

THE IRISH CONNECTION

WINTER 2025

*A Season of Joy,
a Season of Giving*



 **CATHOLIC SCHOOLS**
of Greater Kalamazoo

Hackett Catholic Prep
St. Monica Catholic School
St. Augustine Cathedral School



What a great pleasure it is to invite the students of St. Monica to fill this space for our special giving edition. Expressing the impact of a Catholic education is to express joy, and I am pleased to extend a sincere thank you to Principal Jennifer Crawford and the wonderful teachers at St. Monica for asking their students, "Why do you like St. Monica?"

Keith Crowell, Advancement Director
Catholic Schools of Greater Kalamazoo
KCrowell@csgk.org

"I like working with the pieces in the Atrium and learning about God."
– Anthony (Kindergarten)

"I appreciate the teachers."
– Abigail (Kindergarten)

"I appreciate the big playground and big slide."
– Sophie (Kindergarten)

"I appreciate the teachers and technology."
– Maria (Kindergarten)

"I love it because everyone treats everybody the same just like God sees us the same. I also love my teacher and friends. It is like a huge family. They support me through my Catholic education. I love going to Mass and praying. I love my Catholic school!"
– Jane (4th Grade)

"I love Saint Monica because there is always something fun happening. There are so many amazing teachers. They are so kind, funny, and smart. My faith is way stronger than it was. Also my education is also very strong. Saint Monica is an amazing school. I love it here."
– Annalise (4th Grade)

"I appreciate my Catholic school because we always go to mass. I love the choir. I love the library. Why? I love all the books. I appreciate St. Monica!"
– Vivienne (5th Grade)

"My school offers many opportunities to help other people. We go to Mass twice a week and have raffles and food drives to help those in need."
– Christopher (6th Grade)

"We are the next generation of the Church. As JP II said, "This is a wonderful community filled with fellowship and love." God Bless You"
– Jakub (6th Grade)

"I have the best friends who always have my back. My teachers always help me understand, even when I'm confused. We also do really fun things."
– Grace (6th Grade)

"I appreciate my catholic school because I LOVE talking about Jesus and faith. I also like playing with my friends."
– Jayden (6th Grade)

"What I love about St. Monica is the education we get. I also love that we get to learn about God in every lesson. If you are sad, there are people everywhere cheering you up. They set you up for the future at Hackett."
– Caroline (7th Grade)

"I get to go to Mass and theology during the day. I get to grow with other people who believe in the same things. They help me grow in my faith."
– Liliana (8th Grade)

"I appreciate that my school keeps my faith strong and healthy. My school is a great wonder of God's love and how we show it. If I ever have kids, I'd be proud to send them to St. Monica."
– Monica (8th Grade)

"I get to grow up with people who help build up my faith. We get to learn about God every day, and not just in Theology, but in every class we take. It is comforting to see all the other people in my school working towards the same thing as me - Heaven."
– Olivia (8th Grade)

Always be joyful; pray constantly; and for all things give thanks; this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus.
– 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Amen



Legends of Christmas Reindeer, just in time for Christmas



Author Ashley Schiavone (St. Augustine, HCP 2000) has published a new book just in time for Christmas, *The Wild and Magical Legends of Christmas Reindeer*.

Following her graduation from Hackett, Schiavone attended the University of Michigan and Bastyr University in Washington and currently resides in Seattle with her husband and two daughters, where she enjoys hiking,

mountain biking, and spending time in her garden.

Schiavone says she discovered her love of writing while at Hackett. "I was especially inspired by Mrs. Bishop, who introduced me to mythology and great authors," says Schiavone. "She expanded my literary world and showed how stories and creativity connected to everyday life." Beyond the classroom, her favorite memories from Hackett include playing on the soccer team—the camaraderie, teamwork, and pure joy of the game



remain highlights of her high school years.

The Wild and Magical Legends of Christmas Reindeer is now available online and at popular book retailers.

Athletic Hall of Fame Nominations

The CSGK Athletic Hall of Fame selection committee is looking for nominations!

Who from your era was a standout athlete who embodied the spirit and faith of our Catholic schools?

