

The Rambler Report

REGIS CATHOLIC SCHOOLS MAGAZINE FOR FAMILIES, FRIENDS & ALUMNI — SPRING 2020



Leading by **Example**

Senior student-athletes
leave lasting impact



Learning Today, Leading Tomorrow

The Rambler Report

SPRING 2020

PUBLICATION

Meghan Kulig, Communications Director
Shannon Rahkola, Graphic Designer

REGIS CATHOLIC SCHOOLS ADMINISTRATION

Fr. Derek Sakowski, Pastoral Dean
Mark Gobler, President
Eric Nelson, Interim Controller
Meghan Kulig, Communications Director
Jen Eager, Human Resources
Paul Pedersen, Regis Middle/High School Principal
Kayla Bahnub, Immaculate Conception Principal
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Kelly K. Mechelke, Central Office Supervisor & Curriculum Coordinator
John Cook, Technology Coordinator

REGIS CATHOLIC SCHOOLS ADVANCEMENT

Bill Uelmen, Advancement Director
Robyn Brenner, Advancement Assistant & Alumni Relations Coordinator
Jim Gobler, Special Events

REGIS CATHOLIC SCHOOLS FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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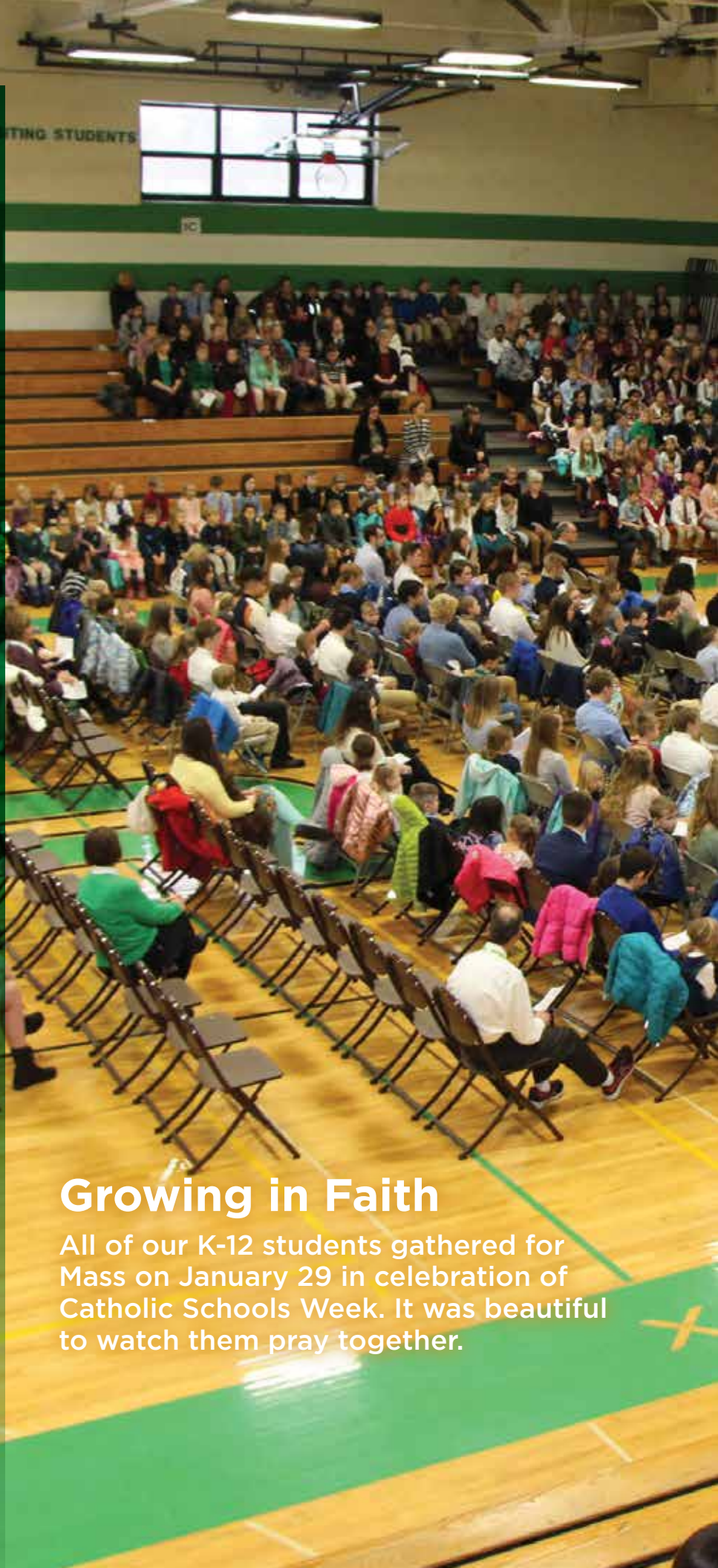
Meghan Kulig
mkulig@RegisCatholicSchools.com
(715) 830-2273, ext. 1402

DONATION QUESTIONS

Bill Uelmen
buelmen@RegisCatholicSchools.com
(715) 830-2273, ext. 1407

MAILING LIST & ALUMNI UPDATES

Robyn Brenner
rbrenner@RegisCatholicSchools.com
(715) 830-2271, ext. 1016



Growing in Faith

All of our K-12 students gathered for Mass on January 29 in celebration of Catholic Schools Week. It was beautiful to watch them pray together.

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Regis Catholic Schools is accredited by Wisconsin Religious and Independent School Accreditation (WRISA) for grades K-12.

*Cover Photo by Riley Michaud '20
(Riley Pictures Life Photography LLC)*

Report from the Dean



On behalf of the pastors of our six supporting parishes, I am excited to announce some big news: Kelly K. Mechelke has been named the new President of Regis Catholic Schools.

Mechelke brings some impressive professional credentials, having completed two Bachelor's degrees (Education & Special Education) and two Master's degrees (Administration & Curriculum). She is also nearing the completion of a Ph.D. in Educational Leadership. Most importantly, Mechelke brings a vibrant Catholic Faith she is eager to share with others.

Mechelke is familiar to many of us in the Regis family, having faithfully and competently served in multiple roles. Following eleven outstanding years in the classroom at Immaculate Conception Elementary School, she served six years as the principal of St. James Elementary School (five of those also serving as principal of St. Mary's Elementary School). I worked closely with her during those years and grew a deep respect of her leadership skills and her ability to handle difficult conflicts well. Since 2014, Mechelke has been our Curriculum Coordinator – an area of great passion for her, and one in which she has flourished. Most recently, she heeded my request to step into the Regis Catholic Schools Central Office as Office Supervisor. Ask any of the employees there and they will attest to the significant improvement of morale under her capable leadership. In other words, she has spent time working in each one of our school buildings, as well as in our Regis Catholic Schools Central Office. She knows

most of our employees quite well and has their respect and confidence. She excels at nurturing and affirming people's gifts while also calling them to high standards of accountability and ongoing personal improvement.

This hire concludes a three-month process that goes back to mid-December. I want to thank Becky Alexander for serving as Chairwoman of the hiring committee and Jen Eager for many extra hours on the Human Resources front. We posted the job before Christmas and I selected fifteen total stakeholders: a mix of priests, Regis Catholic Schools Education Commission members, staff, and parents. We met a few times during January and February, identifying five Core Competencies that we would be interviewing for: Mission-Driven Decision Making, Strategic Thinking, Leadership, Responsible Management, and Flexibility. Strong Catholic Identity was taken as a given. We discussed and refined questions that would delve into those areas of competency. We selected a few candidates who stood out to us as deserving an interview. We divided ourselves into three interview groups, each asking different questions of the candidates.

