



The mission of Saint Thomas Aquinas Academy is to provide an affordable education in the Catholic teaching tradition that inspires in students a life long thirst for knowledge, wisdom and truth; a desire to reach the full potential which God intended for them; and a recognition of the discipline of mind and heart required for effective service to others in the love of God.

Saint Thomas Aquinas Academy does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, or national origin in the enrollment of and participation of students or the employment of personnel.

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Saint Thomas Aquinas Academy saw an increase in enrollment for the 2009/2010 school year. "I believe our focus on our mission, 'to provide an affordable education in the Catholic teaching tradition that inspires in students a life long thirst for knowledge, wisdom and truth' has been realized with our recent enrollment initiative. These initiatives have not only assisted the school population but they acknowledged the current economic stress and provided opportunities for those on hard times." Since the inception of Saint Thomas Aquinas Academy our enrollment has seen attrition and is now experiencing a rebound. We have increased



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Garrett Duffrin's nick name and his football jersey number. Garrett, who graduated from

CCHS in 2006, was involved in a tragic car accident that claimed his life on July 17th. "Seven" was also the ticket number and the nick name given to Alice Wilde (CCHS '76) by her brother in law, Larry Biehl for being the seventh child in his wife Michele's

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Uniting for a common goal allows the sharing of many resources and a rich and comprehensive academic program. Rather than hiring three separate teachers, for example, administration can find the one best candidate and bring continuity to the art program. Teachers that are certified to teach various grade levels can be shared. Secretaries, bookkeeping, library services, and administration are all coordinated. The Mission Statement of the Academy and the philosophies that set Catholic Education apart from

by 9% for this new year. The dust has settled and only progress lies ahead. Our school involves more than conveying the acquired knowledge of civilization to students and developing in them the intellectual skills they need to create new knowledge. At Saint Thomas Aquinas Academy students live in community and relationships that are built on love of neighbor. "Students realize that they are but one part of the Body of Christ and together live for Christ. Our school is concerned with cultivating in students the intellectual, creative, and aesthetic faculties of the human person; developing in them the ability to make

family. Alice chose her board name in memory of Larry, who lost his battle with cancer on July 21st. The Catholic Central community really felt the loss of both Larry and Garrett with their deaths only within days of each other. Garrett's parents Kim and Matt are very active in the school and he leaves behind Victor and Lilly, both high school students at CCHS. Larry's son, Gerard, is a senior, his daughter Ashley graduated in 2008 and his stepson, Eric Bulin, (CCHS 1990) is currently a STAA Board of Trustee member and

other schools can be fostered from preschool through high school in a consistent and age appropriate manner.

STAA is truly "many parts, of one body" with the participation of St. Mary parish in Peshtigo where the preschool and elementary school are housed, the Holy Family school of Marinette, and Catholic Central High School who has deep roots in Catholic education with its history as St. Mary's Institute and Our Lady of Lourdes.

Menominee Catholic Central grade school in Michigan continues to send many high school age students to STAA.

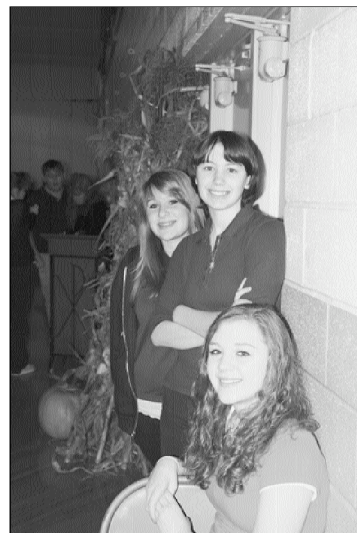
correct use of their judgment, will, and affectivity; promoting in students right values; encouraging just attitudes and prudent behavior; introducing them to the cultural patrimony handed down from previous generations; preparing them for professional life; and encouraging the friendly interchange among students of diverse cultures and backgrounds that will lead to mutual understanding."

"STAA is a faith-filled community nurturing student lives for active participation in a 21st century world."

