

SUMMER 2025

From the Heart



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GREETINGS FROM OUR PASTOR

In prayer, I often reflect on the story of the ten lepers, especially the nine who did not return to give thanks to Jesus. Leprosy, now called Hansen’s Disease, was not only disfiguring but also deeply isolating. To be healed meant being welcomed back into society after years of exclusion. It is easy to imagine those nine being so overwhelmed with joy and so eager to return to normal life that they forgot to go back and thank the one who had made their healing possible.

They were focused on what came next. They were ready to move forward and did not take the time to look back with gratitude. I can think of many times in my own life when I have been like one of those nine. There have

been moments when I did not pause to give God the thanks He deserves. Perhaps you have experienced that as well. Yet there are also moments when we do remember. The more often I say thank you to someone for a kind word, a job well done, or a blessing in my life, the more natural it becomes to express that same gratitude to God.

For us as Catholics, the most important moment of our week is the Sunday celebration of the Mass. The word Eucharist means “thanksgiving.” In that sacred hour, we have the opportunity to thank God for everything He has done for us throughout our lives, and especially in the week that has just passed.

As you read through this edition of the magazine, you will find many reasons to give thanks. We are thankful for Sacred Heart School, for the students and families who make it such a special place, and for the many people who, through their time, prayers, and generosity, help the mission of our school continue to grow. We are especially grateful for the members of St. Vincent de Paul Parish, who so faithfully support Sacred Heart as part of their parish mission, and for the dedicated faculty and staff who bring that mission to life each day through their work, witness, and care.

I encourage you to be like the one who returned to Jesus and gave thanks. Take time in prayer to thank God for your life, for your loved ones, and for the blessing of being part of this school community. We give thanks to God, and as you read through *From the Heart*, we give thanks to you.

In Christ,

Father Joe Corel
Pastor

SACRED HEART SCHOOL AND SACRED HEART FOUNDATION

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Special Thanks

Beverly Rollings - Proofreader
Laysha Lopez '25 - Assistant Editor
Yearbook Class - Photography
Angela McMullin - Magazine design and layout

On the Cover

Caps off to the Sacred Heart Class of 2025!
Graduates celebrated with the traditional cap toss following their commencement ceremony on May 18, 2025.

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From the Heart is created and published by the Sacred Heart Foundation.

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Gremlin Family,

As I reflect on the 24-25 school year, I realize how quickly the year went by! It is with sincere gratitude that I say "thank you" to all of our alumni, students, families, St. Vincent de Paul parishioners, faculty and staff who have kept us in their prayers this year. With God's help, we finished an incredible school year full of growth and amazing opportunities, and I am so thankful for every person who contributed to our success. I've been asked to share some of my biggest sources of pride, and although there are too many to document in a newsletter, here are the ones that, for a variety of reasons, seem special to me.



Our students are a unique and varied bunch with many different cultural backgrounds. What seems to unite them is their love for our school, each other, and God. From Pre-K to 12th grade, our students have opportunities to learn, grow, and thrive like no other student body in our area. Not only are they academically driven as demonstrated by IOWA scores and scholarships offered, but more importantly, they are focused on making our community and world better by their acts of service and kindness. Watching our students grow into the people Christ calls them to be is a pleasure. I have such a great job!

I am convinced that we have the most loyal and caring faculty and staff around. Their spirit of flexibility, cooperation, and support of our school has been very evident this year. In my first year as principal, I found myself navigating uncharted territory. Although I was confident it would all work out, I wasn't sure how to accomplish all of the things we needed done.

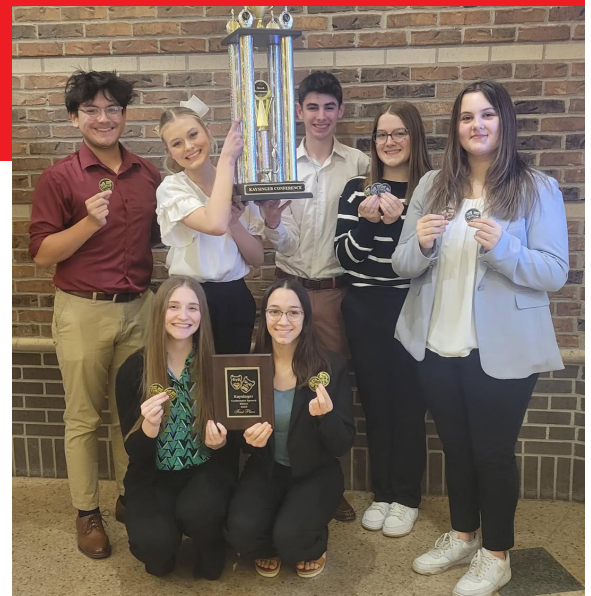
I shouldn't have worried too much as we all came together and made it a great year. Our faculty and staff recognized that a successful school year depended on all of us working together and pitching in with a positive and collaborative attitude. I love our faculty and staff and I am so proud to say I work at Sacred Heart!

