



THE SHIELD

Volume 8, Issue 2 Winter 2021

Knights make history with undefeated season



Photo courtesy of Andy Ratchman, Camera Casino

The Knights celebrated an undefeated season in their final game against Randolph High School with special thank you messages to head coach Kevin Wopat, who missed the season's final games due to COVID.

Before the Lourdes Academy Knights started their season, they hoped to join the 1974 football team as fellow state champions. In the midst of a pandemic, the season didn't play out the way they hoped, but it was noteworthy all the same.

The Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association (WIAA) offered teams the option to play fall sports under a modified schedule, move them to spring, or cancel them altogether. Lourdes elected to play. The WIAA pushed the start date of the season back five weeks, thus eliminating two weeks of the regular season and three weeks of the playoffs, including the state championship game.

While the Knights missed the opportunity to become state champs, they did become the first team in school history to finish with a perfect season (9-0), and they left a trail of school records in their wake.

Quarterback Joshua Bauer ('21) became the 31st player in state history to throw for 32 or more touchdowns in a season. He also set school records by throwing 34 individual season touchdown passes, 76 career touchdown passes, and 5,704 career passing yards.

Wide receiver Preston Ruedinger ('21) also set records with 26 career receiving touchdowns, 54 single season receptions and 847 single season receiving yards.

"We were able to accomplish a lot despite covid and a schedule that was always in flux," said Lourdes Activities Director and Head Football Coach Kevin Wopat. "We played three teams that were our originally scheduled opponents out of nine games. We played six teams who finished the season with a winning record and beat two other conference champs from larger conferences."

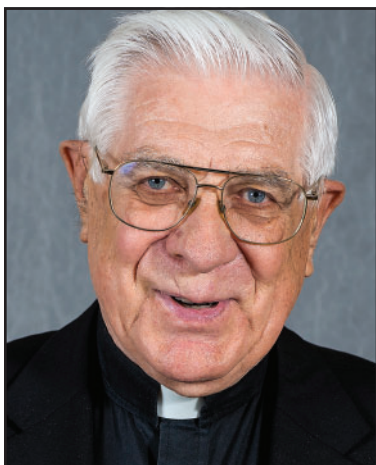
"Lourdes Academy has a proud tradition of athletic success that spans decades. This year's team wanted to join the 1974 team as the only state champions in school history, but we will appreciate the fact that we got to play, much less play nine games this fall," he added. 🏈

It's a Great day to be a Knight!

Sending Birthday blessings!

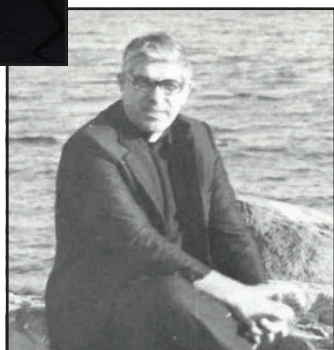


Ruth McKone shared a memory last year of her time at Lourdes. She helped keep the high school office running and in good order for many years as the school secretary. On January 8, 2021, she celebrates her 100th birthday. Congratulations Mrs. McKone.



Fr. John Dewane, former administrator of Lourdes High School, also celebrates his 86th birthday on January 7, 2021.

God's blessings to you both on your birthdays.



Welcome back Class of 1968

The "Yada Yada" gals from the Class of 1968 celebrated birthdays at South Park. Seated left to right: Amy Heinbinger Kraemer, Barbara Kriha Berlowski and Marilyn Peterson Krueger. Standing left to right: Marie Belongie Kemp, Kathy Noe Rutz and Barbara Cieszynski Hubertus.



Lady Knights compete at state



Sophomore Lady Knights Molly Moore (left) and Mary Husman (right) competed in the state Cross Country meet placing 46th and 19th respectively. Congratulations Lady Knights!

