



St. Mary's Colgan
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

SMC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Marian Times

Annual Magazine

2024 Edition

DID YOU KNOW? Until 1966, our high school yearbook was known as "The Marian". In 1967, the high school name changed from St. Mary's High School to Colgan High School after the unexpected death of Fr. Colgan.

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Jim and Ethel (Sullivan '41) Brown Family

Why did you choose to send your children to St. Mary's Colgan Catholic Schools?

When Ethel (Sullivan '41) Brown finished elementary school at Eugene Fields in Pittsburg, her dad, Patrick, insisted that she go to St. Mary's. From 1915 through 1935, St. Mary's school had ended after 8th grade, but Monsignor McCullough started adding a high school grade each year. As a result, Ethel was in the second graduating class of St. Mary's High School in 1941. Ethel married Jim Brown, who was the brother of a fellow 1941 classmate, Tom Brown. When Jim and Ethel lived in Abilene, their oldest child Kathleen, remembers being fascinated by the nuns in habits at the orphanage where their family took clothes to donate. Halfway through Kathleen's kindergarten year, the family moved to Pittsburg and had to choose where to send her to school, the neighborhood elementary or driving her to St. Mary's. Kathleen had lobbied to go where the Nuns were. She is not sure if that weighed in her parents' decision, but Kathleen and her five siblings all went K-12 to St. Mary's Colgan: Kathleen Brown-Cecora ('65)

Theresa Hubbard ('66), Liz Stine ('70), Elaine Hogue ('74), Jim ('76) and Leo ('83). The excellent religious foundation, education and rich tradition were what drew the next two generations to SMC. Kathleen raised her family in Pittsburg, so sending them to SMC was natural. Elaine and her family lived in western Kansas, returning to Pittsburg when their oldest, Becky, was in 7th grade. "My grandma used to sell religious gifts for the Church from her home," Becky wrote. "She told her friends and anyone who came to her house that we were moving back. The community at St. Mary's immediately made us feel at home." Six of Kathleen's grandchildren are now fourth generation SMC graduates, with the last two in school, a sophomore and a 5th grader.

— SEE A PANTHER FAMILY TREE — PG2



Jim and Ethel (Sullivan '41) Brown Family

A Panther Family Tree

CONTINUED FROM PG 1

Jim &
Ethel ('41)

Kathleen Brown-
Cecora ('69)

Roger Lomshek ('86)
& Rebecca*

Michael*

Ethan ('19)

Ella ('31)

Eddie Lomshek ('87)
& Amy

Matthew ('19)

Andrew ('20)

Joseph ('26)

Karen (Lomshek '89)
& Kelly Whetzell

Nick ('09)
& Tara

Audrey ('13)

Zach ('14)
& Katie

Doug Lomshek ('90)
& Jamie

Debbie Lomshek*

Theresa Hubbard ('66)

Liz Stine ('70)

Elaine Hogue ('74)

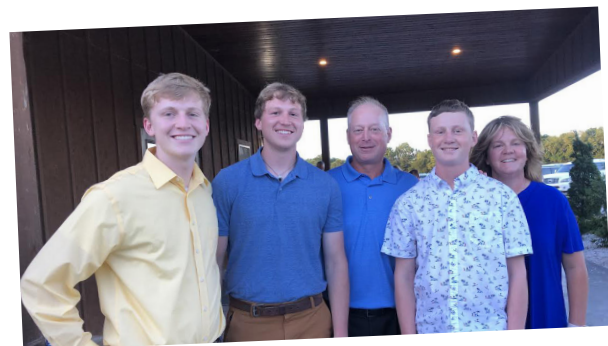
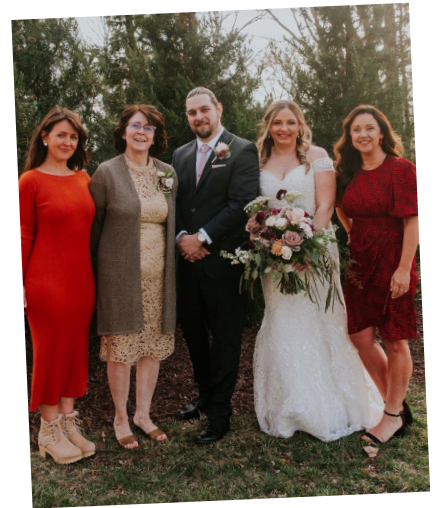
Becky ('96)
& Kirk Duncan ('97)

Margie ('00)

Nick ('04)
& Katie

Jim ('76)

Leo ('83)



* attended SMC



Three of the Catholic traditions that I have especially loved during my time at St. Mary's Colgan have been our annual Eucharistic procession, our November SMC Alumni Memorial Mass, and May Crowning.

These past few years, we have begun our new school year with an all-school Eucharistic procession and consecration to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Immaculate Heart of Mary. Our senior men serve for the procession. We process with the Eucharist to the front of the high school, the front of the junior high, and the front of the elementary school and do a special prayer and blessing at each, and then we return back to the church where we reconsecrate our school and our students to the love, mercy, and spiritual protection of the Sacred Heart and the Immaculate Heart. It is simply powerful!

I have also loved offering a special Memorial Mass. Each November, within a few days of All Souls Day, our JH/HS Mass is offered for all of our deceased SMC alumni. The lights in the church are turned off to allow for a somber and solemn setting, following the homily, the names of each deceased alumni are read

SEE **FROM OUR CHAPLAIN – PG 8**

From our Chaplain

FR. ANDREW LABENZ

Our new high school principal, Mr. Conrad, commented to me recently about how our Catholic identity sets us apart from the other schools in our area. He said that it wasn't the fact that we have crucifixes in all of our classrooms, a church across the parking lot, or the SMC cross on our school uniforms, it was all the Catholic traditions that we have made a part of our daily, weekly, and yearly school routine. We live and breathe the Catholic faith. The Catholic faith is who we are at our core. We are Catholic through and through.

And he is exactly right. As I was beginning to write down all the Catholic traditions and customs that we do here at St. Mary's Colgan and St. Mary's Elementary Schools, I was amazed - how truly blessed we are here! As I list and detail the Catholic customs and traditions we participate in here at SMC & SME, I hope you see it as I see it - not with a prideful, "look at us" attitude, but rather, with a joyful, "Praise God" mentality.

From our Pastor

FR. MIKE SIMONE

As I sit down to write this article, it is one week prior to Catholic Schools week. Catholic Schools week is a time when we celebrate the blessings of a Catholic education. This being known, I am smiling inside and out because I understand the blessings of a Catholic education, especially on our campus at Our Lady of Lourdes. We are a community who has supported a Catholic education, steeped in faith, excellence and tradition.

Faith... The foremost blessing of a Catholic education is TEACHING the Catholic faith to all who cross our threshold. Each week, I have the opportunity to pop-in to a few classrooms so that our kiddos can see a priest for a few minutes. While there, I try to do a quick lesson about a saint or something we are celebrating in church. The first week of January I asked our kiddos about the three kings near the feast of the Epiphany. Wouldn't you know – when it came time to ask our 3rd graders the “traditional” names of the three kings, they already knew them! Our young people have the opportunity to KNOW their faith well because we have awesome teachers who love our faith. Our kiddos are well prepared in KNOWING their faith as we prepare them to be the next generation of disciples.

Excellence... LEARNING our faith does not happen just with heads in books. All who pass thru the halls of our schools are held to high standards, especially in recognizing the dignity of Christ in others. What do I mean? Lessons outside of instruction time are just as important as what we learn from books. As I was walking thru the hallway one day, I listened to one of our teachers remind one of our kids what good and virtuous behavior is expected of them. It made me smile because I know that we are striving to teach our kids to recognize respect and dignity for all – especially to recognize the dignity of Christ in others.

Tradition... We are also INSPIRED by many of you – who have already passed thru these halls. Our local traditions are still alive and well, whether it is the May crowning or singing to the sisters after a football game. These acts of faith form our young people by letting them know what gift they receive from being a part of our panther community. As you know,



generations of disciples have been a part of these wonderful traditions that continue to connect us to our faith.

I am learning myself to be even more appreciative of the ways we have dedicated our mission to be focused on our faith, steeped in high expectations of excellence, amplified by inspired local traditions that make our community a unique place to encounter Christ and be a place to form our next generation of disciples.



From our Parochial Vicar

FR. CHRIS RUMBACK

My name is Fr. Chris Rumbach. It's been a blast being part of the Our Lady of Lourdes parish family these past two years! I am from Hutchinson, KS and am a 2013 graduate of Trinity Catholic High School. I was ordained in May of 2021 and arrived here at my first parish assignment shortly afterwards. It's a joy to be a part of so many things going on at our parish.

One of my favorite duties has been teaching and coordinating RCIA. Accompanying the men, women, and kids who have entered the Church these past two years has been a blessing.

I also help with Hispanic ministry at Our Lady of Lourdes. This includes celebrating Mass and the Reconciliation, attending meetings with our Hispanic Ministry Leadership Team, leading Eucharistic Adoration, and celebrating quinceañeras (special cultural celebrations for a young woman's fifteenth birthday).

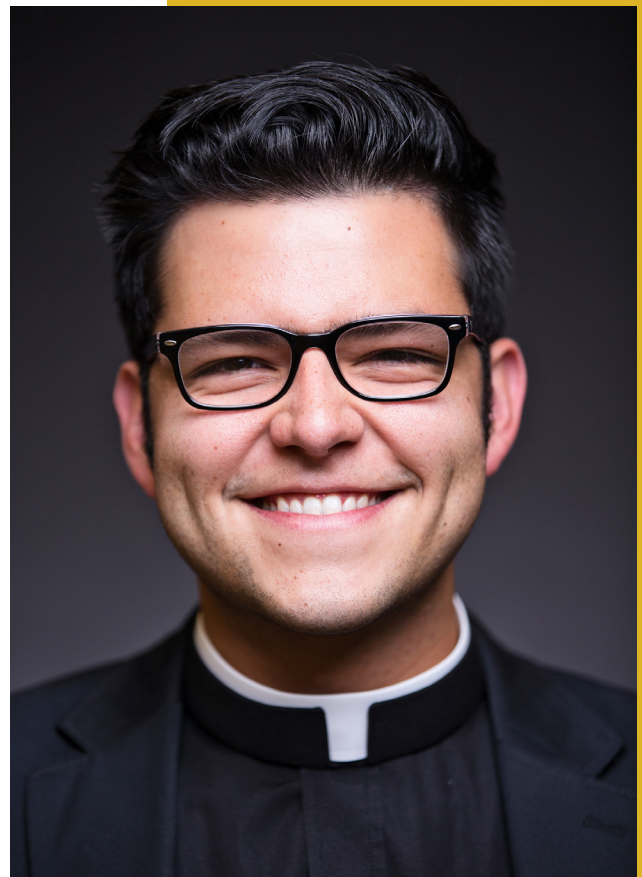
During the 2022-2023 school year, Sr. Mary Grace and I began leading retreats for each of our SME grades. The time to teach, pray, and have fun with the students and their teachers is always uplifting! We are very blessed with smart students who love the Lord. With Bishop Kemme's permission I have been celebrating the Traditional Latin Mass at the St. Pius X Catholic Student Center once a month. This is

celebrated at 9am on the first Sunday of each month. Our number of attendees continues to grow, thanks be to God. Along with this I also share in normal priestly ministries around the parish like preparing engaged couples for marriage.

All are welcome to tune in to Porch Time with the Padres, a weekly podcast that Fr. Labenz and I began last September. While links to our podcasts are available on the OLL parish website, listeners can also find us on Spotify and Apple Music. Listeners have tuned in from around the diocese to join Fr. Labenz and I for fun, faith-based conversations on our back porch.

Thank you to all who support me and our other priests! I am grateful to be a part of such a dynamic, tight-knit community.

In Christ, through Mary,
Fr. Chris



From our Elementary School Principal

MRS. KRISTEN O'BRIEN

Dear St. Mary's Colgan Alumni and Friends,

Greetings in the spirit of faith, excellence, and tradition! It is my pleasure to update you on all the happenings at St. Mary's Catholic Elementary School.

As we have embraced the current academic year with enthusiasm, I am excited to highlight the wonderful strides we have taken in fulfilling our mission of providing an education that challenges students academically, expects high standards of Christian behavior, and cultivates the development of the whole person.

Academic Excellence:

Our dedicated faculty continues to uphold the highest standards of academic excellence. We take pride in nurturing a learning environment that stimulates intellectual curiosity, critical thinking, and a lifelong love for knowledge. Our commitment to academic rigor remains just as it did when you were students sitting in the classrooms of SME, preparing students not just for academic success but for a future where they can make meaningful contributions to our Church and world.

