The Rambler Report REGIS CATHOLIC SCHOOLS MAGAZINE FOR FAMILIES, FRIENDS & ALUMNI FALL 2021

Annual Report 2020 2021

Learning Today, Leading Tomorrow





The Rambler Report

PUBLICATION

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DONATION QUESTIONS + MAILING LIST & ALUMNI UPDATES

Jackie Bachmeier jbachmeier@RegisCatholicSchools.com (715) 830-2273, ext. 1407 **Immaculate Conception Elementary School** students and staff celebrated the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary with a Living Rosary.

Students gathered in the Mary Garden at Immaculate Conception Church for this special event. They prayed for Our Lady's Intercession for their parish, school, and community during the parish's 75th Jubilee Year!



Features

8 ANNUAL GIVING HONOR ROLL

See the generous donors who helped support Regis Catholic Schools during the last fiscal year.

18 | 2021-22 REGIS FUND

Learn how your financial donations are making a real difference in supporting the mission of Regis Catholic Schools.

20 | 2021 REGIS CATHOLIC SCHOOLS AUCTION

We are grateful to the individuals who attended our in-person event and to those who participated in online bidding. Find out how much money was raised in support of tuition assistance at our schools.

22 | ACADEMICS REPORT

Did you know? Regis High School students have many opportunities to pursue many college-level rigor courses! Learn how we challenge our students to excel academically.

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Regis Catholic Schools is accredited by Wisconsin Religious and Independent School Accreditation (WRISA) for grades K-12.

Cover Photo by Meghan Kulig

Report from the Dean

"I can't believe it's Advent!"

This annual cliché among Christians who observe Advent often indicates that we feel life is moving too fast. Throw in an unseasonably long and warm autumn and it is understandable that our annual jaunt around the Advent wreath was far from people's minds. As we move through Advent and the celebration of Christmas that follows, let's take time to reflect on how the season we enter asks us to imitate the light of Christ in the darkness of our world. Let us not allow the darkness to consume our hearts,

In the language of communal prayer, special seasons remind us of our fluid sense of time. We are concluding the season of Ordinary Time with the spiritual significance of figuring out how to live our faith in the ordinary events of our daily lives. Advent switches our attention to prepare our hearts for Jesus' return in final glory.

For some, the idea of Jesus' final return in glory evokes frightful images of apocalyptic endings. However, Advent is far from being a "fire and



but find joy that Christ has already won the final battle and that fact is the foundation of our joy and hope. Let us see in every Christmas light and decoration a symbol of the paradox that is the Christian life. Let us illuminate this world with the vibrant beauty of the light of Christ like the Christmas decorations that illuminate a night's walk in Phoenix Park. And may this Advent fill our hearts with joy, pulling us away

from the world's desire to drag our hearts into despair and darkness, filling them instead with peace, hope, and love.

Fr. James Kurzynski Dean, Eau Claire Deanery

brimstone" season, but is meant to be a joyful anticipation of Christ's return. Advent calls us to long for Jesus' final return in glory, to set our hearts afire with love, and bring about a new creation.

When put in this context, I think it safe to say that we are living through a time when the idea of a "re-creation" of our world would be welcomed. Yet, we also have to be careful not to have our attentiveness to the struggles of the world rob us of our joy. Is it true that we don't have to look very far to get the sense that our world is in crisis? Yes, it is true. However, that fact does not mean we need to allow our hearts to be in crisis. Just as Advent asks us to focus on a joyful return of Jesus in final glory, so, too, should we see that amid a world of growing divisiveness, violence, and discord that Christ calls us to be a light in the darkness. And the only way we can embrace that role is to let the light of Christ shine through us.

Report from the President

Dear Friends of Regis Catholic Schools,

Over the summer, as I was preparing for my seventeenth year with Regis Catholic Schools, the words "Interim President" were not on my radar. While I knew accepting this position would be an enormous undertaking, I was confident that, because of the many talented people surrounding me, Regis Catholic Schools would continue to thrive. Watching our dedicated employees work together to start the 2021-22 school year providing in-person education five days a week reaffirmed my conviction that we are moving in the right direction.

