



# St. Eugene **SPIRIT**

for the family and friends of St. Eugene School

Fall 2021



Be *joyful* in hope, *patient* in affliction, *faithful* in prayer.

~ Romans 12:12

## Back Together Again

If Spring 2020 will be remembered for school being virtual, the 2020-2021 school year will be celebrated for the resilience we displayed in coming back together. As the school doors opened and students filled the hallways, you could hear and feel the joy of our school family. We were together as cohorts, experiencing classroom projects, time on the playground, lunches together in the classrooms, intramurals after school, and being able to participate in school Masses. Many COVID-19 protocols were added to keep us safe and healthy. Together we washed our hands more, wiped surfaces often, and continued to practice social distancing throughout our days.

As we look back on the past year, we are reminded of the determination to make face to face learning happen, the patience to take the challenges day by day, and the belief our prayers were being answered, because we were “guiding hearts and growing minds” in person at St. Eugene School every single day.

Our amazing faculty and staff are to be commended for the positive attitudes and grit they showed through the year. Many were asked to be stretched in new directions, teaching in ways they had never done before. Because of their dedication, our students continued to grow academically, socially, and spiritually.

As you read the following pages, we hope you, our supporters, enjoy seeing what joy this past year brought us.

## Writing Awards



Congratulations to St. Eugene class of 2021, Anna Finley, for her many writing accomplishments this year. Her poem, "Sprint Again"

was published in the *Together 2020 Poetry Collection*, sponsored by the American Library of Poetry. Her short story, "The Mirror of Shadows and Embers", won the prestigious Scholastic Silver Key Award. Additionally, she was named a semifinalist in the Artemis Moon Pod Essay and Science Research Contest. Anna's essay was chosen out of 14,000 essays nationwide. We are proud of her hard work during her time at St. Eugene School.

Eliana Igwike, class of 2022, was another award winner. Her essay, "Static of the Radio" was the Grand Prize Winner for the Middle School category for 1,000 Words Story Contest in the spring of 2021.



*Within a Catholic community, St. Eugene School helps children grow in faith, character, and service, builds a foundation of academic excellence, and promotes the development of the whole child.*

## We Welcome New Teachers

Mrs. Sarah Johnston joins us in middle school science and religion. Mrs. Laura McLaughlin will teach middle school English Language Arts. Ms. Madison Aprahamian will continue as our Spanish teacher and has added middle school social studies to her day. Ms. Hannah Johnson joins us teaching Music and Mrs. Jen Hilander is our new Guidance Counselor.



We are blessed to have these wonderful teachers join our dedicated teaching faculty.

## St. Eugene School Class of 2021



Third row: Fr. Paul Hartmann, Mia Desrude, Isaiah Pelican, Nicholas Pienkos, Craig Coonan, Oliver Scharnick, Sean O'Bryne, Zachary Simmons, Owen Lara, Fr. Jordan Berghouse  
Second row: Ms. Laura Dobroth, Sophia McWilliam, Ella Wawrzyn, Carlena Mortola, Joseph Manning, India Hill, Shelby Quinn, Pablo Beisser, Principal Rebecca Jones  
First row: Jack Bremenkamp, Rita Ferrero, Katelyn Williams, Ryan Vopal, Andrew Gunther, Thomas Haverty, Anastasia Finley, Charles Fisher, Katie Mark, Sadie O'Neil

The Baccalaureate Mass and Graduation was held on June, 4, 2021. Our newest alumni will attend these high schools: Divine Savior Holy Angels, Dominican, Homestead, Marquette, Nicolet, and University School.

**MACKIN AWARD: Shelby Quinn, Katelyn William, Thomas Haverty, and Nick 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 athletic skills, academic effort and achievement, and overall attitude.

**FR. KROLL AWARD: Ella Wawrzyn, Joseph Manning, Craig Coonan**

Presented in honor of Fr. Robert Kroll, S.J., a 1979 graduate of St. Eugene School, to the students who best exhibit a respect for our Catholic heritage, take an active role in the parish community through service to others and exemplify Christian values.

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS SCHOLARSHIP: Craig Coonan**

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.



# STEAM

“STEAM Education allows students to take learning and exploration into their own hands. It is not one size fits all; each learner will be challenged and be able to push themselves to new heights based on their own knowledge and understanding.” Mrs. Johnston, middle school science teacher

- 8th graders built bridges and tested the strength of their designs.
- 1st graders made instruments using recyclable materials.
- Even the young 4K students created new ways to see the world.



## Battle of the Books

Battle of the Books is a recreational book reading program for teams in grades 4-6. Teams battle their book knowledge by answering questions and memorizing authors and titles. Our 4th grade Bookworm Buddies, placed 3rd overall in the ten school tournament. Congratulations to Sylvia Bilak, Emily North, and James Fleisch.