Faith Formation:

At the heart of our mission is the commitment to instilling and deepening the Catholic faith in our students. Religious education, prayer, and the sacramental life are integral parts of our curriculum.

We are proud to witness the spiritual growth of our students as they engage in service projects, participate in liturgical celebrations, and develop a profound understanding of their faith. Our students participate in Mass three days a week, visit our Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Atrium for lessons taught by Sr. Mary Grace, IHM, and enjoy weekly visits from our wonderful priests. These activities are all in addition to the work our teachers do in the classrooms instructing students in the faith.

Christian Behavior and Stewardship:

Emphasizing Christian values, we continue to foster an environment where kindness, compassion, and respect are of utmost importance. Our students actively engage in several service projects throughout the school year, serving our parish and the Pittsburg community. These projects help us instill in our students the stewardship way of life that our diocese relies on to fund our schools and spread the Gospel in our communities. Our students learn that stewardship is "the grateful response of a Christian disciple who receives and recognizes God's gifts and shares these gifts in love of God and neighbor."

Development of the Whole Person:

We remain committed to cultivating the development of the whole person—mind, body, and spirit. This spring ninety of our elementary students will be working on a production of Peter Pan. They are given the opportunity at daily Mass to lector, serve, and lead the singing. Our 5th and 6th graders will compete in a Battle of the Books after



We Are Colgan

MR. TIM CONRAD, PRINCIPAL SMC JH/HS

It is important to always keep things in perspective and to remember how blessed we are at SMC. Our current families, students, alumni, parishioners are aware of how significant the impact of SMC has been in the lives of so many who have direct connections with the school and parish. Perhaps an even larger validation of our traditions and success comes from the respect and admiration from others that radiates across the state(s) based on our long-standing reputation.

Visiting communities, coaches and teams are in awe of the continued success and traditions of SMC. I experienced this first hand earlier this fall when an opposing coach came up to me in the Fieldhouse and after studying the banners said, "my team doesn't belong here."

For those of us who live here, work here, are parishioners and alumni – we get it! We understand how special SMC is. When others who are not inside our walls/halls/pews "get it", it only speaks volumes for the sacrifices, grit, and pride that helped build the foundation and continues to bond us.

To all our alumni, parishioners, current families, and students, thank you for making SMC what it is today.



I am proud to be a Panther, I am proud to be an alum, and I am proud to follow in the footsteps of so many great educators who made an impact on me while I was a student here, such as: Marcel Normand, Coach Smith, Coach Crespino, Mr. Forbes, Gary Lundy, Father Eck, to name a few. Our place is special. Our place is filled with special people, traditions, success.

“ We are
COLGAN”

From our Elementary School Principal, cont.

having read all twenty books on an assigned reading list. These opportunities provide students with the chance to explore their talents and interests, fostering well-rounded individuals who will be successful in all aspects of life.

In conclusion, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to each of you for the role you played in shaping the legacy of St. Mary's Colgan Catholic Schools. Your achievements inspire us, and your continued

involvement is instrumental in ensuring the continued growth and success of our beloved school.

May the grace of God continue to guide and bless you in all your endeavors.

In the spirit of Panther pride,
Mrs. Kristen O'Brien, Principal
St. Mary's Catholic Elementary School

From our Chaplain, cont.

CONTINUED FROM PG 3



out loud, and a candle is lit for each class that has a deceased member (this year, we had 57 candles lit). It is a good reminder for our students to pray for the deceased, and it is a somber reminder that their names too will be read one day.



I also look forward to our May Crowning traditions each year. A senior girl and an eighth grade girl are chosen for their Mary-like qualities to crown Mary and to place a rosary around her praying hands, and the other senior and eighth grade girls bring roses to Mary, which total and represent the number of students, faculty, and staff in our schools. The senior and eighth grade boys lead the Litany of Loreto, and then, the beautiful hymn of Our Lady of Perpetual Help is sung. It truly is a fitting and glorious way to honor the Blessed Virgin Mary!

I would be remiss if I did not mention a few of the other Catholic traditions that our students are able to be a part of: Mass throughout the week, a Friday Rosary in the SME commons, a special bi-lingual Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass that includes the traditional Mexican Danzas, yearly Marian Consecrations for our students in GRACE & Knights of Our Lady, Epiphany Classroom Blessings, the St. Joseph Table, Stations of the Cross during Lent, praying the Liturgy of the Hours daily before school, weekly Adoration in the Church, a weekly Advent Prayer Service provided by our IHM sisters, penance services during Advent & Lent, an indoor Eucharistic Procession during Catholic Schools Week, St. Blase Throat Blessings, the Divine Mercy Chaplet and a Pro-Life decade of the rosary during lunch in the high school, singing the Salve Regina on Fridays during Mass, and having First Friday devotions at our grade school Mass.

And so, it is with grateful joy that I say - At St. Mary's Colgan, we live and breathe the Catholic faith, the Catholic faith is who we are at our core, and we are Catholic through and through.

Alumni Announcements



*Welcome to these
Baby Panthers!*

BIRTHS

Drew ('14) and Cori (Koehn '15) Casey welcomed son, **Blaise Daniel**, on October 20, 2023

Lauren (Jameson '15) and Nick Campos welcomed daughter, **Stella Camille**, on October 24, 2023

Donald ('09) and Katia LaForte welcomed daughter, **Margot Arians**, November 7, 2023

Ashley ('10 Werner) and Spencer Mobley welcomed twin daughters, **Nora Maxine** and **Addison Marie**, on December 2, 2023

Claire (Patterson '17) and Jack Alsbach welcomed daughter, **Anastasia "Annie" Mae**, on February 6, 2024

Cory and Erica ('07) Brooks Pulliam welcomed daughter, **Ryleigh Paige**, on February 23, 2024



Class Updates

Don Orender ('85)

After managing his wife's, Dr. Jackie Orender, medical practice in Pittsburg for 13 years, Don has embarked on his latest career in real estate, joining Jones Heritage Realtors in July 2023. He continues to operate Orender Consulting LLC and provides accounting and financial management services for Jock's Nitch. Don said, "I have bought and sold a number of homes and hunting\farmlands in the past, but always for personal or close family use. It's a new adventure helping clients sell their properties or search for their perfect first or next home. Never too old to learn and grow!" Don and Jackie live in Pittsburg and have three children, who are all graduates of SMC.



Stephanie (Waltrip) Forbes ('91)

Stephanie is celebrating her 20th anniversary with Mary Kay Cosmetics. She started working part time for two years while she was teaching, before she earned the use of a Mary Kay car and then became a Sales Director. She has helped other consultants move into management positions and earn cars. Stephanie is currently earning the use of her 12th career car. Stephanie and her husband PJ live in Wichita. They have six children, three in college, one in high school, one in junior high school and one in preschool.

Mike Fleming ('93)

Mike Fleming is a partner at the Kapke & Willerth law firm and lives in Leawood, KS. Their firm represents clients in many areas of the law, but Mike is dedicated to representing individuals and small businesses involved in civil disputes. He is the immediate past President of the Kansas Trial Lawyers Association, and was appointed by Governor Laura Kelly and confirmed by the Kansas Senate to serve on the Kansas Racing and Gaming Commission. Mike and his wife Monica have two daughters, Anna, (17) and Josie (14). Monica is in her fifteenth-year teaching at Belinder Elementary in the Shawnee Mission School District. Anna is a junior at Blue Valley North High school and is a member of the varsity volleyball team and the National Honor Society. Josie is in eighth grade at Leawood Middle school and is also active in volleyball and is preparing to receive the sacrament of Confirmation. Mike added, "Beat Frontenac!"

Ryan Boler ('03)

Ryan Boler earned a Bachelor of Art in commercial graphics from Pitt State. While in college, he worked for Jock's Nitch and began specializing in decorated apparel design. After graduation, Ryan relocated to Lawrence, KS, and worked as a graphic designer and website manager for Jock's Nitch. While in Lawrence, he met his wife, Laura. They were married at Corpus Christi Catholic Church in 2010 and soon moved to Overland Park, KS. In 2014, Ryan started working as a Team Lead for HanesBrands, Inc. at the Gear For Sports office in Lenexa, KS. There he worked primarily on the Hot Market division and helped prepare art for big events like the Stanley Cup, Final Four, and College Football Playoff. In 2019, Laura's work as an architect took them to Phoenix, AZ. Currently, Ryan is the Art Director at Anton Sport in Tempe, AZ. While Kansas will always be home, they are enjoying their lives in the desert with their dogs, Mavis and Murphy. Ryan credits his family and Catholic upbringing for providing a strong foundation to build a successful and prosperous life and career.

Living the Stewardship Way of Life

BY CHRIS FLOOD

Featuring Mike Carson



It is safe to say most SMC students and parents don't know the name of SMC's Athletic Director. It isn't like he's not around, or at the games...they know him, but not his real name. He is affectionately called "Coach Gramps". "When I helped coach SMC basketball several years ago with Abby Farabi, my granddaughter Grace was on the team." He explained. She would call me 'Gramps' at practice, and I would tell her 'call me Coach'." After correcting her several times, Grace's friends gave him the name "Coach Gramps" and it stuck. At 78 years old, Coach Gramps, aka Mike Carson, is the oldest AD in the state of Kansas.

His Path to SMC...

Mike is from Parsons and is the oldest of four kids. He went to St. Pat's Catholic Elementary school where he was taught by Nuns every year. Growing up, Mike was deeply influenced by the Passionist Monastery in St. Paul. Each summer a new group of young men would spend a novitiate year at St. Paul. It was 366 days, a year and a day, at the Monastery. These young men had graduated from high school and were planning to go to seminary. "These were great guys and I wanted to be like them," Mike recalled. These feelings were cemented when Mike attended the St. Bosco Club at St. Paul on Saturdays during his junior high years. So, after eighth grade, Mike went to the Passionist Minor Seminary, Mother of Good Counsel High School in Warrenton, MO, just outside of St. Louis. The Church was bursting at the seams with vocations. There were 350 boys in his school with probably a dozen other seminary high schools in the region. Enough schools that they competed against

each other in football, basketball, baseball, and track. Mike graduated in 1964. Now it was his turn to be a Novice. His year and a day. "It was very austere, rigorous spiritual training," Mike said about being a Novice. "Total silence, 24 seven, except maybe a little in the evenings, and we didn't even look outside. We wore long wool cassocks and sandals that we made. We slept on straw mattresses." They knelt every day in front of the director of students and confessed their faults. You might then be assigned to say a decade of the rosary while kneeling on your hands. "It was like a Spiritual Bootcamp," he said.

This prepared Mike for the next step, which was college. He went to the Passionist Monastery in Louisville, Kentucky, across the street from Bellarmine University. Seminarians wore white shirts and black ties and walked over to classes at Bellarmine. Of the few majors that were allowed, Mike chose two and double majored in Medieval History and Philosophy. Although Bellarmine had sports teams, the seminarians were not allowed to participate. Mike asked permission from the Provincial but was turned down. He became acquainted with the basketball coach, who offered to ask again. This time, the answer was yes, but he had to be back at the monastery by 5:30pm prayers. Mike would leave practice early, shower, run across the street and into



Stewardship Way of Life, cont.

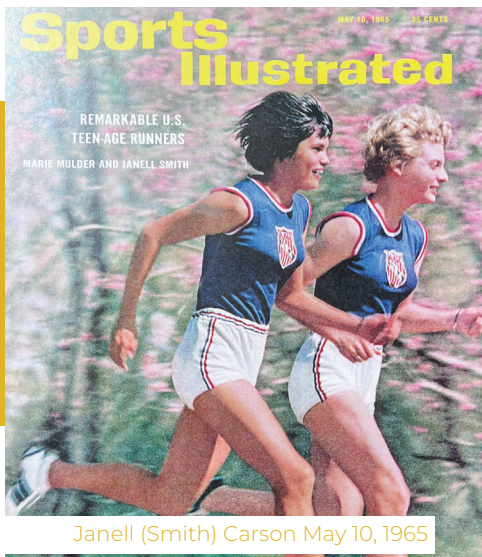
the choir loft to make it just in time. He was then also allowed to play baseball. The next basketball season, the coach suggested he may be a better fit as a coach than a player. Although disappointed, he found that he really enjoyed being a student coach. He fared better in baseball and played all four years. The same man was Bellarmine's freshman basketball and head baseball coach, and a very good Catholic man. Mike began to see his vocation in him and recalled, "He was a daily communicant going to daily Mass. He had a great family, and kids that I got to know. I began to think maybe that's what I was called to be." Mike began to struggle with his decision to become a priest. After he graduated from Bellarmine, he went one year to Theology Seminary, before he decided that was not what God was calling him to do. "There was a lot of spiritual direction and prayer that led me to that decision," Mike said.