I cannot begin to express the gratitude I have for our families who continue to make the necessary adjustments to keep our schools open. As a parent of three children in our system, I know first-hand the frustrations of last-minute quarantines and changing policies. Yet, our families have responded with kindness, compassion, and understanding. We are blessed by this partnership between home and school, which is based on mutual respect and love for our students.

Throughout this season of Advent, we are reminded of the lasting joy that comes from knowing God. My prayer is that we may always have room in our hearts for those who need our love, compassion, and support. May we all work hard this season to carve out time for one-another. As we light our Advent wreath each week we wish you hope, faith, peace, joy and love as we await our Savior's birth. I pray you cherish and embrace time with those you love; time together is a precious gift from God.

Siekey

Carisa Smiskey Interim President



In August, Kelly K. Mechelke, Ph.D. announced her resignation as Regis Catholic Schools President. We are grateful for Kelly's 19 years of dedicated and faith-filled service to Regis Catholic Schools in her many roles. As a teacher, principal, curriculum coordinator, and president, Kelly made a lasting impact on the many lives she touched.

At that time, Carisa

Smiskey was named Interim President of Regis Catholic Schools.

Carisa has been blessed with a wide variety of experiences during her 16 years with Regis Catholic Schools. She has served as a teacher at St. Olaf Elementary School, Regis Middle School, St. James Elementary School, and St. Mary's Elementary School. Most recently, she has served as the St. Mary's Elementary School Principal and Regis Catholic Schools K-5 Curriculum Coordinator.

"As an educator and the parent of three Ramblers, I am proud of the education our schools provide. Our teachers are eager to share their love of learning as they help our students grow in mind, body, and spirit. The partnership between families, faculty, staff, pastors, alumni, and parishioners continues to strengthen our schools and enables us to provide a wide variety of opportunities to enhance learning."

Carisa says she is proud of the path Regis Catholic Schools is on and adds her goal as interim president is to keep the system moving forward. She also continues to serve as the St. Mary's Elementary School Principal. We are grateful for the experienced staff at St. Mary's Elementary School who are assisting as Carisa takes on this additional role.

We ask you to keep Carisa and Regis Catholic Schools in your prayers as we all work to provide what is best for our schools and our students.

2020-2021 Financial Report

Revenue

Net Tuition & Fees	\$3,789,167
Parish Support	1,509,700
Donations, Foundation, Fundraising	237,942
Other Food Service, Athletic, Scrip (NET)	1,263,776
Child Care (NET)	726,199
TOTAL REVENUE	\$7,526,784
Expenses	
Wages & Benefits	\$4,732,591
Educational & Related Activities	791,059
Building, Repairs, Utilities, Maintenance, Depreciation	376,038
Building Use Agreements	264,667
General Operational, In-Service, Fundraising	151,491
Debt and Interest Payments	12,793
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$6,328,638
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NET PROFIT

\$1,198,146

Our Net Profit for 2020-2021 includes a one-time payment from the government for COVID-19 assistance. Regis Catholic Schools received approximately \$1,441,995 through government funding, which was used to cover employee salaries.



Enrollment & Academic Report



Regis Fund & Tuition Partnership Program | July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021



Supporting Parish Society

Thank you for making Catholic education affordable!

Immaculate Conception Parish Newman Parish Sacred Heart of Jesus -St. Patrick Parish St. James the Greater Parish St. Mary's Parish St. Olaf Parish

Bishop John Paul Founders Society \$10,000-\$50,000

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Benefactors Society \$1,000-\$1,999

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Patron's Society \$250-\$499

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Friends of Regis Society \$50-\$99

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Thank you for your support!

If you have not yet contributed to the 2021-22 annual Regis Fund, we invite you to please consider doing so using the enclosed donation envelope.





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The Regis Catholic Schools Foundation is pleased to introduce Jackie Bachmeier as the new Advancement Director.

