# St. Eugene **SPIRIT**



for the family and friends of St. Eugene School

Fall 2023



### Leadership Changes

It is with heartfelt gratitude that we thank our beloved principal of 13 years, Ms. Rebecca Jones, for all she has done for St. Eugene School. On July 1, she began a new role as Executive Director of St. Eugene and St. Monica Schools. This position utilizes her vast expertise to collaborate on curriculum, professional development, and religious formation for both schools. During her time as principal, St. Eugene School was recognized five times by the Archdiocese of Milwaukee as Exemplary. She also guided the school through the Archdiocesan Accreditation process twice. We are so appreciative for her innovation and forward thinking, as well as her unwavering dedication towards advancing the success of Catholic schools.





Stepping into the role of **St. Eugene School Principal** is Mrs. Nicolle Schroeder. She comes to St. Eugene after her tenure at Wauwatosa Catholic School where she served as principal. She also brings experience as a long-time Spanish teacher and as dean of students at St. Thomas More High School and St. Joan Antida High School. She has a degree in Spanish education, a master's in social work, and a master's in educational policy and leadership. She is an active member of Christ King Parish in Wauwatosa. She is looking forward to this new opportunity, and we are so happy to welcome her to our wonderful community!

"The measure of intelligence is the ability to change."

-Albert Einstein

### St. Eugene School Highlights

- Student enrollment increased by nearly 10 percent.
- The 2022-2023 Annual Fund exceeded its goal by over \$12,000.
- A dynamic auction allowed for the purchase of new View Boards for every classroom.
- We successfully completed the accreditation process with the Archdiocese of Milwaukee.
- We received an Exemplary Recognition award from the Archdiocese of Milwaukee in Mission and Catholic Identity.





### St. Eugene School Class of 2023



Back row: Mrs. Laura McLaughlin, Mrs. Stacie Conery, Mrs. Katie Dewey, Mrs. Kaitlyn Sewall, Mrs. Sharon Webster Middle row: Deacon Nick Dien, Samuel Young, Ryan Komagum, Nicholas Bongard, Khyell Steinbring, Eli North, Julia Vopal, Ms. Rebecca Jones Front row: Fr. Tonny Kizza, Cara Blackford, James Pienkos, Michelle Dzieken, Addison Drifka, Eleanor Fisher, Fr. Mark Payne

### Congratulations to our award winners from the Class of 2023 MACKIN AWARD: Michelle Dzieken and James Pienkos

The Mackin Award is presented in honor of Fr. William H. Mackin, founding pastor of St. Eugene Congregation and School. The recipients must demonstrate positive attributes in the areas of academic effort and achievement, athletic skill, and overall attitude.

#### FR. KROLL AWARD: Addison Drifka

The Fr. Kroll Award is presented in honor of Fr. Robert Kroll, S.J., a 1979 graduate of St. Eugene School, to the student who best exhibits a respect for our Catholic heritage, takes an active role in the parish community through service to others, and exemplifies Christian values.

#### KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS SCHOLARSHIP: Eli North

Council 4706 offers a \$500 scholarship to a student who will attend a Catholic high school, with selection based on character, leadership, service, and academics.

### A Fond Farewell



Mrs. Katie Dewey has retired after ten years of teaching at St. Eugene. Her tenure here began as our fifth grade teacher and she taught middle school religion, science, and math over the years. Mrs. Dewey has taught for 31 years in total and is looking forward to spending more time with her mother and grandchildren. We are grateful for the many gifts Mrs. Dewey has bestowed upon our students and school community.



Our middle school ELA (English Language Arts) teacher, Mrs. Laura McLaughlin will not return to St. Eugene so she can stay home with her new baby boy, born this past March. Mrs. McLaughlin taught at St. Eugene for two years and her love of literature and her ability to bring out the best writer in each of her students will be greatly missed. We thank her for her time here and pray for many blessings on her newly-expanded family.



Mrs. Marcela Mejia, who was the first face everyone saw when entering the school for the past eight years, has retired. She was the administrative assistant at the front desk and her duties included everything from communications with parents, weekly newsletters, and maintaining our student database to dispensing ice packs and Band-Aids. She always had a kind word for students and parents and we will miss her immensely.



### So Much to Celebrate...



The seventh/eighth grade girls volleyball team made it to the Seton Volleyball Championship.



Our sixth grade team won first place overall at the Dominican Challenge.



We are pleased to welcome Mrs. Alice Weinshrott, our new middle school math and science teacher, and Mrs. Megan Gonzales, our new middle school English and language arts teacher.



Three of last year's eighth graders competed with great success in the Wisconsin State Championships for Track and Field this past spring. Eli North finished first in the 1500M, Cara Blackford finished first in the 100M, and Addison Drifka finished fifth in the 1500M.

Additionally, Eli and Addison competed in the USA National Junior Olympic Cross Country Championships, held at the Texas A&M Campus in the fall of 2022.



