PANTHER Prowl

ELYRIA CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL MAGAZINE

WINTER 2020

Light brings hidden wonders and gifts.

COVID – 19

EC Then and Now PAGE 10

EC Cares

INSIDE

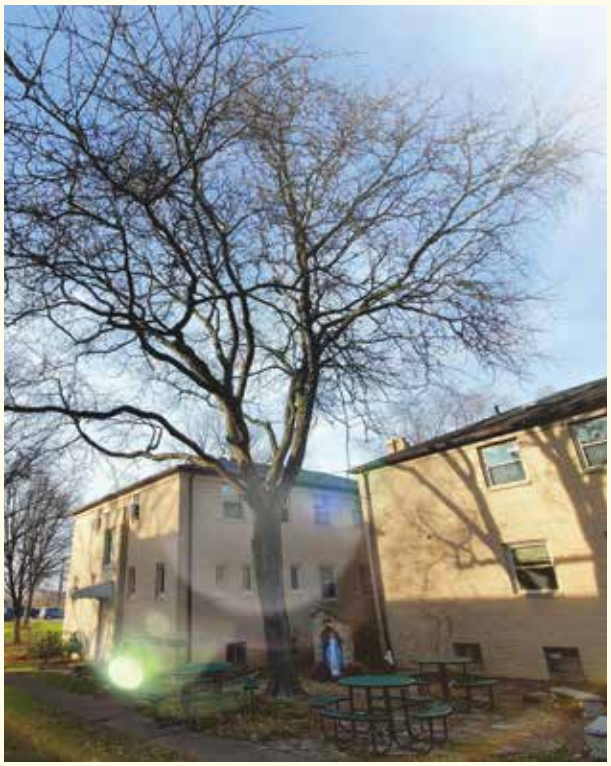
- New President
- Alumni Spotlight
- Thank YOU 2019-20 Donors

LETTER FROM THE **EDITOR**

In all of the chaos of 2020, we relish witnessing stories of compassion, charity, collaboration, and triumphant successes no matter how great or small. Daily, we have been tested and challenged and given the opportunity to become our best selves. I hope as you read through the pages of the *Panther Prowl*, hearing from our students, faculty, staff, and alumni, you will see that the EC community has risen to the challenge, caring for those in our community and beyond.

You will notice on the cover in the Our Lady of Grace Grotto the lovely image of the strong, stable tree's shadow so prominently poised on the north wing building. I walk past that tree every day, however, after taking this photo, I quickly realized that I may not have seen its formidable position in the grotto without the help of a little sunshine casting the shadow of its expansive branches along the building. We are, without a doubt, experiencing difficult times in our world, but the sunshine that radiates through each and every one of us has allowed our hidden gifts to appear. God puts the light of Christ in our lives to strengthen our faith and hope in each other, giving us the chance to use those hidden gifts. As you turn each page and witness what our community has accomplished and continues to achieve together, you will see a community filled with that light. So, sit back, relax, and enjoy the sunshine! I guarantee that once you turn the last page you will have seen the effects of a little sunshine at its best.

Annie Cunningham
Editor



ELYRIA CATHOLIC PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

The first two phases of renovations to the Elyria Catholic Performing Arts Center are complete. You can help us cross the finish line, leave a legacy of giving, or honor someone special by purchasing and naming a seat for $500. Please see page 36 or visit www.elyriacatholic.com/performing-arts-center to learn more.

OUR LADY OF GRACE GROTTO

Mel Belhouane '21 spent a Saturday morning sprucing up the Our Lady of Grace Grotto by raking leaves and clearing away the broken branches and cobwebs surrounding the statue of Mary. The newly freshened area has been a welcome retreat for many at EC. Some of our faculty have ventured outdoors, taking their classes to this peaceful place to get a different perspective. Faculty and staff have been seen eating lunch at the new picnic tables and after school, the Socratic Club has been heard debating the issues.

ON THE COVER:

Students enjoying the fresh air and sunshine in the Our Lady of Grace Grotto are gaining a different perspective in physics class. Notice what appears when the sun shines. Thank you to Steve Komives '65 for donating the funds to purchase the picnic tables that are located in the Our Lady of Grace Grotto.

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Please note that some photos in the Panther Prowl were taken prior to the current mask requirements.

Reflection...

"My years at Elyria Catholic were some of the most exciting and memorable times of my life. The people I met and the classes and activities I took part in have had a profound impact on me, and I am incredibly grateful for the countless opportunities I was granted to grow not just academically, but personally and spiritually as well. More than anything, EC allowed me to encounter Christ on a daily basis in the students, staff, faculty, and entire school community, which constantly motivated me to be the best possible version of myself. EC has been like a second home to me, and as I move on to the next stages of my life, I take great comfort in knowing that I will always have my Panther family behind me to back me up."

– Paige Miserandino, Class of 2020 Salutatorian, National Merit Scholarship Winner

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Panther Prowl is an annual publication of the Communications Department distributed to alumni, parents, faculty, administrators, and friends of Elyria Catholic High School. It includes the annual report from the school along with all the latest and greatest from the corner of Poplar and Gulf.

Reader Feedback
Please send any address changes, life celebrations, or thoughts and comments on the *Panther Prowl* magazine to:

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Or update online:
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ADMISSION POLICY STATEMENT

Elyria Catholic High School is a co-educational institution which admits students of any race, religion, color, nationality, or ethnic origin. Acceptance to the school is based on past school achievement, behavioral and academic records, standardized test scores, and responses to the essay questions on the application. In certain circumstances, a personal interview may be required prior to acceptance.

Photo taken during Annie's visit to Bull's Eye on the Afternoon on WEOL.

Letter from the President *Annie Heidersbach*

Dear Elyria Catholic students, alumni, parents, and friends,

As I visit with students, I am reminded of the generous philanthropy that supports them as they pursue their academic and co-curricular goals, and ultimately, their roles as members of the workforce, active participants in the Catholic faith, and citizens of our country. Thank you for your vote of confidence in them, as demonstrated through your philanthropic support.

Because of the generosity of alumni and friends, a word that captures the current Elyria Catholic High School landscape is "determined." Even during a global pandemic, an Elyria Catholic education never stops. Students are determined to learn. Faculty are determined to deliver quality courses. Staff members are determined to support student needs.

In my first six months as president, I am convinced that Elyria Catholic alumni, parents, and friends are determined, too! Our supporters have repeatedly shared how Elyria Catholic transformed their own or their student's life. They are committed to carrying on "A Legacy that Never Dies" to current and future generations.

Your gifts of time, talent, and treasure strengthen the EC student experience. Our volunteers use their skills in organizations such as the Elyria Catholic Advisory Council, Diversity & Inclusion Task Force, Panther Club, Dads' Booster Club, Band Parents, and more. Whether you have created an endowed scholarship, supported improvements to our athletic programs, or contributed to academic and co-curricular programs, we could not have reached our goals without you. Because of you, Elyria Catholic continues to be a robust community of excellence.

We are grateful to all of our alumni, parents, and friends, both near and far. With your help and contributions, we are all determined to make Elyria Catholic a more extraordinary version of itself. We thank you for making that happen.

In the EC spirit,

Annie Heidersbach

Annie Heidersbach
President

ELYRIA CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL Cares

Diversity & Inclusion Task Force

Elyria Catholic High School is committed to a culture of diversity and inclusion. Moreover, we recognize that support of diversity and inclusion tenets need to extend beyond words; it must result in responsive programs and processes.

Elyria Catholic High School supports the need for systemic change in our nation. We must examine our culture and take tangible steps to ensure an inclusive and respectful environment for all.

Elyria Catholic High School has established a Diversity & Inclusion Task Force that includes students, alumni, faculty, staff, and parents.

STEP 1: GATHER DATA

We will secure baseline data points regarding our school and students.

STEP 2: LISTEN AND LEARN

a) The Task Force will seek perspectives from alumni of color on their experiences regarding EC's culture and practices. We will invite individuals to share their experience during the Diversity & Inclusion Task Force meetings. Task Force members are responsible for identifying and inviting guests.

b) The Task Force will read books and articles on diversity, equity, and inclusion and have facilitated discussions during a portion of the Task Force meetings.

STEP 3: EXTERNAL REVIEW

The Task Force's efforts will include compiling a diversity and inclusion audit, conducted by an outside expert, that will allow us to establish goals and objectives for an inclusive and equitable Elyria Catholic environment.

As a first step, the Diversity Center of Northeast Ohio has presented a proposal and pricing package for several programs, including a Culture & Climate Student Survey. The Climate Survey costs $3 per student (approximately $1,300) plus $5,000 for the assessment and report (total cost = $6,300). Annie Heidersbach has submitted two proposals for external funding to help support the survey and assessment. A faculty and staff climate and culture survey will be conducted in the future.

STEP 4: INITIATE ONGOING PROGRAMS AND PRACTICES

Elyria Catholic will develop student and staff curricular, co-curricular, and professional development opportunities in response to our findings in steps 2 and 3. Elyria Catholic alumna Sam Sleva, who conducts D & I professional workshops, has offered to present to faculty and staff; a professional development session is planned for January 2021.

Elyria Catholic is committed to advancing these steps during the 2020 – 2021 academic year and further developing a space where all community members are equally valued and respected.

MEMBERS OF THE DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION TASK FORCE

Beth Adkins
Diane Andriano
Shannon Brennan
Annie Cunningham
Ruth Farmakidis
Annie Heidersbach
Sara Lanzola
Suzanne Lester
Jeff Ross '12
Spencer Roule '10
Samantha Sleva '07
LaShanda Taylor Adams '92
Tom Taylor '79
Jessica Tolbert '08
Mike Vitale
Terry Ziegelmeyer

ALUMNI MEMBERS:

Jeff Ross '12

Spencer Roule '10

Samantha Sleva '07

Tom Taylor '79

LaShanda Taylor Adams '92

Jessica Tolbert '08

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LaShanda Taylor Adams '92

BY MICHELLE ALVARADO '22

Decisions are made upon oneself or what society brings into the light. We have the ability to look furthermore into those ideals set by society. Many students from Elyria Catholic have stepped out of that box to provide more of what is needed in this community. LaShanda Adams is a mentor who shows admiration for the things she fulfills for our society.

LaShanda Adams, a graduate of the Class of 1992, was a leader in our school when attending Elyria Catholic. "Leaving a print" was indeed done by her involvement through multiple clubs: student government, cheerleading, softball, and basketball.

Because of her teachers and peers, LaShanda was able to make decisions that would affect her future. A particularly memorable person who inspired LaShanda was her 9th grade English teacher, Ms. Garton. LaShanda says, "She was an amazing teacher, who inspired me to become an English major in college." After enjoying her time in Elyria Catholic, she knew after graduating she wanted to attend a college where she would have classmates and teachers who looked like her. Therefore, she decided to attend Spelman College, a historically Black college for women. LaShanda says, "It was hands down, the best decision of my life. Being a Spelman graduate has opened so many doors for me."

When these doors opened up for her, everything started falling into place. It began with her first summer job while in law school at a child advocacy center. When she was there, she spent her time working with children in foster care and advocating for their needs in Juvenile Court. At that moment, she realized child welfare law was something she needed to pursue as a career. LaShanda states, "All legal work is important, especially to the client in need." Therefore she is currently working at a law school, where she mentors law students who are interested in pursuing careers in child welfare law. LaShanda wants to share, "There is a general belief that most children in foster care have been abused, either physically or sexually. While that is true for some children, the overwhelming majority of children are in foster care due to neglect." With this information, she wants others to look further at what society puts out since most of these children are where they are due to poverty. She feels this is an issue that can't be ignored, especially when these children are among the most vulnerable members of society.

"There is life after EC. The world is so big, and you have so much more living to do; therefore, we should let God lead us towards our future. Because with God, we can all, 'Leave our print.'"

Overall, LaShanda wishes for educational environments where all students are encouraged to reach their success. Success looks different for everyone, but all should be able to accomplish their dreams. She has been able to take a (low paying) dream job that spoke to her interests and passion because she did not have a lot of student loan debt. She encourages those looking at college and beyond to be mindful of their debt. Her final message to EC, "There is life after EC. The world is so big, and you have so much more living to do; therefore, we should let God lead us towards our future. Because with God, we can all, 'Leave our Print.'" ■

Nathaniel Carson '10

BY JAMES STEINDL '21

The pillars all Elyria Catholic students uphold are integral in the creation of an outstanding community and student body. Nate Carson especially takes the pillars of Excellence and Compassion to heart. He is an example for others on the importance of carrying these values into the world and making a difference.

Nate was an excellent student at Elyria Catholic and a very active member in the Elyria Catholic community. On top of his academics, Nate was well known for his athletic involvement. He played football and wrestled all four years at EC in addition to playing rugby for his last three years. The values of teamwork, dedication, communication, and learning from failure are values from these sports that have greatly benefited Nate in his plans. Nate is currently studying at Oxford University after double majoring at Miami University and having successful endeavours at KeyBank.

Nate decided to attend Oxford to focus on real estate rather than banking. Nate's decision was meaningful and reflective of the man he is, and the man he strives to be after graduation. Nate described his decision saying, "I chose to do this at Oxford due to the school's focus on social impact and corporate responsibility." For the same reason that Nate chose a school that aligned with his values of excellence and compassion, he also decided to shift to real estate. Nate described the moment he realized he wanted to make a difference saying, "I was much more passionate about investing in property and providing quality housing to people than banking" and that "with the values formed by EC, my experience, and the education from Oxford, I hope to enhance corporate responsibility in the real estate industry." Nate is still carrying those pillars of Excellence and Compassion, working to benefit those in need and achieving to his best ability.

Nate and many students like him are what make the EC community so supportive and strong. Nate, being one of four siblings to attend EC, understands the value of community. He continues to give back to his local community with his time coaching and working on a financial advisory council. Nate wants to give back further to the EC family because he believes the education system can do an even better job of teaching students important financial basics. Nate said he would be happy to work with any EC faculty willing to devote a class session or two to the topics of credit score, buying a house, and understanding different investment types. Nate is truly an exemplary embodiment of excellence and compassion, and a proud member of the Elyria Catholic family. ■

"I was much more passionate about investing in property and providing quality housing to people than banking...with the values formed by EC, my experience, and the education from Oxford, I hope to enhance corporate responsibility in the real estate industry."

Lana Durban Scott '90

BY JACOB WALTHER '21

Lana Durban Scott, an Elyria Catholic alumna from the Class of 1990, truly encompasses this year's message of 'EC Cares.' From working for major news and media outlets to managing a team of over one hundred people today, Lana describes how all of her career experiences stem from the Elyria Catholic hallways.