It was amazing to hear the insights of the groups following the interviews and how much we all agreed about the strengths and weaknesses of each candidate. The result was a unanimous recommendation from the entire group that we should hire Mechelke. I sent her to Bishop Callahan for an interview and he was happy to give his approval to our selection. I cannot say enough how grateful I am to each of the committee members for all the hours they gave and for the candid and utterly helpful conversations. We have a great Regis family!

Once again, I thank Mark Gobler for seven dedicated years of service as our Regis Catholic Schools President. His last official day is June 30. I have spoken with him and Kelly and they are eager to work together over the next three months. It is a luxury for an incoming president to have ample time to interact with and consult the outgoing president. Effective April 1, Mechelke will begin working directly with Gobler, myself, and with our Regis Catholic Schools Management Committee to aide in her transition to this new role. This will give her the information and consultation needed to complete the reorganization process and to proceed with further hiring, such as for our Advancement Director position. We are excited to give her the tools she needs to build her team and lead Regis into a successful future!

In Christ the King,

Fr. Derek Sakowski
Dean

Report from the President



Greetings!

I really thought I could bypass my usual message here in The Rambler Report with my impending retirement. However, Communications Director Meghan Kulig informed me that if I didn't offer a message, she would replace this section with an unflattering photo collage from my seven year tenure as the Regis Catholic Schools President. Hence, here is my farewell.

Over the years, I have made several references to the many influences that made me the person I am today. I consider myself fortunate to have been raised by George and Dereane Gobler, parents who fostered a loving environment for myself and my five younger siblings. We witnessed the sacrifices they made to send us through St. Patrick's and Regis. I am forever indebted.

Overachieving is a positive and it was certainly the case in regards to my wife of 40 years, Sandy. Both of us had a connection in that our parents believed in Catholic education. Even though she still cheers for her alma mater, McDonell Area Catholic Schools, her support for me during my educational career in four different communities has been unwavering. I was truly blessed by her love and friendship. The same is true for our three daughters who have made us so proud with their achievements. My only wish is that they would produce more grandchildren. Four is not enough.

Bill Uelmen made my transition from a public school system to a Catholic school system seamless. He has been and will continue to be a powerful asset to this system, even past his own retirement. Trust me when I say his retirement will have more of an impact than mine. During his 43 years of

dedication during good times and bad, Bill has always had the best interest of the Regis community in his heart. Regis Maintenance Supervisor Glenn Berger will also be retiring in the near future and has been an absolute rock star in keeping the Regis campus functioning. He will be missed. Besides those two gentlemen, I have had the pleasure to work with school and child development center administrators who have exhibited outstanding professionalism. I would be remiss not to thank them for their support. Gayle Flaig and her assistant directors, Paul Pedersen, Renee Cassidy, Carisa Smiskey, Jackie Lutz, Kayla Bahnhub, and Howard Ludwigson share a common bond of humility and servant leadership. I could not have asked for a better team. Thank you. The same goes to Teresa Culbert, our Food Service Director, and the three deans under whom I served; Fr. Brian Konopa, Fr. Don Meuret, and Fr. Derek Sakowski. I thank them for their guidance and support.

If you really want to know what makes our schools tick, look no further than the teachers and staff in our schools. They are the most important personnel in our entire system. This is proven in that if they call in sick or have a training session, it requires us to get a substitute. If I am out, no replacement is needed. That highlights their value and the ways in which they make Regis Catholic Schools a quality Catholic educational setting. We stress academics and faith-inspired values, two things we could not deliver without the amazing staff we are so fortunate to have. Thank you for expertly preparing our students for their future.

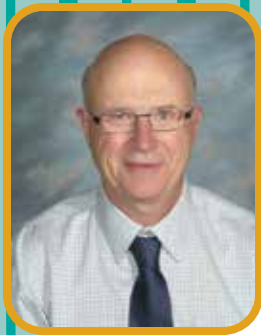
I would like to extend my heartfelt best wishes to our new Regis Catholic Schools President, Kelly K. Mechelke. Shortly after I arrived in 2013, I held my first administrative leadership team meeting and was so impressed by an energetic young woman who, at the time, was Principal at St. Mary's Elementary School and St. James Elementary School. I knew someday she was destined for a greater role. Folks, you are getting an excellent leader who, with her specialized background in curriculum, will take Regis Catholic Schools to new heights. May God bless her in her new responsibilities. Personally, I know she will be fantastic.

Lastly, I would like to thank the Regis Catholic Schools community, including members of our Education Commission, Finance Council, Building and Grounds Committee, and Regis Catholic Schools Foundation for all the support.

I am looking forward to retirement after spending parts of the last five decades in the school business. My immediate plans are to golf, travel, and spoil my grandkids. Please keep Regis Catholic Schools in your prayers and thank you.

Yours in Christ,

Mark Gobler '73
President



Regis Catholic Schools President Mark Gobler has announced his retirement effective June 30, 2020. Gobler became President of Regis Catholic Schools in 2013. During his seven years of service, he has been regularly and visibly present in our school buildings, our parishes, our liturgies, and our extracurricular events.

“He has brought his knack for noticing talents in our employees and encouraging ongoing development,” said Fr. Derek Sakowski, Dean of the Eau Claire Deanery. “He has left us with many talented prospects among our staff who are capable of serving in bigger and better ways. We thank him for his dedicated service.”

Gobler is a 1973 graduate of Regis High School who returned to the system following a career in public education.

“I thoroughly enjoyed returning to the faith inspired educational environment that I experienced at St. Patrick’s Grade School and Regis High School back in the 60s and early 70s”, Gobler said. “It was refreshing after accumulating 32 years in public education as a teacher, coach, and administrator. My favorite memories will be from my time visiting our elementary schools and interacting with our students and teachers in the classroom.”

Gobler says he admires our teaching staff who have shared their professionalism and dedication to the mission of Regis Catholic Schools, many of them for decades.

“The retirees during my tenure and our current staff members have truly made a lasting impression on all of our students,” Gobler said. “I have respected the guidance and support of the pastors, especially Fr. Konopa, Fr. Meuret, and Fr. Sakowski who were all Deans during my time here. I would like to thank Glenn Berger, our Regis Catholic Schools Maintenance Supervisor, for his intimate and valuable knowledge of our Regis campus infrastructure. I would also like to personally thank Bill Uelmen, our Advancement Director, for being a knowledgeable and reliable source for information and perspective during my tenure.”

As he prepares for retirement, Gobler says he is proud of the many advancements that have taken place within the system over the past few years. That includes improvements to our teacher evaluation system, our student assessment monitoring, and our

K-12 curriculum. He says there have also been many buildings and grounds improvements made on the Regis campus over the past few years, and all of our schools now have upgraded security systems thanks to DOJ Safety Grants.

“All of these accomplishments are attributed to administrative teamwork and support from our stakeholders,” he said.

Gobler plans to stay in the area following his retirement, adding he is looking forward to spending more time with his four grandchildren.

“I have been blessed to finish my career in education working for the same school system I attended for 12 years,” Gobler said.

“I have experienced a deeper appreciation of my faith because of my role within this great system. This truly is a wonderful community to be a part of.”

*Thank you
and
Good Luck!*



My favorite memories will be from my time visiting our elementary schools and interacting with our students and teachers in the classroom.





New Regis Catholic Schools President Named

We are pleased to announce Kelly K. Mechelke has been named the new President of Regis Catholic Schools.