I have had the pleasure of meeting with and talking to lots of people in our Sacred Heart community this past year, including people just like you. Alumni, parents, clergy, and students who see the special things happening at Sacred Heart School and want to support it. Our greater Gremlin community has prayed for, donated to, participated in, and shown up for us when we have asked you to! This support has added to our "can do" attitude and shown me that we truly are all in this together. Having people ask, "What can I do to help?" has shown me that our community loves our school and wants us to succeed. Your support is felt and so very appreciated!

As we head toward the last half of summer, please pray for our students, staff, administration, and school. Our greatest gifts are the God-given ones and I count you among the blessings he has shown our school and me. Thank you for all you do to make our school such a special place.

In Him,

Suzann Jenkins
Principal



RECOGNIZING EXTRAORDINARY ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Eighth Hall of Fame Class Inducted on April 26, 2025

Since 2017, the Sacred Heart Foundation has celebrated and honored more than 50 members of the school family at the Sacred Heart School Hall of Fame annual recognition ceremony. Recipients have included alumni, faculty, staff, clergy and laity who have demonstrated achievements in academics, athletics, service and leadership. The 2025 Hall of Fame class includes Jeannine Dove, Sharon Dey, Dr. Kevin Gerke '91, Ted Meyer '57, Sherry Shanahan Walker '65 and the 2009-2012 Boys Golf Teams.

The evening began with Mass at St. Patrick Chapel with Fr. Joe Corel presiding, followed by a reception, school tours, dinner and the official induction ceremony.

Kyle Herrick '82, Foundation president, said the ceremony is a favorite for him. "It's a little bit of a homecoming, mixed with nostalgia and topped with a lot of pride," he said. "This year's class is amazing. We recognized three stellar teachers who touched thousands of lives over their careers, several outstanding alumni and winning athletic teams that brought home multiple championships to the school."



Inductee Sharon Dey was a mathematics teacher at SHS for 40 years and summed up many of the feelings of the night. "This school means so much to me," she said. "Everybody who comes here and has anything to do with this school knows there is just a spirit in this place."

For more information about the Sacred Heart School Hall of Fame, the nomination process and to read the biographies for all inductees, visit the Alumni page at www.gogremlins.com or email shfoundation@gogremlins.com.

The Sacred Heart School Hall of Fame selection committee seeks nominations for the next class of inductees. Nomination forms are available online under the Alumni page at www.gogremlins.com. Nominations are due by Nov. 3, 2025. For more information, or to submit a nomination, visit the Alumni page at gogremlins.com, or email HallofFame@gogremlins.com.



Scan the QR code to watch the Hall of Fame Inductee video tributes.



JEANNINE DOVE



Jeannine Dove was born on June 13, 1961, in Sedalia, MO, to Morris and Gwen Hinken of Green Ridge. The middle of three sisters, she grew up in a family deeply rooted in education. Her grandmother taught in a one-room schoolhouse; her grandfather was a high school teacher; and her mother dedicated over 30 years to special education.

In 1981, Jeannine married her high school sweetheart, Joe Dove. They built their home on a farm near Green Ridge, where they still reside. Their family includes daughters Ciara and MaKayla and four grandchildren: Brielee, Baylor, Connley Schmidt, and Emmett Volker.

Jeannine graduated as salutatorian from Green Ridge R-VIII and earned an Associate of Science degree from State Fair Community College in 1981, serving as a Phi Beta Lambda state officer. She went on to graduate summa cum laude with a Bachelor of Science in Education from Central Missouri State University (now UCM) in 1987, followed by a Master's in Learning Disabilities in 1996.

Jeannine began her teaching career with fifth grade at Knob Noster Elementary (1987–1989). After a break to raise her daughters, she joined Sacred Heart School in 1995 as a kindergarten teacher. Over 28 years, she became the school's longest-serving kindergarten teacher and mentored eleven fellow educators. She received the Sallie Mae First-Year Teaching Award (1998), was named to Who's Who Among American Teachers (1997, 2004), was recognized as Rotarian Teacher of the Month (1998), and twice honored as Sacred Heart's Teacher of the Year (2003, 2018).

In her classroom, learning was both joyful and effective. Her compassion matched her high expectations, inspiring students to become lifelong learners. Her "kinders" delighted in traditions like the safety walk, Thanksgiving feast, gingerbread house decorating, Hot Rod reading, and the crowning of Mary—a moment that moved her to tears each year.

A natural educator and lifelong learner, Jeannine embraced technology to enhance learning, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. Her love of music led to memorable songs about classroom routines, and she directed the Kids Club choir. A faithful organist at Sacred Heart Church for over 40 years, she also accompanied school theater productions (2002–2010) and sang in the faculty choir.

Beyond the classroom, she helped design the school playground and served on the building committee for the 2005 high school and gym addition.

"I have been so blessed to have a career where I could make an impact on the lives of so many young children," Jeannine shares, "and in return, have received an imprint of their lives upon my heart."



KEVIN GERKE '91 POSTHUMOUSLY

Kevin Lee Gerke '91, a proud alumnus and beloved educator, coach, and family man, is posthumously inducted into the Sacred Heart School Hall of Fame for his achievements as a student-athlete and achievements as a student-athlete and for the life-long impact he made throughout his career as a coach, athletic director and assistant principal.

