escorted by their fathers. The girls voted to be on court this year included Bridgid Kerr, Leah Zolfaghari, Grace O'Reilly, Maggie Lowrance, Julia Lee, Evan Thompson, and Hailey Murphy. After all the girls had been escorted our queen was revealed to be Julia Lee. The next night our homecoming dance took place with a casino theme.



Homecoming Queen Julia Lee being celebrated by some of her tennis teammates.



SCHS Speech and Debate with their trophies after a long day of competition.

SAYING SMART WORDS

BY MARY SHARP (11TH)

Springfield Catholic High School's Speech and Debate Team has long been one of the highest achieving clubs at the school. In their previous season, four people on the team qualified for various national level tournaments. At each of those, at least one person advanced to elimination rounds. This year, the team hopes to replicate that success.

The season opener, hosted by Gloria Deo Academy, provided a promising start to that goal on October 14-15. Held on Missouri State's campus, seven students competed that weekend. SCHS left the tournament with the highest number of trophies per competitor. Out of the seven competitors, six advanced to elimination rounds and five received trophies in final rounds. In speech, Macie Kelly placed 3rd in Novice USX, Ella Weiss placed 2nd in Novice USX, and Mary Sharp placed 4th in Varsity IX and 5th in Varsity Info. In debate, Ella Weiss and Vivian Sharp placed 4th in Novice Public Forum Debate and Mary Sharp and Maggie Duff placed 4th in Champion Policy Debate.

NEW PROGRAMS AT CATHOLIC: HEARTS ON FIRE

BY MARY SHARP (11TH)



This year, SCHS introduced a few new programs to students, chief among them being Hearts on Fire. Hearts on Fire is designed to help students develop soft skills.

Developed by Rena Sweeney and Chasity Hance, the program builds on the existing house system. Students meet with their 'families' from house every week on Wednesdays, where House leaders lead discussions about various lessons and books that are being read.

Macie Kelly, freshman, said, "Hearts on Fire is one of my favorite parts of going to high school. It's a resource that I'm blessed to have. The soft skills that it's helping me develop now are going to be super helpful for the future."

NEW YEAR, NEW GOALS, OLD HABITS

BY PETER VILKINS (11TH)



Springfield Catholic High School in the morning before school.

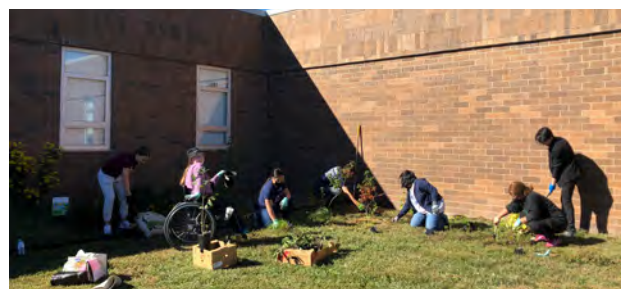
On August 16th, the 2022-23 school year kicked off, as the incoming Freshman class went to their first high school classes of their life for orientation day. Two days later, the rest of the student body returned to the classrooms for the first time in nearly three months. The students were greeted with new changes: new teachers, staff, and an entire new grade walked the hallways of Springfield Catholic.

Along with that, three foreign exchange students have made their way to SCHS. Two from Italy and one from Columbia. Additionally,

Springfield Catholic welcomed a security guard and a psychologist to the campus to improve student safety and wellbeing. The school also introduced a new all school class, "Hearts on Fire," which takes the place of House time on Wednesdays. This, along with the House system, gives students the opportunity to get out of class, stretch their legs, and participate in games and service, all the while learning important life skills and Catholic values. This school year is already halfway over so thank you to the students, staff, and parents for being excellent and bringing joy to the school.

LEADING BY EXAMPLE

BY TATUM CORBETT (11TH)



Rotary members helping plant flowers.

Rotary is a club that brings people together to serve and help their communities. Rotary helps teach leadership, kindness, and responsibility through various service projects throughout the school year. Rotary is a very popular club at Springfield Catholic and is led by Mrs. Lawless who

FALL BACK TO GOD

BY PETER VILKINS (11TH)

At Springfield Catholic High School, each grade level participates in a retreat during the first semester; the Freshman in mid-September and the Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors in early December. The retreats give the students an opportunity to learn more about their faith and participate in games and discussions with their fellow classmates.

During a retreat, there are several discussions and designated prayer times for the students as they grow in their relationship with God. A priest who would often lead discussions, will talk about his spiritual journey and how he found God's call to pursue priesthood. After the priest's talk, the students often participate in games or break up into small groups to discuss what the priest had talked about, including their own personal spiritual journey and how God takes part in their lives. Retreats are a great way to give the students a day off from their sometimes hectic daily school lives and attempt to improve their relationship with God.



The freshman class listening to the priest at Catholic Campus Ministries.

does a fantastic job helping the students plan fun and unique service projects.