Mechelke has been a part of our Regis Catholic Schools family since 1995. She has served as a teacher at Immaculate Conception Elementary School, Principal at St. James Elementary School and St. Mary's Elementary School, Curriculum Coordinator for grades K-12, and most recently as our Central Office Supervisor.

She is also the proud parent of two boys; one a 2019 Regis High School graduate and the other a member of the Regis High School class of 2021.

"I am honored and blessed to have the opportunity to continue here at Regis Catholic Schools as the new President," Mechelke said. "I feel immensely grateful to have spent almost all of my career working in the Regis system where I can profess and share my faith openly."

We will share more about Mechelke and her new role in The Rambler Report - Summer 2020.

Please keep her in your prayers as she begins this new journey!



After 43 years with the Regis Catholic Schools system, Advancement Director Bill Uelmen will also be retiring from his career in education at the end of the current school year.

First hired in 1977, Uelmen worked as a teacher, coach, Dean of Students on the Regis campus, and later as the Regis High School and Regis Middle School Principal.

"My time here has been an exceptional experience for me," Uelmen said. "I am proud to have served the Regis community, students, families, alumni, and the teachers and staff."

Uelmen became the head varsity boys' basketball coach at the age of 23, coaching for 37 years with an overall record of 590-307. As Regis High School Principal, he helped lead the transition during the consolidation to Regis Catholic Schools. He was also responsible for leading the transition of moving and integrating the Regis Middle School campus inside the main Regis campus. He served as the Regis Catholic Schools Advancement Director since 2012. He is responsible helping lead the \$1.4 million "Building Our Future" capital campaign, establishing the annual Regis Fund, creating the Regis Legacy Society, and building the Regis Catholic Schools Foundation endowment. Uelmen also helped raise funds to renovate the Fr. Dowd Auditorium, Regis gym, restrooms on the Regis campus, and build the new "Track & Field of Dreams".

"To our alumni and donors - with your help and financial support, we have created a lot of momentum for Regis Catholic Schools. However, good enough is not good enough. We must continue to build on our recent successes to help ensure the sustainability for the future of Regis Catholic Schools," Uelmen said. "I ask that you continue to support the Regis Catholic Schools Foundation because its

investments will be key to the financial stability of Regis Catholic Schools into the future. All donations made to the Regis Catholic Schools Foundation stay at Regis Catholic Schools."

Uelmen remembers fondly his co-workers who helped make his job enjoyable.

"Two of my best friends are former Regis teachers Howard Campbell and Terry Allen," he said. "I met a lot of wonderful people working at Regis High School including Bob Duren, Mary Kay Bissell, Monsignor Stoetzel, Fr. John Parr, Jaci Ristau, Glenn Berger, Kenny Knutson, Bruce Kaatz, Sr. Judy Kramer, Claudia Allen, Mary Allen, Frances Kurth, Mark Beckfield, Robyn Brenner, Janet Marcon, Bryant Brenner, John Snyder, Laurie Zukaitis, Paul Pedersen, Julie Schober, Larry Ausman, Mark McHorney, Eric Wackwitz, Jim Gobler, Cindy Hofacker, Fr. James Kurzynski, Mark Gobler, and many others." Uelmen would also like to Mark Gobler for his leadership in helping bring back the trust between the Regis Catholic Schools teachers and staff with the administration. "He truly understands Regis, its history, and its culture."

Bill has been married to his wife Mary for the past six years and he has two grown children, Jeff '97 (Emi '98) and Brian '02 (Rian), and seven grandchildren. A search for his replacement is underway.



My time here has been an exceptional experience for me.



Catholic Schools
Learn. Serve. Lead. Succeed.

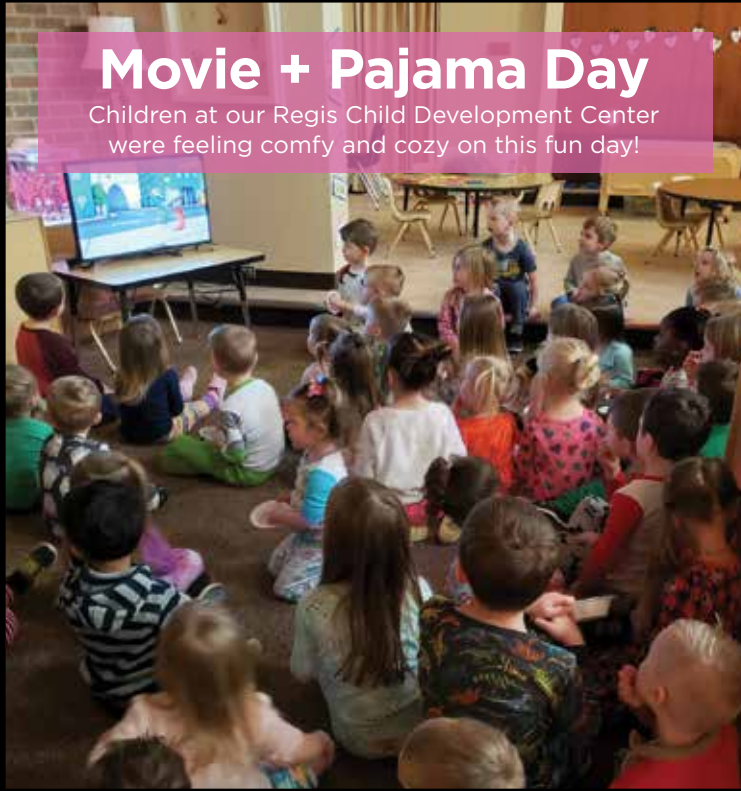
Catholic Schools Week 2020

Thank you for your support of Catholic education!

Happening since 1974, National Catholic Schools Week is the annual celebration of Catholic education in the United States. The theme for Catholic Schools Week 2020 was **“Catholic Schools: Learn. Serve. Lead. Succeed.”**

Movie + Pajama Day

Children at our Regis Child Development Center were feeling comfy and cozy on this fun day!



Many Gifts, One Nation
A Day of Giving to Catholic Schools

In celebration of Catholic Schools Week 2020, the Regis Catholic Schools Foundation participated in Many Gifts, One Nation: A Day of Giving to Catholic Schools! This 24-hour online day of giving helps support Catholic education across the country. Thank you to our generous donors who helped us raise \$456 in support of Regis Catholic Schools.

Hoop It Up!