(Taken from "Distinctive Qualities of the Catholic School, National Catholic Education Association Keynote Series", 1997.)

has young children attending the academy.

Larry, a loyal supporter of Catholic Central, always chose to go "all or nothing" on his raffle tickets, so Alice marked her ticket to not split the winnings. "Duff Man 76" was the last ticket on the board, winning the \$4000 prize.



St. Thomas Aquinas Newsletter

Solid Foundation -- Tradition of Excellence Continues

Providing academic excellence continues to be one of the main components of our long standing Catholic teaching tradition. St. Thomas Aquinas Academy, which now encompasses preschool, elementary, middle school, and high school levels has focused on keeping the tried and true methods of instruction, but is also implementing current strategies and methods to maintain our reputation for quality.

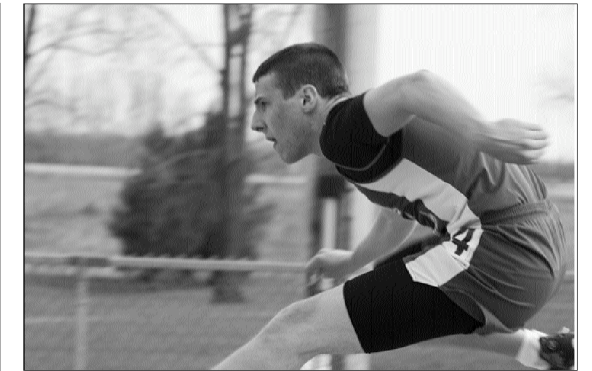
Focus is being placed on the main building blocks of education. For balanced literacy, English and grammar continue to be core elements, with additional programs like

The Writer's Workshop and the Six Traits of Writing, being added. The Academy's Reading Literacy Initiative is well under way with the Wilson Language System in place at the elementary levels. The Wilson System addresses reading, spelling, and phonics using a highly structured approach. It has an impressive success rate because it utilizes visual, auditory and kinesthetic pathways necessary for learning. In addition to the teacher's classroom instruction, continued progress in reading comprehension is encouraged and promoted in

the Accelerated Reader program. Having the technology needed for this program allows grade school and middle school students to choose from over 11,000 catalogued books to read. Comprehension tests are easily downloaded via the Accelerated Reader internet site. Matching the student's individual interest and the appropriate reading level sets them up for a positive reading adventure and fosters a life time love of books. Positive results are attainable for students who might be lagging behind their class or for students who are gifted, needing more advanced challenges.



Matt Faucett, son of Joe Faucett CCHS '80



Victor Duffrin competes in High Hurdles

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Sports Co-Op Provides New Opportunities

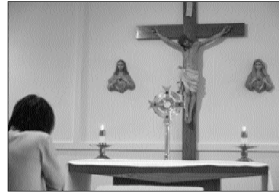
Football still reaps the most obvious benefits of having a combined team with the Lena Public School District - the 2009 Titans advanced to regional competition with their 35-6 win over Wausaukee on Thursday, October 22nd. The benefit of joining with Lena for sports doesn't stop there, Cross Country, Wrestling, and Track & Field, are also offered to our athletes as a result of co-ops and their students also join

us for baseball and softball. This spring, students from Catholic Central High School participated in Lena's track program, winning the Suring, Lena, and Hilbert Invationals along with four straight triangular meets. 10 individuals and four relays qualified for sectionals, and at sectionals three individuals and a relay team qualified for state. At state, the team finished second and third in the pole vault, seventh in the 800m Relay,

and 11th in the high hurdles (Victor Duffrin CCHS 2010). When asked what his favorite quote of the year was, Coach John Holman replied, "Which stick can I use?" Katherine Sporie, CCHS 2009, asked the coaches this question when pole vaulting for the first time. The "sticks" are fifteen feet long and are called poles. Katherine subsequently broke the Lena record for pole vaulting.

Enrollment Soars





Students attend weekly Mass at St. Joseph's Church in Peshtigo. Eucharistic Adoration is held on the first Friday of each month.