One of Rotary's most recent service projects was garden planting. Students brought shovels and gloves and went outside to plant trees and flowers in the new Rotary Hope For Healing Garden. In addition to the garden, rotary also held a bake sale where members brought in home baked goods. All of Rotary's projects help give back to the school. The beautiful flowers in the garden and delicious treats quickly help brighten students' days. Throughout the year, Rotary will continue to plan service projects and inspire others to go out and make a difference.

THE SHAMROCK CHAPTER

BY ZOE MOELLER (12TH)

On September 18th, thirty-four new members were inducted into the Shamrock Chapter of the National Honor Society. Members are selected by not only having a GPA of 3.83 or higher, but by upholding all four pillars that represent the nationwide organization. These pillars include leadership, service, character, and scholarship. "Being a part of the National Honor Society has given me the opportunity to build lifelong skills that I will be able to use down the road," said vice-president Avery Bowler. The National Honor Society hosts fundraisers and events throughout the year, such as Grandparents Day where refreshments and entertainment from the choir and band were provided. Other events include a monthly Adopt-A-Streets where students collect trash along Blackman Road, and a coat drive for the community surrounding Springfield.



The induction ceremony for all eighty-four NHS members was a success

PLAY AND PRAY FOR CHRIST

BY TATUM CORBETT (11TH)



Mackenzie Kruger



Madeline Small



Olivia Swisshelm (in navy) playing soccer

At Springfield Catholic, we prioritize academics, athletics, and faith. Being a student and trying to balance all those things can be difficult. Catholic Athletes for Christ is a club for student-athletes who want to share their faith.

Catholic Athletes for Christ is sponsored by Bobby Cornelison who teaches theology at the high school. The club is led by Juniors: Olivia Swisshelm, Mackenzie Kruger, and Madeline

Small. Catholic Athletes for Christ includes athletes from all types of sports. This club is perfect for any high school athlete who wants to be more involved at school and with their faith.

A TRUE SCHOLAR

BY ZOE MOELLER (12TH)

Senior Drew Stuffebam qualified as a national merit scholarship finalist. He was recognized for this incredible achievement at Mass on September 14th. This award is based on overall performance on the PSAT/NMSQT. Approximately 1.5 million students nationwide take this test, and the top

50,000 students are considered to be merit-scholars. Semifinalists are named in September and are determined by selection index scores. Only 16,000 test takers make it to this step. When asked how he felt about the opportunity of being a finalist Drew said that he was, "Overjoyed and extremely grateful for the opportunity." Congratulations, Drew, on this achievement, and all the hard work you do!



Drew Stuffebam qualified as a semi-finalist for the national merit scholarship!



ON YOUR MARKS

BY PARKER FOSTER (11TH)



Runners Clayton Eck (10th), Parker Foster (11th), Benjamin Delvecchio (12th), Cory Phipps (9th), Kyle Rues (9th), Reid Krueger (12th) and Rocco Palazzolo (11th) after the Hollister meet.

“On your marks” are words that mean aptitude in endurance and mentality to our cross country runners, and this season has been anything but an exception to such. Building a strong foundation through hours of practice, both inside and outside of coaching hours, runners strove to decrease their times at weekly meets.

The boys’ team, coached by Thomas Gray, had a strong season. They had a particular breakthrough at Pleasant Hope when runners Benjamin Delvecchio, Parker Foster, and Clayton Eck

consecutively dropped nearly 30-60 seconds off each of their personal best times. The District race took place at Hermitage, a course feared for its altitude, on October 29th. The boys’ team placed 13th overall as a team. Parker Foster qualified for the State meet as he finished in the top 30 individually.

The girls’ team, coached by Nick Russo, was led by junior co-captains Mary Sharp and Elizabeth Fairchild. Unfortunately, the team lost their top runner, freshman Emma Belk, to an



Members of the Girls’ Cross Country Team at the District Championship Meet in Hermitage.

injury during the season’s second race. Belk won the Strafford Invitational in her only full race; she led the Monett Invitational class 3 race with 100 meters remaining when she incurred a season ending pulled muscle; nonetheless, Belk was recognized as a post season all-regional coaches’ selection. Freshman Maci Kelly was Catholic’s top runner for the remainder of the season. Along with Belk and Kelly, varsity runners Mary Sharp, Vivian Sharp, Lexi Ellis, Madi Vesely, Elizabeth Fairchild, Alicya DeVan and Carmen DeVan return next season.

GIRLS GOLF

BY GIBSON O’DELL (11TH)

The SCHS Girls’ Golf Team had a very dominant season this year even though they experienced a heavy loss of 3 out of 4 of their best players from the 2021 season. The Fightin’ Irish finished 1st at the Big 8 Conference Tournament and 1st at Class 4 District Championship with multiple impressive individual performances. All of this ended in a 5th place finish at State. Additionally, senior Layla Louderbaugh finished second in State, individually. Congratulations!