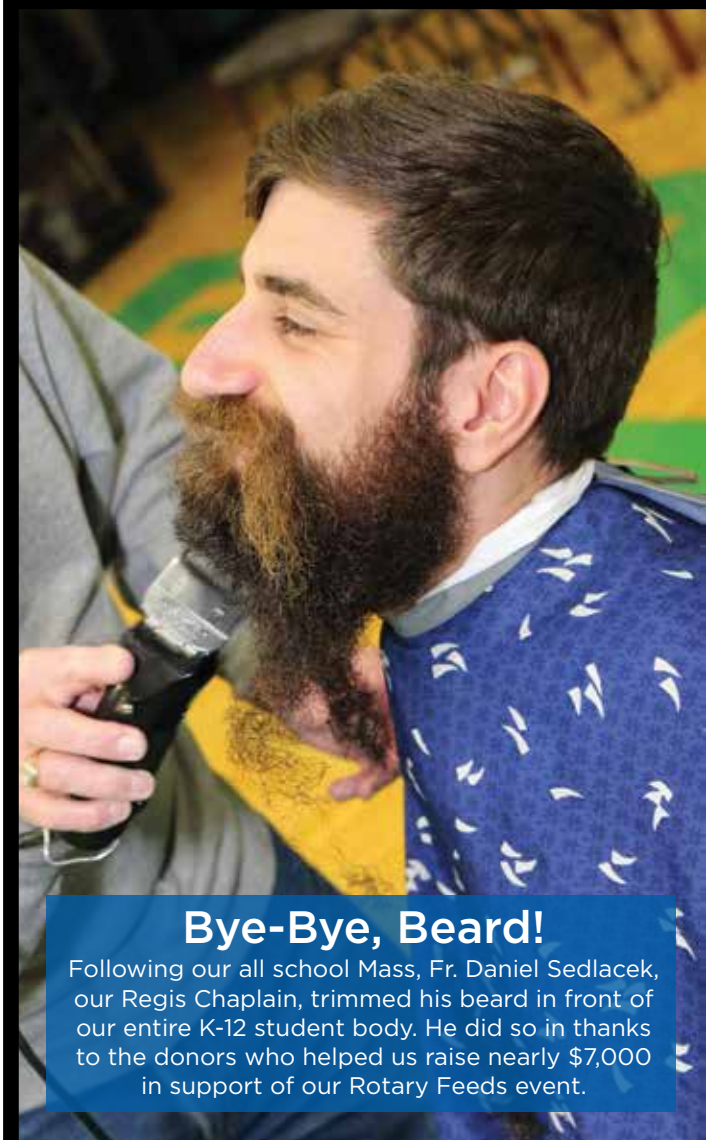
Our 5th grade students at St. James Elementary School and St. Mary's Elementary School had some fun on the court, playing friendly games of basketball against some of our Regis High School players.





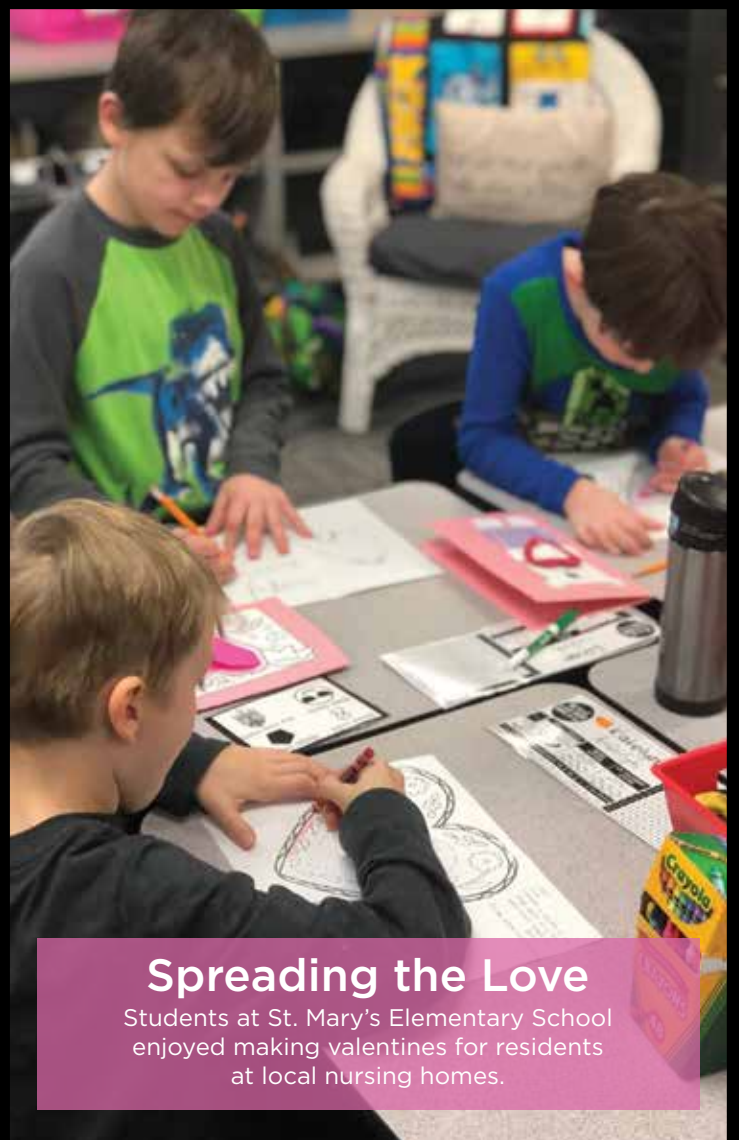
Blugolds Basketball Game

5th grade students at Immaculate Conception Elementary School played a friendly game of basketball against the UW-Eau Claire Blugolds! The students won 68-65!



Bye-Bye, Beard!

Following our all school Mass, Fr. Daniel Sedlacek, our Regis Chaplain, trimmed his beard in front of our entire K-12 student body. He did so in thanks to the donors who helped us raise nearly \$7,000 in support of our Rotary Feeds event.



Spreading the Love

Students at St. Mary's Elementary School enjoyed making valentines for residents at local nursing homes.



Books and Breakfast

Students and families at St. James Elementary School visited the book fair and enjoyed breakfast before the start of school.



Feeding the Hungry

Regis Middle School and Regis High School students, staff, and parent volunteers helped pack meals for Rotary Feeds. They assembled 30,000 meals that were distributed to those in need in western Wisconsin through the Feed My People Food Bank.



All School Mass

Students from all of our schools prayed together during a large Mass in the Regis High School gym.



Flannel Friday

Children at the Genesis Child Development Center channeled the flannel in a special dress up day at the facility!



Ski Trip

Regis Middle School students hit the slopes in celebration of Catholic education during the annual ski trip.

A photograph of Mr. Tony Olson, a man with glasses wearing a dark green Columbia jacket and a white boutonniere, standing in a gymnasium. The floor has a blue and white dedication plaque that reads "TONY OLSON GYM" and "37 Dedicated Years".

**“I love
this
school
and I
love this
gym.”**

- Mr. Tony Olson

On January 26, we dedicated our gym at Immaculate Conception Elementary School in honor of Mr. Tony Olson. Mr. Olson spent 37 years teaching physical education at the school, influencing the lives of thousands of students. He retired from teaching in 2019 and we are thrilled to have a lasting recognition of his service and dedication to Catholic education.

Tony Olson



Gym Dedication



This photo shows Mr. Olson with all of his little (and big!) former students who attended the dedication event. **Proof of the impact he made!**

Graduating Seniors Feature

Leading by Example



Caroline

Wow!

GO RAMBLERS!

"If you have followed the Regis Ramblers at all the last four years, you have likely heard the names Caroline Kowieski and Andrew Schlitz. The two senior student-athletes are both powerhouses in their chosen sport; Caroline on the tennis court and Andrew across the open countryside."

"Caroline and Andrew exemplify the highest levels of team, sportsmanship, and respect of opponents in competition," said Regis High School Principal Paul Pedersen. "They embrace the importance of respect for their sport beyond winning any medal. Fair play and honest competition define who they are."

Both Kowieski and Schlitz have been attending Regis Catholic Schools since their days in kindergarten at Immaculate Conception Elementary School. Kowieski's sister, Emma, graduated from Regis High School in 2018 and is currently a sophomore at UW-Madison. She says tennis has always been a family affair.

"My family has been going to play tennis together on summer evenings for as long as I can remember," Kowieski said. "But it wasn't until my sister joined the Regis team when she was a freshman in high school that I really became interested in playing tennis competitively. I'd say I started practicing my game in seventh grade."

