### 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 cultivated on leasers 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 learning English and German 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. The three main pathways necessary for learning. In addition to the teacher's classroom instruction, continued professional preparation and comprehension is encouraged and promoted in the Accelerated Reader Program. The reading 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 website. Matching the student's individual interest and the appropriate reading levels 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 fellow students who are gifted, needing more advanced challenges.

### Sports Co-Op Provides New Opportunities

Football still reap the most obvious benefits of having a combined team with Lena. Football resulted in Lena's Titan's 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 Buring, Lena, and Kaukauna Invitational along with four straight triangular meets. 11 individuals and 4 relays qualified for state, and at sectionals three individuals and a relay team qualified for state. At state, the variety of sports finished second and third in the pole vault, seventh in the 800m Relay, and 11th in the high hurdles (Victor Duffin, CCHS 2010). When asked what his favorite quote of the year was, Coach John Holman replied “Why stick to stick can't you?!” Katherine Sporier, 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
Giving Competitive Edge to 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 four years instead of five and complete their college credits 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 are experienced along with college life. It challenges the advanced student with college-level work while they remain in a high school setting. Meghan Brunner 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 and expectations for their students taking the course at St. Norbert College, Ms. Kyllonen assigns assignments that reflect the same criteria the St. Norbert professors use for their own students. SNC provides a standardized final exam for each subject and our students receive an authentic college examination 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 Vicki Palet, 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 2006, St. Norbert College 2007) were well prepared for the challenges at the University of Notre Dame. “Chris’s credits were accepted at Marquette University and he have him extra flexibility (CCHS 1999, Marquette University 2003). Catherine (CCHS 2003, St. Norbert 2005) was able to transfer her credits to Marquette University and also saved us one year’s tuition.”

Graduate Spotlight -- Reaching Goals

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, it is known as “The Big Book”, which provides information about all available college majors, career choices, and enrollment requirements to the University or her current educational and professional goals.

A graduate of Magna Cum Laude from Marquette in May with a degree in Biomedical Science and the Department of Biology, she received the education and skills to prepare her for the challenges ahead. Anna’s class of 2005 had only 20 graduates but she said that didn’t matter. She was one of over 3400 applicants for the 80 seats at the freshman class at the Marquette University School of Dentistry.

A Letter from the President

The doors of Saint Thomas Aquinas Academy open to another school year. Our expectations are met with challenges -- Privy to us small schools are no immune to our current economic times. History has shown society’s strength that comes from God’s blessing on 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 school “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 of increased technology and to offer exposure to a 21st century learning environment; and financially we seek to gain support for a portion that extends beyond the walls of STA and makes possible the building up of God’s kingdom and the education of His future stewards for our church today. “With God, all things are possible.” We need only to ask..."
20th year of St. Norbert College Credit Program

Technology
Advanced
At STAA

www.thomas-aquinas.org

M&O Champs 2 Years in a Row

Fine Art "Notes"

New Classes Added

Fact is Stranger than Fiction at Oktoberfest Raffle

Cost Savings Yield Unexpected Cosmetic Results