

VERITAS

A newsletter for the parents, students and friends of St. Catherine's High School

September 2014



Also in this Issue

Testing Days, Introduction from new Assistant Principal Mr. Tillmann, Homecoming Week Schedule, Reunion Weekend/Sesquicentennial Mass and more!

Bonding Time Students Prepare for Fall Retreats



The Veritas

The *Veritas* is published every month by the Communications Office for the parents and students of SCHS. Submissions are welcome, but must be received by the 20th of each month in order to be considered for publication.

Please send submissions to bobrien@saintcats.org.

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Photography courtesy of
Lance Yearbook

About the Cover:

Middle School math teacher Diane Putra (right) talks with students at last year's 6th grade class retreat.

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Leading Off: Seniors Regan McCauley (left) and Lauren Summers were this year's SCHS delegates to the 72nd session of Badger Girls State June 15-20 in Oshkosh. Over 700 girls from across WI participated. The purpose of Badger State is to develop leadership and pride in American citizens, to Educate participants on our system of government, to instill a greater understanding of American traditions and to stimulate a desire to maintain our democratic government processes. During the week, the entire assemblage became a fifty-first state abiding by the laws of Wisconsin. The citizens are divided into two political parties - the Federalists and Nationalists. Both Lauren and Regan were elected alderman for their respective counties. The highlight of the week for both girls was meeting Governor Scott Walker.

From the Desk of Dr. Noonan

Dear SCHS Community:

Over 530 students, grades 6-12, presently attend St. Catherine's. This increase in enrollment represents well-managed growth over the past few years, done in a way that addresses the call of the Archdiocese to make Catholic education as accessible and affordable as possible for all who seek it. Each of our families may take justifiable pride in being part of the rich Angel tradition, now 150 years strong.

It is my sincere hope that each and every St. Catherine's student encounters both the instructional excellence and personal care that is at the heart of this Catholic, Dominican school community. Most important to our work as a Catholic ministry is how we treat one another – students, parents, and staff alike. May all of our words and actions this school year be guided by a fundamental respect for the human dignity of other people, drawing justly from the ideals instilled in us by the Racine Dominicans.

When speaking with students and parents, I frequently address the priorities of SCHS and ask all in our school community to actively share in them – mission, academics, and activities. First and foremost, students need to be mindful of the Catholic, Dominican mission and represent the call of Christ in the world. Again, how we live out the Gospel is the most important thing we do. Next, students must focus on learning and putting forth their best effort with regard to academics. Finally, students should appropriately balance their lives by being involved in activities beyond the classroom. There is much to be part of at SCHS through activities and athletics, and we encourage our students to join in through a healthy involvement here at school as both participants and fans.

And when listening to students and parents I frequently hear requests for more information about school decision making. Among the concerns I hear most often about (directly and indirectly) is the desire for more communication. This is not unique to St. Catherine's. Through my many years of educational work, this has been the most frequently identified concern, especially among parents. In many respects, it is the most universal of human concerns, as communication issues permeate every aspect of life. Back in August I shared some enhancements related to parent communication and outreach. [The letter is linked here as a reminder](#), and I especially welcome the opportunity to meet with parents during the 'Tuesday with Tom' conversation sessions. As a way to provide additional outreach opportunities with students, I plan to meet more frequently with the student council, and also offer several open forums for all students.

Additionally, beyond my monthly *Veritas* message (which I view as a vital means of communication) the academic administration will share monthly articles on pertinent school issues and invite feedback. These articles will offer a blend of recent educational scholarship and appropriate applications to SCHS.

Topics for the coming year will address the following areas:

- Best Educational Practices for Curriculum Review
- Math Assessment & Placement Methods
- Recent Trends in Catholic Education
- Literacy Skills & The Importance of Reading
- Balances in Grade 6-12 School Integration
- Sportsmanship in Schools Today
- Competency Based Grading
- Volunteerism & Service Learning
- Technology & Information Literacy Skills

By offering these articles and inviting additional feedback, students and parents will have yet another avenue of communication, and further understanding regarding school decision making. And as always, I continue to invite anyone to please [contact me directly](#) at any time if there is a question or concern.

God bless,



Dr. Thomas Noonan, Principal



Please watch future Rundowns and the October Veritas for high school retreat details.