But now what? Mike was hired to teach at St. Pat's high school in Parsons, back where it all started, but unfortunately the high school closed the following year. He took a job at Parsons State Hospital doing recreation, while taking classes at Pitt State to get his teaching credentials. He was asked to lead a tour of the hospital, which included a young woman from Fredonia, Janell Smith, who was an Olympic athlete. "I said sign me up," he laughed. Oddly, Mike



Mike & Janell Carson & Family mid2000s

had heard of Janell when he was in Kentucky. Some evenings, the seminarians were allowed to watch TV. One such evening, the other sems told him there was a girl on TV from Fredonia, Kansas, running in the Mason-Dixon Games against a world champion from Poland. "They said, she's from Kansas, do you know her? I said, 'sure I do,'" Mike laughed even though they had not yet met. But after dating for a year, Mike and Janell married in 1970. Mike had been hired by PSU basketball coach Bob Johnson as a Graduate Assistant coach in the first year of the Weede Gymnasium. Ironically, the young couple lived in a duplex across the street from St. Mary's Elementary and Colgan High Schools. Doctors had told them that Janell could not have kids, "But," Mike said, "the Holy Spirit works in its own way." And in that little duplex they welcomed their first son, Brian. With the encouragement of his parents and in-laws, Mike realized that it was time to get a real job. St. Paul High School had a mid-year opening and he was hired to teach and to coach just about everything. He even started the first girls volleyball team coaching it concurrently with football. His teaching and coaching career took the family to St. Joe in Shawnee and St Thomas Aquinas in Kansas City then to Ark City. Mike took over a struggling basketball program at the 5A school that was having success in most other sports. Halfway through his fourth season and without a win, he was told his coaching contract was not going to be renewed the following year. From that point on, the team was undefeated and made it to the State tournament, losing by one point to Kapaun. Although the school offered to renew his contract, Mike had already moved out of coaching and on to farming. He farmed with his uncle and eventually his brother



Janell (Smith) Carson May 10, 1965

SEE STEWARDSHIP WAY – PG 25



Damien and Katie Smithheisler and their children: Colton (9th grade, 14 years old), Braven (7th grade, 13 years old), Kannon (5th grade, 11 years old), Skylee (3rd grade, 9 years old), Haddee (1st grade-6 years old) and Hartlee (PreK, 4 years old)

Why did you choose to send your children to St. Mary's Colgan Catholic Schools?

Damian taught at Kapaun Mt. Carmel Catholic High School in Wichita for 11 years and witnessed how blessed his students were to have their Catholic faith integrated into their academics. He knew (even before having any children) that his children would be educated and formed in the image of Jesus Christ. After a job opportunity at Pittsburg State University arose, Damian visited the Pittsburg community and stopped in at St. Mary's Elementary unannounced. Nancy Hicks (the principal at the time) did not hesitate to put her work aside and give Damian a tour of St. Mary's Elementary. It was at that moment that Damian knew that St. Mary's was a special place with special people. After being in this community for nearly 8 years now, Damian and Katie truly feel that there is a standard of excellence in all walks of life here at our St. Mary's Schools. "It is witnessed daily in the love and respect between students and teachers; it is in the sportsmanship shown in athletics; and it is in the service & stewardship carried out time and time again." Katie is now teaching first grade at St. Mary's Elementary. She loves having the opportunity to help her students grow not just academically but also spiritually. "God led our family to exactly where He knew we would thrive the most in our Catholic faith."

Alumni Announcements



And Two Shall Become One

— WEDDINGS —

Terry Dester + Garrett Bolinger ('19)
April 22, 2023

Aubri Piccini ('19) + Jake Dellasega ('18)
September 23, 2023

Taylor Edwards + Brandon Ngo ('17)
November 4, 2023

Grace Gibson + Haydn Compton ('12)
November 11, 2023

— ANNIVERSARY —

Mike ('60) and Judy Boone
December 27, 2023 - 60th Anniversary

Bill and Christie (Dellasega '66) Gill
February 16, 2024 - 50th Anniversary

James ('67) and Twalla Sue Kazmierski
March 21, 2024 - 30th Anniversary



May their soul and the souls of all the faithfully departed rest in peace.

— RECENTLY DECEASED —

Angela (McNeil) Eckensberger ('57)
Dec 22, 2023

Virginia "Ginny" (Warmbrodt) Freeman ('53)
Dec 14, 2023

David O'Malley ('73) Dec 26, 2023

Karen (Patterson) Badart ('70) Feb 22, 2024

Class Updates

CONTINUED FROM PG 11

Erin (Collar) Thibault ('13)

Erin and her husband Isaac, live in a mountain town west of Denver. Erin works as a nurse consultant for Stryker medical device company helping hospitals improve outcomes. She has worked for Stryker since 2022 and was recently named Clinician of the Year at Stryker's Acute Care NASM. In their free time they try to be outdoors and have recently taken up skiing.

Garrett Bolinger ('19)

Garrett graduated in December of 2022 with his Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education From Pitt State. He and Terry Dester were married in April of 2023 at Church of the Magdalen in Wichita, her home parish. Garrett and Terry both now work at Magdalen Catholic School, he teaches 4th grade and she teaches 2nd grade. Garrett wrote, "It's so cool to go to work with your spouse each day and to give back to the diocese that formed and shaped me to who I am today. On the weekends and other various days of the week, I work for the parish as the Liturgy Coordinator/Altar Server Coordinator. I attend most of the masses each weekend making sure everything, and everyone is there for their ministries. I help train new altar servers during the summer and fall and I am in charge of the Mass Captain community for high school servers." Currently Garrett is gearing up for Confirmation Mass with the Bishop. Garrett and Terry are expecting their first child this summer.

Sophia Piccini ('19)

Sophia graduated from the University of Kansas in May of 2023 with a Bachelor's Degree in Microbiology. In June, she began working for Zimmer Biomet, an orthopedic sales company in Kansas City. She works with doctors and assists them in the operating room with instrumentation and implants.



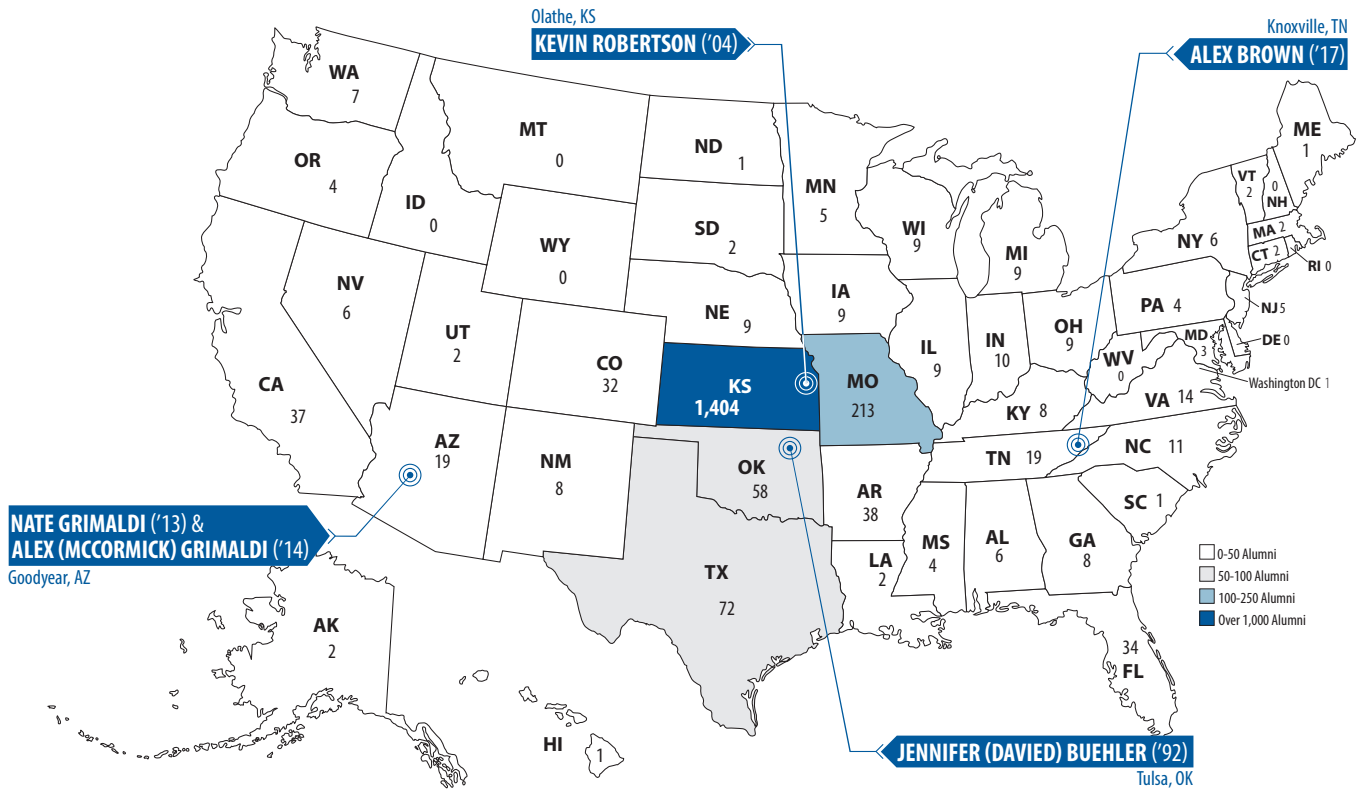
Justin ('99) and Emily (Waltrip '98) Hamilton, Katie (Waltrip '00) Swezey, Vickie (Herbeck '67) Waltrip, Brian ('96) and Cristina (Bevilacqua '05) Hamilton, Kathy (Gibson '71) Hamilton, Kaleb Hamilton ('15), Shawn Hamilton ('89), current students Molly, Annie, Max, and Kit Swezey.

Not pictured Jason ('89) and Brad Waltrip ('94).

Dylan Hamilton, son of Justin ('99) and Emily (Waltrip '98) Hamilton played for Diocese of Wichita high school, Kapaun Mt. Carmel, in the 5A State Championship game Thanksgiving week 2023 in Pittsburg. It was a joyous event for the many St. Mary's Colgan alumni that attended the game in our hometown at Pittsburg State University Brandenburg stadium, but it was also very special for SMC alums who are family to Dylan. As the 3-year starting quarterback for Kapaun Mt. Carmel, this year was monumental as the Crusaders broke a 26-year losing streak against neighboring diocesan school and rival, Bishop Carroll.

One of the treasured traditions at St Mary's Colgan is ringing the church bells after a football victory. The impact of our little school can be felt and heard throughout the country as the bells of our graduates' life victories continue to reverberate. To celebrate our alumni, we continue to "Ring the Bells!" in our newsletter. The numbers on the map represent the number of alumni that we have listed as living in each state.

Ring the Bells!



JENNIFER (DAVIED) BUEHLER class of 1992

Jennifer is an Office Administrator at Tulsa Fire Department Headquarters. She has been at the fire department since October of 1997, 26 years. Jennifer has two children, daughter, Madeline and son, CJ. Madeline graduated and moved to Pittsburg where she was taking care of Jennifer's mom, Pat Davied, until she passed away this past October. Madeline decided to stay in Pittsburg, and armed with her CNA certificate, is looking for work with the hopes of continuing her nursing education. CJ is in the sixth grade. Jennifer's husband Chris works for Oneok, a gas and oil company in Tulsa. "Tulsa Fire is just a great place to work." Jennifer wrote. "And Tulsa is a great city to live in. Sometimes I miss the small town, but overall, our life has been good here."

ALEX BROWN class of 2017

Alex Brown lives in Knoxville, Tennessee, where he is a graduate student pursuing his doctorate in occupational therapy at Lincoln Memorial University. "As a future occupational therapist, I will be helping patients get back to performing the occupations and activities that are meaningful to them." Alex married Cheyanne Sanders on October 16, 2021, and they welcomed their first child, daughter Aiyla Catherine, on March 22, 2023. They have lived in Knoxville for one and a half years.

KEVIN ROBERTSON class of 2004

Kevin Robertson earned his Bachelor's Degree in History in 2008 at the University of Kansas and Juris Doctor from the University of Kansas School of Law. He has worked in the Kansas City area since, working for Cerner Corp and Garmin International. In November of 2023, he became the Director, Employee Relations for the United Biosource Corp., which is an international pharmaceutical support company. Kevin met his wife, McKayla Knudson in KC in 2017 and they married in November of 2021. They reside in Olathe with their three dogs and are expecting their first child in March. Kevin credits his education at SMC and the amazing teachers who taught him with much of his success. He wrote, "SMC is truly a special place." He is very proud and thankful to be a Panther.