Kevin is the son of Donald and Debra Gerke and older brother to Angela Gerke Fahler '92. A four-year varsity basketball starter, he was the school's all-time leading scorer until 2018, racking up nearly 1,700 points. His multisport athleticism was unmatched, earning Kaysinger All-Conference honors in basketball (4 years), baseball (3 years), and soccer (3 years); All-District recognition in both basketball and soccer (3 years each); and All-State soccer honors twice. He helped lead the Gremlins to an Elite Eight appearance in 1989, when classes 1A through 3A were still combined.

Beyond athletics, Kevin was a scholar and leader. He was a National Honor Society President, class officer, and Student Council President. His honors included the Daughters of the American Revolution Good Citizen Award and the Herff Jones Principal Leadership Award.

Kevin earned his bachelor's degree in social studies education from Central Methodist University, where he also played basketball and served as an assistant coach. He continued his academic journey with a master's degree from the University of Central Missouri and later earned his doctorate from Baker University in 2017.

His professional life reflected his deep passion for youth and athletics. Kevin began his career in Lebanon, MO where he taught and also launched girls and boys soccer programs. He later served at Belton High School as a teacher, coach, and assistant principal. His 22-win season remains one of the most celebrated in BHS history.

Kevin's final professional role was as Assistant Principal and Athletic Director at Blue Valley Northwest High School in Overland Park, KS. He led teams to five state championships and over 100 individual medals. One of his most meaningful accomplishments was pioneering the Unified Sports program that gave students with special needs opportunities to compete and belong. His passion for inclusion and excellence earned him the Joe Amos Award and induction into the school's Athletic Hall of Fame.

Kevin was also a devoted husband to his high school sweetheart, Carmen, and a proud father to their three sons, Zach, Brett and Braden. His greatest joy was coaching his sons in the sports they loved.

Kevin Gerke lived a life of leadership, humility and heart. His legacy lives on through the many students, athletes and colleagues he inspired—forever a Gremlin, forever remembered.

SHARON DEY



Ms. Sharon Dey's name is synonymous with excellence, dedication, and tenacity at Sacred Heart School. Over a 40-year teaching career, she profoundly shaped the academic journey of generations of students, especially through her tireless commitment to the school's math program.

Born at home in Sedalia, MO, Sharon is the daughter of the late Edward and Dorothy Dey. Her early years were marked by frequent moves due to her father's military service, including a 1945 deployment to Germany. She attended eighteen different schools between kindergarten and eighth grade, and graduated from Fayetteville Senior High in North Carolina after attending high schools in both Hawaii and on the mainland.

After attending four different colleges and universities, Sharon earned her degree from Marquette University in Milwaukee, WI where her father taught following his military retirement. Ironically, her degree was not in mathematics, as her father told her that "girls don't need math," so her first professional years were spent teaching social studies. Sharon always loved independently learning about math, though, (including teaching herself Algebra II) and she eventually earned her degree in that as well. Her professional journey began in 1968 at St. Catherine School in Brown Deer, WI. Over the next decade, she taught elementary grades in both Milwaukee and Sedalia public schools.

In 1977, Fr. Vince Hoying invited Sharon to join the Sacred Heart faculty. For the next four decades, Sharon taught math for grades 6 through 11, and even taught religion for junior high students. She was instrumental in elevating the Sacred Heart Math Team to new levels of rigor and recognition, setting a gold standard for instruction and student performance.

While Sharon was known for her lofty and exacting standards, she was equally known for her fierce belief in each student's potential and her willingness to go above and beyond to help them succeed. She also coached a variety of sports, including junior high basketball and softball, as well as stints coaching volleyball, varsity basketball and even golf. Her service extended beyond the classroom and gym. She taught First Communion preparation, painted classrooms and church windows, and participated in both local and national TEC (Teens Encounter Christ) retreats, earning the Spirit of TEC Award. Sharon also dedicated five years to weekly prison ministry until the Great Flood of 1993 ended the program.

Sharon retired from teaching in 2016. She is an avid quilter, and supporter of Quilts of Valor for veterans and the RARE Bear Army, which quilts one-of-a-kind teddy bears for children with rare diseases. Although Sharon did not graduate from Sacred Heart, she was awarded an honorary diploma in the 1980s and proudly considers herself an alumna. In 2016, the Sharon Dey Scholarship was established in her honor to support Sacred Heart's need-based tuition scholarships and faculty professional development.

Sharon Dey has been more than a teacher. She has been a mentor, role model, coach, and friend. Her legacy is woven into the fabric of Sacred Heart School.



SHERRY WALKER '65

For three decades, Ms. Sherry Shanahan Walker '65 poured her heart into Sacred Heart School as a teacher, mentor, volunteer, photographer and proud alumna. For 30 years, she served as a beloved English literature teacher, mentor and devoted yearbook advisor. Her tireless efforts preserved not only memories, but the very heart and history of Sacred Heart. Thanks to her tireless dedication behind the lens and behind the scenes, three decades of school life were carefully chronicled, celebrated and saved for generations to come.

Sherry's journey with Sacred Heart began as a student, attending elementary through high school. She graduated in 1965, later earning her bachelor's degree in education from Missouri Valley College after beginning her college education at St. Mary's in Leavenworth, KS. In 1983, she returned home to the halls that shaped her and began a 30-year teaching career.

