



**HASTINGS  
CATHOLIC  
EDUCATION  
FOUNDATION**

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Mailing information

**Meet the HCEF Board of Directors**

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**Phone (SEAS School):** 651-437-3098

**Join us for Spring Fling 2025**

Next year’s Spring Fling fundraising event — Denim & Diamonds — is scheduled for **Friday, April 25, 2025.**

It’s where country casual meets glam for a night of great food, lively entertainment and a silent auction you won’t want to miss — all to support SEAS School.

The event will be held at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church and will include dinner by Hastings Public House and live auction by O’Sullivan Auctioneers. This event is open to everyone, please spread the word.

Let’s come together to make a difference and have a blast while doing it!

Visit [HastingsCatholicEducationFoundation.org](http://HastingsCatholicEducationFoundation.org) as more information will be available in the coming months.

**HCEF is a 501c3 nonprofit organization.**



**Hastings Catholic Education Foundation  
Fall 2024 Newsletter**

**Message from the Principal**



Dear friends of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School:

The school year is off to a great start! Our students and teachers have settled into their new routines and schedules.

Thanks to **your** continued generosity and the support from the Hastings Catholic Education Foundation, we’ve purchased new furniture throughout the school.

Students and staff alike love the new desks, tables and chairs purchased with the money raised at this past Spring Fling. I know it may sound weird, but having matching furniture in the classrooms gives the school a cleaner, brighter look. We are so grateful to all the donors who made this possible!

Our students have returned from summer break ready to learn, demonstrating high-levels of engagement in their classrooms. Participation in class discussions and activities have been impressive, contributing to an active and productive learning environment. As a school, our fall NWEA MAP scores were very good:

- **23 out of 24 class scores were well over the average levels in Minnesota.**
- **Eighth graders scored above the 11th grade level for both math and language arts.**

We are so proud of our students and we will continue to challenge them to be their best.

As I’ve mentioned before, our school exists to help make Christ known and loved to all our students and our community. The time, talent and treasure shared as well as the prayers for our school from everyone in the community is greatly appreciated. Along with the parish, our goal is to form joyful disciples who go out and make a difference in our world — and our students and graduates are doing that each and every day.

As we look towards 2025, we humbly ask for your prayers that our students and school continue to thrive. Your prayers uplift and sustain us in ways that words cannot fully comprehend.

If you are able, please consider supporting us financially. Every contribution to the school, parish or HCEF, helps us further our mission to make Christ known and loved.

In Christ’s love,

Tim Sullivan  
SEAS Principal  
651-437-3098 , [tsullivan@seas-school.org](mailto:tsullivan@seas-school.org)



# A message from the HCEF Board President: Your donations are making a difference



Dear Friends and Supporters of Catholic Education,

As we gather to celebrate Thanksgiving and the joyous season of Christmas, we are deeply grateful for the unwavering support you've shown to SEAS School and the Hastings Catholic Education Foundation (HCEF). Your generosity continues to make a lasting impact on our students while transforming their lives and strengthening our community.

The HCEF is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to financially supporting SEAS School and Catholic education. Our mission is to grow our foundation to create a sustainable funding source that enhances educational programs, keeps tuition affordable and reduces the financial burden on our parish. By growing our endowment, we aim to create a lasting legacy that supports our children's education for generations. Since our inception in 2018, we've made significant strides:

- **Investments in Education:** By the end of 2024, the foundation will have invested **\$488,000** in operations and special projects at SEAS School.
- **2024 Contributions:** This year alone, the Foundation and its generous donors will contribute **\$108,000** towards school improvements and operations.
- **Spring Fling Success:** This year's Spring Fling raised **\$204,576**, with expenses of **\$24,827**, resulting in a net income of **\$179,749**.
- **Additional Donations:** Last year, we received additional generous contributions totaling **\$21,345**.

These funds have been pivotal in providing state-of-the-art technology such as Smart Boards and Chromebooks, and creating an engaging learning environment where our students thrive.

We are inspired by local institutions who have substantial endowments that significantly support their annual operations.

- **University of St. Thomas:** as of 2023, has an endowment fund of \$874.35 million. It funds 80% of scholarships, totaling \$22.7 million annually, making education accessible to many students.
- **Cretin-Derham Hall:** an endowment fund of \$49.7 million. In 2023, the school provided \$3 million in annual financial aid, helping families afford a quality education.
- **Hill-Murray:** an endowment fund of \$10.5 million with an additional \$10 million in commitments to their endowment. They currently draw 4% off the fund each year which is approximately \$400,000 to support operations.

Establishing a substantial endowment would enable us to make annual contributions to cover school expenses, invest in advanced technology, keep our curriculum competitive, and enhance our programs and resources. It would also help us attract and retain exceptional educators, ensuring our students receive a high-quality education. Additionally, we could improve our facilities to provide a safe and inspiring learning environment, whether by upgrading our existing school or building a new one next to the church when the time is right. This endowment would also help bridge the gap between the \$9,318 cost to educate each student and the current tuition rates (\$4,930 for parish families and \$6,275 for non-parish students) easing the financial burden on families and the parish.

**Your support is crucial in reaching this ambitious goal. Please consider making a tax-deductible year-end gift to HCEF. An envelope is enclosed for your convenience. Every contribution brings us closer to providing the best for our children and our community.**

Your generosity is the cornerstone of our mission. Together, we can build a foundation that not only supports but elevates Catholic education in Hastings. Let's make SEAS School a place where dreams are nurtured and futures are forged.

May your holidays be filled with love, joy, and the blessings you so generously share with others.

With deepest gratitude,

**Leon J. Endres, HCEF Board President**

## From Student to School Teacher

*Meet Mr. Brian Schommer, alumnus of Hastings Parochial and now a teacher at SEAS School.*



**How long have you been teaching at SEAS and what subject do you teach?**

This is my first year and I teach K-8 physical education and seventh grade health.

**What do you enjoy most about teaching at SEAS? What's it like being back in the school where your education journey started?**

The nostalgia of being "back to my educational roots" is pretty awesome. So many incredible memories! What I enjoy most about teaching at SEAS is being able to make a difference in the lives of others on a daily basis, the ability to share my faith and be a positive influence on the kids.

**What role has Catholic education played in your life?**

I started my career in youth ministry after graduating from Saint Mary's in Winona. Catholic education is the cornerstone of a huge part of my values and the way I strive to live my life. My Catholic faith and education provide the understanding that while I may stumble, God is there to not only catch me as I fall but also to pick me up.

**Favorite memory from your time at Hastings Parochial?**

There are so many, but it has to be the championships we won in eighth grade in both football and basketball. And of course the many awesome teachers we had and being able to maintain lifelong friendships with so many of my classmates.

**Your donation — of any amount — is making a difference.**

If you'd like a tour of our school and see our newest improvements — all thanks to donors like you — contact the school at 651-437-3098. If you'd like to support the foundation, use the enclosed envelope.

## Maximize Your Impact with Tax-Advantaged Giving

**Appreciated Stocks:** Donating stocks that have increased in value can provide significant tax benefits.

**Bundled Donations:** If you typically take the standard deduction, consider combining multiple years of contributions into one to maximize your tax benefit.

**Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs):** If you're an IRA owner aged 70 and a half or older, you can make a donation directly from your IRA. This can count towards your required minimum distribution and may offer tax advantages.

*Please consult your tax advisor to explore these options.*

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