At EC, Lana paved the way for hundreds of students and her legacy continues today. In 1986, Lana became the first woman to play on the Elyria Catholic golf team, eventually becoming the team's captain her junior year. On top of this, Lana wrote for *The Challenge*, the EC student newspaper, and as Sports Editor she put her passions into action despite how people may have felt about a female in that role. Ms. Garton, the newspaper faculty advisor and Lana's Honors Sophomore English teacher, played an instrumental role in Lana's career path.

"Ms. Mary Garton was instrumental in encouraging my passion and helping me understand the value of storytelling," Lana says. "One thing I learned is that none of what I love is defined as a 'woman-man' thing." It was this mindset that Lana used to break generational molds.

After graduating from high school, Lana attended John Carroll University where she obtained a degree in mass communications. There, she welcomed the opportunity to intern at News 5 Cleveland and worked on the assignment desk by her senior year.

Today, Lana manages a team of 140 people as the Vice President and General Manager of WRTV, the ABC TV affiliate in Indianapolis, Indiana. There, she is responsible for developing strategic and operational plans that drive ratings, revenue growth, and community connections.

"The easiest way to explain what I do is to say I'm running a business with a multi-million dollar budget, 140 employees, and endless opportunities to make a positive impact. We consume content daily on phones, tablets, watches, laptops, and desktops, but the most powerful megaphone is still television. When the power of TV is used for good, that is success."

Lana describes what she enjoys most about her job...being able to gather a group of people to work towards a common goal and seeing the results they make. On top of this, Lana is involved in showcasing the needs of her community first hand.

"My goal was to become the next Mary Kay Cabot. It's interesting that later in life I'd end up teaching her myself."

"In my role as board member for St. Vincent de Paul and Second Helpings, an organization whose mission is 'Transforming Lives through the Power of Food', I am able to pitch news stories that shine light on community needs and in many cases, change people's lives." Actions like this showcase how Lana cares about those around her, making her an excellent EC alumna who is a role model for current students.

Lana explains that EC was not a place where she only experienced the motions of high school. Instead, it was a place where it prepared her for a future of opportunity. The foundation she has was built at EC, as she learned there was purpose within the EC community.

"Graduating from Elyria Catholic is a gift and you are learning lessons every day that will impact your future. I can guarantee things will not always be perfect but whatever the situation, there is always a solution if you stay true to yourself." ■

Letter from the Principal *Suzanne Lester*

EC students have had to make a number of pivots this year. Students have had to engage in learning remotely, work together with other students who are both in-person and remote, and submit almost all assignments electronically.

While these instructional changes have been challenging for our students, our faculty and staff have had to quickly adapt in ways that are unprecedented in the history of education. Not surprisingly, the faculty and staff of Elyria Catholic have risen to the challenge.

In the current global pandemic, EC teachers offer instruction using a synchronous-hybrid model in which in-person and remote instruction take place simultaneously. This is a remarkable feat in the classroom as teachers instruct both the students in front of them as well as students at home. Using Google Meet, teachers call on students at home and answer their questions just as they do with students in the classroom.

Lectures have been created to be more interactive so that teachers can assess student understanding despite the learning setting. Using a Google Add-on called Pear Deck, teachers can create slides that require student responses. Teachers are then able to clarify understanding for an entire class, support students who are not grasping concepts, or share creative and enlightening ideas with the entire class. A recently purchased platform called Edpuzzle allows teachers to make videos interactive as well. Teachers can edit videos and embed questions to check for student understanding.

Teachers are also personalizing instruction with the use of Screencastify. With the recently purchased premium version, teachers can flip their classrooms, give students feedback, or create their own screen recordings to hone their public speaking skills in a relevant situation. Using a tool called Kami has allowed us to limit the use of paper in the classroom. This Google extension allows students to annotate a PDF individually or in groups. It also assists teachers with providing feedback to students on the same document.

Much of this work began over the past summer as teachers attended multiple professional development sessions on their own time to prepare for the current school year. Teachers then practiced their newly-learned skills independently and within their departments to ensure they were ready for students. Additionally, a number of EC faculty and staff were part of the two task forces established by the school this summer—the Safe Start Restart Team and the Diversity & Inclusion Task Force.

In addition to modifying instructional delivery, teachers and staff members have also altered the ways they meet with students and parents. On days that students are learning remotely, faculty and staff make themselves available virtually for guidance and support after school. Students can still seek the support they need to obtain feedback on a research paper or long-term project. Additionally, teachers conducted Meet the Teacher Night, parent meetings, and conferences online.

To highlight the significance of beginning school this year, we placed signs around campus with reminders and supportive phrases, one of them being “Our faculty and staff are our heroes.” Truly, our faculty and staff are what has made this challenging learning environment so successful. Their daily presence and care and concern for their students demonstrate the heart of Catholic school educators. The entire EC community is grateful for all that our faculty and staff have done to create an environment that demonstrates how much EC Cares!

Suzanne Lester
Principal

COVID – 19

EC Then and Now

BY ISSY MARTIN-DYE '21

Issy with her sister.

From overflowing classrooms and crowded football games, to online classes and empty stands, the school year as we know it is transforming before our eyes. 2020 has been a year of obstacles which forces us all to reinvent the wheel of life. Not one detail was overlooked as the diligent Elyria Catholic staff worked tirelessly to get students back in the classrooms – and found the safest way about it.

In March of this year, our lives were all changed the moment that our principal, Mrs. Lester, made a frigid announcement over the PA system that school would shut down for three weeks. Those three weeks roughly turned into a six-month break from school as the COVID-19 cases in the area continued to climb. We were all quickly taught that anything can be instantly taken away, for we had no knowledge that that average day in March would be our last of the school year. Without advance warning, it was the final day of high school for every senior.

The task of adjusting to this new pandemic-plagued world was thrown in the laps of EC's staff and Governor DeWine's team. How does EC go about getting hundreds of students their education in circumstances that schools have never faced?

During the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year, Elyria Catholic did a quality job in pulling together a diligent plan where teachers uploaded consistent work that kept students on track with the curriculum. Even with all of the assignments, students found it difficult to stay in the loop of learning when being solely behind a computer screen. We found it challenging that talking with teachers face-to-face was eliminated and the answers to our questions were delayed. The structure of school allowed everyone to do the work at their own pace, which presented its pros and cons. The fact that we could now take our time with the work and not rush into the next unit was a big pro. Magdalene Zambataro, class of 2021, explained a con, by stating, "Not having classes at a certain time really made it hard to keep a structured routine." To be completely transparent, it was not the most productive quarter.

The school year came to a close, and with it, the feeling that something was still more to come. How could it end this abruptly? How could spring sports be canceled and the school play just put to a halt? How could prom not go on and graduation just be pre-recorded?? Honestly, there was never closure to the school year of 2019-2020, and eventually everyone just had to move on into their next season of life.

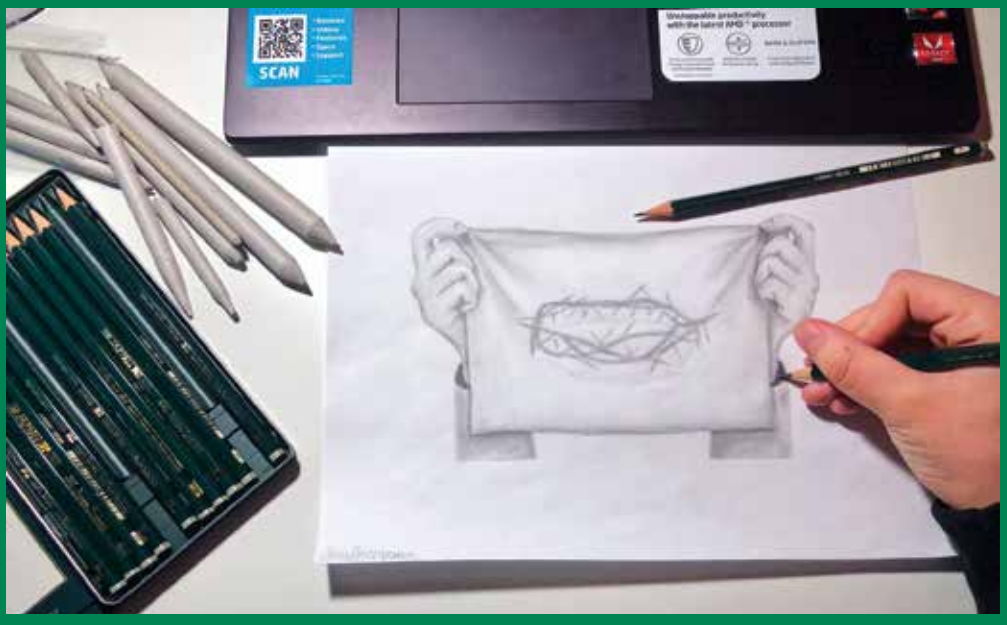
Times have changed for the better with the kick-off of the 2020-2021 school year. With the summer to prepare, Elyria Catholic has now given their students an education with a different story than last year. The Safe Smart Restart Plan is now in place, rules have been set, and the learning is in full swing – with a bit of a twist. Masks are worn at all times, plastic barriers are set up at our desks, food items are sold in closed containers, oh and, how could I forget, we physically go to school every other day.

Students have been split into two groups: A-L students and M-Z students. While one group is socially distancing at school, the other group is in the comfort of their own homes, joining each class through a live Google Meet. This every-other-day alternation ensures that the number of people gathered stays as low as can be. Everyone is also given the opportunity to go fully remote. I feel that the school has taken every precaution in their power, even up to taking the temperature of each individual who walks through the doors in the morning.

Even though we learn in separate locations, the live classes allow for interaction between the students at school and the students at home. This is a generous improvement from last year, since we were totally isolated, aside from email. Although the new adjustments started off rocky, we become more adaptive and understanding of the new school year every day. When asked if any teacher has gone above and beyond, Jake Michalski, Class of 2021 stated, "I would say Mr. Mac (Kevin Machovina '03) has done an excellent job. He makes the class fun, easy to learn, and engages the students online." I agree, for the teachers are being beyond challenged but they take the extra step when it is needed. Even though the future is uncertain, we know that one thing is for sure: loyalty will never die here at Elyria Catholic High.

Creativity, productivity, and mental advancements have been a common theme for students over quarantine. "To me, it has been productive because I've found parts of myself that were hidden before. Being stuck with nothing to do left a lot of free time that I managed to fill with new hobbies and interests," stated Gina Gorczyca, Class of 2021, who shows the positivity that this time has brought her. Even with the coronavirus canceling homecoming and the last few weeks of fall sports, we are still hopeful for the future of prom, winter sports, and spring sports. Excellence, Compassion, Faith, Tradition, and Community have been upheld by my peers throughout the pandemic, and I have hope that this school year will end successfully. ■

"I would say Mr. Mac has done an excellent job. He makes the class fun, easy to learn, and engages the students online."
– Jake Michalski '21



"To me, it has been productive because I've found parts of myself that were hidden before. Being stuck with nothing to do left a lot of free time that I managed to fill with new hobbies and interests."
– Gina Gorczyca '21

JACK BUDINGER ’22

My passion in life is athletics. This past spring and summer during the COVID-19 quarantine I made a positive difference in the lives of the children in my neighborhood. During the quarantine, my friends and I started a neighborhood camp called Highland Park Athletics (HPA). Our goal was to help the kids in my neighborhood stay active with sports-related activities. Throughout the 8-week sessions, we held camps every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. We implemented all kinds of sports such as football, soccer, baseball, volleyball, and running. Our camp plan consisted of a warmup, ladder drills, the sport of the day, a related activity to the sport, and relay races all following social distancing guidelines. My friends and I were very professional. For example, we made a flyer which we put on our neighborhood Facebook page, and had our moms spread the word about the sports camp! In addition, we created a waiver form for parents to sign, held parent meetings, and created a Google sheet for parents to sign their children up. Overall, it was a great experience and success! We had fantastic reviews from all the kids and parents, and week by week our numbers grew. The kids in HPA had so much fun and I had a blast teaching and playing sports with them during the camp sessions. The highlight of my HPA experience as a “counselor” was racing all the kids at the end of the day. I hope that my passion for sports has helped the kids at camp to develop a passion of their own.

TEACHER THANK YOU!

“I am so impressed with the teachers at EC and during this pandemic they really went above and beyond. I’ve been in the room during Zoom classes and witnessed first hand how the teachers keep the students engaged. It is amazing! I even had a teacher take time out of her busy schedule to call me just to let me know how well my child is doing in their class. Thank you, EC teachers!!”

– Cari Topping, *Mom of Ian ’19, Lucas ’21, and Brenna ’22*

RACHEL HORVATH ’22

Over the summer, I finally made the decision to form a real relationship with God. For the first time in forever, I put all my trust in Him, prayed to Him every day, and read His word daily. Although all those are great things to do and are necessities for having a relationship with our Father, I felt like something was missing. I soon realized what it was: I wasn’t preaching God’s word to anyone. I was keeping it all to myself, and that needed to change. I decided to start posting Christian videos on the app called TikTok (@_rachelhorvath). I would remind people that God is always there, that He loves each and every one of us, and that we need to accept Him into our lives. What started off as something I did on the side just to remind people that Jesus is our Savior quickly grew. I started to gain more followers, and people started messaging me saying that my videos changed them for the better. My videos have helped many people find Christ. Now, I don’t want to take all the credit here, because God is the one that changed them, not me. I just think it is so amazing that God has chosen to speak through me, and I didn’t expect people to see my videos and enjoy them, but they did. I now have over 6,000 followers and I continue to get messages of how my videos have spoken to people daily. It’s all glory to God Almighty. Thanks be to God!

An Interview with Governor Mike DeWine

BY JACOB WALTHER '21

On November 21, I had the opportunity to talk with Governor Mike DeWine in a personal interview. During this time, he gave me some insight on his future plans for Ohio's people, honing in on its students.

When asked about the plan going forward with the winter months, Governor DeWine stated that it is important that Ohio can stay as open as possible.

"When we closed the schools the first time in March, we saw so many problems arise. We saw mental health challenges increase, and another closure will only add to that."

Governor DeWine stressed the importance of how we Ohioans need to continue doing our part to see our state remain open, through the mandates of limited social gatherings and wearing our masks until it is safe to be together again. He did however, recognize how hard these new rules have made adjusting to this new normal so difficult.