Grow in faith with Lourdes

FAMILY CONNECTIONS

WHAT: A PRAYER FOCUS AND ACTIVITY FOR THE FAMILY TO DO TOGETHER & GROW IN THEIR FAITH

PRAYER FOCUS: THAT YOUR FAMILY MIGHT BE A REFLECTION OF CHRIST'S LOVE COMING INTO THIS WORLD

ACTIVITY: VOLUNTEER FOR ADVENT! HELP OUT AT CHURCH, MAKE A TIE BLANKET FOR SOMEONE IN NEED, MAKE TRAY FAVORS FOR PEOPLE AT THE HOSPITAL, ETC.

Are you looking to expand your faith life and to help others in need? Join Lourdes Academy for its monthly Family Connections. Family Connections features a prayer focus and volunteer activities. Visit www.Lourdes.today - Faith Life - Virtual Faith Life for ideas and updates.

Alumni Spotlights

Throughout the Lourdes Academy system, dedicated alumni serve in every building. They teach in our classrooms, work in our counseling department, and manage finances in the business office. So who inspired them during their time at Lourdes and what drew them back? Read on...



BARB MUZA REED - CLASS OF 1974

Chemistry, CAPP Biology,
CAPP Chemistry Teacher

Years at Lourdes: 5

Who inspired you during your time at Lourdes?

Bill Behring

What made you return to Lourdes to work?

I returned to Lourdes after being asked to help fill the need for a CAPP (Cooperative Academic Partnership Program) Science teacher. (CAPP classes allow students to earn high school and college credits simultaneously while still at Lourdes.)

What do you love about being part of the Lourdes family?

The family atmosphere with students because I can really get to see them for numerous years. Also, I'm able to make changes quickly with less "red tape."



PATTY (PUTZER) NEUBAUER – CLASS OF 1979

Counseling Associate/SIS Director

Years at Lourdes: 20 +

Who inspired you during your years as a student?

Mr. Bill Behring – although I never had a great interest in Science, Mr. Behring's passion for the subject and his pupils was captivating.

What made you return to Lourdes to work?

Kathy Stromske, (one of my favorite people), worked in the

office back then and encouraged me to apply for an assistant's position that was open. I had been in banking for a number of years, and it was time for a change. I needed a challenge. With my oldest just starting high school, one at the middle school and the youngest at the elementary, the tuition break was very appealing. While I would miss the older generation standing in line to cash their social security checks, being surrounded by teens was thrilling!

What do you love about being part of the Lourdes staff/family?

I value the fact that faith and family take precedence over all other things.

I will always cherish the years I spent working with Tom Baum. Even after his retirement, I called him often for advice. Back in the 90s, the acronym WWJD (What Would Jesus Do?) was seen all over. With certainly no disrespect for Jesus, upon Tom's departure, I had a sticky note on my monitor that read WWTBD – What Would Tom Baum Do?



STEVE WEBER – CLASS OF 1987

Spanish Teacher

Years at Lourdes: 20

Who inspired you during your years as a student?

I think all the teachers wanted to see me succeed. They pushed me to do my best in school. However, I was not always a willing participant.

What made you return to Lourdes to work?

I had just left a teaching job up north and was back in Oshkosh. I ran into John Burke one day. He was a classmate of mine at Lourdes and the athletic director at the time. He encouraged me to apply for the job.

What do you love about being part of the Lourdes staff/family?

I feel like I really am part of a family.





**GABRIELLE (BURNS)
JACOBS – CLASS OF
2007**

Financial Analyst

Years at Lourdes: 7

Who inspired you during your years as a student?

I would have to say that the people who have most greatly inspired me have been my parents and grandparents. They encouraged me to experience a Catholic education. Coach K. (Mr. Rich Knobloch) and Mr. Baum had enthusiastic passion for their job, their life and their family. They inspired me as a student and drove me to have that same passion.

What made you return to Lourdes to work?

Lourdes taught me how to live with integrity, optimism, determination and compassion. I wanted an opportunity to come back to Lourdes and make a difference.

What do you love about being part of the Lourdes staff/family?