## Music Award

In May, 2021, St. Eugene School was honored with the SupportMusic Merit Award from the NAMM Foundation for its outstanding commitment to music education. The SupportMusic Merit Award recognized individual schools that demonstrate outstanding achievement in efforts to provide music access and education to all students.



*“At St. Eugene School we value and support music education whether it is taught in formal music classes, fostered in extra-curricular offerings, or shared during morning music meditations. We feel that music not only enhances our curriculum, but is integral to educating the whole student. We are grateful and humbled to receive this designation.”*

*~ Rebecca Jones, Principal*



**Keep Up With St. Eugene School News**  
Bookmark [www.steugene.school](http://www.steugene.school) as one of your favorites. Click on “alumni” to read past issues of SPIRIT and other school news. Follow us on Instagram and Facebook “Saint Eugene School”.



## ALUMNI UPDATES

**Anne Callen Mueller '72** retired after 40 years teaching special education in Kansas City. Widowed in 2018, Anne now lives near her daughter and family in Waxhaw, NC, and happily assists with homeschooling her grandchildren.

**Chuck Desmond '81** and his family live in the San Francisco Bay area. He is director of global supply chain planning for Amazon devices, leading operations for products such as the Kindle, Echo, FireTV and others.

**Nicholas Melin '92** was promoted to full Colonel in the United States Army. He is currently stationed at the United States Embassy in New Delhi, India where he works in a school concerned with India's defense planning and strategy.

**James Wawrzyn '92** is a corporate lawyer with Meissner, Tierney & Nichols in Milwaukee and recently received, with his wife Val, the Volunteers of the Year Award from St. Eugene Parish.

**Nikolas Francis '95** will begin his role as assistant professor at the University of Maryland in the Brain and Behavior Institute. His research focuses on how the brain encodes decision making.

**Patrick O'Neill '00** is a foreign service officer for the U.S. Department of State. He is currently posted at the U.S. Embassy in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

**Ryan Bonfiglio '05** graduated from UW-Milwaukee with a BA in mechanical engineering. He is a sales engineer for the Vyrion Corporation in Waukesha. He lives on the east side and loves to support the Brewers, Bucks, and Packers.

**Lizzie Fons '06** taught high school French in Milwaukee for five years. She now lives in Innsbruck, Austria with husband Lorenz, an Austrian national. She is studying to achieve German language proficiency for an eventual master's degree while also serving as an English language tutor.

**Jason Bonfiglio '07** graduated from UW-Eau Claire with a BA in microbiology and then completed the physician assistant program at Rush University-Chicago. He is a PA in the emergency department at Theda-Care in Waupaca. He lives in Brookfield with his wife, Morgan.



Sr. Virgena Clark, RSM,  
St. Eugene School teacher

Daniel Lehmann '89

**Kristen Bonfiglio '08** graduated from Loyola University-Chicago with a BA in nursing. She works at St. Luke's Hospital in the cardiac interventional medicine department. Krissy lives in the fifth ward of Milwaukee and loves to travel.

**Lisa Feldmann '08** graduated with her Doctorate of Pharmacy from Drake University in May of 2019. She completed a residency program at the Salisbury Veterans Affairs Health Care System in North Carolina. She, her husband, and their dog currently reside in Minneapolis where Lisa serves veterans as a clinical pharmacy practitioner for the St. Cloud VA Medical Center.

**Catherine LaRosa '13** is marketing coordinator for Loadsmart, a technology freight and logistics company in Chicago.

**Sean Moore '17** was named a National Merit Award Finalist and National African American Scholar. He is a freshmen at the University of Chicago.

**Diego Beisser '18** passed his Royal Conservatory of Music Guitar Exams earning First Class Honours with Distinction. He was then awarded a Gold Medal and a scholarship to student with renowned flamenco guitarist Marija Temo.

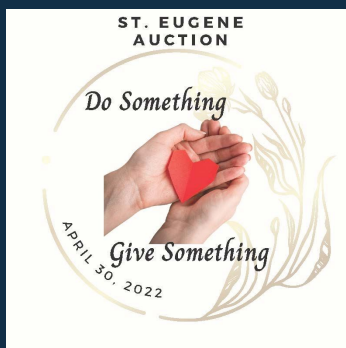
**Ethan Zenter '19** won First Place at the 2021 International Science and Engineering Fair for his project titled "The Effects of Lattice Structure on SLA 3D Printed Piezoelectric PVDF". He is a current junior at Nicolet High School.



**Luke Richmond and Sarah Marowski, classmates from 2012** announce their engagement.

St. Eugene SPIRIT is seeking alumni updates. Help us locate our siblings and classmates. We are also honored to publish memorials. Please share notices and information with Carla Coonan at [coonanc@steugene.school](mailto:coonanc@steugene.school), 414-918-1130

Can your classmates fill a table?  
Come back together at the St. Eugene Auction!  
[dogive22@givesmart.com](mailto:dogive22@givesmart.com)



OPEN  
HOUSE

JANUARY 30, 2022  
9:30 AM - 1:00 PM