NATE GRIMALDI class of 2013 & ALEX (MCCORMICK) GRIMALDI class of 2014

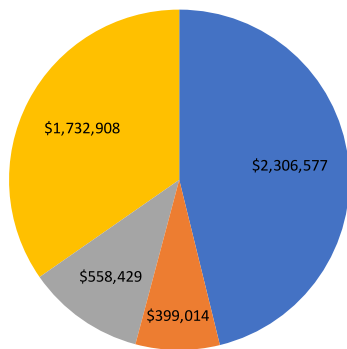
Nate and Alex live in Goodyear, Arizona. Nate is an Emergency Medicine Resident Physician working for Abrazo Health. He works in multiple Emergency Departments around the Phoenix area. Alex is a 4th grade teacher at John S. McCain III Elementary School. "My school is a C-STEM school, which means I also utilize computer science tools in my classroom while also teaching the core curriculum with my students." They have a specific coding block where students learn how to code using various applications. "My students become familiar with coding using Dot and Dashes, Bee Bots, Lego Robotics as well as exposure to 3-D printing," Alex wrote. They have been in Arizona for two years. Nate has another year and half as a Medical Resident.



Finances

OLL/SMC Revenue 2022-2023

- Titling
- School Tuition & Fees
- Gifts & Grants Parish and non-Parish Entities (including Annual Appeal)
- Memorial Fund

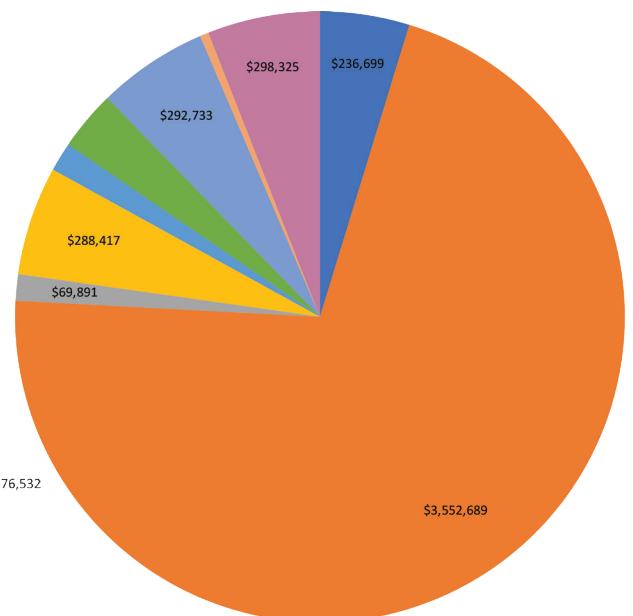


As a parish school, funding for programs and payroll for St. Mary's Colgan comes from weekly gifts to Our Lady of Lourdes, tuition from non-Catholic students, school fees, grants and the SMC Annual Appeal. The Memorial Fund supplements the school income as necessary.

OLL/SMC Expenses 2022-2023

Our Lady of Lourdes is a thriving parish with over 1,000 active families. The largest ministry of OLL is St. Mary's Colgan Catholic school which educates over 450 students annually and employs over 80 faculty and staff. Expenses for Our Lady of Lourdes Church, St Mary's Colgan schools and other ministries for the fiscal year 2022-2023 totaled \$4,996,927. Just as we ask each parishioner to be a good steward, we in turn pledge to be good stewards of the contributions we receive.

- Tithe to Diocese
- Salaries and Benefits
- Contract Labor
- Utilities
- Repairs and Maintenance \$76,532
- Insurance \$158,424
- Supplies
- Technology \$23,217
- Other Expenses



Looking Back

Compiled by Chris Flood



... 10 Years **Drew Casey**

After Drew graduated from SMC in 2014, he attended Pittsburg State University where he earned his bachelor's degree in accounting and finance, graduating in 2017. "I had the pleasure of taking several accounting classes from Mary (Benelli) Polfer ('62)," Drew wrote. On December 30, 2017, Drew married fellow SMC graduate Cori Koehn ('15) at Our Lady of Lourdes Church. They moved to Kansas City where Cori was attending nursing school at the University of Kansas. Drew started working at PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) in January of 2018 and then shortly after passed the CPA exam. Drew is currently a Manager at PwC in its Digital Assurance and Transparency Practice where his primary focus is in the technology, media and telecom industry. "I enjoy the flexibility that PwC offers which gives me the ability to work from home and enjoy more family time," Drew wrote. Cori graduated

from KU nursing school in May of 2019 and spent three years as a transplant nurse at the University of Kansas Health System. Drew and Cori welcomed their first child, Leo Richard, in December of 2011, at which time Cori decided to stay home full time. He was joined by his little brother, Blaise Daniel, in October of 2023. "One of my favorite memories," Drew wrote, "was the tradition Fr. Chad started praying Psalm 18 before football games."

... 20 Years **Mark Smith**

Mark Smith graduated from St. Mary's Colgan in 2004 and then attended Pittsburg State University. While at Pittsburg State, Mark majored in history education and was a member of the baseball team (2005-2006) and the football team (2004-2008). After graduating, Mark stayed close to the football team, serving as a graduate assistant while completing his master's degree in educational leadership in 2010. The following year he was hired at Carl Junction High School to teach history and was an assistant coach in their football, basketball, and baseball programs. In 2012, Mark was given the opportunity to become the next head football coach at Frontenac High School. He led a successful football program at Frontenac for almost 12 years while teaching and was involved in their basketball and baseball programs as an assistant coach. Mark recently accepted a new position at Pittsburg State University, and will be serving as their passing game coordinator, and assistant football coach (wide receivers). Mark married his wife Lindsay, in 2011, and they currently reside in Frontenac with their 4 children - William (10), Ellie (8), Madison (5), and Cooper (3). They are parishioners at Sacred Heart, in Frontenac. When reflecting on his time at St. Mary's Colgan, Mark could not be more grateful to have grown up in such a faith and family-oriented school. "Everyone at the school helped shape me into who I am today. They all instilled in us the importance of faith, relationships, and serving others. I'm grateful for my time there and the many relationships I still have with former classmates and teachers and coaches. St. Mary's Colgan is a special place."

... 30 Years **Bill Patterson**

Bill Patterson graduated from Colgan High School in 1994. After graduation, Bill attended Benedictine College where he played rugby for the Black Friars Rugby Football Club for three years, playing and coaching the team to a trip to the Western finals against Texas Christian University in his senior year. He graduated from Benedictine College in 1998 with a degree in English. He then went to earn his Kansas Teaching Certificate at Ottawa University and began his career as a public educator at Lawrence High School in Lawrence, KS. In 2007, he completed his Master of Arts degree in Literature and Literary Theory from the University of Kansas. He taught English at Lawrence High from 2001-2017, earning the Wolfe Family Teaching Excellence Award from the University of Kansas in 2016. Since 2017, he has been the English teacher at Central School, a public alternative school for at-risk students, in Atchison, KS. In 2002, Bill married Erin McKelvy, also a graduate of Benedictine College and a public educator. Erin has taught at Atchison Elementary School since her graduation from Benedictine in 2000. They live in Atchison with their four children: Liam, a senior at Atchison High School; Finnan, a sophomore at Atchison High; Conall, a seventh grader at Atchison Middle School; and Nora, a third grader at Atchison Elementary School. Bill has many fond memories of his times at St. Mary's School and Colgan High. Being the youngest of six children to attend the schools, where his father Charles Patterson ('50) also attended and his mother Rosemary Patterson was a beloved teacher, he was proud and excited to participate in all the traditions and rituals of the school. Looking back, he most fondly remembers forging important relationships with close friends who were there for one another when each needed the most. He proudly remembers playing in a Kansas State Championship football game as a sophomore in 1991 and competing in three State Championship meets in Scholar's Bowl, winning a State Championship in 1993. Most of all, his time at Colgan, though he had no idea at the time, set the foundation for his future scholarship in Literature and his career as an educator. He is thankful to his teachers for instilling in him a love of learning and a dedication to build positive relationships with students through empathy and compassion.

SEE **LOOKING BACK** – PG 18-19

Kansas Football Coaches Association



Hall of Fame class of 2024

Rich Anderson - St. Xavier, Washington County, Goodland, Pratt, Liberal	1972 - 2022
Craig Crespino - Girard	1992 - 2005
Frank Crespino - Pittsburg Colgan	1961 - 1979
Les Davis - Sedan	1970 - 2005
Ted Easter - Valley Heights(1974-80),Derby(1980-94),Andale(2006-2022)	
Chuck Porter - Bishop Carroll, Wichita East, Buhler	1977 - 1999
Larry Schroeder - Frankfort	1966 - 2003
Ken Stonebraker - Salina South	1994 - 2007



Congratulations to your 2024 Panther Basketball Homecoming Queen, Miss Lily Brown, and her court.

“ **WE ARE PROUD OF YOU** ”



SMC volleyball Coach Cathy Oplotnik reached a milestone 500th volleyball coaching win this past season. Coach O became head coach in 2004 and has amassed a record of 513 wins and 242 losses.

Looking Back, cont.

CONTINUED FROM PG 16-17

... 40 Years **Becky (Gorman) Downing**

Becky graduated with the Colgan High School class of 1984. She received her Bachelor of Science in Education with a major in Elementary Education from Pittsburg State University in 1988. Becky was in the 5th grade and her brother Jason was in 2nd grade when they first started attending St. Mary's. "I feel like my Catholic education has helped mold me into the teacher I am today." Becky wrote. "Teaching values of respect, empathy, and compassion are traits that I easily pass on to my littles as I create a classroom family each new school year. Janie Pecnik Burrow and Maggie Ryan were some of my favorite teachers that led me to a career in education." Becky's first three years of teaching were in the Joplin R-VIII school district. For the past 33 years, she has been teaching in the Olathe USD #233 school district. Currently, she is teaching 2nd grade, but 30 of her 33 years teaching were spent in first grade. Becky also earned her Master of Science in Curriculum and Instruction from MNU (MidAmerica Nazarene University) in 1997. Becky has been a mentor for the Emporia State Professional Development School, as well as a mentor to many student-teachers and lab students. She had her first student teacher from Pittsburg State University last spring. Becky has been an active member of the Building Leadership Team as well as the Social Emotional Leadership Team at her school. She has been lucky enough to open two brand new schools in the Olathe School District. Becky and her husband Jon were married at Our Lady of Lourdes in 1993. They have celebrated their 30th anniversary and have a 25-year-old son, Jacob. Jon was raised in Roeland Park, Kansas and attended St. Pius Catholic Church growing up. Their family currently is a part of the St. Paul's Catholic Church in Olathe. Becky wrote, "Besides a meaningful religious education, a chance to attend daily Mass and an opportunity to learn from some wonderful educators, I think the traditions are what stand out the most for me when I look back. Traditions at the Church before and after football games and singing to the Sisters at the convent. I have fond memories of being on the pom pom squad (now called dance team!), being active in the pep club, playing on the tennis team, being active in CYO where we water skied in the summer with friends and Fr. Eck, as well as being in the National Honor Society. My senior year was spent helping daily in Janie Pecnik Burrow's 2nd grade class for an hour. That really inspired me to pursue elementary education that following fall at Pittsburg State."



... 50 Years **Carol (Caldwell) Vandeventer**

Carol (Caldwell) Vandeventer graduated from Colgan High School with the class of 1974 and went on to attend Pittsburg State University. Following her freshman year, she transferred to Kansas State University where she graduated with a degree in Elementary Education. While at K-State, Carol met Harold and they married in 1978 and continue to reside in Manhattan, Kansas.

Carol's professional career started with teaching 4th graders for seven years at Ft. Riley then spent the next 20 years at the Manhattan Adult Learning Center teaching English as a Second Language. Carol recently retired

from teaching in the English Language Program at Kansas State University.

Now that they are both retired, Carol and Harold enjoy attending K-State athletic games and cheering on the Wildcats. They love experiencing new places, people and customs, and travel as often as they can. Some of their recent trips have been to China, Great Britain, Switzerland, Egypt, and Italy. Carol started quilting and now enjoys attending quilting classes and retreats and the challenge of continuing to learn new things.

Carol respects the quality education she experienced at Colgan as influential in her choice of career. "The teachers at Colgan set a high bar for all of us to succeed and guided students to do their best," she wrote. Carol's fondest memories of Colgan include singing to the sisters after football games, Sr. Paula's Business class, which still comes in handy, and Sr. Prudentia's Home Economics class, which has given her a life-long love of sewing.