Giving Competitive Edge for CCHS Graduates

The 2009/2010 school year marks the 20th year of participation in the St. Norbert College Credit Program. Catholic Central students can leave high school with as many as 16 college credit hours that are accepted at most colleges and universities nationwide. St. Norbert's program is designed to expose academically qualified students to college course work and the higher expectations and standards that come along with college. It challenges the advanced student with college-level work while they remain in a high school setting.

Mrs. Marge Bruemmer and Ms. Marlene Kyllonen, who both have advanced

degrees in their subject areas, have the necessary credentials required by St. Norbert College to qualify as English and Math instructors for this prestigious program. The course work in each subject follows the syllabus designed for the college students taking the course at St. Norbert College. This means assignments and academic expectations reflect the same criteria the St. Norbert professors have for their own students. SNC provides a standardized final exam for each subject and our students receive an authentic college exam experience.

Juniors and seniors who can take college Pre-Calculus, Calculus, English Composition, and Literary Composition improve their ability to do well on ACT and

SAT tests.

Mike and Viki Palid, parents of four CCHS graduates who participated in the program felt that Andy (CCHS 1998, Notre Dame 2002, Harvard School of Law 2005), and last year's valedictorian, Theresa (CCHS 2009) were well prepared for the challenges at the University of Notre Dame. "Chris's credits were accepted at Marquette University and that gave him extra flexibility (CCHS 1999, Marquette University 2003). Catherine (CCHS 2003, St. Norbert 2007) was able to graduate a semester early from St. Norbert College, and that saved us half a year's tuition!"

Efforts are currently underway to expand the program to include more classes.

Check Us Out On The Web!

The Academy moves forward in technology at all campuses. In addition to the website, Smart Boards have been added to the third and fourth grade classrooms.

Updated computers at the elementary campus allow for increased technology-based assessment testing. New computers have also been donated to the high school, which allows all teachers to be online.

Teachers are actively engaging students using on-line formats for class. Efforts to increase on-line capabilities continues to be the focus of our current administration as an area of growth and academic expansion for STAA. Also, SmartBoards are BEING installed, we don't have them yet.

Graduate Spotlight -- Reaching Goals



Anna Brostowitz at her White Coat Ceremony, marking the start of dental school.

Despite small class size, CCHS still succeeds in providing an education that enables students to reach their goals.

Anna Brostowitz, Class of 2005, was recently spotlighted in the Marquette University Publication for prospective students, known as "The Big Book", which provides information about all available college majors, career choices, and entrance requirements to the University.

Anna graduated Magna Cum Laude from Marquette in May with a degree in Biomedical Sciences. Taking advantage of all of the St. Norbert College Credit classes at CCHS gave her the education and skills to prepare her for the challenges ahead. Anna's class in 2005 had only 20 graduates but she said that didn't matter. She was one of over 3400 applicants for the 80 seats in the freshman class at the Marquette University School of Dentistry.



Joey Collard, M&O Conference Player of the Year in golf, stands in the center, with team members Lexi Wilson, Ethan Miller, Sean Sporie, and Andrew Bradford.

Lead by repeat M&O Conference Player of the Year Joey Collard, the 2009 Golf squad won 9 of its 10 conference matches during the 2009 season. A tie with Wausaukee in one match was the only blemish on an unbeaten conference season.

"Simply put - could the 2009 team equal the performance of the 2008 team by repeating as M&O

Conference champions? The 2008 team victory in its first appearance in the tournament did have one immediate consequence - the 2009 team immediately became the team to beat for the title. Did they meet the challenge? Well, another conference championship trophy is now at home in the STAA trophy case," said Coach Budde Fifarek (CCHS Class of 1972)

"To its credit, the 2009 team did climb the next rung on the ladder of success by winning the WIAA Regional title to add to its resume. While the team did not qualify for the State Tournament at the Sectionals, Joey did qualify as an individual and proceeded to finish 6th at the State Tourney in Madison."

A Letter from the President

The doors of Saint Thomas Aquinas Academy opened for another school year. Our expectations are met with challenges—Private religious schools are not immune to our current economic times. History reveals the strength that comes from God and our faith in His Divine Providence.