The Golf team after winning the Big 8 Conference

4TH AND 10

BY MICHAEL WELLS (11TH)

Even though the Fighting Irish Football Team had tough statistics, with the help of their new Head Coach (Wes Page), the team gained a great foundation. New teammates and stronger bonds grew this year, and they are excited to keep putting work in during the off season in order to kick off next year with a more successful view on their game. This season was composed of some key players such as Quinn Northrup (QB), Robert Brown (DT/OT), and Reece White (WR). Even though these were some of the players that stood out, the whole team had to work together and give it their all!



Irish Football takes on Hollister.

STRESSED, BLESSED, SOCCER OBSESSED

BY PETER VILKINS (11TH)



The Boys Soccer team saluting the flag during the National Anthem before a game.

The Springfield Catholic Boys’ Soccer team finished off another season in November with a 15-9-1 record. The Fightin’ Irish started off strong, winning 11 of their first 14 matches, including 2 overtime bouts, to kick off the season and a thrilling victory at Ozark in penalty kicks. Unfortunately, key injuries and a tough back half schedule led to several losses in the second half of the season. However, as Districts loomed, Catholic got healthy entering the district tournament.

Entering Districts, the team had lost 6 of their last 8 games, but through their perseverance they beat Hillcrest and advanced to the semifinals where they faced Rolla. Catholic once again persevered with a 4-1 win that

put them back in the district title game for the 8th year in a row. Unfortunately, Catholic was defeated by Glendale 1-2, ending a season that the team should be proud of.

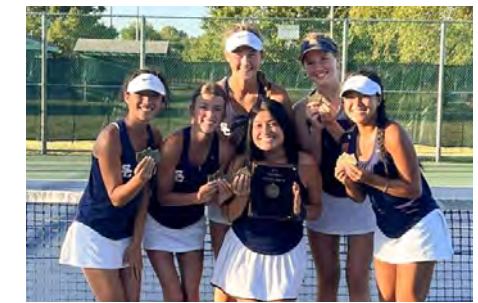
The year closed off a chapter of many of the players’ soccer careers. 8 seniors will depart the team, leaving new spots to be filled next year. In a year of challenges and adversity, many memories and opportunities were seized.

CONSISTENCY IS KEY

BY TATUM CORBETT (11TH)

The Lady Irish Girls’ Tennis Team is one of the many fall sports that consistently has a great record, and this year was no different. The JV was consistent all year and showed great growth. The varsity had a great record and went 12-3 only losing matches against Kickapoo, Glendale, and Nixa.

In addition to this excellent record, the girls also did well at tournaments. Lady Irish took first in the Republic Tournament and the Big Eight Conference. Two of the Varsity Lady Irish Girls, Caroline Nelson and Lila Griesemer placed at the Conference tournament. Caroline Nelson placed third and Lila Griesemer placed second. Lila went on to compete at State. Coach Martin VerSteeg and Assistant Coach Catherine Schmittling are very proud of the girls and are excited for next season.



The Varsity Girls Tennis Team posing with their medals and plaques after winning the Big Eight Conference.

HIT IT & WIN IT

BY EMMA BUCKTHORPE (11TH)



Springfield Catholic High School Varsity team celebrating a win against Parkview High School, September 1st, 2022, with a Box Score of W 3-0.

This Volleyball season, the girls team had an overall 16-9-4 record. The districts score read 4-2, resulting in a 4th place finish in Class 3 District 10. At our home games, we hold a 6-2 record, and at our away games we hold 9-5-1. Our Irish Girls’ team played hard, and it paid off! Go Irish! Senior Grace O’Reilly, hit 1,000 kills this season - what a big accomplishment! It was also Head Coach Wheeler’s first year with the team. We had an increased number of players; close to the highest in 10 years.

Our volleyball team is fierce and always ready to play a good game. Even if they lose, they always have a good time playing. We have an amazing student section who are proud to cheer on our team.

INTERVIEW WITH MILLIE DUFF (JUNIOR)

Q: What is your favorite memory from the season?

A: I would have to say that my favorite memory is the summer practices.

Q: What is your favorite meal before a game?

A: Pasta for sure.

Q: What is your favorite activity during the season?

A: My favorite would have to be the Queen of the Court.

Q: What is your favorite thing about the team?

A: The team itself. It’s a great bunch of girls and we have a lot of fun!

5,6,7,8

BY ZOE MOELLER (12TH)

The Springfield Catholic Emerald Girls is a team comprised of talented girls of all grades. The captain, Lauren Singleton, when asked about the team, "We've come a long way, and this team allows for us to make connections and talk to people we usually wouldn't." The team has been practicing together since their camp in July, and official practices started early August. The team dances at every home football game on the sidelines and performs at half time. They also hosted the annual Dance Clinic for the elementary school girls on September 9th. When asked about this opportunity, sophomore Alex Ikenroth said, "I loved being able to share that moment with the team and the girls." The team consists of thirteen girls, all with their own dance background, leading to a truly uniquely special team. They will continue to perform at the home basketball games.