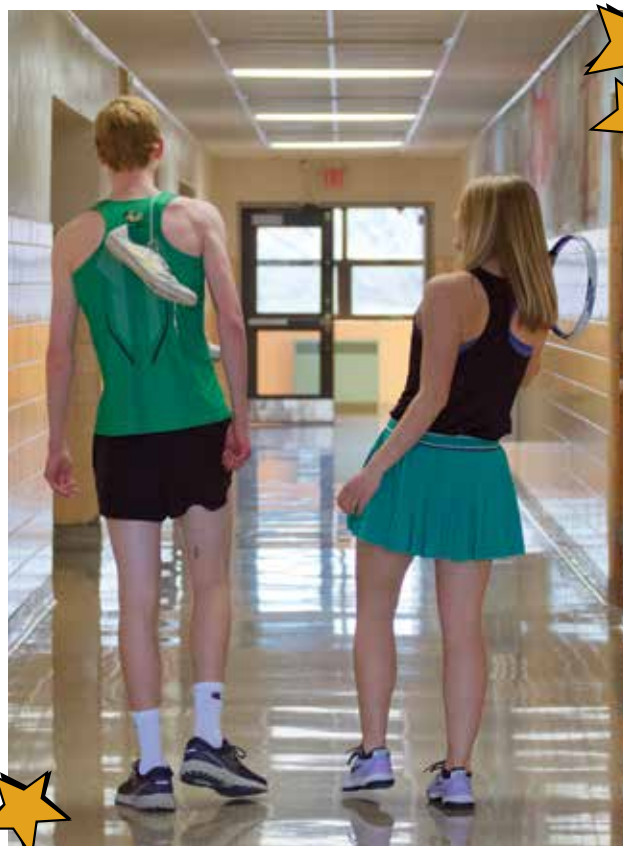
And she didn't stop. During her high school tennis career, Kowieski was part of the silver trophy-winning team at the WIAA Girls State Tennis Team Championships and made three appearances at the WIAA Girls Tennis State Individual Tournament. But, after finishing in the top sixteen individuals during her junior year, Kowieski was dealt an unexpected blow thanks to an injury.

"I hurt my right shoulder in the spring of my junior year in a freak water accident and had reconstructive surgery two months before the start of my senior season," Kowieski said. "I missed about twenty matches, but thanks to the support I received from my coaches, the tennis community, Dr. Austin Crowe, and my physical therapist Drew Strope, I was able to get back on the court in time to help the team qualify for the team state tournament and to earn myself a spot in the individual state tournament as the number 7 seed."

As she was healing from her injury, Kowieski says her faith played a special role in her life.

"It was frustrating at times, but I really believed that it would work out the way it was meant to. I never felt alone," she said.

And it was at the WIAA Girls State Tennis Team Championships in 2019 that Kowieski made a decision that truly highlighted her character and sportsmanship and ended her high school career in an unusual way.





Kowieski chose to forfeit her final high school tennis match in the team state semifinals after realizing her opponent, Catholic Memorial junior and #3 ranked player in the state, Lauren Carson, was struggling after taking a medical timeout.

"The WIAA rule is that if a player forfeits a match in the state semifinals, they also forfeit their opportunity to play in the final if their team qualifies," Kowieski explained. "I figured she would have forfeited if she had the option, but our team had already lost the match and she knew her team needed her to play in the finals. I was winning in the first set and had her on the ropes, but once I found out my team had lost, I decided there would be little satisfaction in beating her when she was clearly not playing at the level she was capable. I walked to the net, held out my hand, and forfeited my final match. There were lots of tears from everyone. Looking back, it was an unusual way to end high school tennis, but it was rewarding and I know I'll never forget it."

"Caroline definitely showed maturity beyond her years with her display of sportsmanship at the state tournament," Coach Kyle Seyer said. "She did what she thought was the right thing to do in that situation and as a coach I could not have been more proud."

During the same season Kowieski could be found on the court swinging a racket, Schlitz could be found putting miles...and miles...and more miles...on his running shoes.

Schlitz, who has a younger brother in eighth grade at Regis Middle School, discovered a love for cross country despite an initial disdain for running.

"In eighth grade, my friends convinced me to join the cross country team," he remembered. "I hesitantly did although I hated running!"

Over time, Schlitz came to love the sport, earning two trips to the WIAA Boys State Cross Country Championships and one trip to the WIAA State Track & Field Championships for the 1600m. In fact, his cross country 5k time of 16:32.6 is the fastest at Regis since the 1990s. His personal record in the 1600m is 4:37.99. Schlitz attributes part of his success to his teammates.

"I wouldn't have even joined cross country without having my friends in it and I can't imagine doing cross

country without my teammates," he said. "Some of the training is unpleasant, but they make it easier to get through workouts by keeping the atmosphere positive."

Schlitz says he will always remember his good races that proved hard work pays off.

"There is nothing better than staying consistent and having a breakthrough race in which I ran faster than I thought I was even capable of," he said.

Behind almost every great athlete is a great coach, and both Kowieski and Schlitz say the tennis and cross country coaching staff made a big impact on their athletic careers.

"My time as a student-athlete at Regis has taught me that adversity can knock you down, but if you work hard, it will never keep you down."

-Caroline Kowieski

"I want to thank my tennis coaches, Kyle Seyer and Kyle Johnson, as well as my coaches from the YMCA," Kowieski said. "I've loved playing for them and I can't thank them enough for all of their support. The 'Kyles' are selfless in their dedication to Regis and the program."

"Caroline was a great athlete to coach," said Coach Seyer. "She had an incredible work ethic and desire to improve every year she was in the program. I will definitely look back and remember her as one of the great examples of what being a Regis student-athlete is all about."

"Coach John Snyder and Coach Tracy Yengo have been committed to making the Regis cross country teams as successful as possible over my four years in the program," Schlitz said. "I appreciate what they have done for me."

"When thinking of Andrew, the first thing that comes to mind is his passion for running," Coach John Snyder said. "It almost became an obsession for him. Secondly, his determination to be the best he could be. When he began running in high school, Andrew was not a natural runner. His running form needed work and



he needed to build himself up physically. But, he went at it with great determination and willed himself to be a champion runner. He will go down as one of Regis' best runners of recent years and I will always remember him also as a great person of character."

Tracy Yengo, who served as both a volunteer and paid coach during Schlitz's time on the cross country team, says she has never met an athlete so driven and disciplined.

"Andrew is an outstanding young man who has shown his classmates and teammates that anything is possible when you set your mind to it," Yengo said. "He is humble and leads by example."

Some may look at Kowieski and Schlitz and think their success is rooted solely in athletics. Those people would be wrong.

In fact, both seniors are outstanding students, never letting their

role as athletes interfere with their studies. For example, Schlitz is proud of his 33 composite or 34 superscored ACT results. An amazing feat considering all he has balanced throughout his high school career.

"Regis has supported me by providing an atmosphere in which I am able to succeed athletically and academically, with coaches and teachers who want to see me succeed and try to bring out the best in me," Schlitz said.

"I've had an excellent experience in the classroom throughout my high school career," Kowieski added. "The coursework at Regis High

"There is nothing better than staying consistent and having a breakthrough race in which I ran faster than I thought I was even capable of."

-Andrew Schlitz

"I have met lifelong friends and gained a strong educational foundation," said Schlitz. "I can take away that staying consistent in training and studying will always lead to results."

"As a student-athlete I felt very supported by individuals from the Regis community, especially coaches, teachers, my teammates, and their families. Tennis does not draw large crowds, and I was always grateful to have a teacher or fans stop by to watch us play. My time as a student-athlete at Regis has taught me that adversity can knock you down, but if you work hard, it will never keep you down," Kowieski added.

*Special Thanks to Photographer Riley Michaud '20
Riley Pictures Life Photography LLC*



School has helped me develop good study habits, and they will serve me well."