All-School Liturgy, Prayer Service & Student Retreat Dates Announced

The school has released dates for this year's liturgies, prayer services and retreats. At the end of August, Deanna Love, Campus Minister, issued the following message in anticipation of the upcoming Middle School Retreats.

Middle School Retreats at SCHS

Retreats allow students to learn about the school's mission and Catholic, Dominican identity while building community within grade levels. With the help of faculty and high school students, middle school students participate in ice breakers, team building activities, discussion, and prayer. The middle school retreats will take place at the Mt. Pleasant/Caledonia Joint Memorial Park.

Retreats are a required school activity. There is no cost associated with the middle school retreats. Students are expected to bring a bag lunch and a bottle of water. Students should report directly to the cafeteria by 7:15 am. The bus will return by 2:15 pm.

Dress code will be spirit wear tops (plain black, white, or yellow t-shirts are acceptable) with blue jean pants or uniform shorts and tennis shoes. No athletic shorts, sweatpants, or sandals are allowed. Students will be outside throughout the day, so please dress accordingly. If you have any questions or concerns, contact the Director of Campus Ministry, [Deanna Love](#).

No paper permission slip is required for middle school retreats. The Family Handbook Agreement included giving permission to attend retreats. If your student's medication or dosage has changed since you completed the registration forms, please complete a new form and turn it in to the Main Office. If there were any other changes in health status or if you have any questions or concerns, please contact [Michelle Feick](#).

All-School Liturgies

Wed, 8/27
 Mon, 9/15 (Homecoming)
 Wed, 10/8
 Wed, 11/5
 Mon, 12/8
 Wed, 1/28 (Catholic Schools Week)
 Wed, 2/18 (Ash Wednesday)
 Wed, 3/18
 Wed, 4/29 (Week with a Purpose)
 Wed, 5/13

All-School Prayer Services

Tues, 11/11 (Veterans' Day)
 Tues, 11/25 (Christmas Basket Launch)
 Thurs, 1/29 (Catholic Schools Week)
 Thurs, 3/5 (Lent)
 Thurs, 4/2 (Stations of the Cross)
 Sat/Sun, 4/25-26 (Overnight Prayer Vigil)
 Tues, 5/26 (All-School Rosary)

Class Retreats

Fri, 8/29 6th grade
 Fri, 9/5 7th grade
 Fri, 9/12 8th grade
 Mon, 10/6 Freshmen and Juniors
 (no school for Sophomores and Seniors)
 Tues, 10/7 Sophomore and Seniors
 (no school for Freshmen and Juniors)

Greeting From Guidance (and new Director Ms. Kari Stankowski!)

Welcome to another school year! We are eager to work with all of our students and their families and look forward to an amazing year at St. Cat's! On a personal note, I consider myself very blessed to be a part of the St. Catherine's community and serve its students and families as the Director of Counseling. Even though I will be scheduling formal meetings with my students throughout the year, my door is always open to students and parents as I begin to get to know the outstanding people who make up the St. Cat's family! We will be keeping an eye out for freshmen and new students to see if they need any help adjusting. If you have concerns, please don't hesitate to give us a call.

Please contact us if you have any questions or concerns. Having trouble contacting us by phone during your work day? Feel free to e-mail us at: Ms. Kari Stankowski - kstankowski@saintcats.org; Ms. Mary Thome – mthome@saintcats.org and Ms. Marisa Williams – mwilliams@saintcats.org.

Seniors

Once the school year begins, we immediately start to focus on the seniors. Look for a special communication to parents coming soon.

This month, we will begin to see seniors in small groups to review the next steps they need to take as they begin the application process for college. Each student will be given a booklet outlining this information. Please ask them to share it with you. Some of the information can be accessed in the Guidance Section of our school website. We encourage college applications to be completed by Thanksgiving for optimal opportunity. During September and October we will also meet individually with each senior to assist them with post high school planning.

ACT/SAT Testing

Seniors who wish or need to take the ACT or SAT this October/early November must register soon. Best practice preparation hint? Do the practice test! Use the materials provided online at www.actstudent.org.

Go to the following websites for the preparation help provided:

ACT: <http://www.actstudent.org/sampletest/index.html>

SAT: <http://sat.collegeboard.org/practice/sat-practice-questions>

KnowHow2Go Wisconsin: <http://knowhow2gowisconsin.org/>

Test registration information is available in the Guidance Office or online.