As a junior high and high school English literature teacher, Ms. Walker taught far more than grammar and novels. Her classroom was a safe haven where students were encouraged to think deeply, express creatively, and grow spiritually. She made countless sacrifices to ensure that her daughters Marlo Boots Siron '91 and Holly Walker Dow '98, could attend Sacred Heart. Family always came first, making it extra meaningful that she could teach in the very school her children attended, and later, her granddaughters Taylor '19 and Emma '23 Siron. From 1997 to 2013, Sherry had the joy of working alongside her daughter Marlo as a colleague.

Ms. Walker was deeply woven into the life of Sacred Heart School. She served as Student Council and class moderator, coordinated events, chaperoned dances and supported the school in countless behind-the-scenes ways. Every Christmas Eve, she volunteered with the National Honor Society to serve dinner to those in need.

Her most enduring legacy came through the lens of her camera. Preferring to be behind the camera rather than in front, Sherry took thousands of images that captured the Sacred Heart experience. Oftentimes when summer break began, Sherry traded in her classroom for her dining room table, where she would meticulously comb over every page of the yearbook before taking it to print.

Her career may have ended in 2013, but the legacy she leaves continues to shine in the lives she touched and the school she so dearly loved.

THEODORE L. MEYER '57



Ted Meyer '57 attended Sacred Heart School from kindergarten through 12th grade, building a strong foundation in faith, service and academic excellence. During his time at Sacred Heart, Ted was a dedicated altar boy for the 6:15 a.m. weekday Mass. He was a member of the Photography Club and yearbook staff. As a proud alumnus, Ted has carried the values instilled in him at Sacred Heart into his personal and professional life.

After attending the University of Central Missouri, Ted married Betty Sue Henks on June 3, 1961. Both went on to be teachers in the Kansas City School District. In 1966, they started Meyer Music Company, which has grown into a family business with three locations staffed by three generations of the Meyer family in the Kansas City area. Today Meyer Music serves the musical instrument needs of well over 100 school districts and universities in Missouri and Kansas. Every week, more than 2,000 budding and advanced musicians take private music lessons at their three locations.

Ted's commitment to the Blue Springs community spans decades. He served as president of the Blue Springs Chamber of Commerce in 1969 and later as president of the Rotary Club of Blue Springs from 1984 to 1985. His dedication to service was further recognized when he was named both Rotarian of the Year and Citizen of the Year through these organizations. He continued to support education as a member of the Blue Springs School District Foundation Board, ensuring students have access to the resources they need to succeed.

Beyond his leadership roles, Ted and his late wife, Betty, have been steadfast supporters of local businesses, civic groups and charitable initiatives. Together as co-owners of Meyer Music, they were nominated for the Blue Springs Chamber of Commerce Business Person of the Year Award, the UCM Distinguished Alumni Award and were honored as Citizens of the Year by the Truman Heartland Community Foundation for their outstanding contributions to the region.

A deep belief in the power of music education led Ted and Betty to provide countless opportunities for young musicians. Their generosity inspired the creation of Band of Angels, which is a nonprofit that takes old instruments donated by former band members, repairs them, and matches these instruments to students in financial need, allowing them to participate in school music programs. To date, Band of Angels has given over 4,000 instruments to students in need and has had over four million dollars in community impact thanks to their support and vision.

Ted and Betty's commitment to music education extended beyond the local community. Both were longtime members of the Missouri Music Educators Association and the National Association of School Music Dealers. Through his leadership, generosity and passion for community service, Ted Meyer has left an indelible mark on Blue Springs and he can still be found in Meyer Music each day continuing to grow the legacy. His commitment to civic engagement, business development and music education continues to inspire and shape future generations.



THE 2009–2012 SACRED HEART BOYS GOLF TEAM AND COACHES

The 2009–2012 Sacred Heart Boys Golf Team and Coaches accomplished a feat unmatched by any other team in Sacred Heart School history. They earned a team Missouri Class 1 runner-up title in 2009 and then secured championship titles from 2010 to 2012, a rare and elusive three-peat.

This dedicated group of young men, committed to working year-round in high school, aimed to build an elite golf team. Knowing a state championship couldn't be won by only playing from March to May, they spent every summer competing in golf leagues around Missouri. Golf demands mental strength and refined technique, so Tom Dey and Jeff Lucchesi teamed up to provide exceptional coaching. Coach Tom focused on the psychology of winning and staying composed, while Coach Jeff specialized in swing mechanics and course strategy.

Their hard work paid off in 2009 when sophomore Garrett Kelchner and freshmen David Baldwin, John Beykirch, Jared Dey, and Alan Bankovich won the district title and placed second in the state championship tournament at Twin Oaks in Springfield.

Determined to win it all, they redoubled their offseason effort, and in 2010, captured the state championship at Rivercut in Springfield. It came down to four players—Baldwin, Beykirch, Dey, and Kelchner. After the team lost in sectionals to Tipton by one stroke, the Gremlins won the championship by one stroke, narrowly avoiding a tiebreaker.

In 2011, the Gremlins repeated as state champions on their home course, Sedalia Country Club, dominating the field by 27 strokes. That year, Baldwin claimed the individual championship, with Dey finishing runner-up.