Kowieski specifically thanked her history and math teachers, Mr. Snyder and Mr. Nerbovig, for making an impact in her life. Meanwhile, Schlitz mentioned Mr. Van Hemert, his religion teacher, for helping him when he needed it the most.

"Mr. Van Hemert showed me that being level headed, both in school and in sport, will always lead to positive outcomes," Schlitz said.

In the fall, Caroline plans to attend UW-Madison, where she has been admitted to the business school. She also plans to play club tennis on campus. Meanwhile, Schlitz is still deciding between the University of Notre Dame or UW-Madison. He, too, plans to join a track club on his chosen campus and may also start running marathons.

Both say they will always fondly remember their years as Regis Ramblers and the support fans of the green and white showed them.



DECADES



In addition to caring for the children in her classroom, Roach, who has a Child Care Services Degree from Chippewa Valley Technical College, also served as a co-op teacher for current student teachers.

“Bonita has focused on the value of relationships throughout her career, which has made an enormous impact on this program,” Flaig said. “She is a wonderful role model and mentor for other teachers and is a proud representation of our program in the community. We are proud to say we have hired several of Bonita’s student teachers, many of whom are still working with us today.”

Julie Burhop, Director of the Regis Child Development Center, says Roach has also been the pioneering spirit behind many of the facility’s treasured traditions.

“She spearheaded our first book fair more than 15 years ago and she has continued to organize and run this event, which has supplied our classrooms with thousands of dollars worth of books over the years,” Burhop said. “She has also shared in our faith by organizing weekly chapel times in our preschool classrooms, as well as implementing a special Vacation Bible School week every summer.”

Most importantly, Flaig says Roach’s calm and trusting manner put parents at ease throughout the decades.

Her real name is Bonita Roach. But, to the kids, she’s Miss Bonita. And there are a lot of little ones who already miss her smiling face.

After 24 years as an early childhood education teacher at the Regis Child Development Center, Roach retired in early March. She started with the program in September of 1995 and since that time, has cared for countless children.

“Bonita has worked in our 3 year old old classroom, known as the Chipmunk room, since she started,” said Child Development Centers Administrator Gayle Flaig. “She started in the Chipmunk room and will retire in the Chipmunk room, which is pretty special.”



“All three of my children have unique gifts and challenges, and Miss Bonita was able to champion their gifts and support them in their challenges,”

F S U N S H I N E



said parent Angie Stombaugh. "I was appreciative of her organizational skills and her straightforward approach to working with me as a parent. My children loved being a Chipmunk and loved the energy Miss Bonita brought to their experiences."

"We love Miss Bonita," added parent Patty Palecek. "She always had a smile on her face and was always upbeat. My kids adored her."

Meanwhile, her co-workers will remember Miss Bonita as their true sunshine.

"I started at the Regis Child Development Center with Bonita as her student teacher and got hired to be her co-teacher right after I graduated," said teacher Traci Swenson. "Bonita taught me patience and that every day starts fresh, no matter what happened the day before. She has helped me grow, not only as a teacher, but as a woman as well."

"Bonita has been one of the most incredible people to work with," added teacher Nicole Zimmer. "You can truly tell she is passionate about what she does. I will miss her enthusiasm and joy in our classroom."

Flaig says finding constant, dependable, and dedicated professionals in the early childhood education field is rare. Roach was all of those things and more.



"As her supervisor, watching her passion and creativity in the classroom was a privilege," Flaig said. "I feel humbled and honored to have worked with her. Her calm nature and ability to connect with young children for who they are and where they are at, make her a one-of-a-kind teacher. I will miss Bonita and everything that she represents. It's very hard for me to say goodbye."

The goodbye is also hard for Roach, who says she will forever remember her time spent with her co-workers, the families, and most importantly, the children in her care.

"I know not all people can say this, but I truly love my job and a part of me is very sad to leave," Roach said. "I will always have wonderful memories of my years here at Regis."

"Thank you for letting me be a part of this wonderful center." -Miss Bonita

Activities Report



LEGO Robotics Competition

In December, Regis students participated in the 14th annual LEGO Robotics Competition in Rochester, Minnesota. IBM sponsors the program and at least one Regis team has competed since it began.

Students spend several months building and programming their LEGO robots to solve weekly problems in preparation for the competition, which is held during Computer Science Week. Nash Cullinan, Levi Frank, Sean McEllistrem, Brady Nodolf, and Mason Nuesse earned second place overall in the middle school long term competition. They also advanced to the final four teams in the short-term competition. Brody Larson advanced to the final eight teams in the short-term competition.

Student Scholarship

Each year, the Herb Kohl Educational Foundation recognizes 46 WI Council of Religious and Independent Schools (WCRIS) students, teachers, principals, and schools with grants and scholarships to distinguish and promote excellence in K-12 education in Wisconsin.

Congratulations to Regis High School senior Michael Polus for earning a \$10,000 scholarship as one of this year's Student Initiative Award winners!



International Students

We are excited to have a number of international students who have or are currently studying at Regis High School this school year!

Back Row: Amélien Miazza (Switzerland), Filip Kotek (Czech Rep), Chiwinkunpathom Wiwat (Thailand), Tseng Wu (Hong Kong)

Front Row: Theerada Siripham (Thailand), Liting Huang (China), Emilija Daugelaite (Lithuania), Federica Introzzi (Italy)

Missing: Gabriele Ruffini (Italy), Sohyun Ahn (S. Korea), Miguel Angel Segurado Molina (Spain, 1st Semester), Mingyu Liu (China)

We are currently looking for host families for international students during the 2020-21 school year. To learn more, please visit www.RegisCatholicSchools.com and search for "2020-21 Host Families Needed".



Dorian Vocal Festival

On January 12 and 13, four Regis High School Choir singers participated in the 70th annual Dorian Vocal Festival as members of the Festival Choir. The festival, held at Luther College in Decorah, Iowa, is the largest choral festival in the United States, with a choir of nearly 1,000 high school juniors and seniors, representing over 270 high schools from the Midwest.

Junior Chelsea Schaf and seniors Hailey Chilson, Quinn Petersilka, and Sophia Picco rehearsed for the better part of two days with the choir, led by director Dr. Andrew Last and guest conductor Elaine Hagenberg, and performed in an evening concert on January 13, featuring the Luther College Nordic Choir, five outstanding high school soloists, and the Festival Choir. Congratulations to these singers!

"I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as a part of the Campus Ministry Team. The religious efforts of this team have taught me that it is good to minister to the masses, but more important to minister to the individual."

- Riley Michaud, Senior

Turkey Trot

Congratulations to the Regis High School Cross Country athletes who participated in this year's event on Thanksgiving morning!

Campus Ministry Update

This year, the Campus Ministry Team at Regis has been doing more than just the retreats. There are different student committees for penance services, Catholic Schools Week, guest speakers, and Mass. These specific roles give our students various leadership opportunities to serve our school. Within the retreat teams, there now are "captains" of the different ways to serve on a retreat: small group leader, game leader, host, and background organizer. We are also very thankful for the parents who have volunteered by helping with delivering the pizza for lunch!



Sports Report



Boys Soccer

The 2019 McDonell-Regis Saints went 4-9-3 on the season. After a Final Four appearance in the 2017 state tournament, the Saints have faced a cycle of rebuilding ever since. While the 2018 team saw the addition of several upperclassmen to include two new seniors, there were no freshmen on that roster. The 2019 team saw much of the previous season's depth and experience depleted by the graduation of seven seniors as well as some additional attrition by players that chose not play their senior season. This depth and experience was replaced largely by an incoming freshman class of six new faces. While these new faces were welcomed with open arms as the future of the program, they also represented more than one third of the depleted roster of only sixteen players.