Juniors

On September 11th, we will meet with all juniors to share information on the PSAT test. All students will receive information and a practice test. Ask your son or daughter to show you these materials. The actual test will be given during school on Wednesday, October 15th.

The best way to prepare for the PSAT is to study the Prepare for the Test pages in the Official Student Guide to the PSAT/NMSQT and to do the Practice Test, which are both distributed to students. Register in the Main Office from September 11th - October 10th. The cost is \$14.00. Please take care of this early!

Sophomores

Sophomores will be meeting with their counselors during 1st Semester to continue to focus on academic performance, career/interest exploration, and post-high school options. Please encourage your student to see us with any questions or concerns.

Freshmen

Freshmen will take the ACT Aspire on October 15 - 16th. The results will be calculated at the ninth grade level. The test will serve as a baseline to measure growth and proficiency throughout their high school years. In late September, students will have an opportunity to become familiar with the format of this test through scheduled practice sessions.

Student Testing Days

In order to facilitate testing opportunities for our students, October 15-16 will have modified schedules.

October 15th – Late Start

- 7:15 a.m. start time for Juniors (PSAT) and Freshmen (ACT ASPIRE)
- 10:30 a.m. start time for Sophomores and Seniors (*students are to enter door 9 and will be supervised in the Auditorium as testing finishes*)
- Grades 6-8 will have a full class day

October 16th – Late Start

- 7:15 AM start time for Freshmen (ACT ASPIRE)
- 10:30 AM start time Sophomores, Juniors and Seniors (*students are to enter door 9 and will be supervised in the Auditorium as testing finishes*)
- Grades 6 - 8 will have a full class day

Questions about Colleges? Visit the Fall Education Fairs!

Wisconsin Education Fair

Franklin High School in Franklin, Wisconsin
Monday, October 6th, 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Students must pre-register at www.gotocollegefairs.com. Students need to print out and bring a bar-coded pass to the Fair. Busy October 6th? Other WEF locations and times can also be found on this site!

National College Fairs

Milwaukee – Wisconsin Center
Sunday, September 28th, noon – 3:30 p.m.

Chicago – Navy Pier
Saturday, September 27th, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Visit www.gotomyncf.com for more information and to register

Colleges Universities Set to Visit St. Catherine's

During the year, the Guidance Department will host admissions counselors from various colleges and universities. These college visits will take place during STEP on Tuesdays and Thursdays, unless otherwise noted.

Please contact [Michelle Feick](#), Registrar (632-2785 ext. 418) for passes to attend.

Upcoming Visit: October 9th – **UW Madison**



Former Angel (and current Badger) Dana Radojevic '11

Introducing the Assistant Principal: a Note from Mr. Russell Tillmann

Dear Parents & St. Catherine’s Community,

I am very excited to announce that I am the new Assistant Principal at SCHS. As an AP US Government teacher and coach from nearby Waterford HS for the last eight years, I fully appreciate the culture, mission, and tradition that our school has established over the past 150 years.

As the Assistant Principal my first priority is to establish a high level of rapport with students, teachers and the community. My mission this year will be to improve academic achievement, improve classroom instruction, create a data-based instructional framework to drive instruction, and help teachers develop professionally. I will also work with staff to focus on instruction that is grounded in 21st century skills and work on ways to integrate more informational text reading into the curriculum to improve our students’ reading comprehension and writing skills.

I feel blessed to be part of the great tradition here. I look forward to meeting all of you soon. My door is always open, so please feel free to stop in and say hello.

Mr. Tillmann

Fill Your Shopping Cart, Earn Tuition Credit with Scrip

The school’s [Scrip Program](#) is a popular fundraiser because families don’t have to sell anything. Participants produce revenue by purchasing negotiable gift certificates and prepaid cards that are used just like cash. You can use Scrip to cover everyday expenses like food, gas, clothing, groceries and other essentials. With every purchase you earn revenue for yourself - in the form of tuition credit (70%) - and for the SCHS Scholarship Fund (30%).

Find Out More

Go to shopwithscrip.com and browse the site to see all the retailers and learn more about program features.

How Do I Begin?