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Jackie and her husband, Tom, are celebrating 27 years of marriage, having been married at St. James the Greater Parish in Eau Claire where they are current members. Tom and Jackie are involved in parish life through choir and FOCCUS, and attend Mass regularly. They have two children, Sam (25) and Natalie (23), who both received their education in the Regis Catholic Schools system.

A graduate of UW-Eau Claire, Jackie spent many years in Sales and Marketing for Spectrum Reach. During the past several years, Jackie worked for the HSHS Foundation as a Major Gift Officer for both Sacred Heart and St. Joseph's Hospitals.

Jackie says she is very excited to join the Regis Catholic Schools Foundation as Advancement Director and is passionate about our schools, our mission, and Our Core Values. The Bachmeier family knows first-hand the value of a Regis Catholic Schools education.

"We truly feel Regis Catholic Schools helped give our children a strong start in life. They were wellprepared both academically and spiritually, with a strong sense of commitment to their community."

Sam continued his education at Viterbo University and is currently the Assistant Director for the La Crosse Area Development Corporation. Natalie graduated from UW-La Crosse in Public Health and works for the Wisconsin Department of Health Services. She is also a graduate student at Colorado State and is studying Global Health, Health Disparities, and Epidemiology.

Please keep Jackie in your prayers as she works to secure financial support for the Regis Catholic Schools Foundation. Every donation makes a difference, no matter the size.

We thank you for your support of our Catholic schools. I am very excited to be back at Regis Catholic Schools and serving as the Foundation's Advancement Director! With just a few months in, I am in awe of the generosity of the Regis community. You should have received the annual Regis Fund Appeal in the mail by now. Although the Regis Fund kicked-off later than usual this year, we launched the campaign with more than \$87,000 in donations from faithful friends of Regis who remember us year after year. **Thank you!**

Philanthropy is a Remarkable Thing

Think about it. It is a voluntary and selfless act of giving that comes from one's abundance for the benefit of others. It is an action that confirms what God calls us to do: Love our neighbor as yourself; do unto others as you would have others do unto you; what you do for the least of us, you do for me. I am grateful and humbled by the charitable spirit of this community.

We are Debt Free

The Regis Catholic Schools Foundation was instrumental in getting our schools debt free, making massive building improvements across the system, and providing bonuses to our teachers and staff.

One-Half Million Annually

The Regis Fund has grown significantly now that we are debt free thanks to you, our generous Regis family and friends. The goal of the Regis Catholic School Foundation is to bolster the endowment to a level that would provide a minimum of \$500,000 annually to our schools. These funds will support our current needs, teacher salaries, student scholarship, capital improvement, and more. We are doing well, but we need your help.

Together, we can make this happen!

You can make a gift in many different ways. That includes, but is not limited to:

- Giving a gift to the annual Regis Fund that is meaningful to you.
- Planned monthly giving
- Gift of life insurance
- Gift of personal property
- Gift of securities
- Regis Legacy Society (We ask you to consider naming the Regis Catholic Schools Foundation in your will or trust.)
- Funding a named scholarship endowment (While many named funds are established with a one-time gift of \$10,000 or greater, they can also be established via a pledge over a several year time frame that will build the fund to the \$10,000 named fund level.)

Your gift, in any amount, will sustain Regis Catholic Schools and help us to continue to provide our students with the highest quality Catholic education today and for the future.

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Jackie Bachmeier Advancement Director Regis Catholic <mark>Scho</mark>ols Foundation





We were excited to welcome back an in-person crowd for the 29th annual Regis Catholic Schools Auction, held on Saturday, November 13 at The Florian Gardens in Eau Claire. We also opened bidding on our silent auction items to those who could not attend in-person, giving our supporters the chance to get involved in our annual fundraiser from anywhere!







Anks to the generosity of our friends and supporters, this year's event helped raise \$123,500. We are so grateful for your support!

Of that total, approximately \$87,780 will support the St. Benedict Tuition Assistance Scholarship Program, which helps make a Regis Catholic Schools education affordable for all families.

In addition, this year's Fund-a-Need helped raise \$35,750. That money will be used to show our love and appreciation as we spoil our staff! We all know how challenging the past year and a half has been and our Regis Catholic Schools staff have responded with dedication and care. All of the money raised as part of this year's Fund-a-Need will be used to show our appreciation to our staff through special surprises for the remainder of the 2021-22 school year.