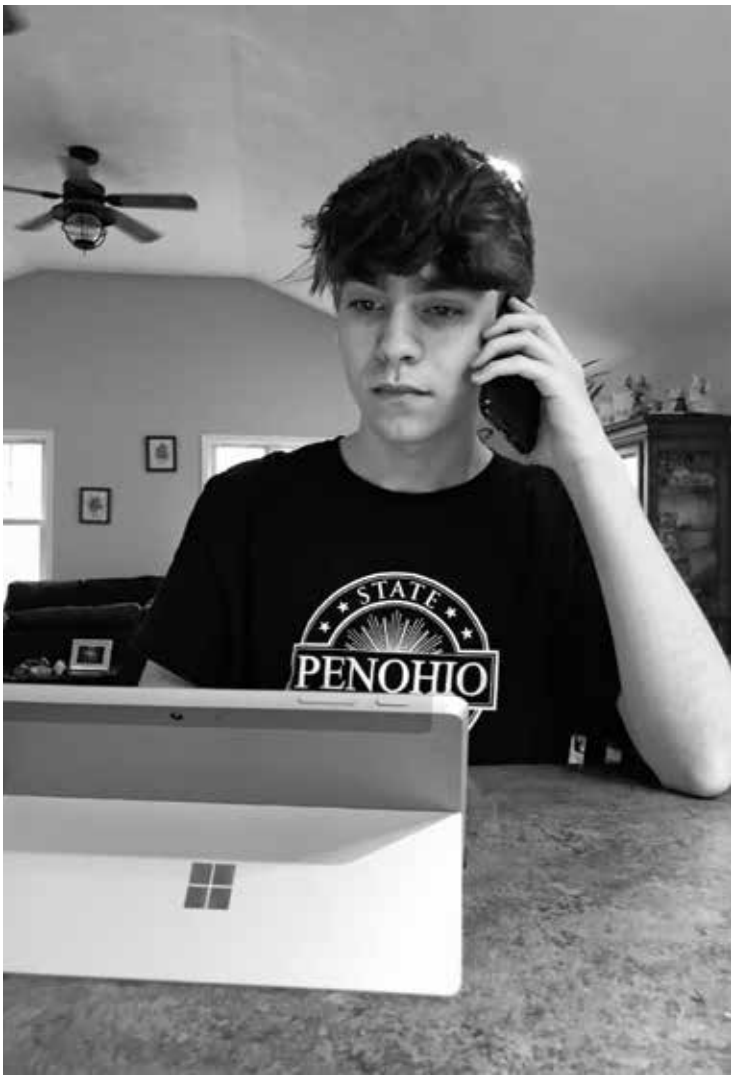
"This pandemic is so challenging… it goes against every behavior of life from the past."

When asked if letting sports happen this year was the right decision, Governor DeWine responded by saying if Ohio's students were taken away from their activities, that time would be used elsewhere… most likely with others in a non-socially distanced manner. There are pros and cons to both scenarios.

At this moment, we are experiencing the third wave of this pandemic. Governor DeWine made the point of reminding Ohio's people by saying, "We overcame the first wave. We overcame the second wave. We will overcome this one as well."

DeWine also recognized how these last nine months have affected young people, specifically students. He wants the students of Ohio to understand that we are going to knock this vaccine down, and to look forward to the days where we can do what we love in the way that we love.

"Everybody is making sacrifices, and students are no exception. However, the end is in sight, but we have to get through the next few months. Just because you may not be fearful of what the virus can do to you, students are the ones who can carry this virus home to someone who may not be as healthy. Continue to do your part."



In the end, Governor DeWine reminds us that we have the rest of our lives to look forward to. We will get through these hard times and come out of it as stronger people. ■

EC Cares: What EC students did in 2019-2020

ANA MACDONALD ’22

At the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, Ana took the initiative to organize and distribute EC face masks. Mrs. Finicle commented, “Ana was quick to realize that our need to wear face masks provided an opportunity to raise funds for Student Senate while showing our EC pride and keeping our community safe. She made sure our fundraising dollars supported the local economy by finding a supplier nearby, and then created mask designs that appealed to students and alumni alike. Ana mobilized her classmates to safely deliver masks to our students and families and to prepare shipments to alumni across the country.”

Joan Larkin Villarreal ’69 supported the class fundraiser and sent us a photo donning her EC mask.

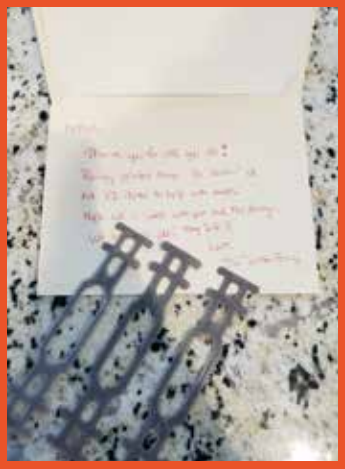
BOYS SOCCER TEAM

Coach Jason Kempton of the boys soccer team met with the EC maintenance department in early spring to discuss how the boys wanted to give back and work on projects at EC. In June, members of the team helped clean out the Performing Arts Center and moved old scenery, set pieces and outdated equipment to a dumpster. Another group of boys raked the leaves that accumulated along our miles of fence line. Most of the team returned in the fall to move and stack reusable scenery pieces back into our renovated scenery closet. The boys also contributed to one of our many Founders’ Day videos. Thank you Panthers!

ELI KEMPTON ’23

Asa ’19 and Eli ’23 have been delivering Meals on Wheels during their time away from school. Asa is home on break from Indiana State University and helps his dad, EC Soccer and Bowling coach Jason Kempton, deliver meals each week. Eli took the opportunity to jump in and help deliver on his snow days in December.

BAILEY DALTON ’22



I received a thank you card in the mail today with homemade “ear saves” to be worn with my mask all day at work, as I am a healthcare worker. These were made and printed by sophomore Bailey Dalton!! He created these at home on his 3D printer! I already knew Bailey was an extraordinary kid after many conversations carpooling back and forth to soccer, but this just shows his kindness and concern. Not to mention, what a smart kid to figure this out.

– Krista Nieding, parent

#HonorThroughAction

On Veterans Day this year, Elyria Catholic honored and remembered our veterans and those in the military in a unique way. The students, faculty, and staff drew a “V” on their hands with the initials of those family members who served or are serving and posted the photos to social media throughout the day on November 11. A collage was created with those photos and shared on our website, social media, and billboards in Lorain County – Remembering our Veterans.

Campus Ministry

THE ALTAR SOCIETY

Elyria Catholic students formed The Altar Society as a way for all grade levels to get more involved with their faith. Members serve as lectors at school Masses and as retreat leaders. They also have ownership of the morning prayer service. At 7:45 each morning, students gather in the Our Lady of Grace Chapel for the Liturgy of the Word. The daily reading is proclaimed and then students or faculty members share a brief reflection on the reading and how it can relate to life today.

"I like coming to morning chapel because it is a great way to start my day. I feel more centered and at ease."
– Emma Basinski '23

HOMELESS STAND DOWN

Every fall, several of our students volunteer at the Lorain County Homeless Stand Down. At this event, students help with registration, give manicures, and run the "store" where participants pick up necessities for the winter months. As a whole each year, Elyria Catholic organizes a sock drive, "Sock-tober," to collect items needed for the event.

This year, the Homeless Stand Down had to change its format. Backpacks were filled with necessary items and delivered to area homeless shelters. EC was still able to assist. The biggest need this year was gloves–and EC students proudly collected almost 400 pairs of gloves!!

Please visit elyriacatholic.com/campus-ministry to find videos of the year's events and programming.

LIVING STATIONS

"When I found out that we were about to perform our last Living Stations of the Cross–not even halfway through our season–I was heartbroken. I remember being told that we should offer our troubles up to God and ask Him to be with us. Praying before the performance gave us the strength to perform to the best of our abilities. A few weeks after our performance, we were told that we would be filming a virtual Stations of the Cross from our homes. This excited each of us since this gave everyone the opportunity to watch us perform in the safety of our home. This experience showed me how strong the power of God is and how strong the Elyria Catholic community is."

– Meghan Jancsura '20 (Mary in the Living Stations)

NATIONAL CATHOLIC YOUTH CONFERENCE

The National Catholic Youth Conference is held every other year in Indianapolis, Indiana. In November 2019, EC's Director of Campus Ministry, Sara Lanzola, and Math teacher, Haley Talion, took 12 students as part of the delegation from the Diocese of Cleveland. At the conference, students had the opportunity to hear nationally acclaimed Catholic speakers and musicians, attend breakout sessions, and receive the sacraments with 25,000 teens from around the country!

"Going to NCYC was one of my favorite experiences throughout high school because it opened my eyes to see so much diversity among teens that share my faith."
– Ana MacDonald '22

MAY CROWNING

When the reality of not being able to gather for our annual May Crowning was brought to light, a group of seniors came together to honor Mary virtually. The result was a beautiful video honoring Mary, especially under the title of Our Lady of Grace. She still received her traditional flower crown and the entire EC community throughout the world was able to be a part of our prayer!

CLASS RETREATS

Our class retreats are coordinated by the Theology teacher for that grade level. All students attend and it is an opportunity for them to grow both spiritually and closer together as a class. For the 2019-2020 school year, our freshmen and sophomores participated in their traditional in-person retreats during fall semester. Junior and senior retreats were scheduled in the spring and had to be virtual. For the virtual retreats, activities included students hearing recorded talks from their classmates and area priests and writing reflections on their own faith experiences based on what they heard in the talks. The junior class all logged on together to attend Mass virtually. Creativity was definitely at play!

KAIROS

3rd Annual Kairos Retreat
will be held for current juniors and seniors
APRIL 29-MAY 2, 2021
(pandemic permitting).

"Kairos is an experience that I will never forget. If I could go back, I would in a heartbeat. My eyes were opened and I am so much happier with myself and the way I view the world. I will always remember that I am not the sum of my weaknesses or failures, but the sum of my Father's love."

– Kenzie Kemer '20

Athletics

CROSS COUNTRY 2020 – MATT KRESE ’21

In his second consecutive year to State, **Matt** went from 43rd place in 2019 to 23rd in 2020. This garnered him All-Ohio honors. The boys team was District Champions for the second straight year.

SWIMMING 2020

At Districts, sophomore **Katie Susi** placed 3rd with a time of 1:04 breaking her own school record in the 100-yard breaststroke, qualifying her for the State meet on February 20, 2020. This was her second appearance at State, as she went her freshman year and placed 23rd. This past year she placed 15th in the 100-yard breaststroke. Her time was 1:06.43.

Congratulations to our Panthers Diving and Swimming Team on an awesome year! You all had individual and team successes. The Ladies 200 IM relay took 14th place - **Katie Susi ’22**, **Bridget Kurtzweil ’23**, **Nina Kurtzweil ’20**, **Athena Campagna ’21**. We are proud of you.

BOYS BASKETBALL 2019-2020

“It was an amazing season for the 19/20 Boys Basketball Team, finishing 18-7. Led by 12 seniors with incredible work ethic and passion, they earned the respect of teams throughout Northeast Ohio!”

–Rob Palmer, Boys Basketball Head Coach

1,000 POINT CLUB

Both Allison Winnen and Edward Wright joined the 1,000 Point Club this year by achieving 1,000 points during their high school career.

Allison Winnen was named Lorain County Miss Basketball for 2020.

Edward Wright was named D3 Player of the Year and D3 First Team All County.

GIRLS BASKETBALL 2019-2020

"It's always exciting to have the opportunity to go down to Columbus for the State Tournament. Needless to say, we were extremely disappointed to travel down to Columbus and not have the opportunity to play the game. Once again, we were blessed with a very talented group of young women on the basketball team."

– Eric Rothgery '80, Girls Basketball Head Coach

LOU ROTUNDA SCHOLARSHIP

The Lou Rotunda Award has been a longstanding tradition at Elyria Catholic, and is the only award in Lorain County that has been given every year since its inception. The presentation of the award began in 1960. Continuing in the tradition of awarding it to a senior, male athlete in good academic standing, involvement in his church and community, and in activities outside of athletics, this year the Lou Rotunda Award was given to **Luke Costantino**.

Head football coach Brian Fox said, "He is extremely deserving of this award for so many reasons. His maturity, work ethic, leadership, and selflessness were second to none. It was obvious on the field on Friday nights, but what made it more special was how he was when he wasn't under the lights."

RON AND JANET GILGENBACH OUTSTANDING FEMALE ATHLETE AWARD

The first Outstanding Female Athlete Award was presented during the 1975-76 school year when there was a boom in girl's competitive sports and recognition of female athletes. The Outstanding Female Athlete Award continues to be graciously sponsored by Ron '52 and Janet '52 Gilgenbach, distinguished alumni and supporters of the Elyria Catholic community. Following the guidelines of encompassing the "whole person" as a student-athlete, this year's winner embodies all that is valued in a student athlete at Elyria Catholic. Being successful in the classroom and athletics, deeply involved in school activities, and in service to her church and community, the 2020 Outstanding Female Athlete Award was presented to **Meghan Jancsura**.

Her basketball coach, Eric Rothgery, said that "she is one of the hardest working young women that I've ever coached. She came to practice every day with a great attitude and a desire to outwork everyone else."

ICE HOCKEY

GCHSHL Blue League All Stars recognized our Panthers at the Baron Cup Tournament in February. Landen Madeira ’21 was named to 1st team, Sonny Elbert ’20 to 2nd team, and Madison McIver ’23 received honorable mention. Also shown in the photo are Coach Rick Montgomery and Assistant Coach Scott McIver.

GIRLS SOCCER

Emily Vogel ’22 was selected for 1st Team All-Ohio. Avery Doll ’21, Emily Vogel ’22, and Mia Sutorius ’24 were selected for 1st Team All-Greater Cleveland.

BASEBALL 2020

Seniors Mason Doll, Nicholas Wells, and Erick Kosky received Academic All State for Baseball 2020.

BOYS SOCCER

This fall, senior James Steindl was named Lorain County D3 Player of the Year and sophomore Zack Taylor was named Lorain County D3 Keeper of the Year.

SOCCER KUDOS

“Hello! I just wanted to let you know that our school, Buckeye, played you in soccer a few days ago. I just wanted to tell you how impressed I was with the sportsmanship and respect your team showed on and off the field. You don’t always see that on the field and it was refreshing. You can tell your students are raised by caring parents and coached and educated by some very special people.”