That being said, the 2019 Saints faced the daunting task of competing against programs with much more experience and depth; many of which had rosters of 24+ players that were fed by JV programs that were equally robust. In spite of this, the 2019 Saints were far more competitive on the field of play than their record suggests, taking many ranked, eventual playoff contenders deep into the second half of games before succumbing to the scoreboard late in the contests. One such example was Northland Pines (15-4-4), an eventual Final Four team in the state tournament.

The Saints managed to remain competitive throughout most of their match against this opponent until finally giving up late goals for a respectable 0-3 loss.

The 2019 Saints were a resilient squad that learned much about making the most of their opportunities. The team was captained by Mason Swoboda, Trent Witkowski, Zade Kidess, and Evan Flak. Seniors for the squad were Mason Swoboda, Trent Witkowski, Zade Kidess, Evan Flak, and Miguel Segurado. Juniors were made up of Adler Bowe, Noah Helms, Matthew Kent, Isaac Cook, and Logan Hughes. Freshmen were Sammy Vallejos Duque, Alex Erickson, Eli Henriksen, Nate Pearson, Rowan Helms, and Zach Laber. Anyone interested in becoming a Saint for the upcoming 2020 season is encouraged to contact one of the Saints listed above or Coaches Joe Cash or Brendan Bauer for details. Go Saints!



Boys Basketball

The varsity Regis Boys Basketball team finished the season with a 16-7 record. The Ramblers started the season strong by winning the first four games. There were a few close loses in the middle of the season to some very good teams. The team had a season highlight win when it defeated Altoona in late January. Regis was the only conference team able to beat Altoona during the season. Some of the other

key wins came in the month of February vs. Whitehall, Somerset, and McDonell. The season ended in the WIAA playoffs with a loss to Aquinas.

The Regis Boys Basketball team had three players receive all-conference recognition. They were Branton Paulsrud (2nd Team), Abe Rocksvold (2nd Team), and JP Wolterstorff (Honorable Mention).



Congratulations to the Regis Varsity Dance team on a successful season!

Dance Team

The team started off practicing in the summer to work on team building and dance technique.

Once school started, it was excited to welcome three exchange students and start learning its homecoming routine for the pep rally and football game. The dance team was also happy to start up an old tradition of leading sideline cheers and awarding the spirit stick at home games and at the football state tournament. Congratulations to the senior class for winning the spirit stick the most times!

Once December came, the dance team started its competition season. Members competed a pom and hip hop routine along with having two solo performers, Kendall and Chelsea. The first competition was the Menomonie Holiday Classic where the team placed 6th in Hip Hop and 8th in Pom. Kendall placed 2nd in her solo. At regionals, the team performed really well and was one place away from going to state in the pom routine! Kendall and Chelsea advanced to state for their solos and we congratulate these two Division 3 All State Finalists! The dance team ended the season by hosting a youth dance clinic. More than fifty girls (and a few boys!) joined to learn a routine, work on pom technique, and perform at the JV Boys Basketball game.



Sports Report



Girls Basketball

The 2019-2020 Regis Girls Basketball squad was a young group this year, but a feisty group. The young Ramblers finished the season 3-20, but were competitive in many games. In 11 of the losses, the Ramblers found themselves within 4 possessions in the final five minutes of the game. Regis was able to get victories over Durand, Thorp, and Spencer this season.

With no seniors on the team this year, the Ramblers look to make a push up the standings next season.

Makenna Rohrscheib was named Second Team All-Western Cloverbelt, while Katie Andrews was named Team MVP. Ally Leis was awarded the WBCA Team First Award and Emelija Dauglaite took home the Most Improved Player Award.



Wrestling

This year, the Regis-Altoona Wrestling (RAW) team grew in both size and might, increasing the total number of wrestlers and wins. The team ended its dual season with a 4-3 record.

Congratulations to the three sectional qualifiers this season; senior Riley Bauer, junior Payton Kostka, and freshman Caden Weber. Payton advanced to the WIAA

State Individual Tournament in Madison, finishing 2nd at the 152 lb. weight class. Payton was the 1st state qualifier in the RAW program, but the team has faith he will not be the last. RAW looks forward to helping nurture its student-athletes, fostering growth, unleashing the potential, and showcasing the talent this team has next season.



Hockey

The Regis-Altoona-McDonell (RAM) Hockey team had a tough year, ending the season with only three wins. Injuries and illnesses were a huge struggle all season long. It was a very young team this year with 12 freshmen who were able to get a lot of experience during the JV games. Most of them also saw a lot of ice time during varsity games this season. It was a tough season, but the RAM Hockey program definitely has a bright future!



Good Luck!

In February, Regis High School student-athlete Tristan Root signed his Letter of Intent to play football at the University of Minnesota Duluth.

We wish him the best!



MARCH FOR LIFE 2020

In January, three students and one staff member from Regis High School participated in the 2020 March for Life.

The four pilgrims were Tracy Yengo and juniors Filip Kotek, Emilija Daugelaite, and Sydnee Yengo. The Diocese of La Crosse, under the leadership of Christopher Rogers who organized the trip, had approximately 250 pilgrims at the event. Six coach buses caravanned to and from the event.





The first March for Life happened in 1974 and the hope is that we will not have to march in 2021 and thereafter. However, the reality is defending and protecting life from conception until natural death will be a lifelong journey for Catholics around the world.

The experiences had at the March for Life were almost indescribable. Some highlights included...

- Mass at the Shrine of Saint John Paul II
- Life is Very Good Rally at George Mason University and Mass
- Seeing President Trump Speak at the March
- Touring Monuments and National Archives
- Praying the Rosary Outside of Planned Parenthood
- Mass at the National Basilica of National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception



Thank you to the Eau Claire County Chapter of Wisconsin Right to Life and its President, Steve Werner '72, for a generous donation of \$1,550 to fully fund this experience for our four students. Werner also serves as the President of the Board of Governors of Wisconsin Right to Life and a member of its Board of Directors. The Eau Claire County Chapter of Wisconsin Right to Life feels it is important to support young people who show an interest in the pro-life cause.

Regis Fund



*The 2019-20 annual Regis Fund
appeal will conclude on June 30, 2020*

As of this publication, we have received donations of \$297,675 for this year's appeal. (If you recall, my goal was to make this year's Regis Fund appeal one of the most successful in Regis Catholic Schools history. We can do it!)

Thank you to all who have made a gift to the annual Regis Fund and Tuition Partnership Program for our current families in our Regis Catholic Schools.

As you all know, annual gifts provide much-needed funds for initiatives to support our students and teachers. Your generous donations help enhance academic, athletic, and co-curricular programs, and provide financial assistance to students.

We are very grateful for the generosity from the Regis community consisting of our loyal alumni, parents, past parents of alumni, grandparents, friends, and businesses. Your contributions will help Regis Catholic Schools ensure the health and vitality for this year and for our future.

All gifts to the annual Regis Fund will be acknowledged in the 2020 Annual Report and stay at Regis Catholic Schools. We sincerely thank you for your support.

There is still time left to help us out and make a donation to the annual Regis Fund! Please just return the enclosed envelope or visit **www.RegisCatholicSchoolsFoundation.com** and click on the "Giving" tab.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Bill Uelmen'.

Bill Uelmen
Advancement Director
Regis Catholic Schools

Alumni Report

Brooke, the daughter of **Sally Knudtson Adams '64**, has graduated with her Doctorate in Clinical Psychology and live in San Francisco. Sally recently traveled to Hawaii.