All Fund-a-Need funds raised will be split between our Regis Catholic Schools facilities based on the number of employees. (Regis High School & Regis Middle School, Immaculate Conception Elementary School, St. James Elementary School, St. Mary's Elementary School, Regis Child Development Center, Genesis Child Development Center, Regis Catholic Schools Central Office)





Academics Report

Each student's education is the foundation for a strong journey leading to adulthood. Students at Regis High School have valuable opportunities to receive an education that will prepare them thoroughly for post-secondary success. By remaining grounded in Christ, along with hard work and a positive attitude, students have the tools needed for lifelong success, both personally and professionally!



Students at Regis High School are strongly encouraged to take advantage of the excellent academic course offerings available by challenging themselves to enroll in courses that align with their God-given strengths and passion. Being involved and strongly encouraging academic persistence with challenging coursework is one of the best ways to ensure success for a student's next steps in their journey.

It is important for you to know that Regis High School offers many college-level rigor courses that provide dual high school and college credit. We challenge every student to take one or more of these college-level classes during their high school experience.

credit **opportunities** include:



ADVANCED PLACEMENT COURSES

These are college-level courses taught within our building. Students may receive college credit if they score a 3, 4, or 5 on AP Exams. Credit varies by post-secondary institution.

Courses Include: AP Literature, AP Chemistry, AP U.S. History



DISTANCE LEARNING COURSES FOR COLLEGE CREDIT

These courses may be offered through CVTC, Northcentral Technical College, Western Technical College, UW-College, or local Wisconsin high schools. Students enrolled in college-level courses are eligible for both college and high school credit.

Courses Include: UWSP English 101 and 202, CVTC Introduction to Psychology and Introduction to Sociology



COOPERATIVE ACADEMIC PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM (CAPP)

CAPP courses provide a convenient and affordable way for students to earn high school and UW-Oshkosh college credit.

Courses Include: Health 106, History 202



CVTC ACADEMY

Students who successfully complete an Academy earn both high school and technical college credit.

Courses Include: Medical Terminology, Anatomy & Physiology



Early College Credit Program allows Wisconsin high school students to take one or more courses at an institution of higher education for high school and college credit. Start College Now allows junior and senior students to take courses at a technical college.

Fall Sports Report



Football

The 2021 Regis Football team had another very successful season. The goal was to become a tough team and that was accomplished. The team started the season with a signature win vs. Division 1 Kenosha Bradford 27-10. The team then won the rest of its games during the regular season to win the Cloverbelt Conference for the 4th year in a row. Some highlights include the regular season wins vs. Durand, Mondovi, and Stanley-Boyd. The Ramblers won the first three playoff games to advance to the state semifinals before losing a heartbreaker to Coleman 22-28. The Ramblers finished the season with a 12-1 record. Regis was led by a great group of seniors including Hank Axelrod, Casey Erickson, Griffin Kristo, Alex Leis, Alex Picco, Hannah Reynen, Ben Salonek, Greg Sokup, and Gus Theisen. In addition, there were several key underclassmen who contributed to the success on the field and those players should provide a strong foundation for next year's team to be built upon.

Cross Country

Small team, lofty goals. This year's Regis Cross County season started and ended at the same course, which gave everyone a great chance to see improvement over the season. Not only did the team have many PRs broken that day, but some of them were by minutes from the first race. A huge weight on this team with so many seniors, but they did excellently and stayed focused all the way up until the state tournament.

Eydie Myers and Carly Borst both competed at state and in their own words, "it was hard". Running against the best in the area, they really had to show what they could do. Eydie Myers won two races this year and the girls' team finished almost all its meets in the top three teams. Carly Borst came in ready to show the rest of the field what she could do and as a freshman was often in the top 10. Madie Olson, Lily Radant, and Hailey Talley helped the team achieve the places necessary for those top three finishes as seniors. Ava Moore improved markedly during the season and will continue to get much faster as a runner.