Our school, known during the Great Depression as "Our Lady of Lourdes" was able to keep its doors open with the abundant generosity of the community, our parents, students and alumni. This passing

through hard times led to our school's reputation for being known as the oldest "continuously running" Catholic high school in the State of Wisconsin.

Once again we are knocking on the door of God's Providence. We seek to have our spiritual, educational and financial needs met. Spiritually we move forward integrating faith into our everyday school day and its curriculum; educationally we strive to meet the growing needs for increased technology and to effectively respond to a 21st century learning



our school is showing its wear is because it has so much to hold. Over nine decades of life, memories, and activities is a whole lot to contain, even for a sturdy brick building", writes editor Sarah Bradford. Beyond current stories and photos, alumni memories and quotes are featured in the book.



* Preparation for the Spring 2010 Windsor Players production is underway. Advisors Abbey Sonnenberg (high school English, middle school Reading) and Abbie Withbroe (middle school, high school Social Studies) are in the process of organizing this year's play, "Rosen-crantz and Guildenstern Are Dead" by Tom Stoppard. The play incorporates many famous speeches and lines from Shakespeare in a memorable and comical way. Performance dates are set for March 26, 27, and 28, 2010.

* Mrs. Christy Schultz, a practicing area artist, begins her 5th year as our academy art instructor. She has her Art Education degree for K-12 from UW Stout. Her specialties are pottery, glass, and painting.

* Mr. Roman Davis continues to instruct our band and has assembled a "Pep Band" for sporting events, inviting music enthusiasts and alumni to join middle school students.

* Publication of the Plume, CCHS's yearbook continues. "If Walls Could Talk" was the 2008/09 theme. "Perhaps the reason

Parents, students and faculty moved desks and supplies from the Middle School building to the Elementary and High School buildings late this summer. Closing the Holy Family campus was part of the cost saving measures put into effect for the current school year. Volunteers have been making cosmetic improvements at both buildings with new coats of paint in the classrooms and halls. Parents of Middle

environment; and financially we seek to obtain support for a vision that extends beyond the walls of STAA and makes possible the building up of God's kingdom and the education of His future stewards for our world today. "With God, all things are possible." We need only to ask~

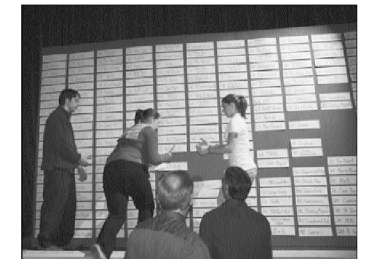
Mrs. Jennifer Elfering
President of Systems

The last two names on the big board this year had many things in common but resembled something from the Twilight Zone. Every October, as part of Oktoberfest, 250 raffle tickets are sold to raise money for the academy. The final two tickets have an option to split the \$4000 grand prize or to go "all or nothing" and allow only one winner. This year's two final tickets had board-names of "Duff Man 076" and "Seven ". Both board names included the actual ticket number and were someone's nick name, but that wasn't all . "Duff Man 76" was

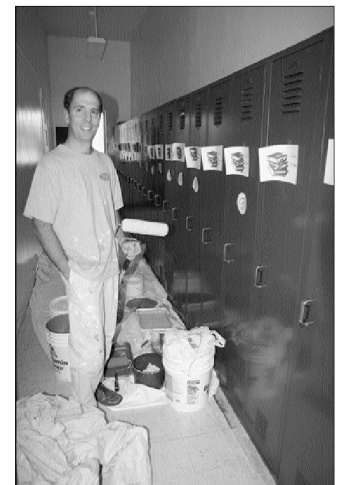
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Meeting a Wide Variety of Needs

New classes have been added this fall. Students can take Advanced Chemistry , Accounting and Personal Finance, and German. Students have other opportunities with on-line learning and through collaboration with the Northeast Wisconsin Technical College and the Marinette School District.