– Sincerely, Colleen O’Brien, Buckeye Soccer Mom

CHUCK LYNCH SCHOLARSHIP

Established in 1966, the Elyria Catholic Cross Country program has seen a tremendous amount of success. The Panthers have qualified as a team to the Ohio State Meet 16 times in school history, winning four state titles, finishing as the runner-up four other times, and producing 19 All-Ohio runners. Through nearly all of it, Class of 1973 alumnus Chuck Lynch has been there as an athlete, assistant coach, head coach, and parent. Chuck’s tenure as head coach from 1987 through 2019 is the longest run of any cross country coach in Lorain County and one of the longest in the state of Ohio. Chuck has coached hundreds of EC student athletes to be both better runners and, more importantly, better people. In 2001, he founded the All-Lorain County All-Star Team program for cross country, and still runs it to this day. Chuck Lynch truly embodies the Elyria Catholic pillars of excellence, compassion, faith, tradition, and community and demonstrates “loyalty that never dies.” Elyria Catholic is proud to announce the establishment of the Chuck Lynch endowed scholarship. This scholarship will honor Chuck’s dedication and service while allowing a student who mirrors those qualities to seek an Elyria Catholic education. If you would like to honor Chuck Lynch and contribute to this scholarship, please donate at www.elyriacatholic.com/chucklynch or contact Michelle Hoffman, Director of Philanthropy & Engagement, at hoffman@elyriacatholic.com, or 440.230.8618.

Scholarships

JAKOB HWANG

Dr. John and Mrs. Karri Hwang presented the Jakob Hwang Memorial Scholarship in a virtual presentation this year to **Cara Finnegan '21**, on May 15. The EC community, and Hwangstrong Foundation, raised funds to establish the endowed scholarship in 2019 to honor Jakob, Class of 2018. During his time at EC, Jakob was known for his strong faith and positive attitude in the school, on the soccer field, and during his courageous battle with cancer. Cara was selected by the Hwang family based on her strong reliance on her faith and other qualities she shared with Jakob. Applications are available to all juniors and the scholarship is applied to their senior year tuition.

SCOTT HOLLAND

Randy and Jeanne Holland, awarded the Scott Holland Memorial Scholarship to four juniors in a private ceremony in the Elyria Catholic Chapel this November. We recognized juniors **Jack Budinger**, **Adam Fenik**, **Rachel Horvath**, and **Sydney Wisnor** as students who are passionate and kind to others through their enthusiastic involvement in academics, athletics, and co-curricular activities. Scott Holland '02 pursued many of his passions, lived his life to the fullest, and was known for his acts of kindness. Applications are available to all juniors and the scholarship is applied to their senior year tuition.

DAN AND MILA REASER FAMILY FOUNDATION - JOAN AND CECIL REASER SCHOLARSHIP

The Dan and Mila Reaser Family Foundation established the Joan and Cecil Reaser Scholarship to help an EC student with full tuition for two years plus books at Lorain County Community College. The Reaser family's passion for EC is exhibited not only through the establishment of this scholarship, but through their multiple generations of Elyria Catholic graduates. Dan Reaser is a graduate of the Class of 1978. His mother, Joan Rothgery Reaser, graduated in 1952 and his children Danny Reaser and Shannon Reaser graduated in 2011 and 2015. The inaugural recipient of the scholarship from the Elyria Catholic Class of 2020 was **Thomas Marquitz**. Danny and Shannon, co-executive directors of the foundation, were also touched by the applications of two other students, **Meghan Jancsura** and **Michael Thoman**. They were awarded partial scholarships to LCCC to continue their education.

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

NANCY J. DOWDELL SCHOLARSHIP

Nancy J. Dowdell, Elyria Catholic High School Class of 1970, established a scholarship in 2019 to help students pursuing post-secondary education or training in the healthcare field or a trade. Mrs. Dowdell served as an RN in healthcare for over 25 years. The inaugural recipients of this scholarship from the Elyria Catholic Class of 2020 were **Mackenzie Kemer**, **Kaylyn Strawderman**, and **Ashley Tanner**. Mackenzie and Kaylyn are studying nursing at The University of Mount Union and Kent State University, respectively. Ashley is studying pharmacy at the University of Toledo.

THE KING FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP

Mr. Jim King is a Lorain Catholic High School graduate of the Class of 1981. He reached out to EC and established The King Family Scholarship for an EC student that will pay a portion of their college tuition for their next four years. Mr. King was interested in helping students who would be the first generation in their family to attend college. The inaugural recipient of this scholarship from the Elyria Catholic Class of 2020 was **Kaylyn Strawderman**, who is studying nursing at Kent State University.

Class of 1966

Barb and Joe Salata, both from the Class of 1966, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Friday, June 26, 2020. Seen here in a photo with dear friends who also celebrated their 50th (married a day after Barb and Joe), Bob ’66 and Carole Holliday. Barb and Joe knew each other throughout school but did not start dating until the Winter Formal of their senior year at EC. They had been together ever since. Sadly, Joe passed away on October 11, 2020.

Class of 1996

Karen Fischer Oudeman accepted a promotion to Meteorologist in Charge of the National Weather Service - Center Weather Service Unit (CWSU) - Cleveland, OH in July 2020. The CWSU provides weather support to FAA Air Traffic Managers and Controllers across the region.

Class of 2007

Matt Gustoff ’07 and his wife Kate welcomed Madison R. Gustoff on November 30, 2019. They all currently live in Kent, Ohio where they have been for 5 years. Their family is also joined by Conway (Golden Retriever – 5 years old) & Rocco (German Shepherd – 4 years old). Kate is currently a lead engineer at the Equity Engineering Group in Shaker Heights while Matt has continued his career at Goodyear in Akron within their sales organization. The family enjoys spending time with their neighbors, visiting downtown Kent, supporting Cleveland sports teams and going on hikes at Goodyear State Park in Hartville.

Class of 2011 & 2014

Cody Reaser ’11 and **Elizabeth Arendash Reaser ’14** welcomed their sweet baby girl Sutton Arendash Reaser on July 24, 2020. Cody is currently a police officer in Olmsted Township and Elizabeth is an occupational therapy assistant.

Class of 2012

Brandon Hikade ’12 and **Bailey Griffin ’12** were married on Saturday, September 5, 2020 at her parents **Michael ’84** and **Vicki ’84** Griffin’s home, Griffins Glen, with a reception at White Hall, Columbia Station. There were several EC alumni in attendance including several in the wedding party.

Brigid Griffin ’12, **Meggie Griffin ’15**, **Anna Griffin ’15**, **Keith Foisy ’13**, **Bill Hardway ’13**, **Stephan Fetcko ’12**, **Chris Ellis ’12**, **Andrej Szollosy ’12**. The entire wedding party and guests were very smart and safe during this special occasion and everyone was required to wear masks.

Brandon and Bailey reside in Olathe, Kansas, where Brandon is an air traffic controller and Bailey works as a manager of a Bath and Body Works store.

Class of 2014

Madelyn Joviak ’14 and Ross Heidersbach ’14 were married on December 7, 2019, surrounded by family and friends at Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish in Grafton, Ohio. Joining them in the celebration were **Annie Heidersbach**, President of Elyria Catholic, **Evann Heidersbach ’09**, **Dylan Bishop ’14**, **Ben Bratton ’14**, and **Jacob Roe ’14**. The couple both graduated from The Ohio State University, and they currently reside in Columbus, Ohio.

Alyssa Malinowski ’14 and **Erik Smith ’14** celebrated their 2nd wedding anniversary on June 9, 2020. Alyssa and Erik currently live with their dog, Rosie, in Louisiana. Alyssa attends veterinary school at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge and Erik is a 4th grade math teacher.

Class of 2015

On October 3, 2020, **Shannon Reaser '15** married Kyle Brown at St. Jude Parish with **Deacon Pat Humphrey '71**, Father Kosem, and Father Ryba officiating the ceremony. Several EC alumni celebrated Shannon and Kyle's special day, including those in the wedding party; **Danny Reaser '11**, **Bailey DeSouza Reaser '06**, **Bekka Reaser '16**, **Ashley Meecha '17**, and **Amanda Nedwick '14**.

Shannon and Kyle are enjoying their time together now that everything has settled down! Kyle is an RN at St. John West Shore and Shannon manages the shipping and logistics at Outdoor Product Innovations Inc. The happy couple resides in North Ridgeville.

Class of 2016 & 2017

Rebecca Malinowski '16 and **Michael Bierek '17** were married on August 14, 2020 at St. Jude Church. Helping to celebrate their special day were several EC alumni including the following members of their bridal party: **Ted Achladis '16**, **Brandon Nagel '17**, **Anthony Malinowski '22**, **Michael Golab '16**, **Alyssa Malinowski Smith '14**, **Maddie Bierek '20**, **Emily Laubenthal '16**, **Katie Cuevas '16**, **Ashley Watson '16**. Not pictured **Owen Pubal '17**, **Madelyn Joviak Heidersbach '14**.

Rebecca and Michael are living in Lorain, and are operating Michael's Landscaping company, MDB Lawncare Management.

It all began with them!

THIRD GENERATION LEGACY FAMILIES

Many alumni who attend Elyria Catholic are committed to sending their children to Elyria Catholic and others are also proud to see their grandchildren attend. At the moment, Elyria Catholic is home to nine THIRD GENERATION legacy students.

Sophia Abraham '24 is the daughter of **Mike Abraham '92** and the granddaughter of **Nick Abraham '60** (pictured).

Emma Basinski '23 is the daughter of **Mike Basinksi '92** and the granddaughter of **Ellen Naughton Basinski '57** (pictured).

Cadyn Diedrick '22 is the daughter of **Bradley Diedrick '85** and the great-granddaughter of **Barbara Walsh Diedrick '52** (pictured).

Peyton Essenmacher '24 is the daughter of **Mike Essenmacher '94** and the granddaughter of **Brian Essenmacher '71** (pictured) and **Patricia Peyton Essenmacher '71** (pictured).

Clayton Peloquin '23 and Nathan Peloquin '23 are the sons of **Kevin Peloquin '90** and the grandsons of **Ronald Peloquin, Sr. '55** (pictured) and **Marilyn Ursem Peloquin '62** (pictured).

Lilah Rider '23 is the daughter of **Christine Zidek Rider '89** and the granddaughter of **Ron Zidek '63** (pictured).

Grace Rothgery '21 and Lucia Rothgery '24 are the daughters of **Eric Rothgery '80** and the granddaughters of **Ken Rothgery '53** (pictured).

EC Cares

LOCAL WRITER MARGIE MIKLAS '66 WINS PRESTIGIOUS AWARD, ANNOUNCED AT 2020 FLORIDA WRITERS ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE

The Florida Writers Association, Inc., (FWA) has announced that Margie Miklas of Port Saint Lucie, Florida won a prestigious Royal Palm Literary Award (RPLA). Margie Miklas '66 winning entry, *A Cure for Deceit*, won the Silver award for Published Fiction, Thriller Genre. The award was announced at FWA's recent remote four-day annual conference. This annual competition, which received 549 submissions, was RPLA's nineteenth.

GOLF CLASSIC WINNERS

Scramble Tournament Winner
Team 12: Matthew Szep, Elizabeth Szep, Clay Mayor, and Kevin Moore

Colored Ball Tournament Winner
Team 3: Dan Gossman, Krista Nieding, Johnathan Bray, and Julie Bray

Putting Contest Winner
Bryan Hyla ’03

Hole #2 Shortest Drive
Tom Machovina ’72

Hole #3 Closest to the Pin in 2
Kevin Moore, Rosemary Rehner

Hole #10 Closest to the Pin
Joe Kovacs ’04, Deborah Jezewski Gilchrist ’89

Hole #13 Closest to the Pin in 2
Rudy Rosas, Becky Essenmacher

Hole #18 Long Drive
Clay Mayor, Laurie Seward Gatten ’93

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ELYRIA CATHOLIC 31ST ANNUAL GOLF CLASSIC

One-hundred and forty-four golfers, including 59 alumni and 17 women, attended the 31st Annual Elyria Catholic Golf Classic on October 3, 2020 at Valley of the Eagles in Elyria. The event was sponsored by JD Indoor Comfort as well as Schlather Insurance Co., The Alan O’Connor Family, CommStar, Old Republic Title, Allstate Insurance Co. - Angelo Cruz ’14, Savoy Insurance Group, Nick Mayer Lincoln, WeedPro, Barnes Wendling CPAs, and fourteen other hole sponsors. Nick Abraham Auto Mall sponsored a Buick Encore GX as a prize for a hole-in-one at Hole #5. The event also featured a putting contest sponsored by Ashland Golf Club, a betting hole, and five hole challenges with prizes for both men and women. Complete foursomes were present from the classes of ’64, ’72, ’87, ’03, ’04, and ’06. The event raised over $10,000 for the Performing Arts Center!

CLASS OF 1959

The Fifth Tuesday Lunch Group of Elyria Catholic Class of 1959 alumni has been cancelled for a year due to the threats of COVID-19. Desperate to rejuvenate our 60-year relationships, our Chair, Barb Sim Knittel, planned an outdoor picnic, safe with masks and social distancing. Classmates and spouses, even a couple from Michigan, met in the shelter of the newly designed beautiful Cascade Park in Elyria. Annie Heidersbach, President of Elyria Catholic High, welcomed us and provided updates on the school and distributed *Panther Prowls* for all.

EC 59ers stay in close contact by our personal web page. Join us @ EC Class of '59 on Facebook. "Loyalty that Never Dies....."

CLASS OF 1969

The EC Class of 1969 celebrated our 50th reunion in August 2019. Running up to the reunion, we created a private Facebook group and also an e-mail group, posting ice breakers and conversation starters at least once a week for 8 months. By the time we actually gathered, we were so eager to reconnect with everyone in the room. The energy continued and we agreed to meet for lunch quarterly – October 2019 at Valley of the Eagles and January 2020 at the Foundry Kitchen and Bar. When the pandemic limited gatherings, we stayed connected via Zoom, now visiting with folks from across the country, many too far away to join us for lunch. Our FB group, Elyria Catholic HS Class of 1969, hosts 96 members and our e-mail group, edchs1969@gmail.com, numbers 121 – well over half of the surviving members of our original class of 222. We share Class updates and EC announcements. Because our 55th reunion in 2024 is so far in the future, we are hoping to celebrate a "Happy 70th Birthday Party" in 2021. The Class of 1969 donated $1,000 to Second Harvest Foodbank in honor of the Class of 2020 who had their senior year cut short because of the pandemic. The Class of 1969 donated $1,000 to the Performing Arts Center renovation campaign. As a class, we all agreed that the auditorium holds such great memories for us – drama club productions, choir and band concerts, student Masses, and all of our dances and proms. Two seats in the auditorium will be sponsored by the Class of 1969.

REGULAR CLASS OF 1972 GOLF FOURSOME

Ed Eisbrenner, Steve McCoy, Brian Powers, Tom Machovina

CLASS OF 1972

Despite COVID-19 circumstances, a small number of the Class of 1972 came together for their yearly golf outing, the first Saturday in August. It began with a toast to the deceased members of the class, golfing at Forest Hills and a social after. Anyone is welcome to join us next year! The Class of 1972 purchased a seat in the Performing Arts Center to honor their deceased classmates.