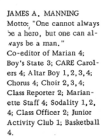
... 60 Years Patricia (Swartz) Emerson

Pat wrote that she was "born, raised, schooled and married in Pittsburg." She was fortunate to attend St. Mary's Colgan for 12 years and graduated with the class of 1964. After graduation, she went to college for two years, before she and her husband Ron were married in 1966. "It was a busy few years after that, raising five children, all attending St. Mary's School." She recalled. Pat and Ron's children are: Jim ('85), Kari Spiers ('86), Lori Mays ('88), Matt ('91), and Kim Vogel ('93). "Between running a home, and caring for children, I also managed to work," she said. For 20 years Pat was employed at Monsour's institutional Food Distributors in sales, then in the accounts receivable area. After working at Monsour's, several other job opportunities came her way, ending with cashiering at Kansas Crossing Casino, which was actually a job on her bucket list. Their oldest daughter Kari died of cancer in 2008. Jim, Lori, Matt and Kim all live in Pittsburg. Six of their grandchildren are also SMC graduates. Pat wrote, "Attending St. Mary's Colgan gave me the strength, through faith, to handle some difficult family health issues and losses. I am extremely grateful to my parents, family and school supporters for the education I received."

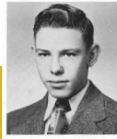
... 70 Years



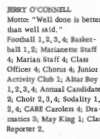
SAM SIMPSON
Motto: "One cannot always be a hero, but one can always be a man."
Marian Staff 4; Boy's State 3; Basketball 2, 6; Track 2, 3, 4; Chorus 4; Dramatics Club 3; Class President 3, 4; Choir 2, 3, 4; Sodality 1, 2, 3, 4; High School Secretary 5, 6, S.S.D. 4; CARE Caroles 4; Junior Activity Club 1.



JAMES A. MANNING
Motto: "I am not a hero, but one can always be a man."
Co-editor of Marian 4; Boy's State 3; CARE Caroles 4; Altar Boy 1, 2, 3, 4; Chorus 4; Choir 2, 3, 4; Class Reporter 3; Mariansense Staff 4; Sodality 1, 2, 4; Class Officer 3; Junior Activity Club 1; Basketball 4.



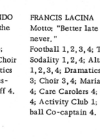
CHARLES FRIEND
Motto: "Better a poor excuse than none at all."
Football 1, 2, 3, 4; Altar Boy 1, 2, 3, 4; Chorus 4; Dramatics 3; Marian Staff 4; Activity Club 1; Sodality 1, 2, 4; Choir 2, 3, 4; CARE Caroles 4.



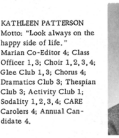
JERRY O'CONNELL
Motto: "Well done is better than well said."
Football 1, 2, 3, 4; Basketball 1, 2, 3, 4; Mariansense Staff 4; Marian Staff 4; Class Officer 4; Chorus 4; Junior Activity Club 1; Altar Boy 1, 2, 3, 4; Annual Candidate 3; Choir 2, 3, 4; Sodality 1, 2, 4; CARE Caroles 4; Dramatics 3; May King 3; Class Reporter 2.



JOSEPH WAYNE MORANDO
Motto: "Nature's gift to the Ladies, a cute thing."
Football 4; Track 2, 3, 4; Class Officer 1, 2, 3, 4; Choir 2, 3, 4; Chorus 4; Dramatics 3; CARE Caroles 4; Thespian Club 3; Marian Staff 4.



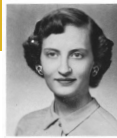
FRANCIS LACINA
Motto: "There lies than never."
Football 1, 2, 3, 4; Track 3; Sodality 1, 2, 4; Altar Boy 1, 2, 3, 4; Dramatics Club 3; Choir 3, 4; Marian Staff 3; CARE Caroles 4; Chorus 4; Activity Club 1; Football Co-captain 4.



KATHLEEN PATTERSON
Motto: "Look always on the happy side of life."
Marian Co-Editor 4; Class Officer 1, 3; Choir 1, 2, 3, 4; Glee Club 1, 3; Chorus 4; Dramatics Club 3; Thespian Club 3; Activity Club 1; Sodality 1, 2, 3, 4; CARE Caroles 4; Annual Candidate 4.



SARA PATTERSON
Motto: "Nothing is difficult if it's willing mind."
Glee Club 1, 3; Choir 1, 2, 3, 4; Class Officer 1, 2, 3, 4; Mariansense editor 4; Dramatics Club 3; Thespian Club 3; Activity Club 1; Sodality 1, 2, 3, 4; Marian Staff 4; Chorus 4; CARE Caroles 4.



SHARON SKIRRE
Motto: "A light heart lives long."
Sodality 1, 2, 3; Glee Club 1, 2, 3; Chorus 4; Choir 3, 4; Dramatics 3; Mariansense Staff 4; Marian Staff 4; Activity Club 1; CARE Caroles 4; Girl's State 3.



ELENE SNYDER
Motto: "Have more than thou showest, speak less than thou knowest."
Sodality 3, 4; Marian Staff 4; Choir 2, 3, 4; Mariansense Staff 4; Glee Club 2, 3, 4; Dramatic Club 3; CARE Caroles 4.



JOAN WILFER
Motto: "Never trouble trouble till trouble trouble you."
Sodality 1, 4; Glee Club 1, 3; Cheerleader 4; Mariansense Co-Editor 4; Marian Staff 4; Choir 2, 3, 4; Dramatic 3; Activity Club 1; Chorus 4; CARE Caroles 4.



ZOE ANN TOWNER
Motto: "Joy is more divine than sorrow."
Class Officer 4; Sodality 1, 2, 3, 4; Sodality Officer 4; Glee Club 1; Choir 1, 2, 4; Activity Club 1; Thespian Club 3; Chorus 4; CARE Caroles 4; Homecoming Queen 4; Attendant 3.

Seniors



MATHILDA KORPHEAE
Motto: "Laughter is a most beautiful emotion."
Glee Club 1, 3; Choir 1, 3, 4; Dramatics Club 3; Activity Club 1; Sodality 2, 3, 4; Mariansense Staff 4; Chorus 4; CARE Caroles 4; Sodality Officer 4.

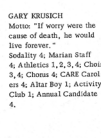


ALICE CARODE
Motto: "A laugh is worth a hundred groans in any market."
Sodality 1, 2, 4; Choir 1, 2, 3, 4; Marian Staff 4; Mariansense Staff 4; Junior Activity Club 1; CARE Caroles 4.

Seniors



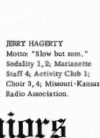
GEORGE VAN BECLAIRE
Motto: "I like work, it fascinates me. I could sit and watch it for hours."
Athletics 1, 2, 3, 4; Marian Staff 4; Class Officer 2; Altar Boy 1, 2, 3, 4; Choir 3, 4; Chorus 4; CARE Caroles 4; Junior Activity Club 1; Football Co-captain 4; Basketball Captain 4.



GARY KRUSCH
Motto: "If sorry were the cause of death, he would live forever."
Sodality 4; Marian Staff 4; Athletics 1, 2, 3, 4; Choir 2, 4; Chorus 4; CARE Caroles 4; Altar Boy 1; Activity Club 1; Annual Candidate 4.



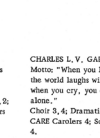
JAMES M. SCHOLES
Motto: "A smile always brings the sunshin."
Dramatics 3; Choir 3, 4; Glee Club 4; Altar Boy 1; Activity Club 1; CARE Caroles 4.



JERRY HAGERTY
Motto: "She's hot sum."
Sodality 1, 3; Mariansense Staff 4; Activity Club 1; Choir 3, 4; Missouri-Kansas Radio Association.



NICK KENNETH MEYER
Motto: "One never knows his next move-or love."
F.F.A. Club 1, 2; Junior Red Cross 3; Altar Boy 1, 2; Sodality 1; CARE Caroles 4; Choir 4; 4-91 1, 2, 3.



CHARLES L. V. GARRISON
Motto: "When you laugh the world laughs with you, when you cry, you cry alone."
Choir 3, 4; Dramatics 3; CARE Caroles 4; Sodality 4.

Seniors



We would like to thank all those who made donations to the 2022-2023

(July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023) SMC Annual Appeal.

A

Anderson, Joyce
Askins, Mary ('60) and Jim

B

Bacon, Matthew and Stacey
Badart, Karen ('70)
Baker, Julie and Matt
Baldwin, Rev. Michael
Balthazor, Jo Anne
Barley, Midge
Barone, Jim and Donita
Barone, Sharon ('56) and Patrick
Bartelli, Debra ('72) and John Kaltner
Beasley, Robert ('74) and Rebecca
Becker, Charles and Janis
Berry, Sheryl ('78) and Keith
Bertone, John ('65) and Ruth
Bettega, Van and Betty
Biggs, Mac ('20)
Biggs, Todd and Lita
Bishop, Margaret
Blick, Susan ('59) and Larry
Bolton, Mark and Brinda
Boman, Joe ('98) and Christy ('98)
Boone, Mike ('60) and Judith
Braden, Daniel ('73) and Kristi
Brake, Lindsey ('03)
Brewer, Gary ('70)
Broadway Chiropratic
Brown, Donald and Joanne
Buche, Dan ('63) and Janice
Buche, Don ('62)
Buche, Douglas ('64)
Buche, Steve ('77) and Michele
Butler, Charles and Debra

C

Caldwell, Lorey ('68) and Paula ('66)
Cashero, Mary ('62)
Castagno, Harvey ('48)
Castagno, Nick and Paulette
Cizerle, Sharon ('54)
Clawson, Debbie and Stan
Clugston, Charles ('60) and Margaret ('62)
Cocotis, Agnes ('51)
Collar, John ('64) and Dona
Collar, Michael ('80)
Coltrane, Alice ('85) and Michael
Combs, Lucy
Compton, Thomas ('70) and Sharon
Compton, Zachary ('07) and Megan
Cook, Lori ('97) and Patrick
Cook, Troy and Susan
Coomes, Dale
Cooper, Kent and Leona
Correll, Tom and Jan

Corsini, Ken ('57) and Christine
Craig, Norma ('53)
Crandon, Tom ('57)
Crossland, Patrick and Bonnie
Cukjati, Frank ('62) and Roberta ('62)
Cumiskey-Barnes, Kelly ('97) and Dave

D

Dalrymple, Jana ('72) and Roland
Davied, Pat
Dayton, Ken ('73)
DeBellis, Karen ('59)
Dellasega, Daniel ('05) and Sarah
Dellasega, Joe ('79) and Janice ('77)
Dellasega, Jonah ('15)
Dellasega, Mark ('68) and Marjorie ('69)
Diskin, Charles and Judy
Dittmann, Elizabeth ('60)
Doti, Donna ('44)
Draper, Joyce ('66) and Barry
Dunbar, Brett and Clare
Duncan, John ('94) and Valerie
Duncan, John and Becky
Dunlap, James ('52) and Barbara

E

Eck, Msgr. Ivan
Edwards, Susie ('77)
Ehling, Mike
Eichhorn, Margie ('55)
Elder, Michael and Denise
Ellis, Carolyn ('53)
Esch, Jerry ('65) and Peggy
Esch, Pete ('47) and Shirley
Evans, David ('04)
Evans, Nancy ('79) and Jim

F

Farrell, Dan and Mary Lou
Flannery, Kathleen and
Jeffrey Steinmiller
Fleming, Kyle ('91) and Lori
Fleming, Robert ('60) and Peggy
Flood, Chris ('85) and Tim
Forbes, Melissa
Forbes, P.J. ('86) and Stephanie ('91)
Forbes, Patrick
Ford, Bonnie ('74) and Henry
Forsyth, Margaret ('53)

G

Galvin, Paula ('84) and Tim
Gartner, Denis ('74)
George, Bill ('66)
Gill, Amy ('96)
Gill, Christie ('66) and Bill
Gilmore, Bob ('64)
Gilmore, John and Kathie
Gilmore, Mary ('64) and Mike

Glick, Karl ('71) and Wendy
Goetting, John and Melinda
Golob, Jo Marie ('59)
Gorman, Devin and Misty
Graham, Troy and Laurie
Greer, Cheryl

H

Habjan, Joe ('65) and Virginia
Hallacy, Kathy ('63)
Hamilton, Brian ('96) and Cristina ('05)
Hamilton, John ('59) and Claire
Hamilton, Kevin and Julie
Hayes, Tom and Denise
Heffernan, David ('64) and Catherine ('64)
Henke, Eileen ('60) and Larry
Hoagland, Reed and Brandie
Hobson, Eda
Horgan, Mike ('53) and Mary Ann
Hubbard, Theresa ('66)
Hunsicker, Mary
Hutsey, P.J.