Vincent Slaby and Angelo Brantner held down the boys' team and came out every race doing the best they could. Both are ready to race for those team points next year.

Fall Sports Report

Girls Tennis

2021 was truly a season to remember for the Regis Girls Tennis team! The team won its third consecutive sectional championship and finished as WIAA Division 2 State runners-up. Regis also sent individuals Brittany Martin, Sofie Merrick, and the doubles team of Evie Shepich and Teigan Petersilka to the WIAA Individual State Tournament.

Martin lost in the first round and Merrick advanced to the second round. Petersilka and Shepich finished 5th in doubles, which is tied for the highest finish in school history.

The team defeated #2 ranked Madison Edgewood in the state semifinals 4-3 before falling to #1 ranked Catholic Memorial 1-6. Regis finished the season 19-11 overall.

The team traveled to tournaments in Green Bay, Milwaukee, Kohler, and played on Grass at Sand Valley! Some fun off-the-court experiences were touring Lambeau Field, attending a Brewers game, attending a Badgers Hockey game, and visiting the Kalahari. We would like to thank the players, parents, and administration for all their support this season! A special thank you also goes out to the team's seniors for all their leadership and dedication to the program the last four years!



Girls Golf

The Regis-Altoona Girls Golf team won each regular season conference meet, the conference championship meet, and finished first overall in the CloverCroix Conference. The team placed third at regionals and third at sectionals. The team had four first team All-Conference selections and one Honorable Mention golfer. The team will miss the leadership of seniors Emma Anderson and Sydni Yarrington.



Volleyball

The Lady Ramblers fought hard throughout the season and grew immensely as a team.

Individually, two players were recognized for All-Conference awards; Makenna Rohrscheib received 1st team All-Conference and Lexi Ridenour earned an Honorable Mention.

Boys Soccer

Still in the shadows of a global pandemic, the 2021 Saints were excited at the mere prospect of returning to the soccer pitch. With only 14 players on the roster (including five freshmen, three of whom were brand new to the sport, and no seniors), this season's team truly invested in the future of the program.

Although the start to the season was somewhat rocky with two matches canceled due to injuries, and several others played with bumps and bruises, the group finished the season intact and playing some of its best soccer. There were many lessons learned over the course of this season, chief among them, this group learned to play as a team. This is sure to be a rewarding investment into the future of the program. With no seniors on this year's squad and the pledge of all to return, the future is bright for Saints Soccer!

MACK

Alumni Report



The Kassing family has a strong connection to Regis and we are excited to help celebrate Steve '67 and Ann '67 Kassing's 50th wedding anniversary!

The couple celebrated the special milestone on November 20, gathering for a family photo this summer to get ready for the celebration.

Included in this photo are:

- Steve '67 & Ann '67 Kassing
- Bryan Kassing '92
- Jenny (Kassing) Dykes '94
- Jeff Kassing '97
- Devin Dykes '21
- Cooper Dykes '23
- Malia Kassing '25
- Ashlee Dykes '26
- Keeli Kassing '27
- Jeff Dykes Current Assistant Baseball Coach

Steve and Ann Kassing have put in thousands of volunteer hours in support of Regis Catholic Schools over the years, including at Rendezvous Days, through the Booster Club, in our classrooms, and much more.

We thank them for their support and mish them the best!

Joyce (LaBerge) Krumenauer '58 is proud to have four great-grandchildren; two girls and two boys. Three of them live over by Wausau, and one over by Green Bay. Joyce is retired from working for the Chippewa Area Unified School District as a secretary. Still married to Lyle Krumenauer, the couple lives in a condo on the edge of Chippewa Falls. "Life has been good to us!"

The Regis Class '66 kept its tradition alive of gathering every five years for a reunion. In September, the class met again at the Altoona River Prairie Center for a very nice gathering of friends. In the future, the class will break the tradition by planning to gather every year if possible. Information will posted on the Class Creator website. For further information, please contact Cathy (Dresden) McCann at bill.cathy@att.net or leave a message at (715) 834-9142.