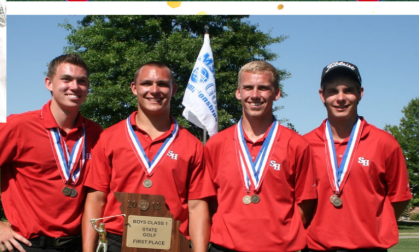
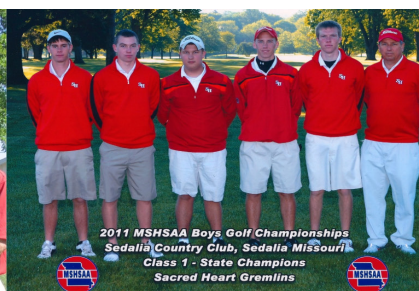
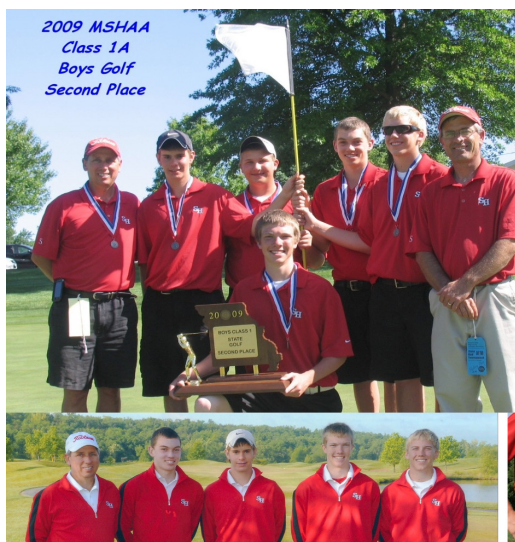
In 2012, Michael Prenger and James Lucchesi joined the team's standard and tradition set by Baldwin, Beykirch, and Dey. Clearing the competition by 19 strokes, the team secured the three-peat at Fremont Hills in Springfield. Beykirch earned the individual championship, and Dey once again garnered runner-up honors.

Coaches Dey and Lucchesi volunteered countless hours to shape these talented golfers. Beyond their success on the course, these honor roll students exemplified Sacred Heart values: honesty, integrity, character, and sportsmanship. Their dedication to golf laid a foundation for lives marked by generosity and leadership in their communities.

2010 Team Highlights: The team of junior Garrett Kelchner, and sophomores David Baldwin, John Beykirch, Jared Dey and Alan Bankovich won districts but lost to Tipton in the sectionals. The Gremlins qualified Kelchner, Beykirch, Dey and Baldwin as individuals to go to state playing as a 4-person team. They won state by one stroke.

2011 Team Highlights: Senior Garrett Kelchner, and juniors David Baldwin, John Beykirch, Jared Dey and Alan Bankovich won districts, sectionals and the Missouri Class 1 State Championship. David Baldwin captured the individual title with Jared Dey as runner-up.

2012 Team Highlights: The team of seniors David Baldwin, John Beykirch, Jared Dey, and Michael Prenger and junior James Lucchesi won district, sectionals, and the Missouri Class 1 State Championship. John Beykirch captured the individual title with Jared Day as runner-up.



TURN WISHES INTO REALITY!

Educators frequently dip into their own personal funds to buy items that enhance their classrooms and support student learning. In addition to facility needs, we invited teachers to submit their wish lists so that parents, parishioners, and community members might bless them with a gift for their classroom.

Your gift is 100% tax deductible. Thank you for your consideration of these requests. For more information, please contact Liz Van Leer at shfoundation@gogremlins.com.

Sacred Heart School Foundation Annual Fund Drive = No limit!

Our Annual Fund Drive remains our top need and priority as it supports the long-term and immediate operational needs of Sacred Heart School.

1882 Update = \$7,900

Help us honor the charm of our 143-year-old third floor while preparing it for today's learners. Your gift will fund a thoughtful reconfiguration of this historic 1882 space—improving traffic flow and maximizing functionality—ensuring it continues to serve students and staff well in 2025 and beyond.

The Ultimate Sports Package - \$11,600

Be a game changer by investing in the Gremlins across all sports! Over 90% of our students participate in at least one extra-curricular activity while maintaining honor roll status. This package helps replace worn gear and strengthens off-season training with new men's and women's shot puts, a track team tent, portable soccer goals, golf simulator, swing monitors, golf nets, towels, and bags. It also includes basketballs, defender pads, training towels, cheer poms, cheer mats, and volleyball net cranks.

Field Trip Fun - \$12,000

Gone are the days of carpooling. New transportation policies mean hired drivers are now required for field trips, adding to costs and limiting opportunities. Our wish? To offer faculty chaperone stipends that "unbuckle" financial stress and help us go full throttle on learning beyond the classroom. Let's keep adventures rolling!

Editor's note: If donations toward a wish list item exceed the needed amount, donors will be notified and funding will be redirected toward another priority item. Thank you!



REMEMBERING OUR DEARLY DEPARTED

We are honored and humbled to receive gifts in service to the memories of our beloved dearly departed, given to St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Sacred Heart School, and the Sacred Heart School Foundation.