The Emerald Girls before their first performance on August 26th

THE VOICE OF THE FIGHTING IRISH

BY MICHAEL WELLS (11TH)

This year, Springfield Catholic has had a very supportive and cheerful group of girls! The Springfield Catholic Cheerleaders have been a big part of this year's football program. Game after game, the girls bring cheerful and positive energy to not only the players, but to the fans and our amazing student section. They work almost every day after school to perfect their cheers and make sure that everyone has fun at the games! Former Captain, Bella Wells, who has also been reelected as Captain for this basketball season stated that, "Our group of girls have a bond like no other and would do anything for each other." This is the exact friendship and dedication that this school wants to promote.



SCHS Cheerleaders lead the crowd at Friday night football.



REUNITED!

All School Reunion 2022 was a success!

It was wonderful to see so many alumni at the All School Reunion on Saturday, September 17th! We had about 150 alumni and spouses in attendance. We began the evening in the St. Agnes Chapel (located inside Springfield Catholic High School), followed by a social hour. At 7 p.m., dinner was served along with a short program.

WE GAVE OUT SEVERAL FUN AWARDS -

- We thanked **Rosie Fellin (1947)**, our All School Reunion Founder
- Our "most experienced" alumna was awarded to **Mary Margaret Berg Pachtlhofer (1946)**
- Our youngest alumna in attendance was **Megan Hirsch (2005)**
- Our alumnus who traveled the furthest was **Jim Dealy (1962)** who made the trip from Seattle, WA
- Finally, the **Class of 1962** had the most alumni in attendance!

Additionally, Ryan O'Reilly (1996) spoke on behalf of The Shepherds' Fund, Springfield Catholic Schools' new endowment to support teacher and staff salaries.

Thank you to our alumni committee for working so hard on this event - Kathleen Bauer, Peter Bauer, Nathan Bauer, Suzanne Cronkhite, D. J. Farris, Caroline Griese-mer, Cassie Hanson, Marcia Horine, Matt Maxwell, Ben Pomerence, Dana Stuhsatz, and Jennifer Weber.



HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

We had a good crowd of alumni at our annual Home for the Holidays event on Wednesday, November 23rd! Attendees enjoyed a nice night in downtown Springfield at Holdfast Brewing (alumni owned!).

SAVE THE DATE!

Please join us for our next Alumni Social on Friday, February 10th, as we cheer on the Irish basketball team! SCHS will take on Mt. Vernon at home, starting at 7 p.m. All alumni and families are invited to attend!



SCS Alumni Spotlight



FR. DAVID HULSHOF

Fr. David Hulshof (class of '73) is a priest of the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau and currently serves as Director of Apostolic Formation for the North American College (NAC) in Rome. NAC is home to over 100 seminarians from all over the United States who have been given the opportunity to study in Rome before returning to the U.S. to be ordained priests. The seminarians receive theological degrees in various universities in Rome over a period of four or five years, and Fr. Dave oversees their apostolic work and ministerial outreach. He keeps busy visiting the 21 sites of ministry and offers counsel and guidance to the seminarians serving there. He engages the young men in theological reflection and evaluates their leadership and collaboration skills as well as compassionate response to those in need. Fr. Dave recalls his own experience as a NAC seminarian many years ago, first working with the poor, then in a hospital, and finally serving as a deacon in an Italian parish. He knows those fulfilling ministries helped form him for the priesthood. In 2021, Fr. Dave was asked by the leadership of the North American College to serve on the faculty and Bishop Rice approved a 3-5 year term. Fr. Dave will return to the diocese once his term is completed.

Fr. Dave recounts his years as a student at St. Agnes High School (now SCHS) as educational and very satisfying, and enjoys getting together with his classmates when he is back in the diocese during the summer months. If you would like to know more about Fr. Dave's ministry and the North American College you can go to www.pnac.org There is also some helpful information for those interested in making a trip to Rome.



So Much to Be Grateful For

BY SUZANNE CRONKHITE

This issue of *Irish Connections* contains our Annual Report that lists all of our donors that have given to the Springfield Catholic Schools System in the past academic year. We are truly blessed to have each and every gift and all of you supporting our mission.

We also want to thank our supporting parishes—Holy Trinity, Immaculate Conception, St. Agnes Cathedral, and St. Elizabeth Ann Seton who give 53% of their weekly offering to our school system as well as Sponsor-a-Child funds. Also, for those parishes attached to a school, the maintenance, repair, and space given is invaluable. We could never thank our parish pastors enough!

As you may know, the Development Board has been working hard on our newest endowment—The Shepherds’ Fund. The endowment’s specific purpose is to support teacher and staff salaries and benefits. SCS’s current starting salary is 84% of our local public school counterparts but raising tuition to bridge this gap may cause us to lose students. There is a better way and we are already making progress!