All nominations received by December 31 will be eligible for consideration in the 2026 class of inductees, and nominees remain eligible for consideration for 10 years. Nominations can be made by sending supporting information to **HallofFame@HackettCP.org** or by mail to Hall of Fame, 1000 W. Kilgore Rd. Kalamazoo, MI 49008.



Catholic Schools Week: JANUARY 25 – 31, 2026

Join us in celebrating Catholic Schools Week! This special week is a wonderful opportunity for anyone interested in learning more about our schools to experience what makes a Catholic education so special.

Can't make it during that week? We are always happy to schedule a tour or arrange a shadow day for prospective students.

We invite families and community members to connect with our **Catholic Schools of Greater Kalamazoo:**

- Hackett Catholic Prep
- St. Augustine Cathedral School
- St. Monica Catholic School

For more information, please visit **www.csgk.org** or contact Michele Buchmann, mbuchmann@csgk.org, 269-381-2646 ext. 120



Catholic Schools
United in Faith and Community

Online enrollment for the 2026-2027 school year will open in January.

For more information contact:

Michele Buchmann
Admissions and Enrollment
Catholic Schools of
Greater Kalamazoo
mbuchmann@csgk.org
269.381.2646 Ext. 120

The Catholic Schools of Greater Kalamazoo Annual Impact Report is now available online

Scan the QR code or go the **CSGK.org**. Printed versions will be mailed on request to KCrowell@csgk.org.





God bless our St. Augustine Legacy Celebration team, led by Sarah Morgan and Elizabeth Ratti! Thank you to the entire Legacy Celebration committee and all the volunteers who helped with the event. Thank you to our many, many supporters, including those who donated auction items, those who offered sponsorships and donations, and those who came and bid! What a wonderful Legacy Celebration!



Students at Hackett welcomed nearly 200 Trunk-or-Treaters from St. Augustine and St. Monica in October



St. Augustine students Annabelle Basch, Gracie Basch, and Niam Bhatt, performed in the musical Madagascar Jr., presented by Center Stage Theater in Comstock in October. Annabelle played Mason the Chimpanzee, Gracie played Gloria the Hippo, and Niam played multiple roles as part of the ensemble.



St. Monica Students Celebrate All Saints Day with Creative Expression

St. Monica's kindergarten through 4th grade students participated in a Guess the Saint contest, in which students had the opportunity to dress as their favorite saint. Students prepared and presented three facts about their saint and read them to a panel of clergy, who tried to guess the saint. Fifth through 8th grade students presented the lives of their saints in small groups. Each group presented the saint by preparing a poster, dressing up, and giving a short speech.



Congratulations to St. Monica's Student Council which raised \$1,000 for Catholic Charities Diocese of Kalamazoo, represented by Director Toni Newell (right). Under the guidance of Middle School ELA teacher Jen Whiting (left), each class created a saint pumpkin, and students voted for their favorites with donations.



A Heartfelt Thank You!

We extend our heartfelt thanks to all our parents and student volunteers who helped make Fall Fest such a great success! It was a wonderful evening filled with community and fun.

Families enjoyed delicious pizza, donuts, popcorn, and apples, and gathered to watch the live-action version of *How to Train Your Dragon*. The inflatables and craft activities were a huge hit with the kids and added to the excitement of the day.

Fall Fest would not have been possible without the incredible efforts of our committee members: Sarah Edinger, Stephanie Flach, Nina Laney, Lynnette Matar, and Ann Schultz.

A special thank you to Dan Schultz for providing hayrides and to Ms. McKinney for sharing her amazing face-painting talents.

We are also grateful to Gull Meadow Farms for donating their delicious donuts and apples, and to Schultz Farm for their generous donation of apples.

Our appreciation extends to T & L Rentals and Inflatables for donating the inflatable obstacle course and bouncy castle.

Finally, thank you to all our parents and students for coming out to enjoy the activities and celebrate our school community together!

Jennifer Crawford, Principal
St. Monica Catholic School



Thank you for my Catholic Education



MARK SUNDBERG

From my first day of kindergarten to this very day, I have attended Catholic schools. As a young boy, I never questioned the idea that I was praying and learning about God in School. I can still remember the first time I was told that not all schools have these

opportunities, and how shocked I was. Every child deserves the opportunities that I have had at CSGK schools, and these opportunities are only possible because of your generosity.