Connie (Stubinger) Albin 8/24/24	Sonia (Harrison) Fall 5/19/23	Rod Lindemann 10/30/24	Rosann (Behrens) Saddler 2/17/24
Paul Albin 3/26/25	Glenda (Richardson) Franke 10/21/24	Dan Linsenbardt 3/10/24	Carole Jean (Vincent) Salmon 12/21/24
Gayle Albright 9/17/23	Joyce (Evans) Franklin 9/22/24	Faith (Evans) Lovell 2/23/24	Susan K. (Pfeiffer) Sanderson 12/1/24
Linda (Dalton) Anderberg 10/18/24	David Gaspard 10/28/23	Marion Lucas 1/9/25	Micheal Keith "Mike" Sawrie 1/14/24
Pete Anderberg 10/28/23	Cecil Gerke 9/11/24	Virginia (Wessing) Luebbering 3/18/24	Dickie Joe Schultz 5/15/24
Mary Carol (Horigan) Anderson 4/1/24	Earl Otto Gerke 4/23/24	Sandy Lueck 12/21/24	Caleb Ryan Sell 2/27/24
Bill Barrick 9/8/24	Lizz (Fetters) Green 9/1/24	Jim Marino 8/24/24	Teressa "Terry" (Wolf) Simon 11/9/24
Laura (Capello) Beatty 6/10/23	Gary Griffin 11/16/24	Charles R. Marshall II 3/4/25	Delbert Steffens 11/11/24
Jane (Laureto) Beaudette 7/20/11	Devon B. Grose 4/14/16	Tom Martin 3/15/24	Christopher Stratton 11/16/23
Laura C. Berline 10/7/24	Mary Ann (Elder) Grott 10/21/23	Jim McMullin 8/19/24	Katherine (Sankey) Baker Sudduth 12/13/13
Fred Bluhm 2/4/25	Cliff Harris 1/8/24	Judy (Scruton) Menefee 6/18/24	William "Bill" Douglas Talbott 2/16/24
Joe Bode 11/6/24	Ruth Ann "Soozi" Hawkins 2/20/24	Lynn D. Middleton 3/12/24	Joseph William Twenter 1/28/22
Pyeong Im (Min) Bradish 12/18/20	Barbara Jo Hayden 3/7/24	Hank Monsees 8/21/24	Billy Utz 9/1/24
Linda (Howe) Bradley 9/8/24	Terry Hazell 6/24/25	Ralph Moriarty 12/27/24	Jeanette (Moon) Viebrock 12/4/24
Steve Brandt 4/19/25	Betty J. Hopkins 12/11/23	Lynellen O'Neill 11/1/24	Russell Vinson 12/13/23
Caleb Coen "Coco" Brown 5/24/23	Rosemary (Jeffers) Hopper 1/21/24	Dorothy H. (Engelland) O'Rourke 1/23/24	Robin (George) Wallace 5/6/23
Ernie Buso 4/3/24	Melvin Dean Horton 11/18/24	Lucille (Sibbing) Orscheln 9/19/23	Charlie Wansing 5/16/24
Nelson Collins 4/17/24	Virginia (Garvey) Hoskins 11/22/24	Jerry Page 5/2/25	John Waterson 5/17/25
Caroline L. (Brid) Croke 4/27/25	Brenda G. (Rhoads) Houk 12/19/23	Richard Parkhurst 3/2/24	Martha (Sands) Weller 5/11/25
Beverly "Beckie" (Miller) Couhig 5/24/24	Stan Jarvis 10/8/24	Dolores (Dillon) Perkins 12/8/24	Oda (Boss) Weller 3/22/25
John Cover 12/29/24	Hillory Arlen Joy 12/20/23	Charles E. "Charlie" Ramseyer 10/22/24	Alice (Rice) Wenner 4/23/24
Mary (Doogs) Denny 10/8/24	Charles Keller 11/27/83	Ralph Wayne Randall 1/3/24	Florence (Martin) Westermier 3/29/24
Jim Dick 9/18/16	Jeff Kidwell 11/5/23	Bill Register 4/24/10	Chad Whitman 11/28/24
Clarice H. (Mettler) Dove 11/3/22	Margaret (Humphrey) Kidwell 12/25/24	Carol Register 10/11/99	Ron Wineinger 12/15/23
Duane Duncan 1/14/25	Dr. Chester A. Kirkpatrick 10/20/23	Linda (Belker) Ricker 5/18/24	Robbie Withers 7/4/19
Victoria L. "Vicki" (Viebrock) Esser 9/20/24	Andrew Leddy 6/8/24	Erin (Simon) Rogers 4/17/24	Eddie Wise 1/14/24
Patricia (Ryan) Fall 6/24/25	Dennison Lightner 11/9/23	Jim Rouchka 3/12/24	Bob Zink 3/9/24

We would be honored to be a part of your legacy. Please ensure the future of our mission by remembering St. Vincent de Paul and Sacred Heart School Foundation in your planned giving.

Editor's Note: Our list of memorials reflects gifts received from Nov. 1, 2023 to June 30, 2025. Gifts directed to the 2024 Annual Fund Drive in memory or in honor of a loved one will be listed in a future issue of *From the Heart*.

CONGRATULATIONS, CLASS OF 2025!

"We're so blessed to be graduating from a place that has given us all the tools to form a strong moral foundation and a relationship with God."