To date, The Shepherds’ Fund has raised \$5,069,890 in cash and pledges. For those of you that have given, we are so grateful. Since the inception of this initiative, The Shepherds’ Fund has made progress in increasing our teacher and staff salaries as shown in the graph on the opposite page. It is exciting to see the endowment already in action! However, we have a long way to go to be competitive with our surrounding school districts salaries so we can continue to have outstanding faculty and staff.

Right now, several of our families are hosting dinner parties to invite friends and family to hear more about The Shepherds’ Fund. We also have our Development Board making personal visits to people that are interested in the endowment and to answer questions. Please let me know if you would be interested in hosting a dinner party or would like time for a Shepherds’ Fund volunteer to visit with you to provide more information about how this endowment works and how you can be involved.

We have much to be proud of and thankful for in regards to all of the gifts to Springfield Catholic Schools. Thank you all for your incredible generosity and Merry Christmas!

Suzanne Cronkhite

Suzanne Cronkhite, Director of Development

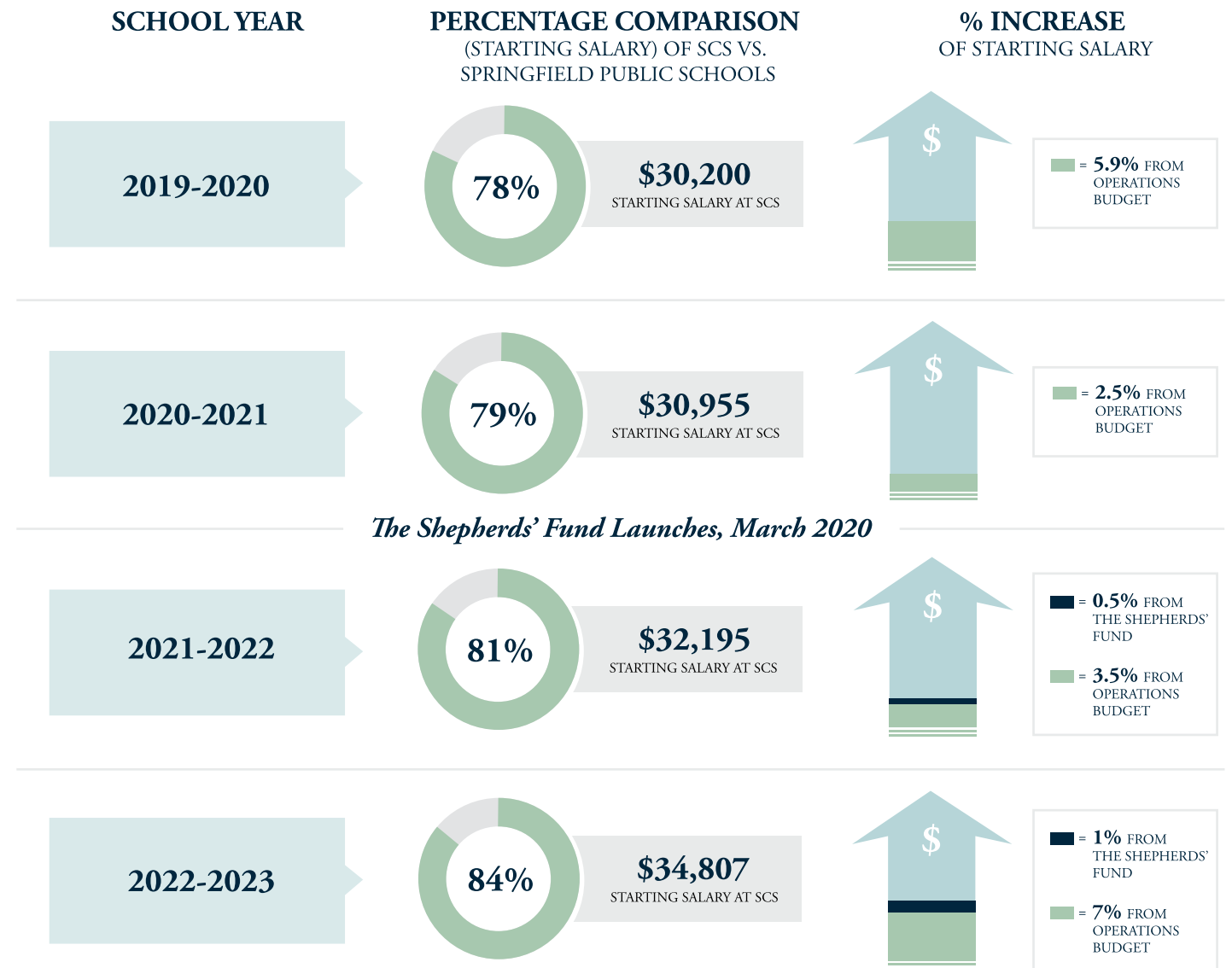
P.S. Please help us pray for the continued success of The Shepherds’ Fund.