ELYRIA CATHOLIC *2020 Forward Virtual Gala*

CASINO ROYALE

In the midst of stay-at-home orders and economic uncertainty, Elyria Catholic High School pushed forward and reinvented its annual gala to raise over $87,000 for renovations to its Performing Arts Center. The 2020 Forward Gala was held on Saturday, April 18. Originally designed to be a Casino Royale themed event with a live casino, it was quickly transformed into a virtual experience to follow the strength and example set forth by teachers, students and businesses to engage remotely and safely. All six sponsors, Elyria Plastic Products, The Class of 1957, Barnes Wendling CPAs, Luxury Heating and Air Conditioning, Midwest Siding and Old Republic Title remained committed to EC students even as the event changed to a virtual format. All of the individuals who had purchased tickets before the original event was cancelled were offered full refunds, but most offered their ticket price as gifts. All of the businesses who had chosen to support the event with advertisements or auction item donations and the individuals who donated their ticket price were recognized in a digital event program that is still available on the school's website, www.elyriacatholic.com/2020forwardgala.

The event included a virtual happy hour using Zoom video conferencing and then hourly emails and social media posts, most with videos, that showcased how EC students were learning during COVID-19, a virtual tour of the planned renovations for the Performing Arts Center, and recognition of the latest Distinguished Alumni, Young Alumni, and Our Lady of Grace Benefactor award winners. The evening concluded with Elyria Catholic students from the cast of *The Addams Family*, originally scheduled to perform in March, singing an

excerpt from the musical together, each from their own homes in a virtual format.

The virtual gala also featured a week-long online silent auction and a ten-hour "virtual paddle raise" supported by a matching gift. Dr. Nicholas and Maryann Ksenich, whose sons Nicholas '10 and Ryan '12 are EC graduates, offered a matching gift to inspire participation in the "paddle raise" and over $27,000 in gifts were made throughout the day.

The Elyria Catholic students, faculty, and staff are grateful to all who supported this event. Their generosity has given EC hope as the community looks forward to a time when they can gather together again in celebration in the newly renovated Performing Arts Center.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

Elyria Plastic Products E.P.P INC.

The Elyria Catholic Class of 1957

LUXURY Heating & Air Conditioning — Total Indoor Air Quality - Since 1947

Barnes Wendling — Building and Maintaining Your Net Worth

Midwest Siding Company ....Proudly Serving Northeastern Ohio since 1972

OLD REPUBLIC TITLE

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AND OUR LADY OF GRACE BENEFACTOR AWARDS

Dr. Todd R. Sweda, a 1984 alumnus, received the Distinguished Alumni Award from president Annie Heidersbach for his 30 years of service and dedication to Catholic education. He is the Co-Director of the Office of Catholic Education & Formation and Superintendent of Secondary Schools for the Archdiocese of St. Louis. Prior to this appointment, he served as President of Archbishop Hoban High School. He also held appointments with Gilmour Academy and Georgetown Preparatory School (MD). He served as an instructor for Cleveland State University's Inspired Leaders graduate program. Dr. Sweda earned a bachelor's degree from Wittenberg University, a master's degree from Georgetown University, and a doctorate from Seton Hall University. Dr. Sweda is still connected to his Class of 1984 classmates through reunions and remains committed to the mission and values of EC by supporting Elyria Catholic students.

Cody Reaser is a member of the Elyria Catholic Class of 2011. He received the Young Alumni Award of Excellence for distinction earned in his academic and professional career as well as his volunteer service to the community. After graduation, Cody became an integral member of the Elyria Catholic Football staff and pursued his dream of becoming a police officer. He completed the Police Academy at LCCC and graduated first in his class for academics. In February of 2018 he was hired full-time with the Olmsted Township Police Department, the first candidate in 20 years to be hired full-time without serving part-time first. He was chosen amongst his department to continue his education to become an evidence technician and a crisis interventionist. Cody is a valued member of the Elyria Catholic Football coaching staff and is an incredible role model to the young men and women in the program. His commitment to teaching the young men and women on and off the field is an incredible example of "Loyalty that never dies."

A graduate of 1981, **Tony Reaser** received the Our Lady of Grace Benefactor Award for his devotion, commitment, and service to Elyria Catholic. Tony is an integral asset to Elyria Catholic and the Elyria Community. After graduation, he continued to assist in coaching the Panthers to two state championships in the 80s. While four of his children attended Elyria Catholic, Tony worked in various roles to serve the football, cheer, hockey, baseball, and theater programs and continues to paint the football field every Thursday before a home game. Tony served two years as the Chairman of the Elyria Sports Hall of Fame where he worked tirelessly to ensure others were honored. The last of his children graduated from EC in 2016, but Tony continues to serve the school in any way he can. His humbling example and motto, "Tradition never graduates," is a testament to all Elyria Catholic teaches and represents.

President Annie Heidersbach presents Tony Reaser '81 and Cody Reaser '11 their Our Lady of Grace Benefactor Award and Young Alumni Award of Excellence respectively on Friday, November 13, 2020 at halftime during an EC Panthers scrimmage game.

PLEASE NOMINATE SOMEONE FOR AN AWARD

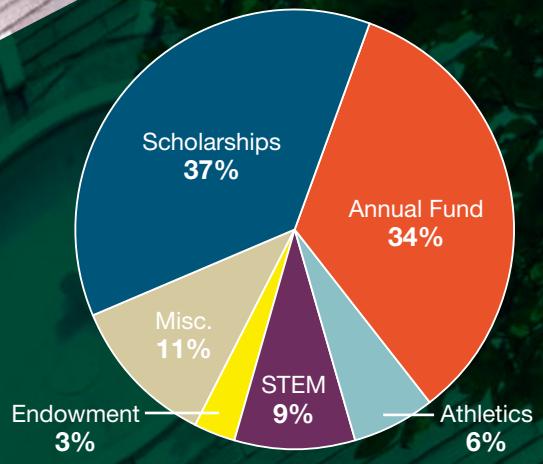
Elyria Catholic High School remains steeped in its pillars of Excellence, Compassion, Faith, Tradition, and Community. We would like to recognize the members of our Elyria Catholic family and community who remain strong and steadfast examples of Elyria Catholic High School character with our Distinguished Alumni Awards and Young Alumni Awards of Excellence as well as those who have wholeheartedly contributed to the school's success with Our Lady of Grace Benefactor Awards. Please visit www.elyriacatholic.com/awardsnomination to complete a nomination online or print and mail a form to the Office of Philanthropy & Engagement at Elyria Catholic High School, 725 Gulf Rd., Elyria, OH 44035. Nominations must be received by February 1 for consideration in 2021 but are kept on file for all future award considerations.

Cares

2019-2020 IMPACT REPORT

	6/30/20	6/30/19
REVENUES		
Educational and general:		
Student tuition and fees	$3,702,764	$3,455,313
Less financial aid	(620,623)	(646,676)
Net tuition	3,082,141	2,808,637
Donated facilities	600,000	600,000
Athletics revenue	165,410	190,424
Other revenue and fees	245,300	255,860
Fundraising activities	192,837	318,440
Scholarship gifts and donations	237,679	211,193
Mandated services	150,097	162,000
Auxiliary operation - bookstore	21,284	26,757
Total Revenues	**$4,694,748**	**$4,573,311**
EXPENSES		
Instructional expenses	2,595,953	2,595,033
Athletics expenses	602,135	658,619
Student services expense	444,034	378,891
Management, plant and general expenses	1,078,666	1,049,752
Fundraising expenses	390,437	565,955
Total Expenses	**$5,111,225**	**$5,248,250**
Change in operating activity	(416,477)	(674,939)
NON-OPERATING ACTIVITY		
Gifts and donations	332,883	309,537
Special events restricted	76,080	
Diocese gift - capital	60,000	48,860
Investment income, net	93,568	84,607
Net realized and unrealized gains (losses)	154,002	219,789
Change from Non-operating Activity	**$716,533**	**$662,793**
(Decrease) Increase in Net Assets	300,056	(12,146)
Net Assets - Beginning	6,091,228	6,103,374
Net Assets - Ending	**$6,391,284**	**$6,091,228**

WHERE GIFTS ARE DESIGNATED



Thank You to Our 2019-2020 Donors

This is not an audited financial report, but a listing of supporters and dollars raised in the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2019 and ending June 30, 2020. If your name has been omitted, we sincerely apologize. Please notify us of the omission. Thank you for supporting our students, our school, and our mission.

Founders' Society

Gifts of $10,000 and greater

Mr. Jim Cyran '66
Mr. & Mrs. James King
Mr. Steven Komives '65
Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Musca
Mr. & Mrs. John O'Connor '57
Ridge Tool Co.
Mr. James Ross '52
Schlather-Bilskey Family Foundation

President's Society

Gifts between $5,000-$9,999

Anonymous
Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Abraham '60
Mrs. Ellen Naughton Basinski '57
& Mr. David Basinski, Sr.
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Becker
Class of 1957
Class of 1969
Dads' Booster Club
Elyria Plastic Products
Jim's Electric
Knights of Columbus #637
Dr. & Mrs. Nicholas Ksenich
Mrs. Jean Raab & Mr. Kevin Raab
Mr. & Mrs. Rudolph Rehm '63
Ms. Alice Stipanovich

Leadership Society

Gifts between $2,500-$4,999

Barnes Wendling CPAs, Inc.
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Mrs. Judith Glenn '84
& Mr. Rob McGorray
Mrs. Michelle Hoffman
& Mr. Peter Hoffman
I-90 Nissan
Jochum-Moll Foundation
The Kelly Foundation
Knights of Columbus #774
Luxury Heating Co., Inc.
Mr. Theodore Mahl '74
Midwest Siding Co.
Mrs. Lana Durban Scott '90
Sunnyside Chevrolet
Mr. & Mrs. Dan Yanak
Mrs. Terry Ziegelmeyer
& Mr. James Ziegelmeyer

Our Lady of Grace Society

Gifts between $1,000-$2,499

Alivia Margarette Agosto Memorial
Foundation
Mr. James Aponte '09
Avon Lake Animal Clinic
Dr. & Mrs. Dennis Carson
Mr. Nathaniel Carson '10
Castele Family Scholarship Fund
CommStar
Dan and Mila Reaser Family
Foundation
Dan Yanak Insurance Agency Inc.
Diocese of Cleveland
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Dowdell '74
Mr. & Mrs. Austin Goare
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Hahn '82
Hileman Group
Mr. Norman Lindway
Mr. Lynn Livelsberger '65
Mr. Jim Machock '72 &
Mrs. Kathleen Fuchs Machock '73
Mr. David McCoy '92
Nordson Corporation
Old Republic Title
Paragon-TEC
Mr. Timothy Powers '69
Quality Metal Products
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Riberdy
Savoy Insurance Group
Schlather Insurance Agency, Inc.
Mr. Paul Schlather '64
& Mrs. Karen Boron Schlather '70
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Sunderman
Dr. Todd Sweda '84
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Taylor '79
Mr. Timothy Walsh '90

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Gifts of $1,000 and greater to the Elyria Catholic Annual Fund

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Mr. & Mrs. Diehl Belza
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Mrs. Amy Vajentic Butler '80
& Mr. Terry Butler
Mr. Kevin Cosgrove '67
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Mrs. Janice Radyk Godbey '81
Dr. Michael Hoffman '79
Mrs. Michelle Hoffman
& Mr. Peter Hoffman
Mrs. Brenda Klein
& Mr. Matthew Klein
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Mr. Steven Komives '65
Dr. Richard Kovacs '72
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& Mr. Frank Lester
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Mr. & Mrs. Steve Lubowicz
Mr. David Malinas '92
Mr. David McCoy '92
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Mr. & Mrs. Christopher Nagel
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Mr. Rudolph Rehm '63
Mr. David Schlather '75
Mr. Robert Schlather '64
Mrs. Lana Durban Scott '90
Dr. & Mrs. Mark Straka '70
UBS Employee Giving Program
Dr. Douglas Yunker '75
Mrs. Terry Ziegelmeyer
& Mr. James Ziegelmeyer

Advisory Council & Finance Board Giving

The Elyria Catholic Advisory Council brings real world experience to share in the school's mission and vision. We thank our 2019-2020 council members for the generous donation of their time, talent, and treasure to help shape the future of Elyria Catholic High School.

Mrs. Amy Vajentic Butler '80
Mr. Nathaniel Carson '10
Mr. Robert Corts '79
Mr. Michael Essenmacher '94
Mr. Gary Fischer
Mrs. Judith Glenn '84
Mr. Matthew Gustoff '07
Mrs. Maria Gutierrez
Mr. Thomas Hileman
Mr. Brian Hoagland '83
Mr. David Jezewski '90
Dr. Nicholas Ksenich
Mr. Christopher Nagel
Mr. Spencer Roule '10
Mr. Joseph Savoy '85
Mrs. Michele Diedrick Turrill '81

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Mr. Richard Amador
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Baloglou
Dr. & Mrs. Jason Barb
Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Barlow
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Mr. Michael Basinski '82
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& Mr. David Basinski, Sr.
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Mr. & Mrs. James Bunsey
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Burkett
Mr. & Mrs. Dave Burns
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& Mr. Terry Butler
Mrs. Judy Felgemaker Buzas '70
& Mr. Richard Buzas
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Mr. & Mrs. Robert Campana
Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Capasso
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& Mr. Matthew Carandang '88
Dr. & Mrs. Dennis Carson
Mr. & Mrs. Edward Chavez
Mr. & Mrs. Christopher Ciryak
Mr. James Clark '62
Mrs. Steffany Masters Congelio '94
& Mr. Daniel Congelio

THE LATEST IMPROVEMENTS AT ELYRIA CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

The proceeds from the 2019 Forward Gala, 70th Anniversary Ball were used to renovate three locker rooms, repair the baseball dugouts, and purchase new state banners for the coliseum. Over the summer, our Buildings and Grounds staff installed 54 new classroom doors in the academic wing, courtesy of a Rooted In Faith grant from the Catholic Community Foundation. I-90 Nissan and a group of alumni who played softball for Coach Jerry Beck paid for a new softball scoreboard. Dads' Boosters paid for the excavation and regrading of the baseball outfield/ football practice field to protect our athletes. Improvements also included the installation of a drain tile system and a water pipe for sprinkling to preserve the field. Panther Club worked to raise funds to purchase and install our first ever baseball scoreboard. Jake O'Connor '57 inspired the creation of a Football Wall of History that pays tribute to all of Elyria Catholic's football coaches. During the 20-21 school year, the school will be replacing its 70-year-old fire alarm system and completing the first three phases of renovations to the Performing Arts Center.