Jeff Cairns '72 was recognized by "Best Lawyers in America" for 2022 in the area of ERISA and Employee Benefits. He is the senior Benefits attorney in the Minneapolis office of Stinson LLP, an Am Law 200 firm.



Mary (Garvey) Verrill '74 just published a book for teens. It is a biography of Thea Bowman, FSPA, entitled "Thea Bowman: A Story of Triumph".

Thea has an extraordinary life story, especially her bravery in overcoming TB and graduating from high school in La Crosse, 1,000 miles from her home, all at age 19. She was Mary's professor at Viterbo University and a marvelous singer, too!

The book is available from Itasca Books. https://itascabooks.com/thea-bowman-a-story-of-triumph/ You can also learn more about the book online at https://verrillventures.com/book/.



Andrew Solberg '19

graduated from Army basic combat training and armored one station unit training on October 21, 2021 at Fort Benning, Georgia. Andrew will be a member of an M1-A2 Abrams tank crew for the next four years and will likely be part of an armored tour overseas followed by a permanent base assignment stateside.

Reunions

Class of 1972 | 50th Reunion

SAVE THE DATE! September 9 & 10, 2022

Details to follow.

Like us on Facebook! Search for Regis High School Class of 72 - Eau Claire.

We need your email address! Please email Peggy Foster at **peggyafoster@charter.net**.

Questions? Call or text: Mike Moelter (715) 864-4207 Mike Murphy (715) 579-0241 Peggy Foster (715) 559-0404

Class of 1977 | Virtual Reunion

It has been too long, so let's catch up and touch base with each other. Please submit a short paragraph on what you have been up to.

Email **twogunners@gmail.com** or mail to: Mary Kirby PO Box 462 Rockaway Beach, OR 97136 (530) 263-8070

Alumni Report

IN MEMORIAM

Eternal rest, grant unto him/her, O lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him/her. May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

REGIS HIGH SCHOOL

Dennis Pichler '54 Roger Geerts '54 Mike Ahneman '64 Peter Michaud '76 Jeffrey Goodavish '78 Shaun McInnis '80

FRIENDS OF REGIS Michael "Hut" A. Huettl

Thank you to the families who named the Regis Catholic Schools Foundation in their memorial gift.

Join the Regis Legacy Society and leave a lasting legacy!

We honor and thank our generous benefactors who have named the Regis Catholic Schools Foundation as a beneficiary in their estate plan.

The Regis Legacy Society is reserved for those generous supporters who have included the Regis Catholic Schools Foundation in their estate planning in the amount of \$10,000 or more.

Planned giving creates a legacy that will benefit generations of students and help ensure that the educational and spiritual objectives of Regis Catholic Schools continue in the future.

Want to learn more? Contact:

Jackie Backmeier
 Advancement Director
 Regis Catholic Schools Foundation
 jbachmeier@RegisCatholicSchools.com
 (715) 830-2273, ext. 1407



GRAB GEAR TO SHOW YOUR SUPPORT OF **THE REGIS RAMBLERS!**

The Regis High School Booster Club sells a selection of Ramblers clothing and merchandise at the Central Office, located at 2728 Mall Drive in Eau Claire!

Stop by to shop youth, women's, and men's clothing items including t-shirts, sweatshirts, hoodies, and jackets. There are also stocking hats, caps, mugs, coffee cups, water bottles, duffel bags, and stadium chairs available for purchase. Cash or check payments accepted.

> Regis Catholic Schools Central Office HOURS Monday – Thursday | 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday | 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

























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Learning Today, Leading Tomorrow

Regis Catholic Schools is dedicated to educating students of all faiths in a Catholic, Christ-centered environment. We are united by Our Core Values of *Living* Faith, *Accepting* Responsibility, *Promoting* Teamwork, *Achieving* Excellence, and *Inspiring* Leadership.



If your son or daughter who graduated from Regis High School no longer lives at home, please share his or her current address with us so we can add them to our mailing list for The Rambler Report!

Just visit **www.RegisCatholicSchools.com** and click on "Update Information" under the ALUMNI tab. Thank you!