J

Jacquinet, Ray and Becky
Jameson, Brock ('16)
Jameson, Carol ('74)
Janes, Timothy ('76) and Maura
Javni, Ivan and Marijana
Johnson, Andrew ('58) and Annette
Johnson, Carlene
Jones, Ches ('82) and Holly
Jordan, Jim and Debbie

K

Kalan, Jasna ('95) and Gregor
Kannarr, Amy ('89) and Shane
Kannarr Eye Care
Karleskint, Matthew and Kati
Karlinger, Jeff ('64) and Katherine ('65)
Kays, Kelly and Connie
Keller, John ('73) and Sara
Keller, Robert ('70)
Kemme, Most Rev. Carl
Kerr, Gerald and Maggie
Kilcher, Mary
Kleiber, Steve ('71) and Kate
Kratz, Margaret ('61) and Gary
Krier, Randi ('09) and Jeffrey
Krusich, James and Sandra

L

Labenz, Rev. Andrew
Lakeman, Michael and Sherry
Lickteig, Roy and Joyce
Little, Mimi ('63)
Lomshek, Edward ('87) and Amy
Lomshek, Janez ('93) and Ali
Lomshek, Jurij ('97) and Melissa

Long, Ashley ('02) and Nick
Lorimer, Lee
Lundy, Gary and Susan
Lyons, Danny ('70) and Christine

M

Main, David ('80)
Malcolm, Sandy ('70)
Marietta, Jacob ('99) and Aubrey
Marietta, Jason ('93) and Crystal
Martin, Philip ('66) and Patricia
McCall, Pat ('47) and Linda
McClure, Cary ('70) and Gena
McGeorge, Joan ('61)
McGrath, Gary and Fran
McNeill, Patrick ('60) and Lillian
Merrell, Frances
Merrell, Kathy ('79)
Mid-America Pipe Fabricating
and Supply LLC
Milburn, Mary Joan
Miller, Tresa
Miller Family Foundation Inc.,
Minton, Phil and Shelly
Mitchelson Foundation, Inc., The
Mitchelson, John ('76) and Bev
Mitchelson, Kevin ('75) and Frances
Moble, Tom ('69) and Shirley
Montemurro, Frank ('42)
Moore, Carla ('72)
Moorhead, Frances ('59) and Allan
Morgan, Allison ('03) and Craig
Morris, Robert and Sarah
Murphy, Joseph ('66) and Linda

N

Nassano, Marilyn ('51) and Frank
Naylor, Joe and Sally
Nelson, Marilyn ('69) and Mike
Nettels, George Estate
Newcomb, David and Carol
Newcomb, Terry and Mary Jo
Nicholson, Jess ('01) and Nick
Normand, Marcel
Normand, Tim ('83) and Lisa
Norton, Johnna ('98) and Will

O

O'Brien, Ed and Kristen
O'Connell, Thomas ('41)
Oehme, Bobbie
Oehme, Dustin ('02) and Erica
Oehme, Tim ('75) and Patricia
Otter, Cindy and James
Overman, Rocky and Pam

P

Painter, Seth and Katie
Paterni, Lisa ('82) and George
Patterson, John and Janet
Patterson, Rosemary
Payne, Mike ('66) and Kay ('67)

Perry, Bill and Carolyn
Pesavento, Frank
Phillips, Sarah Jo ('02) and Shane
Piccini, Paul ('90) and Kathi
Piccini, Rinaldo and Sharon
Polfer, Mary ('62) and Neil
Pomatto, Robert and Mary Carol
Potusek, Mike and Patricia

R

Radell, Steve ('92) and Angela
Ramsey, Joel and Laura
Randall, Kristen ('03) and Brandon
Reda, Barb ('61) and Sam
Riggs, Rodney and Dorothy
Roark, Sarah ('98) and Christopher
Robertson, Brenda and Ken
Robertson, Yvonne Estate
Rogers, Susan ('68) and Dennis
Russian, Jim ('52) and Johnna ('55)
Rutherford, Janet ('61) and John

S

Schiefelbein, Eric ('01) and Sarah
Schiefelbein, Mary Sue
Schoene, Norberta ('61)
Schoenhofer, Marilyn
Schoening, Judy ('66) and Fred
Scripsick, Ron and Betty
Sesso, Don ('44) and Mary
Shaw, Dick ('56) and Daffy
Simmons, Megan ('95) and Eric
Simone, Steve and Mary Kay
Sloan, Steve and Becky
Smerchek, Judith
Smith, Beth ('74) and Chuck
Smith, Chas ('09)
Smith, Jeff ('06)
Smith, John ('78)
Smith, Madeline
Smith, Mark ('04) and Lindsay
Smith, Nick ('01) and Niki
Spachek, Jeff and Lori Ann
Spence, Daniel and Marlene
Spicer, Larry and Linda
Starchman, Donald ('61) and Francie
Story, Julie ('84) and Douglas
Strukel, Paul ('75) and Kim
Stuckey, Douglas and Kathy
Sunnenberg, Kathy ('66) and Frank

Sutton, Doris ('68)

T

Tawil, Elias and Magda
Thomas, Karen ('62) and Robert
Thomas, Steve ('83) and Tracey
Thomas, Tom ('57)
Towner, Dolores ('49)
Towner, Terry ('76) and Karen
Treiber, Sarah ('02) and Dustin
Tyler, Thomas and Nancy

U

Ukena, Mary ('86) and David

V

Van Becelaere, Joel ('93) and Ami ('93)
Vogel, Lothar and Evainda

W

Wachter, A.J. ('61) and Susie ('63)
Wachter, Bill ('77) and Mary Kay ('78)
Wachter, Mike ('62)
Waltrip, Vickie ('67) and Ken
Warner, Sarah ('98) and Brandon
Westhoff, Alicia ('89) and Thomas
Westhoff, Julian and Judy
Whiteside, Mary ('70) and Larry
Wilbert, Bill ('64) and Vicki
Wilbert, Billie
Wilbert, Jeff ('71)
Wilbert, Kathy ('82) and Craig
Wilkinson, Wendell and Lynda
Willis, Linda ('66)
Wilson, Ann ('78) and Wallace
Wilson, Theresa
Wolfe, Mary
Wolfe, Steven

X

Xiao, Long ('15)
Xun, Mickey

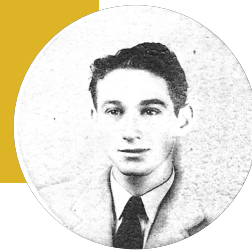
Y

Yaghmour, George ('90) and Dana
Yaghmour, Mary
Yaghmour, Ted ('87) and Lisa
Yartz, Lee Ann ('74) and Ron
Yost, Mary ('47)
Younger, David ('81) and Lori
Younger, LeRoy and Anna

*Every attempt was made to ensure the accuracy of this list.
We apologize if we have omitted any donors.*

Looking Back, cont.

CONTINUED FROM PG 18-19



JIM PARKS
"He has immortal longings in him."
Class Officer 1-2-4, Marian Co-ordinator, Mariannette Staff, Latin Club 1-2, Basketball 4, Minstrel 4, Operetta 4.

... 80 Years



ROBERT BLANCO
"Nobles and heroes joined to make their lives great."
Marian Staff, Mariannette Staff, Minstrel 4, Camera Club 4, Basketball 1-2-3-4, Latin Club 1, Minstrel 4, Operetta 4.

HAZEL MONSOUR
"For what she has she gives; what she thinks she shows."
Marian Staff, Mariannette Staff, Glee Club 1-2-3-4, Minstrel 2-4, Operetta 2-4.

MARY LOUISE SMITH
"To be merry best becomes you."
Marian Staff, Mariannette Staff, Latin Club 1-2, Choir 1-2-4, Minstrel 2-4, Operetta 2-4.

LOUISE CRONSTEN
"Joy why hath a where-fore."
Marian Staff, Mariannette Staff, Glee Club 1-2-3-4, Operetta 2-4, Minstrel 2-4.

LEO SCHWEITZER
"His joys are young, but his sorrows are old."
Marian Staff, Minstrel 4, Basketball 1-2-3-4, Glee Club 1-2-3, Choir 1-2-3, Minstrel 4.

PAT MARSHMAN
"I am a man that from my first have been inclined to drift."
Class Officer 4, Marian Staff, Camera Club Officer 4, Basketball 2-4, Minstrel 4, Operetta 2.

ELEANOR CAIR
"I am not loon enough to be thought a good student."
Mariannette Staff, Camera Club 4, Glee Club 2-3, Choir 2-3, Minstrel 2.

MARCELLA PAGLIA
"Strong reasons make strong wishes."
Marian Staff, Mariannette Staff, N.S.E.U. Bulletin 3-4, Camera Club 4, Quill and Scroll 3-4, Minstrel 2-4, Operetta 2-4.

GENEVIEVE GRANT
"Pleasure and action make the days seem short."
Society Officer 4, Class Officer 1-3, Red Cross Officer 2-4, Marian Staff, Mariannette Staff, Latin Club Officer 2-4, Quill and Scroll 2-4, Camera Club 4.

EDDIE JOE LAFAYETTE
"A soldier firm and sound of heart."
Society 1-2-3-4, Orchestra 1-2-3, Glee Club 2-3, Choir 2-4.

CECILE MCNALLY
"For a light heart lives long."
Marian Staff, Mariannette Staff, Latin Club 1-2, Glee Club 1-2-3-4, Minstrel 2, Operetta 2.

J. J. HOFFER
"I have a man's mind but a woman's might."
Class Officer 2, Latin Club 1, Glee Club 2-3-4, Orchestra 1-2, Choir 4, Minstrel 4.

MARY M. MCQUADE
"I am as good as dead, but not as dead."
Latin Club 1-3, Camera Club 4, Choir 1-2, Operetta 2-4, Minstrel 2-4.

BOB MANNING
"I cannot help what I am; I cannot help what I do."
Society Prefect, Class Officer 1, Marian Co-ordinator, Mariannette Staff, Latin Club Officer 2, Camera Club 4, Quill and Scroll 2-3-4, Minstrel 2-4.

DORA MAE GELDRUP
"The boy gets as meany to his."
Marian Staff, Mariannette Staff, Latin Club 1, Glee Club 1-2-3, Operetta 2-4, Minstrel 1.

DONNA DAVIES
"Fair thoughts and happy hours elude us too."
Society Officer 4, Marian Queen 2, Marian Staff, Mariannette Staff, Latin Club 1-3, Camera Club 4, Operetta 3-4, Minstrel 2-4.

ROBERT MURPHY
"He is no less than what we help be."
Class Officer 1-2-3, Marian Queen 2, Marian Staff, Mariannette Staff, Latin Club 1-3, Camera Club 4, Operetta 3-4, Minstrel 2-4.

PATRICIA BECKWELL
"What others do the oft just as high as my best."
Class Officer 1-4, Mariannette Staff, Camera Club 4, Choirleader 1-2, Choir 1-2, Minstrel 2-4, Operetta 2-3-4.

HARVEY FIKES
"He was a soldier and a ripe good one."
Society Officer 1, Society Officer 2, Mariannette Staff, Latin Club Officer 2-4, Camera Club 4, Orchestra 1-2-3, Operetta 2-4, Minstrel 4.

ELLEN MASTERSON
"She hath great delight in music, instruments and good."
Latin Club 4, Camera Club 1, Quill and Scroll 2-4, Glee Club 1-2-3-4, Operetta 2-3-4, Minstrel 2.

MARY K. BACH
"She'll I compare thee to a summer's day? Thou art more lovely and more temperate."
Marian Staff, Camera Club 4, Choir 1-2-3-4, Operetta 2-4, Minstrel 2-4.

BARBARA ENSMAN
"There's little of the melody about me, but I'm a good singer."
Mariannette Staff, Latin Club 1-2, Quill and Scroll 4, Camera Club 4, Operetta 2-3-4, Minstrel 2-4.

RAYMOND WINDERSBACH
"I cannot a child give love and think no harm."
Latin Club 1, Choirleader 1, Choir 1-3-4, Minstrel 2-4.

ROBERTY SIMON
"Will such my pure souls teach."
Marian Staff, Mariannette Staff, Quill and Scroll Officer 2-4, Latin Club 1-2, Camera Club 4, Minstrel 3-4, Operetta 1-3-4.

MARY DEL ESCH
"Will you indeed marry, if we be woe of women?"
Mariannette Queen 4, Mariannette Staff, Latin Club 1, Camera Club 4, Operetta 2-4, Minstrel 2-4.

JOE BERBA
"But there's more in the than the driver."
Blue Driver

TENESE LYONS
"Full of wise saws and modern instances"; but I could not tell how much of the world I knew."
Class Officer 4, Red Cross Officer 2-4, Marian Staff, Latin Club 1-3, Quill and Scroll 2-4, Camera Club 4, Operetta 3-4, Minstrel 2-4.

DOLLE THOMAS
"She has a heart as sound as a bell, and her tongue is the clapper."
May Queen, Glee Club 1-2-3-4, Operetta 2-3-4, Minstrel 2-4.

PATRICIA BELING
"And yet, good faith, I wish my tongue were stilled."
Mariannette Staff, Latin Club 1-2-3, Camera Club 4, Operetta 2-3, Minstrel 2-4.