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Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Cuevas
Ms. Annie Cunningham
Mr. & Mrs. Don Cunningham
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Mr. & Mrs. John Grasso III
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Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Hileman
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& Mr. Ross Phillips
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& Mrs. Joanne Vecchio Polutnik
'69
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& Mr. Kevin Raab
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& Mrs. Ruth Vittori
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Mrs. Theresa Wukie
Mr. & Mrs. Dan Yanak
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John Diedrick
Suzanne Bodnar Mason
Patricia McAllister Riegelsberger
James Ross

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Harold Minnich
Rosemary Ziegman Woconish

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Darlene McCowan Knechtges
Robert Kolopus
Marilyn McAllister Trupo
Stanley Trupo

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Martha Diederich
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David Hemminger
Nancy Young Hemminger

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Donald Rothgery

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Ellen Naughton Basinski
Robert Dahl
William Dolan
LaVonne Phillips Drager
Dianne Defazio Goold
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E. Gene Henderson
Richard Lewicki
Norman Mazurowski
John O'Connor
Marcia Smith Rothgery
Theodore Schmitz
Robert Urig
James Wirscham

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Richard Callahan
Patricia Zacharyasz Demyan
Mary Jane Riley Garton
Sheila McGuire Marshall
Edgar Martin
Jean Ann Pileski Nixon
Dennis O'Neal
Paul Pustay
John Ross
Annemarie Hartman Schiska
Dr. Thomas Zeck

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Barbara Gutman
Kathleen Joyce Keller
Rose Marie Standifer Lucas
John Maiher
Shirley Schmitz Nemec
Margaret Wirscham Quinlan
Mary Brigid McGowan St. Marie
Joseph Webber
Sharon McAllister Zeck

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Alan Bacher
Rita Mraz Bubb
James Elkins
Daniel Golski
Donna Lydon Rennick

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James Clark
Mary Ann Cavagna Golski
Margaret Murray Hoagland
Ronald Smith

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Joanne Puka Connaughton
James Fritz
Rudolph Rehm
Ronald Zidek

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Robert Schlather
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Joan Brown McKinney
Marcia Hintz Pichola
Dennis Plato
Glen Thome

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Michael Keys
Timothy Smith
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Dr. Mary Ann Dowdell
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Virginia O'Connor
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Michael Polutnik
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William Schlather
Judith Mikoy Shively
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Gail Drahos Ogle
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Danielle Poje Davidson
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Mark Straka
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Dale Diedrick
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Edward Eisbrenner
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Anita Heyman Paynter
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Kenneth Yunker
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Richard Dowdell
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Donna Peck McConaughey
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James Taylor
Catherine Farrell Ulm
Leonard Vittori
Nancy Peck Wemer
Lorie Ferrara Wilber
Donna Adams Wolf
Edward Zvosec
Leann Forthofer Zvosec

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Mary Malik Goellner
Kevin Janowicz
Richard Poje

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Theresa Woconish Grbach
Kathleen Meanor Holmes
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Linda Zemanek Schuster

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Brian McCoy
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Joseph Kaleel
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Vernon Smith

KAMINSKI-BROWN FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP

The Kaminski-Brown Family Scholarship was started in 2020 by Dylan (Class of 2013) and Savanna Brown (Class of 2015) to support families in need in the community. This fund was created to honor their mother Christine Brown (Class of 1981) who worked endlessly to provide them with a quality education and countless opportunities despite difficult circumstances. It also honors their aunts, uncles, and grandparents – Rob, Mark, Matt, Denice, Kathy, Robert, and Carolyn Kaminski – all graduates of Elyria Catholic, whose continual support has driven them to work hard, find success, and give back. Savanna says she owes her current success as a woman in science to all of the truly wonderful people she met at EC who mentored her in all aspects of her life and still support her today. She and her brother Dylan hope to brighten the future of other students by helping them attend Elyria Catholic High School and benefit from all that the EC community has to offer. The entire Kaminski-Brown family hopes that the recipient will cherish the opportunities that a quality education brings and use it to make a difference in their community.

Class of 1983
Kelly Ann Burgess Bullock
Jeffery Eischen
R. Paul Graning
Brian Hoagland
Cynthia Petrik Kozma
William Sexton
Matthew St. Marie

Class of 1984
Paul Blevins
Celeste Terrion D'Souza
Judith Glenn
Robert Leshnak
Jeannette Noveske Motylewski
Dr. Todd Sweda

Class of 1985
Susan Zidek Kruse
Dominic Piazza
Kathleen Ray
Joseph Savoy
Joseph Shook
Elizabeth Thuning

Class of 1986
Dr. Brian Demos
James Gaffney
John Golski
Amy Jones
Dr. David Krol
Barbara Vesely
Robert Zidek

Class of 1987
Mary Cay Gurchik Doherty
Carrie Webber Kaminski
Christopher Lehman
Daniel Mackewicz
Gregory Schmitz
James Sustersic
Joan Seward Tanner

Class of 1988
Matthew Carandang
Daniel Kelley
Natalie Breznay Kelley
Kevin Mahaffey
Ann Koebel Miller
Dr. Sheila Rice-Dane

Class of 1989
Dr. Jennifer Poduska Carandang
Mark Downie
Joseph Elbert
Jennifer Van Wie Farley
Paul Frey
Gretchen Schneider Krebs
Christine Zidek Rider

Class of 1990
Amy Laubenthal Bodde
Kevin Peloquin
Lana Durban Scott
Timothy Walsh

Class of 1991
Michael Gandolfo

Class of 1992
Michael Basinski
Steven Fada
Jamie Hullman
Kerry Kreighbaum
David Malinas
David McCoy

Class of 1993
Michael Janas
Danielle Dean Phillips

Class of 1994
Steffany Masters Congelio
Michael Essenmacher
Julie Snider Shoemaker

Class of 1995
Michael Niederst
Gregory Radosevich
Christopher Thoman
Class of 1996
Eric Fritz
Patrick Reichlin

Class of 1997
Ryan Mueller

Class of 1998
Brian Kruszewski
Emily Samek

Class of 1999
Allison Krebs
Brooke Cuevas Uehlein
Ryan Uehlein

Class of 2000
Darlene Zidek Anderson
Sara Forthofer Linnell
Katherine McGannon
Allison Kidder Petrus
Scott Volchko

Class of 2002
Christopher Burton
Kathleen Flanagan Distelhorst

Class of 2003
Eric Eisbrenner
Michael McLaughlin

Class of 2004
Neil Fentner
Joseph Kovacs
Ashley Woolsteen Sklenicka
Stephen St. Marie
Jake Taylor

Class of 2005
Brianne McLaughlin

Class of 2006
Ben Lynch
Robert McFarland
Steven Mueller

Class of 2007
Amie Zvosec Fritz
Matthew Gustoff
Andrew Kirsch

Class of 2008
Jayson Graham

Class of 2009
James Aponte
Michael Freeh
Evann Heidersbach
Kaitlyn Settas Shave
Michael Weber
Anthony Zaatar

Class of 2010
Nathaniel Carson
Nicholas Ksenich
Spencer Roule
Jared Schuster
Zoe Zwegat Schmid
Erin Buterbaugh Yasutake

Class of 2011
Kelly O'Dell Pietraniec
Nicole Spaetzel

Class of 2012
Matthew McGervey

Class of 2013
Stephanie Decker
William Janda
Collin Lester
Taylor Reaser

Class of 2014
Ross Heidersbach
Carl Spaetzel
Kurt Spaetzel

Class of 2015
Jamie Janda
Sara Lehman

Class of 2016
Katie Cuevas
Rebekka Reaser

Class of 2017
Brittany Bucci
Morgan Chilton
Anthony Saxon

Class of 2019
Bryan Lehman

Class of 2020
Alec Bredel
Melissa Decker

Class of 2021
Sean Bryson
Kaymarie Gawlik
Alana Santiago

Friends of Elyria Catholic Giving

Anonymous
Ms. Louise Anthony
Mr. & Mrs. John Aquilla
Mr. Jeffrey Armstrong
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas A. Barber
Mr. Joe Bolash
Ms. Dawn Bouchonville
Mr. & Mrs. Steve Brown
Ms. Robin Bryson
Ms. JoAnn Conte
Ms. Emily Dalton
Mr. John R. Daly
Mrs. Mary Ann Corrigan Davis
Mr. Ernest DeMarino
Mr. & Mrs. Mike DiLoreto
Ms. Mary Lou Durkin
Mr. & Mrs. Brian Edmonds
Mr. Joseph Farkas
Ms. Andrea Ferguson
Dr. & Mrs. Richard Fogel
Mr. & Mrs. Pete Fox
Mrs. Selma Fritz
Mr. & Mrs. Austin Goare
Father Richard Gonser
Mrs. Patricia Hill-Holcomb
Mr. & Mrs. Alan Hoffman
Mr. Joshua Hoffman
Mrs. Betty Holland
Mr. & Mrs. Terry Hutter
Mr. & Mrs. William J. Janesz
Ms. Kathleen Kennedy Mulgrew
Mr. & Mrs. Karl Koenig
Mr. & Mrs. John Kovacs
Mr. Anthony Kustra
Mr. & Mrs. David Lanzola
Mr. Norman Lindway
Mr. Bruce Lisicky
Mr. & Mrs. Edward Mansell
Mr. & Mrs. Peri Marcucci
Ms. Shannon McCormick
Mrs. Dana McNeely
Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Musca
Mr. & Mrs. Kirk Nevins
Ms. Marilyn Noles
Dr. & Dr. Frank O'Linn
Mr. Robert Pustay
Mr. Brandon Rigano
Mr. & Mrs. Doug Roberts
Mr. Jerome Rodak
Ms. Deborah Rowe
Ms. Anita Simko
Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Simmons
Mr. & Mrs. Matt Smith
Mr. Michael Sobilo
Mr. & Mrs. Jeff Spray
Mr. James Stevenson
Mr. Mike Stilgenbauer
Ms. Alice Stipanovich
Mrs. Valorie Stites
Ms. Lesley Tompkins
Ms. Paulette Welch
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Willett
Ms. Kara Wilson
Mr. & Mrs. Greg Worcester

Faculty & Staff Giving

Our talented and dedicated teachers, administrators, and staff guide our students each day. We are humbled by the financial support from 100% of the Elyria Catholic High School faculty and staff.

Mrs. Beth Adkins
Ms. Diane Andriano
Mrs. Jill Anglin
Mr. Matthew Barber
Mrs. Sharon Lauffer Blaszak '68
Mr. Theodore Blaszak
Mrs. Kathryne Bradesca
Mrs. Shannon Brennan
Mr. Michael Brown
Mr. Jerome Burns
Mrs. Jessica Chojnicki '03
Ms. Rebecca Ciarrone
Mr. Allen Clark
Mr. Javier Cruz
Ms. Annie Cunningham
Mr. Paul Cunningham
Mr. Jack Duffy
Mr. Charles Eary, Jr.
Mrs. Danielle Esposito
Ms. Ruth Farmakidis
Mrs. Beth Feldt
Mrs. Angela Finicle
Mrs. Aurea Fisher
Mr. Brian Fox
Mrs. Kaitlyn Hadley
Mrs. Kathryn Hallal
Ms. Allison Harbart
Mrs. Madeleine Heinrich
Mrs. Michelle Hoffman
Mrs. Abby Hricovec
Mrs. Melissa Hudak-Hilliard
Mr. Andrew Jewett
Ms. Jade Jones
Mr. Kevin Juguilon
Mr. Elijah Kanavel
Ms. Joanne Keppler
Mr. Jason Kleban
Mrs. Brenda Klein
Mrs. Lisa Koch
Mr. Thomas Kronholz
Mr. Phillip Kuchta
Ms. Sara Lanzola
Ms. Grace Latham
Mrs. Suzanne Lester
Mr. Kevin Machovina '03
Ms. Molli Machovina '00
Mr. Steve McCoy '72
Mr. Matthew McGuire '68
Mr. Gary McLaughlin
Mrs. Margie Mendez
Mrs. Keisha Oliveras
Mr. Craig Petrus
Mr. John Royski
Mrs. Linda Zemanek Schuster '77
Mrs. Maryann Stewart
Mrs. Coletta Strippy
Mrs. Kelsie Stites
Ms. Leslie Szalai
Ms. Haley Talion
Mr. Thomas Taylor '79
Mr. Michael Vitale

THE JOHN LESCHER FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The friends and family of Elyria Catholic graduate John D. Lescher '91 have come together to create The John Lescher Family Scholarship Fund. Johnny Lescher was a tri-captain of the EC football team in 1990 and a graduate of The Ohio State University. He married Shanna and had two sons, Johnny and Jacob. John opened and operated several local Jersey Mike franchises. John was known for his infectious spirit, humility, and ambition. The family would like to make an annual award to an incoming EC freshman who most mirrors these qualities. The goal is to reach a $10,000 investment to endow the scholarship. If you would like to contribute to the establishment of this scholarship, please visit www.elyriacatholic.com/johnlescher or send a check payable to Elyria Catholic High School to the Philanthropy & Engagement office, 725 Gulf Rd., Elyria, OH 44035 or call Michelle Hoffman at 440.230.8618.

Mrs. Kim Watson
Mrs. Jean Weaver
Mrs. Lisa Weeast
Ms. Tanya Whitfield
Mrs. Anne Wilkinson
Mrs. Terry Ziegelmeyer

Business, Organization, and Foundation Giving

Alivia Margarette Agosto Memorial Scholarship Fund
American Legion Post 12
Avon Lake Animal Clinic
Bank of America
Barnes Wendling CPAs, Inc.
Boyd Watterson Asset Management
Buffalo Wild Wings
Byam Family Charitable Fund at Schwab Charitable
Castele Family Scholarship Fund
Cerity Partners
Chipotle
Citizens to Elect Holly Brinda
Class of 1969
Class of 1974
Class of 2020
Coates Bros. Roofing
CommStar
Dads' Booster Club
Dale's Market & Deli
Dan and Mila Reaser Family Foundation
Dan Yanak Insurance Agency Inc.
Diocese of Cleveland
Dover Foundation
Elyria Catholic Hockey Team
Elyria Fence Inc.
Elyria Firefighters #474
Elyria Rotary Club
Elyria Sports Hall of Fame
First Commonwealth Board of Directors
Fischer & Associates Architects, Inc.
Friends of Dennis P. Will
Friends of Paul St. Marie for Judge
Friends of Sheriff Stammitti
Gluvna-Shimo-Hromada Funeral Chapel
Gossman Allstate Insurance Co.
Hileman Group
I-90 Nissan
Jim's Electric
Jochum-Moll Foundation
Josten's
KeyBank Foundation
Knights of Columbus #637
Knights of Columbus #774
Kohl's Department Store, Inc.
Lang Optical, Inc.
Lorain County Community College
Luxury Heating Co., Inc.
Michael D. Tully Co., L.P.A.
Midwest Siding Co.
NADA Foundation
Network for Good
Nick Abraham Automall
Nordson Corporation
Ohio State Eagles Charity Fund

Old Republic Title
Orthopaedic Associates, Inc.
Panther Club
Paragon-TEC
Parker Hannifin Corporation
Pfizer Foundation
Piazza & Cooke Szczepanski Co. LPA
Quality Metal Products
Reinker Photography
Ridge Tool Co.
Robert Taylor Companies
Savoy Insurance Group
Schlather Insurance Agency, Inc.
Schlather-Bilskey Family Foundation
SMART Transportation Division
South of the Square Collision Center
St. Jude School
St. Mary School
Steel City Soccer Club
Stryker Corporation
Sunnyside Chevrolet
The Kelly Foundation
UBS Employee Giving Program
Villa Angela-St. Joseph High School
Weed Pro
Wells Fargo
WEOL
West Roofing Systems Inc.