- Paige Diller, Valedictorian



Sacred Heart's 81st baccalaureate and commencement ceremony, held May 18, celebrated the graduation of 21 exceptional scholars, each ready to set the world on fire with their faith, purpose and God-given abilities. The Class of 2025 distinguished itself through resilience, creativity, and a steadfast spirit. As they close this chapter and step into the future, we celebrate their shared memories, lasting friendships, and the promising paths that await each of them.

"You've made Sacred Heart more colorful, more vibrant, more you," said Mrs. Nancy Manning, SHS faculty member and senior class advisor, chosen by the class as their commencement speaker. "I am honored to have walked alongside you. You're outside-the-box thinkers, you're doers, you challenge the norm, ask the tough questions and refuse to settle for, 'It's just the way it's always been'. The world needs your boldness, your kindness, your determination to do things differently. Don't ever let the world convince you to shrink. Let your light shine."

Class of 2025 Highlights:

- 100% Graduation Rate
- 100% Enrolled in college or university
- 17 out of 21 graduated with honors, earning a GPA of 3.0 or higher
- 16 students completed one or more college courses
- Combined total of 195+ hours of college credit
- \$2,126,474 in scholarships offered with \$728,750 utilized
- 5 students will continue their sports careers at the collegiate level
- 6 of the 21 graduates attended SHS since kindergarten



Sophie Anderson
Truman State University
Biology

Riley Bradley
State Fair Community College
Veterinary Medicine

Conner Brown
Missouri State-West Plains
Business

Charlotte Carroll
Missouri Valley College
Business

Jacob Cordia
State Fair Community College
Electrician/Lineman

Diego De Leon
Paul Mitchell School
Barber License

Paige Diller
University of Missouri-Columbia
Political Science

Avery Epple
University of Missouri-Columbia
Early Childhood Education

Joleen Frost
State Fair Community College
Business Management

Grant Goodwin
State Fair Community College
Sports Management

Sarah Hill
Brigham Young University
Biochemistry

Zander Jackson
William Jewell College
Business

Alondra Leon
State Fair Community College
Radiologic Technology

Laysha Lopez
University of Missouri-Columbia
Journalism

Joshua Pacheco
State Fair Community College
Business Management

Daniil Perets
State Fair Community College
Automotive Technology

Ramses Rivera-Montoya
State Fair Community College
Radiologic Technology

Kaleb Schaffer
State Fair Community College
Computer Science

Grace Sproston
University of Saint Mary
Communications

Ava Stone
Missouri State University
Business

Emily Tienda
Academy of Salon Professionals
Cosmetology

FROM STUDENT TO STEWARD:

James Friedebach '62 Establishes Endowment to Support SHS Students for Generations to Come

Scroll through a *Spectrum* yearbook from the early sixties and you'll find a picture of James Friedebach '62 and two of his classmates promoting The World's Finest Chocolate school fundraiser. Fast forward and Jim has come full circle. This time, he's the one giving back through an endowment he created with the Sacred Heart School Foundation to support future generations of Sacred Heart scholars.

How sweet it is!

Reflecting on his 12 years at Sacred Heart School, Jim fondly remembers riding his bike through frigid winter mornings to serve at Mass. Chocolate milk and pastries after First Friday Masses were small but special moments that stuck with him. Outside of the classroom, Jim was involved with softball, track, Student Council, Boys State, basketball and various fund drives.

He recalls the excitement of watching Sacred Heart basketball greats like Jim Fall '53, the Mettler twins (Mark and Marvin '57), Terry Menefee '59 and "Tall Paul" Bennett '60, and the pride of collecting a good amount of trophies in 1962 with teammates "Big John" Herring, Leonard Butler, Jack Barr, Billy Dunham and Bobby Pfeiffer.

"I was in 4th grade, and failing miserably at dribbling a ball, but at the encouragement of Fr. Pelletier, I kept working on it and eventually got pretty good," said Jim.

Memories were made riding the old bus with the Mizpah cheerers and celebrating with friends after the game in his 1939 Chevy Sacred Heart red-and-white mobile.

Jim credits Sacred Heart's emphasis on academics, faith formation, and the wide range of opportunities to get involved in sports and clubs as foundational to both his personal and professional life. He recalls the patience of his first-grade teacher, Sister Vincentia, with deep admiration. In high school, teachers like Sister Rosella and Sister Sienna sparked his love for math and science, which was the catalyst that led to a degree in chemistry and a multifaceted career in education, therapy, and rural health services. His professional journey even reached the state and national levels, contributing to the development of the Missouri Assessment Program (MAP) test and participating in the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP).

"My life has been a great experience," said James. "All of which started in a small Catholic school called Sacred Heart in Sedalia, Missouri."

Rediscovering his faith, reflecting on his blessings, and reading *From the Heart* inspired James to establish the James and Melodie Friedebach Endowment, which will provide scholarships to students attending Sacred Heart School.



"All of us Sacred Heart School graduates can look back and remember several pivotal moments in our young lives that Sacred Heart School showed us the right path," said James. "I want to offer other young people that same great opportunity to participate in Catholic education, not just once but in an ongoing fashion."