Mission and Catholic Identity Academic Excellence Innovative Programs Educating the Whole Student



Middle school students had an amazing run performing Disney's Frozen Jr.



Mrs. Webster's team of sixth, seventh, and eighth grade Mathletes competed at the MathCounts Regional Competition at UWM. Our SES team took fourth place overall. Eighth grader James Pienkos (*back row, second from right*) placed eighth individually and qualified for the state competition.



Sixth grader Aiden Knight was selected to compete in the National Irish Dance contest in Nashville this summer, where he placed 23rd in his age group.



STEAM Director Sharon Webster received a surprise Teacher Appreciation Week award from former student Rose Fleisch, SES '22, and Divine Savior Holy Angels High School President, Katie Konieczny.

#### ALUMNI UPDATES

**John Kraniak III '63** lives in Madison and works for the Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra as Development Data Coordinator. He hosts a weekly jazz radio program and serves as president of the Madison Music Collective, a group that organizes jazz concerts.

Haley (Carter) Gerding '07 is back at St. Eugene, this time as the mother of 5K student Jane. Haley and her husband Alex also have a one-year-old son, Jack, and are expecting their third child. She works in supply chain for Clarios, formerly Johnson Controls.



**Abby Wolfe '10** is an artist, and does commissions while working on starting her own business.

**Kenny Wolfe '10** lives in Durham, NC where he is the video coordinator for Duke University's women's basketball team.

Mac Wolfe '12 is an account executive for Jacobson Rost Advertising and is living in downtown Milwaukee.

**Emmy Wolfe '13** is attending Illinois State University where she is a graduate assistant for the athletics department and is getting her master's in sports management.

**Bobby Albrightson '15** recently graduated from Concordia University of Wisconsin with his bachelor's and master's degrees in business management. He studied abroad in Germany and Austria while in college. He is now the program coordinator for the master of computer science program at Concordia.



**Jarred Manista '15** was featured on the 2023 Grammy Awards dancing alongside Harry Styles during his performance.

(Jarred Manista pictured here, to the left of Styles)

Jack Manning '16 is a senior at the University of Notre Dame and interned at the Vatican during his junior year study abroad experience in Rome. He published an article through the Pontifical Academy for Life that covers their assembly looking back at COVID through the lens of faith.



**Johnny Albrightson '17** is in his final year at Marquette University studying political science and history. He recently worked as the aquatics director at Ozaukee Country Club and is currently the head coach of the Nicolet Jr Knights swim team.

Rose O'Keeffe '18 is a sophomore at DePaul University in Chicago where she is studying communications and media with minors in journalism and history. She has been named assistant news editor for The DePaulia newspaper and is a Chicago Quarter Mentor for incoming freshmen. Highlights from her freshman year include studying abroad in Ireland and interviewing Sr. Helen Prejean, author of *Dead Man Walking*.



Ethan Zentner '19 was named a Presidential Scholar at Nicolet High School. He also competed at the International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) in Dallas. There he won first place in his category, Engineering Technology: Statics & Dynamics, which came with a \$5,000 award. He received over \$15,000 in other scholarships and awards from the the fair as well. He is now a freshman at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.



**Peter Manning '19,** Marquette University High School class of 2023, was named an Exemplary Tutor in the Jesuit Honor Society. Peter is currently a freshman at the University of Notre Dame.

**Andrew Pienkos '19,** who graduated from Marquette University High School in May, received an Academic All-State award as a varsity football player earning a 3.75 or higher GPA. Andrew is currently a freshman at Purdue University.

Patrick Firsan '19 who graduated as Valedictorian of Dominican High School in 2023, also won a Herb Kohl Excellence Scholarship, a State of Wisconsin Academic Excellence Scholarship, and was named a National Merit Finalist. He is now a freshman at UW Madison studying electrical engineering. Sophia Kleinmann '20 received her second Jerry Award nomination this past spring, this time for Outstanding Lead Performer in Dominican High School's performance of *Bye Bye Birdie*.



Emily Igwike '20 is a senior at University School of Milwaukee and has been named Milwaukee's first-ever Youth Poet Laureate. She travelled to Carnegie Hall for the awards ceremony.

Charlie Fisher '21, a Marquette University High School junior, received an outstanding score on the AATG (American Association of Teachers of German) National German Exam. He was recognized along with other students from across Wisconsin for his hard work and success in the study of the German language and culture, and received a certificate of achievement as well as a cash prize.



We humbly thank you, our generous donors, for your ongoing support of our school. Your gifts provide a foundation upon which we can grow and nourish our school, and provide quality Catholic education for generations of students to come. A well-deserved thank you also goes out to Josh and Kathleen Roling, school parents and chairs of the 2022-23 Annual Fund. With their dedication and enthusiasm, we raised over \$162,000.







### Thank You St. Eugene School Annual Fund Donors

Jeanne Hoff

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