Annual and Endowed Scholarship Giving

Alumni Band Scholarship
Network for Good - In Honor of
Mr. Robert O'Donnell '81
Mr. Michael Pataky '81

Class of 1957 Memorial Scholarship
Mr. Frank Anderson '57

Class of 1969 Student Scholarship
Class of 1969
Mr. & Mrs. Bernard Ashyk '69
Ms. Julia Bajda '69
Ms. Vicki Davis '69
Mr. Harry Day '69
Mrs. Linda Demarco Dukate '69
& Mr. Allen Dukate
Mrs. Mary Sue Demaria Fowler '69
& Mr. Malcolm Fowler
Mr. Gerald Golski '69
Ms. Patricia Kirsh '69
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Maguire '69
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Mole '69
Mr. Joseph Negowski '69
Mrs. Mary Stewart Piazza '69
& Mr. James Piazza
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Pliszka '69
Mr. Timothy Powers '69
Mrs. Martha Firment Schubert '69
& Mr. Rudy Schubert
Father Anthony Schuerger '69
Mrs. Judy Minnich Selee '69
& Mr. Mark Selee
Mrs. Janelle Groomes Smith '69
Mr. & Mrs. Timothy Stetson '69
Mrs. Joan Larkin Villarreal '69
& Mr. Jess Villarreal
Mr. & Mrs. Stanley Wojdyla '69

Class of 1974 Student Scholarship
Class of 1974
Mrs. Pamela Gigliotti Brown '74
& Mr. Randy Brown
Mr. Jeffrey Cole '74
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Dowdell '74
Mr. Richard Kukucka '74
Ms. Donna Peck McConaughey '74
Mrs. Karen Riegelsberger Moyer '74
& Mr. Chuck Moyer
Mr. & Mrs. Mark Mroz '74
Mrs. Marci Abookire Rich '74
Mrs. Mary Pronesti Siwierka '74
& Mr. Gary Siwierka
Mr. & Mrs. James Taylor '74
Mrs. Catherine Farrell Ulm '74
& Mr. Stephan Ulm
Mr. Leonard Vittori '74
& Mrs. Ruth Vittori
Mrs. Nancy Peck Wemer '74
& Mr. Colin Wemer
Mrs. Lorie Ferrara Wilber '74
& Mr. Douglas Wilber
Mrs. Donna Adams Wolf '74
& Mrs. Ted Wolf

Class of 2020 Student Scholarship
Anonymous
Class of 2020

Cyran Scholarship
Mr. Jim Cyran '66

The King Family Scholarship
Mr. & Mrs. James King

The Nancy Dowdell Scholarship
Ms. Nancy Dowdell '70

The Gandolfo Family Scholarship
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Gandolfo '91

Mary Garton Memorial Scholarship
Mr. & Mrs. James Gaffney '86

Scott Holland Memorial Scholarship
Elyria Catholic Hockey Team
Mrs. Annie Heidersbach
& Mr. Pete Heidersbach
Mrs. Betty Holland

Jakob Hwang Memorial Scholarship
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Dahl '57

Knights of Columbus Scholarship
Knights of Columbus #637
Knights of Columbus #774

Dr. James L. Kolopus Scholarship
Ms. Barbara Bryan '56
Mr. Robert Kolopus '54

Rosemary Kretschmann Scholarship
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Kretschmann '70

John Lescher Family Scholarship
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Gandolfo '91

Earl & Helen Mahl Scholarship
Anonymous
American Legion Post 12
Mr. & Mrs. John Best
Mr. & Mrs. Eric Holizna
Mrs. Patricia Mahl Kamba '65
& Mr. Larry Kamba
Mrs. Susan Ruppelt Kraley '75
& Mr. Gregory Kraley
Mr. William Machovina, Jr. '67
& Mrs. Marcia Machovina
Mr. Theodore Mahl '74
Mrs. Pamela Mahl Plagens '80
& Mr. Mark Plagens
Quality Metal Products
Mr. & Mrs. George Smith III '78

Dr. John McCoy Scholarship
Mr. & Mrs. Brian McCoy '78
Mr. & Mrs. David McCoy '92
Mrs. Mary Ann McCoy

Mike's Kids
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Becker

Naughton-Basinski Faculty Enrichment
Mr. & Mrs. David A. Basinski, Jr. '82
Mrs. Ellen Naughton Basinski '57
& Mr. David Basinski, Sr.

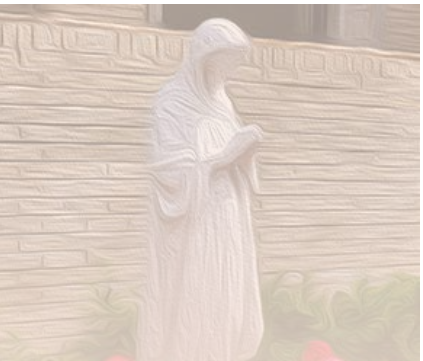
James Ross Scholarship
Mr. James Ross '52

Lou Rotunda Scholarship
Mr. Lynn Livelsberger '65

Student Scholarship
Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Abraham '60
Alivia Margarette Agosto Memorial
Scholarship Fund
Jim's Electric
The Kelly Foundation
Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Musca
Ms. Alice Stipanovich

CLASS OF 2020 SCHOLARSHIP

Despite the circumstances under which the Class of 2020 concluded their EC experience, their spirit remained strong and unparalleled while they worked to create the first ever endowed scholarship by a graduating class. The senate officers, Stephanie Griffin, Alec Bredel, Patrick Delaney, and Sadie Hutsenpiller, as well as their classmates, debated long and hard over how to best spend the $9,000 they had raised during their four years. They truly wanted to give back to directly benefit the life of a student and his/her family. Their efforts to reach the $10,000 threshold to endow a scholarship were cut short due to the pandemic shutdown, but an anonymous donor sympathetic to their efforts donated the last $1,000. The scholarship benefits a returning EC student. Current 9th, 10th, and 11th grade students can be considered for the inaugural scholarship award. The application can be found on our school website and must be completed by March 1, 2021 for the 2021-22 school year.



In Memoriam

The following Elyria Catholic Alumni passed away between November 1, 2019 and November 1, 2020. They will be remembered at Masses and daily prayers throughout the year.

John "Jay" Alberts '76
Albert Baracskai '60
Jonathan Cotleur '01
Barbara Walsh Diedrick '52
Christine Douglass Maloney '65
Donald Downs '57
Carol Schuster Dryden '65
Eric Essenmacher '77
Richard Gallagher '65
Carmen Higgason Gallo '96
Douglas Gerber '71
Anthony Jezewksi '51
Lawrence Kaminski '60
Jim Kozma '84
Patricia Dietsche Lesher '77
Michael Longano '69
Charles Machock '55
Kathleen Krutch Myers '65
Herman Plas '60
Frank Rodachy '61
Joseph Salata '66
Leon Shinsky '57
Matt Ternes '86
Marilyn Stang Tracey '56
Mary Kaine Williams '54

If an EC alum in your family passes away or you would like to remember a loved one through donations to Elyria Catholic High School, please notify Michelle Hoffman at hoffman@elyriacatholic.com or 440.230.8618.

In Memory of

In Memory of Albert Baracskai '60
Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Abraham '60

In Memory of Bryan Borowy '81
Mrs. Janice Radyk Godbey '81
& Mr. Mark Godbey

In Memory of Barbara Walsh Diedrick '52
Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Abraham '60
Mr. & Mrs. Matthew St. Marie '83

In Memory of Jennifer Hattan Fashing '64
Mrs. Sharon Smith Sugaski '64
& Mr. Donald Sugaski

In Memory of Marcella (Sally) Herman Fisher
Mrs. Jean Ann Pileski Nixon '58
& Mr. Dan Nixon

In Memory of David Fontecchio '96
Mr. & Mrs. William Crawford

In Memory of Jill Borowy Gadke '85
Mrs. Janice Radyk Godbey '81
& Mr. Mark Godbey

In Memory of Carmen Higgason Gallo '96
Mrs. Carrie & Mr. John Fritz
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Higgason

In Memory of Donny Gilles '83
Mr. & Mrs. Karl Koenig

In Memory of John Gorney
Mrs. Jill Anglin
Ms. Elfriede Baribault
Mr. & Mrs. Louis Bodnar
Mrs. Amy Vajentic Butler '80
& Mr. Terry Butler
Ms. Natalie Delarm
First Commonwealth Board of Directors
Mr. & Mrs. William Fitch
Mr. & Mrs. Louis Foye
Ms. Amie Zvosec Fritz '07
Mr. & Mrs. Chuck & Hedy Fye
Ms. Lucy Kilbane
Mr. & Mrs. Mark Kline '80
Mr. & Mrs. Jeffrey Kovesdy
Mr. & Mrs. Dale Kramer
Mrs. Susan Taylor Mabry '72
Mr. & Mrs. Peri Marcucci
Mrs. Suzanne Bodnar Mason '52
& Mr. Charles Mason
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Robbins
Mr. & Mrs. Edward Roberts
Mrs. Michele Lotko Samek '73
Mr. & Mrs. David Scheible
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Schroth
Mr. & Mrs. Mark Sleva
Mr. Don Smith & Ms. Kathleen Dolega
Mr. & Mrs. James Taylor '74
Mr. & Mrs. Harold Todd Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Vargyas
Mr. & Mrs. Craig Wiehe
Mr. Edward Zvosec '74
& Mrs. Leann Forthofer Zvosec '74

In Memory of Kurt Jacobs '06
Mr. & Mrs. Allan Fentner

In Memory of Kelly Kramer '07
Mr. & Mrs. Allan Fentner

In Memory of Chuck Machock '55
Mrs. Susan Taylor Mabry '72

In Memory of Earl Mahl
Anonymous
American Legion Post 12
Mr. & Mrs. John Best
Mr. & Mrs. Eric Holizna
Mrs. Patricia Mahl Kamba '65
& Mr. Larry Kamba
Mrs. Susan Ruppelt Kraley '75
& Mr. Gregory Kraley
Mr. William Machovina, Jr. '67
& Mrs. Marcia Machovina
Mrs. Pamela Mahl Plagens '80
& Mr. Mark Plagens
Mr. & Mrs. George Smith III '78

In Memory of Phyllis Mroz
Mr. & Mrs. James Taylor '74

In Memory of Evelyn Mychek
Mr. Eric Eisbrenner '03

In Memory of Bob Noll '72
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Franklin '72

In Memory of Herman Plas '60
Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Abraham '60

In Memory of Dorthy Pritchard
Mr. & Mrs. Donald Spitznagle

In Memory of Jay Ross
Mr. & Mrs. Harold Minnich '53

In Memory of Leon Shinsky '57
Mr. & Mrs. John O'Connor '57

In Memory of Warren Sill '04
Mr. & Mrs. Allan Fentner

In Memory of Matt Ternes '86
Dads' Booster Club
Mr. & Mrs. Harold Minnich '53

In Memory of Joseph Vajentic
Mrs. Jill Anglin
Mrs. Ellen Naughton Basinski '57
& Mr. David Basinski, Sr.
Mrs. Sharon Lauffer Blaszak '68
Mrs. Kathyrn Boylan
Mrs. Amy Vajentic Butler '80,
Mr. Terry Butler, Mr. Jim Butler '98,
Mr. Patrick Butler '18
Mr. Ed Butler, Mrs. Joan Butler,
Mr. Tim Butler, Mr. Jean Butler
Ms. Deborah Conner
Mr. & Mrs. Don Cunningham
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Dematte
Diocese of Cleveland
Mr. & Mrs. David Dlugosz
Mr. & Mrs. Bradley Ellis
Mrs. Selma Fritz
Ms. Valerie Fritz '81
Mr. & Mrs. Don Gaydosh
Mr. Daniel Golski '60 &
Mrs. Mary Ann Cavagna Golski '62
Mrs. Theresa Woconish Grbach '77
& Dr. Bruce Grbach
Mr. Alan Haines
Ms. Amy Henderson
Mrs. Michelle Hoffman
& Mr. Peter Hoffman
Mr. & Mrs. Steven Huff
Mr. & Mrs. John Konal
Ms. June Koval
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Kuebler, Jr.
Ms. Patricia Laube
Mr. & Mrs. Daryl Massey
Mr. & Mrs. Harold McElhaney
Mr. & Mrs. Harold Minnich '53
Mr. & Mrs. John O'Connor '57
Dr. & Dr. Frank O'Linn
Mr. & Mrs. James Pagasky
Mr. & Mrs. J.W. Pagasky
Mr. & Mrs. Louis Pogorelc III
Mr. & Mrs. Doug Roberts
Ms. Trudy Salim
Mrs. Margaret Savoy
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Savoy '85
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Schumacher
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Scopel
Mr. & Mrs. Larry Shaw
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Showalter
SMART Transportation Division
Mr. & Mrs. Matthew St. Marie '83
Mr. & Mrs. Timothy Sullivan
Mr. & Mrs. Kennan Thome
Ms. Anna Kathryn Vajentic
Ms. Mary Vajentic
Villa Angela-St. Joseph High School
Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Weiner
Ms. Kathryn Wineholt
Mrs. Rosemary Ziegman Woconish '53
Mrs. Theresa Wukie

In Memory of Mona Vesely & Robert Vesely
Ms. Barbara Vesely '86

Please note that the memorial Gifts listed here were made in the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020.

If you would like to remember your loved one through donations to Elyria Catholic High School, please contact Elyria Catholic Office of Philanthropy & Engagement at 440.230.8618.