The Shepherds’ Fund Prayer

Good Shepherd, you know us by name. Gather us to Yourself as a shepherd gathers the sheep. Help us to follow You faithfully and to serve You with all our mind, heart, and soul. We ask that You lead and bless our Shepherds’ Fund Committee who assist us in supporting our faculty and staff. We pray for the intentions of our donors, for a spirit of patience, love, and wisdom for each of us. Together may our parents, faculty, and staff truly educate today’s youth for tomorrow’s discipleship. We ask this in Jesus’ name. Amen

Faculty Starting Salary Comparison

Closing the Gap



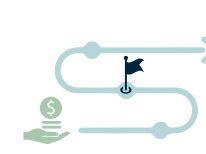
Key Milestones

March 2020



The Shepherds’ Fund launched at Emerald Evening.

March 2022



First milestone met. \$5,000,000 in cash and pledges. 2025 goal reached early.

August 2022



Next milestone set. \$7,500,000 in cash and pledges by 2025.

the FUND for SCS

2022-2023

First, we want to **THANK YOU** for your support to the Springfield Catholic Schools system. Please know that we pray daily for all of our benefactors and supporters of our school system and hold two Masses a year for any special intentions that have been sent to us.

Our commitment to **support all of our students spiritually, physically, emotionally, and academically is our highest priority.** Beyond our typical programs, we have recently had an exceptional concentration on our Middle School program as well as adding full-time nurses and now have mental health services at all of our schools.

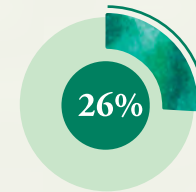
This year, our school-year theme, **Hearts on Fire**, is incorporated throughout our three pillars of education at Springfield Catholic Schools: **Faith, Service, and Academic Excellence.**

HEARTS ON FIRE



Did you know?

Tuition alone does not cover the cost of educating all of our students. The operating revenue comes from **tuition payments, parish subsidies, and fundraising.**



26% of our student body is on tuition assistance.

Donations to the Fund for SCS **helps close the gap** and allows us to continue to provide the highest quality Catholic education for our students.



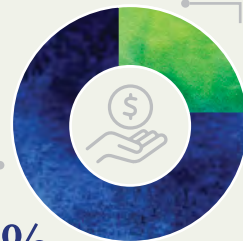
All parents, parishioners, and supporters of SCS are **urged to contribute annually** either as a one-time donation or contribute on a monthly basis.



YOU CAN MAKE A Difference!

HOW YOUR DONATION TO THE ANNUAL FUND SUPPORTS SCS:

The Fund for SCS provides vital operating support throughout all four of our schools: **Immaculate Conception, St. Agnes, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, and Springfield Catholic High School.** Your gift to our Annual Fund provides an immediate and tangible impact on all of our students, faculty, and programs at every level of the Springfield Catholic Schools experience.



75%

goes to the **Operating Budget** which includes: books, supplies, and supports the tier tuition schedule (Financial Assistance).

25% goes to the **General Endowment** securing the future of SCS.

EDUCATING TODAY'S YOUTH for tomorrow's discipleship.

The academic rigor of Springfield Catholic Schools is **exceptional.** Year after year, our students excel in academics, theater, art, music, and athletics. They are accepted into high-quality colleges and universities. The average ACT scores of Springfield Catholic High School students exceed the national average.

At SCS, we also **encourage our students to participate in a myriad of opportunities** as they develop their interests and talents.

The outstanding and compassionate faculty, innovative administration, and active parental support together make the SCS experience remarkable.

Please scan the QR code or visit www.SpringfieldCatholicSchools.org to secure your gift to the Annual Fund.

All our Annual Fund Donors are prayed for twice a year by all our students. Once in November, a time of Thanksgiving, and also during Catholic Schools Week. Thank you for your consideration of a gift to SCS.





How We Show our Catholic Identity



Irish Outreach (IC) preparing Grab-and-Go breakfast for the Ronald McDonald House.



5th grade students welcomed the Development Board to their October meeting held on site at St. Agnes.



The Living Rosary on the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary. Prayed by SEAS students and staff on October 7th.



St. Agnes 7th graders, Maddie Monteith, Henley Bright, Chloe Auzias de Turenne, and Charlotte Miller, helping serve a parent breakfast.



IC Student Council collecting items for St. Vincent de Paul Society.



The SCHS Sustainable Gardening class donates their harvest to local food pantries each season.



Fr. Tom Kiefer leading a Eucharistic Procession on the first day of the school year at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School.

“Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all.”

Aristotle



Springfield Catholic Schools System

2021 – 2022 Annual Report

The following Annual Report is a compilation of the major activities of the Springfield Catholic Schools System Development Office: Annual Fund, Irish Gold Cards, Emerald Evening, Soiree, restricted and matched giving, and Sponsor-a-Child fund from July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022.