I love that I can be part of prayer and services every day. We have so many ways our families can live, love and learn together. We support one another and are committed to providing the best experience of a faith-filled education for our staff, volunteers and children.



LUKE SPANBAUER - CLASS OF 1997
2nd Grade Teacher

Years at Lourdes: 8

Who inspired you during your years as a student?

Mr. Knobloch really prepared me for college level math. I struggled with math through my first two years at Lourdes, and he taught it in a way that seemed to make everything click. I also would always enjoy seeing Mr. Baum's enthusiasm in the hallways. It's great that he still volunteers in my classroom now!

What do you love about being part of the Lourdes staff/family?

It gets repeated over and over, but the togetherness of the Lourdes community is inspiring. When someone is down, the Lourdes community picks that person up and keeps us all moving forward.



**AMANDA "MANDY"
(WENRICH) BERNHAGEN –
CLASS OF 2001**

Kindergarten Teacher

Years at Lourdes: 5

Who inspired you during your years as a student?


I can't say one person inspired me, but more of the overall feel. Throughout my time in K-12, there are many memories that inspired me to be a teacher. This was a decision made back as far as 1st grade. I never thought of trying anything else. The way staff have treated the students was always with caring and authentic feeling encounters.

The deep connections to the system that were first student and now teacher or teachers who had spent their career teaching there is what made it feel like a family. That is where they wanted to be.

What made you decide to come back to Lourdes to work?

When coming into my own career, I carry that sense of community and loyalty. I wanted a place that felt like family and where I could live my faith.

What do you love about being part of the Lourdes staff/family?

Choosing to return and continue to pay forward to others my love for Lourdes was a no brainer. I appreciate the opportunity to serve God through this calling. 



UPCOMING EVENTS

**Lourdes Day 2021 - A Day of Giving to Support
Lourdes Academy**

Thursday, February 11, 2021

Show your support by making a gift at
www.Lourdes.Today/LourdesFund

Lourdes Academy Dinner Auction

Saturday, April 17, 2021

Oshkosh Convention Center
2 N. Main Street

A virtual option will be available for this event.

Awards & Recognition Dinner

Friday, June 11, 2021

Best Western Premier Waterfront Hotel
1 N. Main Street

2021 Catholic Schools Week

Raffle!



All proceeds benefitting

LOURDES

ACADEMY

Ticket sales Jan 29 - March 17

Our Goal: \$10,000

Grand Prize: Yard Package

2021 John Deere S110 Lawn Tractor
& Stihl FS38 Gas-Powered Trimmer



2nd Prize: Choose your Destination

One week vacation at a Westgate Resort

3rd Prize: Golf for a Year - One-year corporate membership to Lake Breeze Golf Club including unlimited golf and cart rental

4th Prize: Milwaukee Tool Cordless Drill Set

5th Prize: Monthly Pies for a Year from LaSure's

6th Prize: Reserved Easter Seating, and...

7th Prize: \$250 8th Prize: \$100 9th Prize: \$100



Tickets

\$5

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THE SHIELD

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Thank you for your support!



Your gift to the Lourdes Fund provides tuition assistance for students in need; helps our young learners grow in faith and knowledge; equips students with the technology they need to learn and succeed; and provides opportunities for leadership and character development.

**Please consider a gift to the Lourdes Fund at
www.Lourdes.today/LourdesFund.**

Give on Lourdes Day - February 11, 2021



*Become a Legacy
Society member*

Our Lady of Lourdes Legacy Society members have generously included Lourdes Academy in their planned giving in any amount. The estate plans you make now ensure that Lourdes Academy's mission and traditions are transferred from one generation to another. Planned giving allows your loyalty and generosity to continue beyond a lifetime. Planned gifts to the *Our Lady of Lourdes Legacy Society* can include bequests, charitable annuities, remainder trusts, life insurance policies and securities.

If you are interested in learning more about a planned gift to Lourdes Academy, contact **Karen Boehm, Advancement Director, at (920) 426-3626, ext. 546 or kboehm@lourdes.today.**