I come before you today, filled with gratitude for the hours of dedication and the support that you have given me and my peers. Truly, this community of schools mirrors Christ's selfless love. I can attest to the kindness our schools have shown. In my freshman year, I started at Hackett only knowing one other student. From the very first football practice and the first day of school, I have felt like everyone welcomed me into the Hackett family.

The children who have gone through these schools are growing up with a Christ-centered foundation. It is such a blessing that our teachers view us as made in Christ's own image. At the CSGK schools, we are not mere numbers or machines that need to be filled with information. Our teachers go to work every day, devoted to teaching us with care, nurturing us into the bright lights of the world which we strive to be.

Our teachers are committed to preparing students for life by forming the whole person. They work tirelessly to ensure students are able to think for themselves and have a firm foundation rooted in a life of virtue. Through the examples of teachers and you, the benefactors, we are growing up armed with resources to accomplish our goals. Our schools form us more than academically. They form us to be good citizens, coworkers, husbands, wives, mothers, and fathers.

If our schools did not have support from you, none of this would be possible. By supporting our schools, you not only affect our

small community; but by supporting us, you allow us to carry on our faith and utilize it to make a difference in the communities we will be a part of in our futures.

Thank you for your Christ-like generosity. Know that we students will be forever grateful for your support, and please know that we keep you in our daily prayers.



PAIGE ZEIGLER

Ever since I first arrived at St. Augustine in the seventh grade, I knew something was different. I was no longer just a number among hundreds of other students, but instead, I was treated as a person who was valued by everyone I walked past in the

halls. I was invested in and given the opportunity to grow in my academics, sports, and other extracurriculars.

Beyond that, I was given the opportunity to not only grow in my faith but to flourish. With our weekly Masses on weekends and adoration on Fridays, we are truly blessed to get to know Christ on a deeper level. I was also given the opportunity to form friendships that are so much more meaningful, especially with them being rooted in faith. The community we have at Hackett is unmatched.

We are given the ability to come together and support each other through hardships.

When I was a freshman, everyone would talk about how Hackett was a "Family," and as a new student, you never really believe that the very kids surrounding you are part of a family, but as you come to struggle and succeed together, you start to look around and realize that these once strange faces do become one family. This would not be possible without every one of you.

The only thing that made all this possible is the support you give to our schools. So, speaking on behalf of all the CSGK students, we are deeply grateful and thankful toward you!

In Memory 2025

McDonald (Derhammer), Carol A. '59
Caro, Frank '49
Peterman (Courtois), Barbara A. '50
Sherwood (Foley), Marjorie A. '50
Oosterbaan (Buczowski), Joan '85
Watson (Stacy), Lisa '86
Eodchick (Spicketts), Patricia '43
Thompson, Scott M. '79
Daneck, Judy '69

Kilmartin, Timothy J. '77
O'Connor, Francis J. '73
Wyant, Kelly L. '92
Stersic, Thomas C. '59
Hiatt, Stephen A. '79
Sage (Griffith), Frances '56
Murray (Moskalik), Christiana M. '67
Spencer (Perry), Mary '61
Oostveen, Donald J. '64
Bogren (O'Brien), Phyllis A. '53
Flach, Donald '56
Fleckenstein (Lemon), Mary Lou '53

Kuehl (Mazzola), Maria '62
Raderstorf, Erin R. '95
Kavanaugh, Gracie '26
Gabrion (Powers), Margaret '49
Bowers, Joseph A. '66
James (Kerchner), Melissa "Lissa" A. '88
Munro (Maul), Marian L. '63
Juzwiak, Mary Jeanne (Fleckenstein) '53
Wright, Aaron J. '76
Russell (Chadderdon), Vera M. '47
Hotchkiss (Honeysett), Lisa '76
Adair (Cagney), Margaret A. '48

Alumni Memory

Frank Caro
Carol Krenek
Diane Bishop
Nancy DiBella
Michael McGuigan
Sr. Rita Schafer, CSJ

Support our Annual Campaign

AN INVESTMENT AND A GIFT

Your gift will enable discovery and dreams through God to become a part of our children's daily lives.

Be the person who helps another child:

- Discover God
- Experience belonging
- Pursue their vision
- Achieve beyond their wildest dreams

And whoever gives one of these little ones even a cup of cold water because he is a disciple, truly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward.