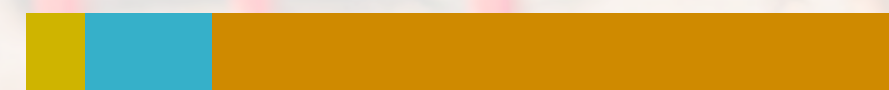
Enrollment for the 2021-2022 school year included 377 high school students, 841 elementary students, and 121 preschool students, totalling 1,339 students.

Generous subsidies from the participating parishes provide a significant portion of our budget. Tuition and fundraising all contribute to meet the System's financial needs.

The quality of education we offer would simply not be possible without the blessings that come to us from the faith and generosity of our Diocese, our parishes, our faculty/ staff, our donors, and of course, our students and families. God bless everyone who helps make quality Catholic education at Springfield Catholic Schools a reality.

These figures clearly demonstrate the generosity with which we are blessed. Endowment proceeds are invested for long-range support of Springfield Catholic Schools. Proceeds from other activities are incorporated into the year following the one in which they are raised.

2021 – 2022 Budget Revenue Operating Fund



- 6.7% Endowment/Development Fundraising**
- 14.3% Parish Subsidies
- 79% Tuition

2021 – 2022 Budget Expenses Operating Fund



- 1% General Administration
- 17% Academics
- 3.2% Parish Facility Rentals
- 78.8% Salaries and Benefits

Annual Fund Campaign 2021 – 2022: **\$150,351***
 Irish Gold Cards: **\$60,735***
 Soiree: **\$243,164***
 Emerald Evening: **\$532,361***
 Designated Gifts: **\$323,108**

Total Development Revenue to Endowments from Fundraisers (includes The Shepherd's Fund): **\$2,445,442**

For a complete listing of the SCS financials, please go to SpringfieldCatholicSchools.org.

*Denotes fundraisers that a percentage is designated to the endowment fund. The total of all endowment funds held in the name of Springfield Catholic Schools, including scholarship endowments, is \$18,046,615. Accountants' Compilation Report and Financial Statements reviewed by Forvis. Full financial reports are available at the central office.

**Does not include designated gifts or contributions to the endowment, including The Shepherds' Fund.



**“God loves those who
find joy in giving.”**
Pope John Paul II



**“Teach us to give
and not count the cost.”**
St. Ignatius de Loyola



\$100,000 & GREATER

David and Stacey O'Reilly Family -
Justin & Lindsay French, Matt &
Ashley O'Reilly, Austin O'Reilly

\$50,000 - \$99,999

Mr. Frank Evans III
Mr. and Mrs. Ryan C. O'Reilly

\$25,000 - \$49,999

Mr. and Mrs. John F. Griesemer
Reliable Chevrolet/
Infiniti of Springfield

\$10,000 - \$24,999

Mr. and Mrs. Cody Danastasio
Mr. and Mrs. Timothy
M. Dougherty
Great Southern Bank
Immaculate Conception
Home & School
Mr. Phillip Isley
and Mrs. Jessica Birchem-Isley
Mr. and Mrs. Matthew J. Maxwell
Mr. and Mrs. James F. Moore
Mr. and Mrs. David Sommerfeld
Thompson Sales Company
Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Tiedemann
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Walters

\$5,000 - \$9,999

Mr. and Mrs. Billy Angle
Arvest Bank
Dr and Mrs. Michael E. Ashley
Mr. and Mrs. James Bauer
Drs. Nathan and Sara Bauer
Dan and Mary Charles
Charitable Fund
Mr. and Mrs. Todd Clark
Commerce Bank
Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Corbett/
Corbett Law Firm
Dr. and Mrs. Boyd Crockett

Erlen Group
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Headley
Heim, Young & Associates Inc.
Mrs. Carol A. Kuntz
Mr. and Mrs. Stuart Lipscomb
Mr. and Mrs. Nick Luzecky
Mr. and Mrs. Kevin Maliszewski
Mr. and Mrs. David L. McBride
Mr. and Mrs. Michael A. Meek
Mr. and Mrs. Terry Meek
Mr. Matthew Miller
and Mrs. Stacy Jurado-Miller
O'Reilly Auto Parts
Charlie & Mary Beth O'Reilly
Family Foundation
Tal and Rosalie O'Reilly Wooten
Family Foundation
Prime, Inc
Quality Truck Sales
Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Ruzicka
St Agnes Home & School
St Elizabeth Ann Seton
Home and School
Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Smotherman
Mr. and Mrs. Tony Stubblefield
Sun Tan City
Mr. and Mrs. Miles Thompson
Mr. and Mrs. Brian Todd
Mr. and Mrs. Lee J. Viorel, III

\$2,500 - \$4,999

417 Smiles
Dr and Mrs. John Abraham
Achieve Private Wealth
ArcBest Corp
Ms. Kristen G. Bright
Burrell Behavioral Health
Mr. and Mrs. Dan Byram
Central Bank/Central Trust
Mr. and Mrs. Tyler Creach
Mr. and Mrs. Carl D Davis Jr.
Mr. Dan Duff and Dr Mary Duff
Mr. and Mrs. Jeremy Eck