Monsignor Newton Legacy Society

Monsignor Newton Legacy Society Members have included Elyria Catholic High School in their estate plans. These types of gifts secure our school's financial future and leave a lasting legacy of support for our mission. Visit www.elyriacatholic.com/plannedgiving for more information.

Monsignor Newton Legacy Society Members

Fannie Abraham*
Jaye Banville '70*
The David Basinski Family
Mr. Ronald Capasso '71
Jim Cyran '66
Nancy Dowdell '70
Diane Defazio Goold '57
Ronald Gilgenbach '52*
Barbara Gubeno '53*
Sharon Kaczmarczyk
Dr. Paul Minnillo, Sr.
Theresa Nasipak
John W. Ross '58
Lou Rotunda*
Ronald Rybarcyk '70
Alice Stipanovich*
Richard Tarnowski '52
*deceased

EC STUDENTS LEARN SOLIDWORKS

In 2019, Elyria Catholic added an Engineering II elective. Ridge Tool Co. provided the financial assistance to upgrade the thirty computers in the school's media center and purchase a classroom suite of SolidWorks licenses. Craig Riedel, CAD Manager at Beckett Gas Inc. in North Ridgeville, is certified to teach the application and volunteered his time to teach the software to EC students. In December, he spent eight evenings teaching the EC.EXE Robotics Team, who then went on to use the software to design parts for their robot. In January, he spent two weeks with our engineering class. Mr. Riedel had planned to return to teach the same curriculum to the spring engineering classes before the stay-at-home order was issued. EC is currently exploring ways for Mr. Riedel to teach our current engineering students while some of them learn and participate remotely.

HAL AND EILEEN MINNICH SCHOLARSHIP

Hal and Eileen Minnich raised three sons and a daughter, all of whom attended St. Jude School and Elyria Catholic High School. Hal is a 1953 graduate of Elyria Catholic and became treasurer of the Dads' Boosters Club in 1974. He has been organizing the monthly raffle, distributing and selling tickets, and notifying winners ever since. As a result, Dads' Boosters have contributed more than one million dollars over the years toward countless athletic facility projects, including the stadium lights, strength and conditioning program, and most recently the regrading of the athletic field. While Eileen is not an alumnus, she and Hal truly embody the spirit of Elyria Catholic and "loyalty that never dies" through their endless years of service and dedication to the Elyria Catholic community. The Hal and Eileen Minnich Scholarship has been created by the Minnich Family to help students from St. Jude School, who are involved and committed to service, attend Elyria Catholic High School.

RIDGE TOOL AND GETGO SUPPORT THE PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

In response to our need to provide Elyria Catholic Performing Arts students with the latest in hands-on technology to grow their skills, Ridge Tool gave Elyria Catholic $20,000 for its new programmable light board and LED stage lights. This will improve the EC theatrical experience for both our student light crews and our audiences. GetGo celebrated the opening of its new location at 559 Midway Blvd. in Elyria by gifting $5,000 to Elyria Catholic High School for renovations to our Performing Arts Center.

ELYRIA CATHOLIC PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

In April of 2020, Elyria Catholic announced plans to renovate its Performing Arts Center. Due to the generosity of Ridge Tool, Ely Trust, GetGo, 2020 Virtual Gala attendees, and 2020 Golf Classic participants, the first two phases of renovations are complete. The stage has been permanently expanded and includes front fill and side-wash speakers to improve sound quality. The facility features state of the art LED lights that can saturate the stage in a myriad of colors, a wireless programmable console that can hold cues for multiple shows, and an app students can use from their phone to control the cues. The ticket booth and concession stand have been refurbished and an office has been transformed into a make-up and dressing room.

YOU CAN SEE MOST OF THESE IMPROVEMENTS FIRST HAND WHILE VIEWING THE ELYRIA CATHOLIC NIGHT OF MONOLOGUES AT WWW.ELYRIACATHOLIC.COM/PERFORMING-ARTS-CENTER.

In late December and early January, we will complete the third phase of this project. The ceiling, walls, and bleacher area will be painted and twenty-five doors will be replaced.

The final phase of the project involves the installation of 200 dedicated auditorium-style seats on the main floor and new bleacher style seats in the balcony. We cannot complete the last phase of the project until we raise the remaining funds. You can help us complete the project and leave a legacy of giving or honor someone special with the gift of a named seat for $500. All seats will feature a brass name plate on the arm rest that will display individual or family names. These seats make wonderful gifts for students, alumni, or any person who believes in Elyria Catholic or supports Performing Arts. All those who purchase a seat and those whom the seats are named after will receive an invitation to our Ribbon Cutting Ceremony and Meet Your Seat event in the fall of 2021! Please visit **www.elyriacatholic.com/pac-donate** to purchase and name your seat!

There are still some naming rights opportunities for key components of this beautiful facility. Please contact Annie Heidersbach at 440.230.8601 or heidersbach@elyriacatholic.com if you would like to name the stage, sound booth, or the lobby.

Once complete, the EC community will have created a center worthy of the talent of our students, a place of pride for Elyria Catholic High School, and a space for our EC family and the broader community to gather and celebrate.

ELYRIA CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL PERFORMING ARTS CENTER SPONSORS

We are grateful to this group of donors who have already supported the Performing Arts Center and whose names will be displayed in the center and on their seats!

LEADERSHIP SPONSOR
Ridge Tool Co.

DRESSING ROOM SPONSOR
Ely Trust

DIAMOND SPONSOR
Dr. and Mrs. Nicholas Ksenich

PLATINUM SPONSOR
James Aponte ’09
Dr. and Mrs. Dennis Carson
Nate ’10 & Kelly Carson
Class of 1969
Anthony & Lisa Cuevas
Jim Machock ’72 & Kathleen Fuchs Machock ’73
Todd R. Sweda, Ed.D ’84
The Stites Family
Tim Walsh ’90
The Ziegelmeyer Family

SEAT SPONSORS
(as of 11/1/2020)
Nicholas J. Ksenich MD
Maryann Ksenich
Nicholas Ksenich ’10
Abigail Ksenich
Ryan Ksenich ’12
Teresa Ksenich
James Aponte ’09 (2 seats)
Dr. Dennis Carson
Rhonda Carson
Nate Carson ’10
Kelly Carson
Class of 1969 (2 seats)
Katie Cuevas ’16
Anthony Cuevas ’20
Jim Machock ’72
Kathleen Fuchs Machock ’73
Todd R. Sweda, Ed.D ’84 (2 seats)
Tim Walsh ’90 (2 seats)
The Ziegelmeyer Family (2 seats)
Christopher Burton ’02
Lauren B. Campana ’06 & Nicole Campana ’10
In loving memory of Renee Baumbich Decker ’81
The Heidersbach Family
Michelle & Peter Hoffman
The Lester Family - Frank, Suzanne, Justin, Colin ’13, Jacqueline ’17
Raab/Denny Family Emily ’13 Jacob ’23
Megan Scheibelhut ’18
The Stites Family (2 seats)

FOUNDERS' DAY

Elyria Catholic High School celebrated its inaugural Founders' Day on Thursday, September 17, 2020. Elyria Catholic stands on the shoulders of giants like Monsignor William L. Newton who had a vision, garnered public support and raised the funds to create Elyria District Catholic High School. Elyria District Catholic High School started with just 19 pupils attending their first day of classes on September 17, 1947 in the Marian Building on the St. Mary School – Elyria Campus.

Elyria Catholic students celebrated Founders' Day by writing an original prayer in honor of our founders, participating in an early EC history lesson and trivia contest, enjoying an ice cream treat from Chris's Ice Cream Truck courtesy of Jake O'Connor '57, and dance walking to music from different decades played during class switches. The Monsignor Newton Conference Room was formally dedicated. Special guests included Father Tom and Father Charlie from St. Mary Parish in Elyria, and members of William Hartman's family – daughter Kathleen Hartman Haskins and granddaughter Jennifer Fada-Dolin. William Hartman was one of the original proponents of the school and is pictured to the left of Monsignor Newton in the photo of the groundbreaking for Elyria District Catholic High School.

The rest of the EC family in Lorain County and across the United States enjoyed hourly social media posts and several emails that featured twelve videos. Some of the videos documented the early history of Elyria District Catholic High School and its caring founders. Most of the videos included current students and recent alumni who demonstrated how EC's caring community remains a tradition that we continue to treasure today.

EC's caring community was clearly evident in the incredible response to care for our students by making a gift to the Elyria Catholic Annual Fund. Five donors, Dennis O'Neal '58, Steve Komives '65, Jim Cyran '66, Mike Essenmacher '94, and the Dan and Mila Reaser Family Foundation (Dan Reaser '78, Danny Reaser '11, and Shannon Reaser '15) came forward to match gifts up to $20,500 and another 175 members of the EC community responded to the challenge surpassing our goal of $41,000 to provide over $67,000 to our students! Thank you, Elyria Catholic Family!

You can still make a gift to the Elyria Catholic Annual Fund by visiting www.elyriacatholic.com/give, sending your check to the Philanthropy & Engagement Office at Elyria Catholic High School or by calling Michelle Hoffman at 440.230.8618.

ELYRIA DISTRICT CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL EARLY HISTORY

Born in Cleveland in 1894, Monsignor Willam L. Newton was a scholar, teacher, and a leader. He completed his seminary studies at St. Mary Seminary. After teaching in Catholic schools, he eventually studied at the Pontificate Sacred Biblical Institute in Rome and is one of a few American scholars to earn a Doctor of Sacred Scripture. Monsignor Newton prepared the entire Gospel of St. John for the 1941 revised version of the New Testament. Monsignor Newton served as a parish priest for 37 years including service at St. Mary School – Elyria from 1945 to 1968. As a pastor, he was the first in the Diocese of Cleveland to employ a lay theologian, form a parish senate and join a multi-denominational council of churches. He helped establish both Elyria District Catholic High School and the Catholic Interracial Council in Lorain County.

"That They May Advance in Wisdom and Age and Grace" was the call put forward by Monsignor Newton and eight other priests from parishes in Elyria, North Ridgeville, Amherst, Oberlin, and Grafton. Their goal was to raise $200,000 to fund the building on the corner of Gulf and Poplar that would become Elyria District Catholic High School. Community members were asked to give between $200 and $500 to be listed on the "Founders Roll" Memorial plaque. Additional benefactors provided gifts to fund specific rooms in the new building including the chapel, science labs, library, cafeteria, gymnasium, locker rooms, and a community room for the Sisters of Notre Dame. The new building opened for students on September 9, 1949. The bronze plaques honoring all of the founding donors can still be found at Elyria Catholic High School today.

Graduation Day

We knew it would be difficult for the Class of 2020 to miss the final walk that takes them through Our Lady of Grace Chapel down Gulf and Poplar and then to the entrance of the Coliseum, so we created what we have lovingly called the "22-Hour Graduation." Yes, it was 22 hours long. Each graduate of the Class of 2020 was scheduled a time to come in with their family (living with them), take their abbreviated graduation walk down the stairs with their name being read by Tom Taylor '79, Assistant Principal, and pick up their diploma cover laid out by Suzanne Lester, Principal. We had 4 full days of filming beginning on Wednesday, May 13 through Saturday, May 16. Not only did we film each student, along with speeches by our Valedictorian, Salutatorian and class officers, but we also captured the hat toss and photos with families. The video footage and photos were compiled into a video that was released on our website at 6 pm on May 22, 2020. The video along with the awards ceremony are still viewable at https://www.elyriacatholic.com/virtual-celebration-of-class-of-2020. It may not have been a traditional commencement ceremony, but there were still smiles, grateful thank yous from our families, tears of joy and laughter and cheering. We honestly enjoyed having the opportunity to speak to each graduate and their families each day. We were proud of how the EC community came together to make this a memorable occasion for everyone.

EC Cares

Please support the Elyria Catholic Annual Fund

The Elyria Catholic Annual Fund touches every aspect of the EC student experience including instruction, campus ministry, athletics, co-curricular activities, and more! It is only through the generous support of our alumni, parents, and friends that we can continue our tradition of educating young men and women in the Catholic tradition in Lorain County.

LEAD THE EFFORT!

The **President's Society, Leadership Society, and Our Lady of Grace Society** are comprised of lead benefactors to Elyria Catholic students. Membership is open to all individuals, companies, and foundations that make a gift or gifts annually by June 30th. Members receive an engraved brick in the Our Lady of Grace Grotto with their first gift, an invitation to our annual President's Reception, and appropriate recognition in *The Panther Prowl*. In non-COVID-19 years, members also receive two tickets to all regular season home sporting events and plays and musicals.

$5,000 and up
President's Society

$2,500 and up
Leadership Society

$1,000 and up
Our Lady of Grace Society

Issy Martin-Dye '21, Senior Senate President

EC students create in the MakerSpace

MAKE A BIGGER IMPACT! NEW!

MONTHLY MISSION CLUB

Join the **NEW EC Monthly Mission Club** by arranging **monthly recurring** gifts at www.elyriacatholic.com/give or by calling Michelle Hoffman at 440.230.8618. Members receive the latest EC news from President Annie Heidersbach with their monthly acknowledgement letters and an invitation to a Panther Football President's Reception in 2021. The EC Monthly Mission Club allows us to plan for and complete long-term projects and respond to urgent needs without delay.

LEAVE A LEGACY!

Members of the Monsignor Newton Legacy Society have included Elyria Catholic in their estate plans, securing our school's financial future and leaving a lasting legacy of support for our mission. Please contact Michelle Hoffman at 440.230.8618 if you have questions about joining this Society or if you have already included Elyria Catholic in your estate plans. You can also visit www.elyriacatholic.com/plannedgiving for more information.

Dedication of the Monsignor Newton Conference Room

432
The number of students served by the Annual Fund

8,000
The number of service hours completed by EC students annually

$1,400,000
The amount of tuition assistance EC students received for the 20-21 school year

$9,614,108
The amount of scholarships and grants earned by the Class of 2020 to attend college

Please make a gift to the Elyria Catholic Annual Fund by returning the enclosed envelope, or online at www.elyriacatholic.com/give or by calling Michelle Hoffman, Director of Philanthropy & Engagement at 440.230.8618.

Elyria Catholic High School
725 Gulf Road
Elyria, OH 44035-3697
440.365.1821
elyriacatholic.com

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Since we could not do our traditional Christmas on Campus due to COVID-19, the entire school put their efforts into supporting the Salvation Army's Not Forgotten Box and delivered them to the *Chronicle Telegram*.

Prowl with a Panther

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, our Panther for a Day program has been modified from an all day visit to a personalized hour-long tour during a school day.

Schedule a visit with Terry Ziegelmeyer, Director of Admission at 440.230.8606