– Matthew 10:42



CATHOLIC SCHOOLS
of Greater Kalamazoo

PHOTOS BY RACHEL O - RENIER RESOURCES, LLC

YOUR GIFT TO THE CSGK ANNUAL FUND CAN BE MADE IN SEVERAL WAYS

- 1) Give now **ONLINE** at <https://www.csgk.org/annual-fund>, or scan the **QR CODE**
- 2) Set up a **RECURRING GIFT** online at [csgk.org/giving](https://www.csgk.org/giving)
- 3) Tear off this remittance slip and return it with a **CHECK** to CSGK
- 4) For stock, estate and other giving options, contact Keith Crowell at KCrowell@csgk.org



Name _____

Address _____ City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

☐ Enclosed is my check to CSGK

Please mail checks with this slip to: Catholic Schools of Greater Kalamazoo • 1000 W. Kilgore Rd • Kalamazoo, MI 49008

☐ Please charge my gift to: ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ American Express ☐ Discover Amount _____

Account # _____ Exp date _____ CVV _____

Optional: In Honor / Memory (please circle one) of _____

Please use my gift: ☐ Where the need is greatest ☐ Other (please specify) _____

Props to Hackett's Fall Sports Standouts *Way to Go Irish!*

UNITED FOOTBALL
2026 District Champions!

Boys and Girls Cross Country

TEAM HONORS

- Girls, Regional Champions
- Boys, Regional Champions
- Girls, 4th place at State
- Boys, 7th place at State



INDIVIDUAL HONORS

Marek Butkiewicz

- First overall at State for the second year
- Personal Best 14:59, at Gabriel Richard
- Offered and accepted, Letter of Intent to run Cross Country and Distance Track at Michigan State

Additional Medal Winners at State

- Emma Riker (3rd place), Sean Siems (10), Kiera Piper (20)

COACHING HONORS

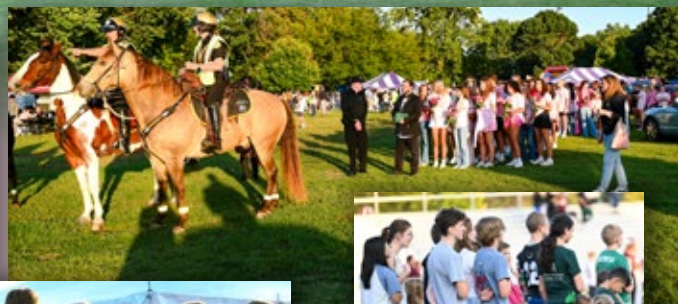
- **Head Coach Charissa Dean**, Regional Coach of the Year, Boys and Girls

Kickboxing

Gio Medina

- WAKO North American Champion
- Team member of the USA Kickboxing Team

Students paid tribute to former Hackett student Gracie Kavanaugh, who passed over the summer, at the homecoming tailgate and game, entering the stadium in a procession led by a bagpiper and Hackett Chaplain Fr. Thomas McNally, and St. Catherine Pastor Fr. Mark Vyverman.



PHOTOS BY RACHEL O - RENIER RESOURCES, LLC

Hackett Catholic Prep Proudly Presents

Washington Irving's

Rip Van Winkle

Adapted by Parker Hosner



Scan to order
tickets here

*December 12 at 7 pm
December 13 at 2 pm & 7 pm*

*Ticket Prices
Students & Seniors \$10
Adults \$12*

Adaptation by Parker Hosner. Hosner is a senior at Hackett Catholic Prep, where he has been a theatre participant since his freshman year. Hosner looks forward to continuing to develop his craft in the arts in college, pursuing studies in filmmaking.

Hackett students recognize those who have passed at November Memorial Mass



PHOTOS BY RACHEL O - RENIER RESOURCES, LLC

Congratulations to Bethany Carpenter and Marek Butkiewicz, 2025-26 Homecoming Queen and King



PHOTO BY RACHEL O - RENIER RESOURCES, LLC

MSUFCU JAZZ ARTIST in RESIDENCE



Reké Marie, jazz voice

WITH
**Michigan State University
Jazz Orchestra 1**

AND *Hackett Jazz Band and
the Kalamazoo Central H.S. Jazz Band*

Thursday, December 4, 2025 7pm
HACKETT CATHOLIC PREP AUDITORIUM

Tickets \$10 Adults, \$5 Students K-12

Advance tickets online at
hackettband.ludus.com



Tickets also available
at the door

All proceeds support the Hackett Bands



Thank you to everyone who made the Catholic Schools annual Homecoming Tailgate a Spectacular success!