Mr. and Mrs. Robert A Foster
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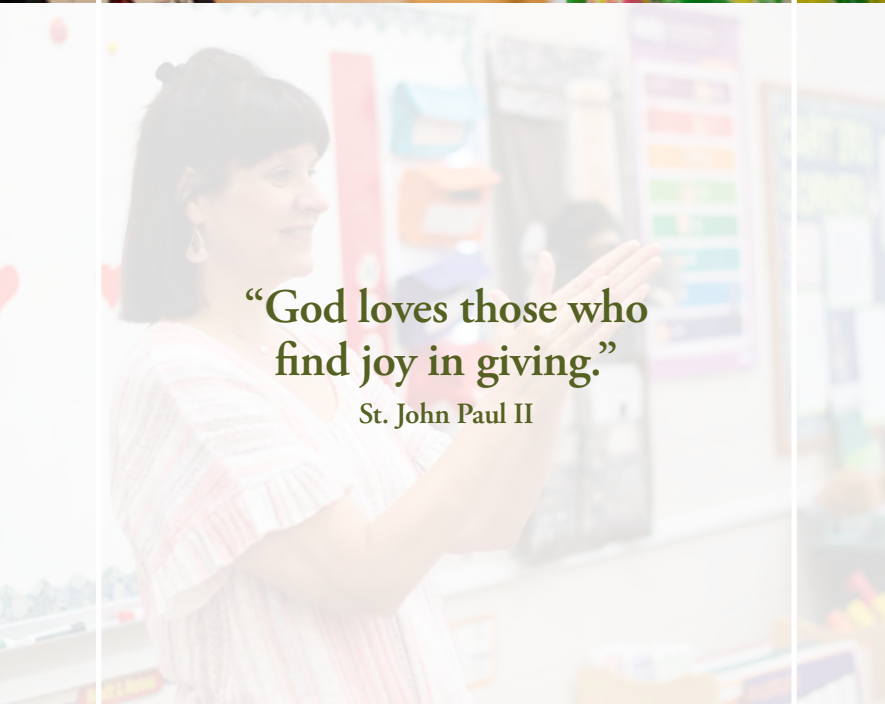
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We apologize for any omissions.



SCS SOIRÉE

TAKE TWO



The first ever in-person SCS Soiree was held on Saturday, August 27th, at the Ramada Oasis Convention Center. The event included tastings from many local restaurants and breweries, along with entertainment by the Red Light Runner and Members Only. Our stage performances by **our four Soiree teams were very entertaining!** The High School Hollywood Squares came as celebrities (The Kardashians, Britney Spears, and Flo from Progressive to name a few) and played out an **episode of Hollywood Squares**. The IC Team traveled down the **Yellow Brick Road** only to discover they could find a home, heart, brain, and courage right there at IC School. Team SEAS brought the energy with an **80's themed choreographed exercise dance**. Team St. Agnes closed the show with a hilarious **SNL themed skit** that had the crowd roaring with laughter!

THANK YOU!

We were thrilled to announce that **the event grossed just over \$245,000!** Over \$40,000 will go to **The Shepherds' Fund** which directly supports teacher salaries and the remaining funds go to our Operations Budget.

Congratulations to "There's No Place Like IC" for taking home the trophy this year! We are so proud of and thankful to all our teams for helping to create a very successful event this year.

Thank you to all of our SCS family and friends who helped make this event a success! We are very grateful to our event chairs: Jennifer Pyck and Danielle McGeeney.

A special thank you to our Team Captains: Kimberly Ikenroth (SCHS), Mary Bozarth (IC), Mitch Hauschildt (St. Agnes), and Rachel Baird (SEAS)!

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Additionally, thank you to all of our Cinematographer Sponsors, Supporting Cast Sponsors, Raffle Pack Donors, and Tasting Vendors!

THE EVENT GROSSED OVER \$245,000 WITH OVER \$40,000 GOING TO SHEPHERDS' FUND

SAVE THE DATE FOR NEXT YEAR'S SCS SOIRÉE - SATURDAY, AUGUST 26, 2023!





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Springfield Catholic Schools is pleased to welcome

Dr. Wanda Miller as Director of Mental Health Services

for the Springfield Catholic School System.

Dr. Miller received her Bachelor's of Arts and Master's of Science degrees from the University of Central Missouri, and her Psychology degree from Forest Institute of Professional Psychology. Since January of 2017, she has served as the lead psychologist for The Arc of the Ozarks/ Cornerstone Psychological Services. She loved her work at The Arc but is excited for this new chapter in her life with Springfield Catholic Schools.

She will oversee our counseling intern program for St. Agnes Cathedral School, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School, Immaculate Conception School, and Springfield Catholic High School. Among other projects, Dr. Miller will also develop avenues for disseminating mental health educational materials.