Find family registration instructions on the [Scrip Program page](#) on the school website. Ordering online is easy, accurate and quick. Orders with payment are due by 9 a.m. Friday. Orders are placed on Fridays and ready for pick up after noon the following Wednesday. Summer and holiday order schedules are posted in the *Veritas*. Order forms are available in the Main Office and [on the website](#). Questions? Email Jeanne Hanisko, Scrip Coordinator at scrip@saintcats.org.

35th Annual Golf Classic a Remarkable Success

On July 21st, the Angel Booster Club hosted the Angel Golf Classic at Strawberry Creek Country Club. Over 100 golfers and 75 sponsors provided budget relief to the athletic department for grades 6 - 12. This year’s winning foursome (pictured) was Greg Pitts ’96, Danny DaPra ’03, David Becker and Paul Jacobsen.

However, the biggest winners of the Golf Classic were our student-athletes as this year’s event raised \$25,000 – a new record! A check presentation will take place at the Homecoming football game on September 19th. Be sure to mark your calendars for next year’s Angel Golf Classic being held Monday, July 20th at the Kenosha Country Club.

Thank you to the tremendous work from the Steering Committee: Gregg Brewster, Dick Angel ’70, Joe Cronin ’00, Mike Kosterman ’75, Mark Miller ’64, Daniel Oakes ’06, Greg Pitts ’96, John Summers, Brian Thomas ’78, Jim Venturini ’76 and Joe Weitach ’59.



Oh So Sweet: Students Select *Candyland* as Homecoming Theme

Competition was fierce (*Under the Sea*, *Carnival*, *Decades* and *Greek Week* were the other options), but SCHS students, faculty and staff selected *Candyland* as the theme for this year’s Homecoming in an online poll last month.

While a comprehensive schedule will be released in the days leading up to Homecoming Week, the tentative schedule (with participating grades in parenthesis) is as follows:



Monday, 9/15	All-school Liturgy (grades 6-12)
Tuesday, 9/16	Powder Puff Football (9-12); Bonfire (9-12, 6:30 p.m. at Armstrong Park)
Wednesday, 9/17	Class Competitions (9-12)
Thursday, 9/18	Variety Show (6-12)
Friday, 9/19	All-School Pep Rally (6-12); Football Game vs. Kenosha St. Joseph (7:00 p.m. at Horlick Field)
Saturday, 9/20	Homecoming Dance (9-12, 7-10:00 p.m. in the McGuire Gym; tickets are \$15)

Note: A Middle School-specific Homecoming Week schedule (with special dress codes and events) will also be issued in early September.

After-School Pick Up Reminders

In an effort to ease some congestion in the parking lot during after school pick up, we ask parents to please enter the lot on the Villa Street side and exit on the Park Street side. Having all cars moving in one direction through the lot should benefit everyone, and we would like to avoid cars double parking in the areas of the lot that inhibit the exiting of parked vehicles. We also encourage some families to have pick up on Villa Street where there are fewer cars and buses.

Also, as a reminder, students not directly participating in a club or sport, meeting with a teacher, using the Library (until 2:45 p.m.) or assigned to the Learning Resource Center are to exit the building by 2:30 p.m. Students may not hang around in the hallways, especially near Door 2. We will be monitoring this more closely and contacting parents when there are issues to address. Students assigned to the Learning Resource Center must depart promptly at 4 p.m. Please plan accordingly.

McGuire Golf Scramble, Alumni HOF & Reunion Weekend Set for Last Weekend in September

The final weekend in September (26-28) promises to be a busy one for friends and alums of SCHS.

The school’s annual [Reunion Weekend](#) will kickoff with the [John McGuire Golf Scramble](#) at Ives Grove on Friday afternoon followed by the reception and dinner at Infusino’s. (As always, this popular event is open to ALL golfers, not just those celebrating a reunion.)

On Saturday not only will SCHS induct its [2014 Alumni Hall of Fame class](#), but several classes - 1959, 1964, 1974, 1979 and 1994 - will be hosting individual class celebrations. Individual class reunion signup is available via the [Reunion Weekend homepage](#).

Questions about these events? Contact [Nicole Smart](#), Development Coordinator, at 262-632-2785 ext. 411.