BERNICE HONEY
"I, like your silence—it the Assisted Bus Driver."



In September of 2023, Our Lady of Lourdes Parochial Vicars Fr. Labenz and Fr. Chris began a podcast they call Porch Time with the Padres. A new episode has been added each Friday since it began. Listen in as these two young priests of our diocese share a little about themselves, welcome guests including Bishop Kemme, the 2024 Senior Class, and other priests of the diocese, all while teaching us about the Catholic faith. Visit OLLsmc.org/porch-time and spend a little time on the back porch.

From the Halls of SMC

Therese Misasi Jones ('71) had her career aimed in the direction of English, Literature and the Arts. After completing a Master of Arts in English from Pittsburg State University, she and her family moved to Boulder, Colorado, where she began the PhD program in English at the University of Colorado. She wrote, "I had the good fortune to experience the most creative and meaningful career in academia than I ever imagined. St. Mary's Colgan prepared me for it with a strong educational foundation." Her studies spanned 1982-1990. "A time when a mysterious, terrifying, and lethal disease emerged: HIV/AIDS." Therese recalled. "The artistic response to this catastrophe was immediate and intense. Plays, films, poetry, novels, and the visual arts stepped in to educate the public about the disease and to address the stigma around those suffering and dying from it." Therese's interest was piqued as to the importance that the arts could and should play in the medical field. Therese had never heard of the field "medical humanities" and applied for a three-year postdoctoral fellowship in a medical school in Ohio. She wrote, "In the classroom, I could bring the human, often messy and mysterious experience of illness, patient-hood, suffering, and dying to medical students through literature, film, and the arts as a crucial balance to their scientific and clinical knowledge of disease."

Following the post-doc, she remained in health professions education for the remainder of her career. She was still teaching the Arts and Humanities, but her focus had changed to teaching it to future doctors. Therese developed humanities and arts curricula in several medical schools including the University of

Colorado, University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, and University of Utah. "I eventually returned to the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus in 2009 to design and implement the Arts and Humanities in Healthcare Program at the Center for Bioethics and Humanities where I taught courses to medical, pharmacy, and graduate students," she wrote. At Colorado she created degree programs, published the first major textbook in the field and co-founded an international professional organization, the Health Humanities Consortium (HHC). The skills imparted to medical students as a result of Therese's work are vital. Among other things, it helps instill listening and observational skills and increase empathy and compassion in the future doctors and pharmacists...skills always appreciated as a patient. Therese's work was recognized with several awards including the Thomas Jefferson Award from CU, the Bonfils-Stanton award in science and the arts known as "Colorado's Nobel Prize," the Visionary Award from the HHC, and the President's Excellence in Teaching Award in 2022.

Therese expressed her sincere appreciation to St. Mary's Colgan for her foundation. "My deepest gratitude to Sister Mary Patrick who drilled me in Latin (I actually used it!) and to Sister Lynda who gave me classic paperbacks to read from her secret stash. Finally, to my classmates (many of us met in kindergarten) in the great class of 1971. I retired in 2022 to paint and live in the mountains with my husband of nearly fifty years, Chris Jones, and hang out with our daughter, Sara Elizabeth Cooper, who lives near Denver. "



Three grandbabies, the children of three of Bryan ('89) and Brenda Main's daughters, were recently baptized at Our Lady of Lourdes. Merrick Owen, son of Brittney (Main '07) and Ryan Wydick, Lane Michael, son of Brandee (Main '12) and Andrew Stewart ('12) and Lennyn Rae, daughter of Brooke (Main'14) and Kaleb Hamilton ('15).

Welcome to the family!!

(correction from last newsletter)



Just Play Sports Solutions was founded in late 2014 by SMC graduates Austin Barone ('12) and Andy Wachter ('02). Andy and Austin both played D1 sports helping them to understand the needs of college coaches.

In November of 2023, Austin made the Forbes 30 Under 30 List.

- Just Play Solutions Web

Understanding the workload coaches endure and the struggles players experience to get ready for competition lead them to develop the Just Play system. Just Play streamlines coaches' workflows and allows them to better teach their teams. It is rapidly changing how coaches are able to engage their teams and is being utilized by hundreds of coaches across the country.

Just Play Sports Solutions currently provides playbook, scouting, and teaching tools for football, basketball, and lacrosse.

Q & A from Austin and Andy . . .

What is your college degree and from what school?

Austin: Bachelor of Science in Accounting from the University of Kansas (began attending SMC his sophomore year)

Andy: Master of Science in Technology from Pittsburg State University (attended SMC K-12)



What inspired Just Play Solutions?

Having both played college athletics, we realized the growing disconnect between how coaches teach and how athletes learn. We started Just Play to make coaches' lives easier by streamlining and consolidating the daily work they do to prepare their teams. We wanted to connect coaches and athletes by creating a more engaging experience for players to prepare on any device.

Do you have other business ventures or only Just Play Solutions?

Just Play is a full-time commitment for both of us.

What are each of your roles/jobs at Just Play?

Austin: Leads our Customer-Facing team in Sales / Support

Andy: Leads our Product team in Development and Marketing

Do you have other employees?

Our team is 30+ scattered across the US and Canada.

Please tell me about the Forbes 30 under 30 award. Were you nominated, or self-nominated, what does that mean for your business?

I was nominated by another executive in the Sports Tech industry. It's an incredible honor and an award that speaks volumes about the success of the entire company and everyone involved. In terms of day-to-day, it doesn't change anything. However, externally, the announcement created quite a bit of attention and we're confident it will have a significant impact on teams/organizations adopting the platform.

Where do you see yourself in 5 or 10 years with Just Play?

We're focused on providing our clients and employees with an incredible experience to grow and be part of something special. We're grateful to have the opportunity to affect winning for elite organizations and we're having a ton of fun doing it. We hope Just Play is a globally recognized name in sports technology.

SEE **JUST PLAY**— PG 28



Stewardship Way, cont.

on the Neosho River near Parsons. By now, Janell and Mike had added sons Scott and Tim to the family. They ran a large, successful cattle and crop operation until the flood of 1986 ended their farming. Mike turned back to coaching and teaching and the family spent the next five successful years at Springfield Catholic. After Janell's dad passed away, she wanted to move back closer to family, so they returned to Southeast Kansas. But with no teaching and coaching jobs to be found, Mike opened a Life Insurance Company in Parsons. Although his business venture was very successful, "I hated it," Mike said, and returned to teaching. In 1996, he was hired by Southeast High School. It was then that Fr. Tom Stroot reached out to Mike looking for a coach for SMC. Unfortunately, he had already committed to Southeast. Mike attained his master's in educational leadership and was hired as principal at Galesburg and worked his way up to Superintendent at Erie USD 101. He retired in 2007, working for a time after retirement as a consultant for Crossland Construction. Fr. Tom Stroot and Chuck Smith reached out again looking for some coaching help, but it didn't work out. Twelve years later, Dennis Burke, who was President of Schools at SMC, once again approached Mike about helping with the girls basketball team. This time there was the added benefit that his three youngest grandkids, the children of Tim and Autumn, were going to SMC. Third time's a charm and he agreed. Mike drove daily from Parsons for practices and games. Mike and Janell liked Pittsburg and bought some land to build a house the following year. But tragedy struck and Janell was diagnosed with cancer. Just 10 days shy of their 50th wedding anniversary, she passed away. "Everybody from the school was so supportive." Mike

said. "Abby (Farabi) was one of the leaders. It was during COVID, and people brought food too." Mike is very happy that before Janell died, they were able to donate a crucifix that now hangs in the SMC Fieldhouse. Mike decided to still make Pittsburg home, sold the land and bought a house. Coach Gramps, as most of the kids now knew him, became more involved in the school becoming Fr. Labenz's substitute teacher on Mondays and helping coach junior high boys basketball. "And the next thing you know," Mike said, "you are just a part of it." Coach Gramps is such a good influence on SMC. "Since I go to 6:30 am Mass, I thought it would be cool to instill in the kids to go to a weekday Mass, that they don't have to go to." Mike said. And so, the 630 Club began. The simple reward of donuts, or breakfast or a t-shirt has brought 20-30 kids to daily Mass each week. Last May, SMC was looking for a new AD as the current one, Cody Spencer, was moving. That's when Cody asked Mike if he would take the job. That is not what Mike expected. "I'm pushing 80 and dragging 70," he laughed. Mike has remarried and his wife, Debbie, was very encouraging of the AD job. He had been looking into a possible job at Joplin Catholic School, but SMC seemed to be the right fit for him. Mike said, "This is a way to give back and help out. I love being around the kids and the coaches are great to work with and the administration is terrific, and the priests are wonderful. Debbie said that maybe this is where God wanted me to be."



Mike & Debbie Carson

Our IHM Sisters at SMC



Sister Mary Ann Kirkland, IHM **JH/HS Religion Teacher, HS House Leader**

Sister Mary Ann was raised in Wichita, KS and went to School of the Magdalen and Kapaun Mt. Carmel. She discerned her vocation to religious life at Wichita State University St. Paul's Newman Center with the help of Fr. Joseph Gorentz. She entered the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary during her senior year at WSU. The Community sent her on for graduate studies at NDI Pontifical Catechetical Institute and the Angelicum in Rome. Sister Mary Ann has taught at Bishop Carroll, Kapaun-Mt. Carmel, Trinity Catholic in Hutchinson and is on her second stint at St. Mary's Colgan. She is currently teaching 7th grade Religion, Old Testament and New Testament and Catholic Social Thought.

Sister Mary Grace Lorg, IHM

PreK-6th Catechist

Sister Mary Grace is in her third year at St. Mary's Elementary. She is the Catechist for Catechesis of the Good Shepherd for 3-year-old preschool students through 6th grade students. Prior to being at St. Mary's, she served for six years in Hutchinson, teaching 7th and 8th grade Religion at Trinity Jr/Sr High School, three years at St. Francis of Assisi in Wichita and three years at St. Peter's Catholic School in Schulte, Kansas. "In my opinion," she wrote, "the Catholic Community in Pittsburg, Kansas is the best kept secret in the diocese! I am deeply grateful to be here."





Sister Mary Francesca Winters, IHM **Student Teacher**

Sister Mary Francesca grew up in Plainville, Kansas, as a member of the Sacred Heart parish. After high school, she attended Fort Hays State University and became involved at the Catholic student center near campus. "I was inspired by the students I met because of their eagerness to grow in the faith." She wrote. Because of their encouragement, she began to spend more time in front of the Blessed Sacrament and to grow her relationship with the Blessed Virgin Mary. A few of the IHM Sisters visited the student center throughout the year and their joy and Marian presence made the possibility of religious life seem very real. "As I continued to pray and became more aware of the Lord's abundant love for me," she continued, "I felt called to be set apart completely for Him." After visiting the IHMs for the first time, she knew it was home. Sister Mary Francesca entered in the fall of 2016 and professed perpetual vows in the spring of 2022. She is currently a student at Pitt State, completing her student teaching semester at SMC.

Sister Mary Magdalene O'Halloran, IHM **JH/HS Religion Teacher, JH House Leader**

Sister Mary Magdalene was born in Wichita, Kansas and attended Catholic schools all her life. She entered a Religious Congregation whose apostolate is teaching. Sister Mary Magdalene entered the classroom as a teacher 38 years ago, and has enjoyed every minute of it. She taught at Wichita's Bishop Carroll Catholic High School for 19 years and at Trinity Catholic High School in Hutchinson for 6 years. For 12 years she served as General Superior for their Congregation. "It has been a perfect joy to return to the classroom and I don't think I could be in a better place, teaching here with my Sisters, and passing on the Faith." she wrote.



Just Play, cont.

On a more personal note, where do each of you live and are you married, or family?

Austin: Wife, Hannah. Expecting our first child in late March. 2 dogs, Mowgli and Mila and lives in Overland Park, KS

Andy: Wife, Ashley Elnicki. 2 dogs, Crash and Bernie and lives in Denver, CO

How did attending SMC affect your future?

In talking to Andy, we both agreed that the quality of the coaches we played for at SMC and the team experiences that we had in high school played a huge part in our successes. It laid the foundation for our interest in playing at the next level and making a career out of working in sports.



What's in a Name?

Identity? Unity? The truth is both. The unfolding of our name...

St. Mary's High School,

For 20 years, from 1915 through 1935, 8th grade was the end of a Catholic education at St. Mary's School. In 1936, under the direction of Monsignor McCullough, the first freshman class was formed. They graduated in 1940 as the first graduating class of St. Mary's High School.