Greg Durocher '73 retired in 2016 from the U.S. Geological Survey in Anchorage, Alaska. He and his wife, Shari, are keeping active with gardening, traveling, skiing, and enjoying the "family retreat" on the Kenai Peninsula. If any classmates plan to visit Alaska, look us up - we can provide a wealth of info!

Erin (Thorson) Piggott '05 and her husband, Bill Piggott, welcomed a baby boy on November 12. William "Liam" Thomas Piggott V was born in Chicago, Illinois, where the couple lives.

Congratulations!



Olivia (Sturz) VanSambeek '10, daughter of Suzy Sturz '85, welcomed a new baby girl. Saylor Marie was born on January 18 weighing 6 lb. 5 oz.

Steve Bye '11 recently moved to the Twin Cities and now works as an DER Integration Engineer for Xcel Energy. He had previously worked in Madison, Wisconsin with Alliant Energy as a Distribution Planning Engineer.



Joe Roach '75 announced his 500th Regis Ramblers athletic event on January 28, 2020. Joe started his public address career for the Regis Boys Basketball team when he was a junior at Regis High School and soon afterward lent his talent to the Regis

Football and Lady Ramblers Basketball teams. He also was the voice of the Eau Claire Cavaliers for several years. Thank you, Joe, for your 46 years of service to Regis Catholic Schools!

Jim O'Neill '77 started a new business in 2019 on Galveston Island. The Galveston Experience Company provides Historic, Hurricane, and Ghost Bus Tours. He also used his prior radio experience to start RadioGalveston.com, the only local radio station serving Galveston Island. The station also produced two podcasts which can be found at **RadioGalveston.com**.

O'Neill says he's had many visitors from Wisconsin in the first year of business, and several from Eau Claire. He'd love to see more folks from Wisconsin enjoy the warm winter temps or the summer sand and sunshine, so he's created a discount code which will donate 10% of revenue for those using the tour to Regis High School and also provide a 10% discount to alumni guests.



O'Neill started his radio career at WEAQ/WIAL in Eau Claire while a student at Regis High School. He went on to receive Billboard Magazine "Personality of the Year" award in 1982. He also spent 19 years as a Vice-President with Metro Traffic Control/Westwood One before joining GEWI, a German Software

Company responsible for creating more than 80% of the navigation-ready traffic information in North America as well as 31 countries around the world.

He also founded STARskaters.org, a Houston, Texas based non-profit organization which teaches disabled children to ice skate and operates a parahockey (sled hockey) program in Houston.



SATURDAY, JUNE 20
Lake Hallie Golf Course
\$80/Golfer

All proceeds from the event will help support the Regis High School Booster Club!

REGISTRATION DEADLINE | June 8

Contact Scott Alexander with questions or to join as an event sponsor.
ScAlexander@FDIC.gov or
(715) 379-3027 (voice/text)

Alumni Report

Reunions

Class of 1945 (St. Patrick's) | 75th Reunion
Saturday, July 25

1:30 p.m. | Tour of Regis High School
4 p.m. | Mass
6 p.m. | Dinner at Johnny's Italian Steakhouse

For questions, please contact
Mary Lou Tomashel
at (715) 835-9506 or
Mary Ann Culbert Gleason
at mgleason15@tampabay.rr.com.

(Friends from the Class of 1946 are
welcome to join!)

Karen Anderson (715) 834-7559

Class of 1980 | 40th Reunion
Weekend of August 7-9, 2020

A weekend of events including dinner on
Saturday night at Johnny's Italian Steakhouse
in Eau Claire. Watch for more details later
this year.

Sign into our website to catch up and update
your information!

www.classcreator.com/Eau-Claire-Wisconsin-Regis-1980/

Regis/St. Patrick's Alumni Association Update

As an alumnus from Regis or St. Patrick's High School, you qualify to become a member of the Regis/St. Patrick's Alumni Association. We are in the process of discussing how an alumni association can better serve our graduates to help you get together with other Ramblers.

The plan is to form an eight person Alumni Association Board. Our Regis Catholic Schools Advancement Director and the Advancement Assistant will serve as directors.

The Regis/St. Patrick's Alumni Association plans to host alumni engagement events in cities where our alumni currently live, such as Minneapolis, Milwaukee, and the Madison areas reconnect with alumni at their reunions, host a Mass at Regis High School for our deceased Regis/St. Patrick's High School alumni, set up a trip for our alumni to travel to a specific destination, host an alumni weekend, and host an all-school class reunion at the Regis campus, just to name a few.

If you would like to get involved, please contact our alumni office at alumni@RegisCatholicSchools.com.

In addition, for the classes that will be planning their class reunion, know we can help you out! Contact us for...

- Help with mailings
- Class mailing lists and labels
- Design and creation of 'save the date' postcards and invitations
- Reserving space for your group at Regis home athletic events and scheduling recognition during halftime
- Ideas for places to host your event and menu details
- Great Rambler door prizes

Contact Robyn Brenner, Advancement Assistant & Alumni Relations Coordinator, at (715) 830-2271, ext. 1016 or rbrenner@RegisCatholicSchools.com.

IN MEMORIUM

*Eternal rest, grant unto him/her, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him/her.
May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.*

ALUMNI

Ann Ashbaugh '47

(St. Patrick's)

Charles Price '51

(St. Patrick's)

Jacob Vitek '54

Phyllis Joan Barney Huls '55

Frances Mongoven Martin '59

Robert Lieske '59

Barbara Rolseth '60

Mary Ann Muldoon Geisert '62

Gary Duffenbach '63

Joseph Schwebach '67

Joseph Eslinger '71

Richard Bush '72

Trevor J. Polus '16

*Thank you to the families
who named the Regis Catholic
Schools Foundation
for their memorial gifts.*

Retirement Party

for
Bill Velmen

Help us celebrate Bill's dedicated service to Regis Catholic Schools!

THURSDAY, JUNE 4

BEGINNING AT 4 P.M.
(Come anytime that evening!)



Ray's Place

838 Water Street, Eau Claire

Dinner & Beer/Wine Provided

Hosted by the Regis Catholic Schools Foundation
& the Regis High School Booster Club



REGIS
Catholic Schools

Auction

SAVE THE DATE!

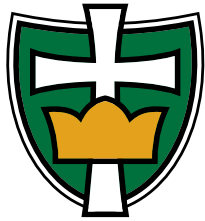
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2020

The Florian Gardens | Eau Claire

Enjoy an evening of fun, expression of community,
and a commitment to the future of Regis Catholic Schools!

www.RegisCatholicSchools.com





REGIS

Catholic Schools

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(715) 830-2273
www.RegisCatholicSchools.com



#RegisPride
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Regis Child Development Center - Genesis Child Development Center

Learning Today, Leading Tomorrow

Regis Catholic Schools is dedicated to educating students of all faiths in a Catholic, Christ-centered environment. We are united by Our Core Values of *Living Faith, Accepting Responsibility, Promoting Teamwork, Achieving Excellence, and Inspiring Leadership.*



2019 Gold Mass

In December, Regis High School and Regis Middle School hosted the annual Gold Mass. The celebration of the Gold Mass is a long-standing Regis tradition dating back to the beginning of Regis in 1953. Throughout the month of December, students bring in donations of non-perishable food items and cash to be donated to the St. Francis Food Pantry and the Sojourner House.

We are happy to report we collected more than \$1,100 and many pounds of non-perishable food items for the two charities.

Thank you to our families for your support!