Pictured at Left: Katie Magnin Benson, CCHS '88, choir teacher Roman Davis, and Beth Beranek

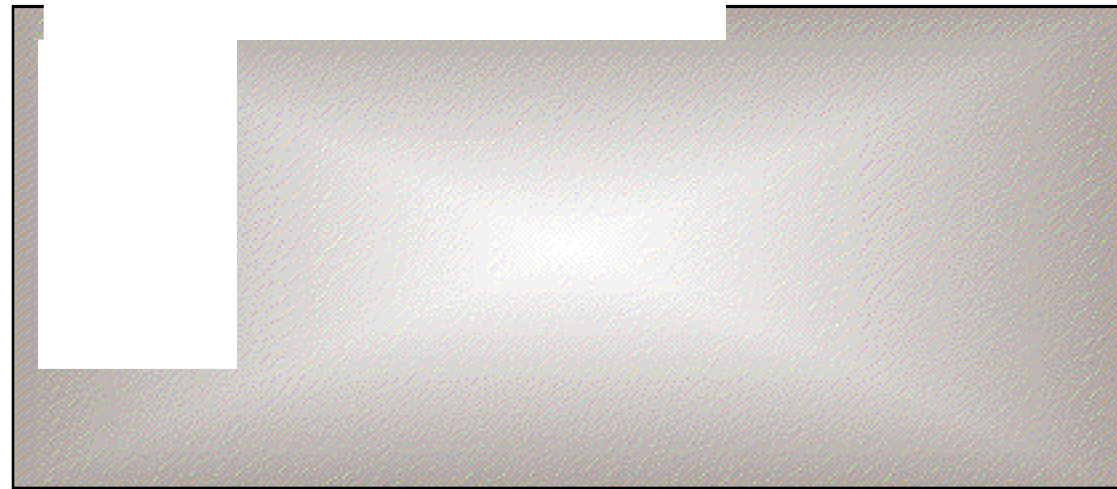


Above: Paul Balzola stands in front of newly installed lockers on second floor of High School with green and gold paint.

20th year of St. Norbert College Credit Program

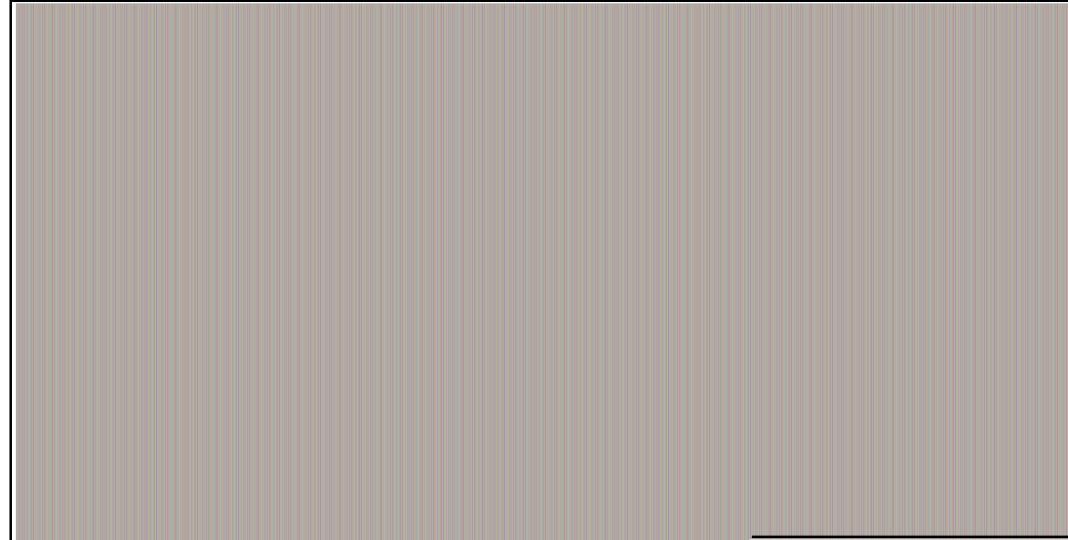
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M&O Champs 2 Years in a Row

New Classes Added



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