In late spring of 1966, there were discussions of establishing a regional Catholic high school in Southeast Kansas, with the possibility of building a new school or converting St. Mary's with its six-year old school building, to a regional school. A local committee was selected to do an extensive study. Fr. Thomas Colgan served as Executive Secretary of the committee, with Our Lady of Lourdes parishioner Joe Keller as the Chairman. The remaining members of the committee were parishioners Kenneth Burbach, James Buche, Robert Caldwell, Charles Dellasega, and Paul Wachter. They were charged with conducting an extensive feasibility study into creating the Regional High School, and presenting it to Bishop Byrne within six weeks, on or about July 29, 1966. In a letter from Fr. Colgan to Bishop Byrne, he states "The public high schools in the regional high school area are starting to consolidate this year. Some of these schools have already closed

and the students have been transferred to other schools. The Committee feels we have an excellent opportunity, since the students of these schools are making a move, to attract some of these students to the Regional High School. We have very little time to do this before the school term starts in September." After a great deal of research and study, the decision was made to convert St. Mary's High School into a regional school. On July 24, 1966, Fr. Thomas Colgan was tragically killed in a car accident in Chicopee, just south of Pittsburg. A letter from Joe Keller to Bishop Byrne dated July 25, 1966, says, "For your information, Father Colgan and myself finalized the cost portion of this report Sunday afternoon about two hours before his death. If we build a Regional High School, we recommend this school be named in honor of Father Colgan." On August 4, 1966, Bishop Byrne officially designated St. Mary's High School to become a Regional High School for a period of three years. It was determined that the facilities and staff at St. Mary's were adequate for the regional school. Pastors in the Pittsburg deanery were encouraged to invite parents to send their children to St. Mary's Regional High School. The following letter was to be read at all parishes and or missions on Sunday, August 7, 1966.

SEE A NAME – PG 30



CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF WICHITA

Office of the Bishop

424 NORTH BROADWAY

WICHITA, KANSAS 67202

August 4, 1966

To the Clergy, Religious and Laity of the Pittsburg Deanery

Dearly Beloved in Christ:

I am pleased to tell you that beginning in September, 1966, St. Mary's High School in Pittsburg will officially become a regional high school for the Deanery both in support and attendance. A school board will be appointed from among the most capable people in the region.

As Bishop of this diocese it is my duty to remind you of the moral obligation on the part of parents and pastors to make every effort to guarantee the religious education of children under your care.

This regional high school is the best possible facility we can offer to fulfill this purpose. The obligation has always been in force; moreover, it has been emphasized by the recent Vatican Council.

Even at this late date with the new school term approaching so rapidly, I ask you to make every effort to send your children to St. Mary's Regional High School. I have found the laymen of this area most helpful and most capable in promoting this program. They are working diligently and effectively to make the regional school one of the highest quality.

Asking your cooperation and begging God's blessings for this project, I remain

Cordially and sincerely yours,

+ Leo Byrne

The Most Rev. Leo C. Byrne
Apostolic Administrator
Diocese of Wichita

N. B. To be read in all parishes and/or missions Sunday, August 7, 1966.

Dear Joe — I hope this letter will be of help to "push" the program. Thank you again for your leadership — Bishop Byrne

A Name, cont.

In a January 1967 letter from Bishop Byrne to Father Linnebur, regarding the renaming of the St. Mary's Regional High School, he offered these options:

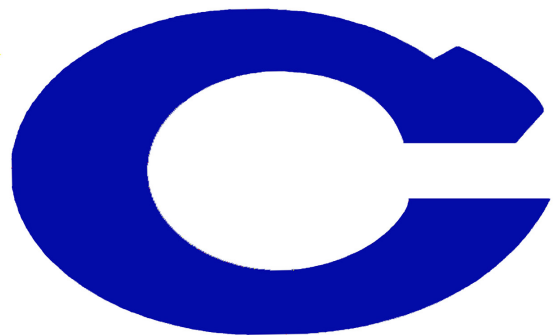
1. *Colgan High. It would be a fitting memorial for a great priest universally loved in the Pittsburg area.*
2. *Roncalli High. Probably the members of your Board never heard of Pope John XXIII (i.e. the family name of Pope John)*
3. *Hennessey High. The first bishop of this diocese who labored long and lovingly for the foundations of education.*

Vickie (Herbeck) Waltrip was a senior in 1967, and said the girls were trying to figure out how to adapt their cheers and chants with these new, seemingly awkward names. Tom Compton, a freshman at the time, said the students were allowed to vote on the new name and were encouraged to choose a name other than Colgan. "But it was just too close to his death." Tom wrote. "Emotions were still running high. The students voted overwhelmingly for Colgan High School." It officially became Colgan Regional High School on March 1, 1967. Around 1971, with Fr. Steinberger as pastor, Colgan High School was returned to being a parish school and Regional was removed from the name.

The new name was embraced by high school students and the "**Power C**" became the shorthand symbol representing Colgan, proudly displayed on football helmets and jerseys. Cheers were adapted and "We are (clap, clap) Colgan," would ring out from the pep club. As the years moved further away from Fr. Colgan's death and without any connotation of a Catholic identity in the name, many people outside of our community did not know we were Catholic. Fr. Ivan Eck arrived as pastor in 1981. He wrote, "Around the year 1984 we hired a charter bus from Erie to transport our football team for a game a long distance to the North. I asked the bus driver, who was from Erie, only about 30 miles from Pittsburg, what he thought Colgan school was. He replied, 'Is it not a private school for rich kids?' I knew immediately

that something needed to be done." Fr. Eck talked to teacher and football coach Chuck Smith and Principal Pat Forbes and they agreed that St. Mary's needed to be back in the school name. As loudly as the name was changed to Colgan in 1967, was as softly as St. Mary's was included back in the name... so much so that it's hard to find a definitive date that it happened. For a short period of time, the school was called Colgan St. Mary's. Stephanie (Waltrip) Forbes '91, recalled that during her senior year the students heard that they were going to change the school name. "All I could think about was how weird it was going to be to cheer for 'SMC/St. Mary's Colgan' after growing up doing cheers for Colgan and CHS." Ironically, that was her mom Vickie Waltrip's concerns when she was a senior in 1967. "I remember writing a long letter which I presented to Mr. Forbes (her future father-in-law), and he did at least entertain my thoughts, and then gave me a sly smile and I figured it probably wasn't going to make a difference. But at least he knew how I felt about it." By 1995, it was switched to be St. Mary's Colgan as it remains today. Stephanie and PJ live in Wichita and are proud to be able to tell people they grew up going to St. Mary's Colgan.

There are still many people who still call us just Colgan. And "We are (clap clap) Colgan" still rings out from the pep club, but so do chants of "S M C, S M C." With SMC intertwined into a cross as our logo, St. Mary's Colgan is a name that both identifies and unites our school and our graduates. Hopefully all know that we are a Catholic school by our name, but more importantly by who we are.



Plan Regional High School

Pittsburg - St. Mary's high school, for 30 years a parochial institution, will mark its 30th anniversary year by expanding into a regional high school.

Bishop Byrne officially designated St. Mary's a regional high school for the parishes of the Pittsburg deanery as of Sept. 1, 1966.

In his letter Aug. 5, he noted that it "will officially become a regional high school for the deanery both in support and attendance."

The late Msgr. Patrick J. McCullough, pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes parish from 1928-48, began the high school in 1936 when 26 freshmen enrolled.

Staffed by the Sisters of St. Joseph and serving as a parish school, Msgr. McCullough actually opened its doors to all in southeast Kansas who wishes to study there. The practice became a tradition which has continued to the present.

In 1940, shortly before the June commencement exercises

when 23 seniors - the freshman class of 1936 - were graduated, the State of Kansas granted accreditation.

Ground for the present facility, which was constructed under the direction of Msgr. Alex G. Stremel, was broken in 1959. Bishop Mark K. Carroll blessed the building Oct. 2, 1960.

Tragedy struck the school and parish July 24 of this year when Father Thomas H. Colgan, the high school's administrator since 1964, was fatally injured in an automobile accident in Chicopee, four miles southwest of Pittsburg.

An alumnus of the Catholic University of America where he received his master of arts degree in educational administration, Father Colgan had laid the groundwork for the expansion of St. Mary's from the parish to regional level. The 36-year-old priest was to

have served as administrator of the new school.

Bishop Byrne explained that "a school board will be appointed from among the most capable people in the region."

Noting his great concern that every young Catholic have the opportunity of a Catholic education, he said that "pastors and parents have the obligation of making every effort to guarantee the religious education of the children under their care.

"Their responsibility," Bishop Byrne added, "is mine also. The regional high school in Pittsburg is the best possible facility we can offer to fulfill this purpose."

The Sisters of St. Joseph, who have taught Pittsburg children since 1894, staff the regional high school with three lay people.



St. Mary's Regional High School, Pittsburg

Remember When



CHANGE OF NAMES - St. Mary's Regional high school, which serves all the parishes in the Pittsburg deanery, will officially become the Colgan Regional high school effective Mar. 1, according to an announcement made this week by Bishop Byrne. The school will be named in memory of

Father Thomas H. Colgan, the high school's administrator from 1964 until his death in July, 1966. He was fatally injured in an automobile accident in Chicopee, four miles southwest of Pittsburg.



St. Mary's Colgan
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VIVA CRISTO REY! MT 25:34
LONG LIVE CHRIST THE KING!

LOOKING AHEAD . . .

MARCH

- 19 Baseball V/JV vs Joplin
- 20 CYM
- 21 Baseball V/JV @ Ind
- 23 Baseball V @ Ft Scott-Piper
- 25 Softball V/JV vs Southeast
- 26 Track JV @ Riverton
- Baseball V/JV vs Neosho
- Softball V vs Ind
- 27 Into the Desert Meal
- 29 Good Friday
- 31 Easter Sunday

APRIL

- 1 Easter Monday
- Baseball V vs Girard
- Softball V vs Girard
- 2 Golf V @ Four Oaks (FHS)
- Track JV @ PHS
- Baseball JV @ Girard
- Softball JV @ Girard
- JH Track @ Girard
- 3 YA Banquet
- 4 Golf V @ Independence
- Track V @ Frontenac
- Baseball V @ Frontenac
- Softball V @ Frontenac
- 5 Track V @ PSU
- Baseball JV vs Frontenac
- Softball JV vs Frontenac

- 8 Golf V @ Baxter Springs
- Track JV @ Chanute
- Baseball V vs Baxter
- Softball V vs Baxter
- 9 Track V @ Riverton
- Baseball JV @ Baxter
- JH Track @ PCMS
- 10 Peter Pan
- 11 Baseball V vs Galena
- Softball V vs Galena
- JH Track @ Girard
- 12 Baseball JV @ Galena
- Softball JV @ Galena
- 13 Peter Pan
- 14 First Communion
- 15 Golf V @ Fort Scott
- Baseball V @ Parsons
- Softball V/JV @ Fort Scott
- JH Track @ Columbus
- 16 Golf V/JV @ Crestwood (SMC)
- Track V @ Columbus
- 18 Golf JV @ Four Oaks (FHS)
- Track V @ Fredonia
- JH Track @ Frontenac
- 19 Track V @ KU Relays
- Baseball V/JV @ Lamar
- Softball V/JV @ Liberal
- 20 Track V @ KU Relays
- 22 Baseball V @ Columbus
- Softball @ Columbus

- 23 Golf V @ Columbus
- Track JV @ Ft Scott
- Baseball JV vs Columbus
- Softball JV vs Columbus
- JH Track @ Galena League
- 24 Grace Banquet
- 25 Golf JV @ Baxter
- 26 Track V @ Girard
- Baseball V/JV vs Bishop Ward
- Softball V vs Bishop Ward
- 27 Baseball V/JV @ Frontenac
- Softball V Frontenac/Baxter
- 29 Golf JV @ Countryside (Girard)
- Softball V/JV @ Jasper
- 30 Golf V @ Girard
- Track V @ Northeast
- Baseball V vs Liberal

MAY

- 1 May Crowning
- Athletic Banquet
- 2 Golf JV @ Columbus
- Track V @ Humboldt
- Baseball V @ Riverton
- Softball V @ Riverton
- 3 Track V @ Chanute
- Baseball JV vs Riverton
- Softball JV vs Riverton
- 6 Track JV @ Iola
- 7 Baseball V/JV vs Carl Junction
- Softball V/JV vs Girard

- 8 Golf V @ Schiff (Galena)
- Arts Night
- 9 Track V CNC @ Girard
- 11 SMC Graduation - Noon
- 13 Golf Regionals
- Baseball & Softball Regionals
- 14 Baseball & Softball Regionals
- 15 8th Grade Recognition Mass
- Baseball & Softball Regionals
- 16 Track Regionals
- Baseball & Softball Regionals
- 17 Track Regionals
- Last Day SMC
- 20 State Golf
- 21 State Golf
- 23 State Baseball/Softball
- 24 State Baseball/Softball/Track
- 25 State Track