Join Us for Sunday Morning Mass

On Sunday, Sept. 29, SCHS will host a special sesquicentennial kickoff mass for all students, families, alums and friends. Liturgy is at 9 a.m. in the Foster Auditorium followed by a continental breakfast and reminiscing in the cafeteria. We simply ask those interested in attending to RSVP via the [Reunion Weekend registration page](#) so we can get an accurate headcount.





A Big 'Thank You' from Admissions

Thank you to the following volunteers that helped at the picnics for new middle and high school students. We have some *incredible* Angels at SCHS that help make our events a success!

Mr. DeGuire, Mrs. Essiembre, Mrs. Finley, Mrs. Hunter, Mr. & Mrs. Hurtado, Mr. & Mrs. Martin, Ms. Tullio, Mrs. Vazquez, Becca Bixler, Daniel Feldmann, Matthew Feldmann, Norah McCauley, Regan McCauley, Kristyn Oakes, Luke Olley, Abby Pruitt, Maddie Shea, Amanda Schmidt, Taryn Schuster, Andrew Smith, Isabella Tenuta

St. Lucy's Holding Parochial Dance for Grades 7 & 8

Permission slips for St. Lucy's dance on Friday, September 12th, from 6 - 9 p.m. for students in grades 7 & 8 will arrive the week of the dance.

First Middle School Dance of the Year at SCHS

Save the date for the first middle school dance on Friday, September 26th, from 6:00-9:00 p.m. The dance is for 7th and 8th grade students only. Admission is \$5 and permission forms will be distributed the week of the dance. We are looking for parent volunteers so please contact [Kory Wandrey](#) if you are willing to help.

Volleyball RPAL Nights

Bump, set, spike! SCHS Angels invite RPAL league players to a home game each season. All players wearing their RPAL jerseys will receive free admission, free popcorn and soda, and are entered into a drawing for free SCHS spiritwear. You must contact the Admissions Office to register a team or individual player ahead of time to receive free concession tickets.

Boys RPAL Night

Thursday, September 25 at 6:30 p.m. vs. Franklin

Girls RPAL Night

Thursday, October 2 at 7 p.m. vs. Saint Thomas More

Contact [Angie Peterson](#) with questions or, starting in September, register online saintcats.org/admissionevents/.

On the Lookout for Lance Staffers

This year, art teachers [Mr. Rosales](#) and [Mrs. Aguila](#) will be tackling the Lance Yearbook for St. Catherine's! As you know we are celebrating 150 years of Catholic education in the Racine area and we're looking for students to take photos at events and school activities, edit photos and layout pages, conduct interviews and write feature stories, come up with concepts and themes and, of course sell the bad boys! Interested Sophomores, Juniors and Seniors should attend yearbook's first meeting on Thursday, September 4th in G1 during STEP if you are interested. WE WANT TO FEATURE YOUR PHOTOS! More soon about how to share them, but start snapping away now!

Get Involved: Black & White Ball Looking for Volunteers

The 2014 - 15 school year is in full swing and that means our signature fundraising event, the [Black & White Ball](#) is just around the corner. (Mark your calendars for Saturday, March 28th!) In honor of SCHS's sesquicentennial, the Black & White Ball will be an even bigger and better celebration of the St. Catherine's community.

Since the inception of the BWB in 2011, this event has raised more than \$500,000 for Student Activities and Athletics. These funds allow us to provide our Angels with the opportunity to participate in extracurricular programs where they can pursue interests, discover passions, develop socially and much, much more.

During last year's Black & White Ball, a special appeal, "Fund the Foster," raised over \$56,000 for much-needed renovations of the Foster Auditorium. We are thrilled to say that throughout this school year, you will experience the enhancements that are planned for this special space. This is possible because of your generosity!

As a result of our event's growth and continued success, we are in need of additional parent volunteers to fill a variety of roles within the planning process and throughout the weekend of the event. Not only is volunteering for the Black & White Ball a rewarding experience since this event benefits the students of St. Catherine's High School, but it's fun too! You can work on something you love to do or learn something new: from selecting decor and creating a fine dining experience to acquiring eye-catching auction items - and everything in between - we have a place for you!

To share your time and talents as a volunteer for the Black & White Ball, please sign up through our [parent survey](#), or to learn more about volunteer opportunities, please contact [Raechel Bartel](#), Event & Communications Coordinator, at (262)632-2785, ext. 457.