CSGK's Wall of Honor Continues Growth

Nearly two dozen additional veterans have been identified since the July debut of CSGK's Wall of Honor in Alumni Hallway at Hackett. Featuring over 700 former students of Kalamazoo Catholic Schools, this memorial represents a deep history of service men and women who served in the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard, US Public Health Service, and Space Force. Twenty-one died in the line of duty.

Created and curated by Tyline Zimmerman, CSGK Advancement Assistant, the memorial is designed with the idea that it will forever be updated, as families share details of veteran relatives who attended Kalamazoo Catholic Schools, and as new graduates enlist in the armed services.

The earliest veteran identified to date is Henry C. Madigan, an Army serviceman who graduated from Gibbons Hall in 1924, while the newest member is HCP 2025 graduate Nolan Silkworth, now serving in the Marines. With the schools dating to 1851, there are many more veteran students to be discovered, and Zimmerman is especially looking forward to receiving the first lead of a veteran who graduated before 1900.

Families of veterans are encouraged to scan the QR code on the right to see if their relative is represented and if not, contact Zimmerman with their service information.



Twenty-two additional veterans have been identified since the memorial's dedication:

Esther C. (Block) Brooks '39 Army
Richard "Dick" Cagney '46 Navy
James "Jim" J. Carroll '47 Air Force
Agnes V. (Saddler) Carson '41 Army
Harold P. Chadderdon '40 Army
Joseph D. Chadderdon '39 Navy
Lawrence "Larry" R. Clauss '48 Army
James M. Cloney '37 Army
John P. Corryn '50 Air Force
Michael "Mike" J. Cunningham '44 Army
Paul V. Cusano '46 Army
Frederick "Fred" W. Dyke '43 Army
Bernard "Bernie" M. Fill '44 Marines
Donald "Don" G. Foster '41 Army
James "Jim" T. Geiger '47 Navy
Norbert "Norb" J. Hammill '50 Air Force
James "Jim" W. Koestner '42 Army
Stanley F. Kolodzieczyk '41 Army
Mary Lou (Van De Mortel) Martin '44 Army
Robert "Bob" F. O'Brien '40 Navy
William "Bill" J. O'Donoghue, III '39 Army
William A. Redmond '43 Navy

Scan this QR code to view the full list of veterans currently represented. An updated memorial will be produced after the first of the year. To report additional veterans for inclusion, contact Tyline Zimmerman at TZimmerman@csgek.org or 269-381-2646



Help keep us connected!

HOW DO YOU KNOW IF YOUR INFORMATION IS UP TO DATE?

We want to make sure we're reaching you with news, events, and announcements from the world of Advancement—Homecoming, Hall of Fame, reunion news, and other Irish family information.

MAILING ADDRESSES

If you received this magazine at home, your address is accurate. If you have a different winter address, let us know so we can forward your mail during the dates you specify.

EMAIL ADDRESSES

A few times per year we send information via email. If you aren't sure you're receiving these messages, send us your email address and we'll confirm or add it.

PARISH

If you picked this up at your parish, we would love to add you to our mailing list for free home delivery.



We also want to keep your adult kids in the loop so please let us know their home and email addresses.

TO ADD, CHANGE, OR CONFIRM INFORMATION

Please email Tyline Zimmerman at TZimmerman@csgek.org or by mail to: CSGK Advancement, 1000 W. Kilgore, Kalamazoo, MI 49008.

Thank you for your help keeping us in touch!

THE IRISH CONNECTION

CSGK Advancement Office
kcrowell@csgk.org

CSGK Advancement Office
1000 W. Kilgore Road
Kalamazoo, MI 49008

CSGK.org



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For information on becoming a sponsor of Irish Connection and other CSGK outreach, contact Keith Crowell, Advancement Director, at kcrowell@csgk.org



H HACKETT
CATHOLIC PREP
MORE THAN HIGH SCHOOL