"It has taken me some time to start returning some of the benefits of my SHS experiences, but we all need to participate in the continuation of Sacred Heart's Catholic schooling of the future. Any contribution on your part will help, and I encourage you to START!"



2025 ANNUAL FUND DRIVE

Goal \$255,000 by Dec. 31, 2025

From the Heart - With Gratitude

At Sacred Heart, generosity comes in many forms—through Annual Fund Drive gifts, fulfilled wish lists, endowments that provide lasting scholarships, and memorials that honor loved ones. Each gift, no matter the size or avenue, helps us carry forward our 143-year mission to form scholars, servants, and saints.

Because of you, our students learn in vibrant classrooms, our teachers have the tools to inspire, and our families feel the strength of a faith-filled community.

On the following pages, you'll find the names of those who have supported Sacred Heart School and the Sacred Heart Foundation November 1, 2023 to December 31, 2024. Every name tells a story of care, commitment, and belief in our mission. Thank you for being part of this legacy.

As we celebrate this generosity, we also look ahead. The 2025 Annual Fund Drive is underway, with a goal of \$255,000 by December 31. This fund bridges the gap between what tuition covers and what excellence requires, ensuring that every student can thrive. We invite you to join us in sustaining this legacy. Learn more or give at www.gogremlins.com/donate or by scanning the QR code.

Thank you!
 Kyle Herrick '82
 Sacred Heart Foundation President



Abraham German
 Advance Building Supply Co
 Advanced Fence and Rail
 Al Letourneau
 Alayna Almazan
 Almeda Menefee
 Andres Caraveo
 Andrew & Mary Treuner
 Andrew Page
 Andy Jarvis
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 Anonymous - In memory of Marie Wiltz DeChant
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 Brenda Coffman
 Brent Gerke '10

Brent Hampy
 Bridget Schnautz
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 Charles Blakely
 Charles Coffey
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 Chris Klinginsmith
 Christi (Morris) '03 & Jared Engles
 Christopher & Lisa Diller
 Chuck & Tina Mattingly
 Cindy (Bankovich) Garretson '80
 Cindy (Felten) Dick '73
 Charles Blakely
 Charles Coffey
 Charles Taylor
 Charli (Huhman) '74 & Mike Ackerman
 Chip & Gail Jackson
 Chris Klinginsmith
 Christi (Morris) '03 & Jared Engles

Christopher & Lisa Diller
 Chuck & Tina Mattingly
 Cindy (Bankovich) Garretson '80
 Cindy (Felten) Dick '73
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 David Fall '78
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 Dorothy H. Dey
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 Elena Garbuzova
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 Mary Anne (Cummings) Reece '85
 Mary Eiken
 Mary Ellen (Fall) '72 & Jim Davis
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Mary Lou Westermier
Mary Margaret (Rouchka) Fernandez '55
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Michael Hohne '14
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Patricia Clark
Patricia Krautmann
Patricia Rose Menefee '56
Patricia Zwiemel
Patrick O'Neill
Patty Wagenknecht
Paul '73 & Kathy Beykirch
Paul '79 & Cathy Chancellor
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Paul Montgomery
Paula Backues
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Philip Clevenger
Phyllis Conardy
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Rachelle Simon
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Rebekah Full '15 - In memory of Donald Full
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Ronald Dunham '61
Ronald G. Imhauser
Ronald Simon
Ronald W. Huhman
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Roxanne (Dick) '82 & Kyle Herrick '82
Roy Branson
Rozanne Coble
Ruby Barnes
Ruth (Meyers) Mergen '46
Ruth & Bill Ferguson
Ruth Ann (Bahner) Chmelir '58
Ryan Carroll
Sally Davis
Samuel Wollard
Sandra Herring
Sandy & Bill Mayfield '59
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Sedalia Lions Club
Sedalia Parks and Rec
Sedalia Rotary Club
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Steve & Cindy Bahner '79

Steve & Valerie Bloess
Steve Dent
Steven '79 & Dawn (Herrick) Elliott '79
Steven Messer
Sue (Keller) Wise-Hoersten '58 - In
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Sue E. Carter
Sue Heckart
Superior Lawns
Susan Gerke - In memory of Earl Gerke '68
Susanne Vielhauer
Suzie (Chmelir) Brodersen '87
Table of 5 Catering
Tamara Knaus
Ted '00 & Liz Kehl
Ted Meyer '57
Teresa (McGrath) Aldrich '65 - In memory
of Michele McGrath-Cusick
Teresa Simon
Terri (Dick) '66 & Mike Maple '66
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The Sacred Heart Class of 1979
The Sacred Heart Class of 2004
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Thomas McLaughlin
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Tom & Liz Van Leer
Tom & Marianne Hunter
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Our many anonymous donors

Editor's note: Every gift matters, and every donor deserves recognition. If we missed you or made an error, please let us know so we can celebrate your generosity properly! Contact Liz Van Leer at shfoundation@gogremlins.com or (660) 827-2311.

2024-2025 ATHLETICS

BOYS SOCCER went 17-10 on the season picking up some big wins along the way, including 1st in the Barstow Tournament, 1st in the Kaysinger Conference Tournament and 1st in Class 1 District 5. The Gremlins finished the season ranked 8th in Class 1 with an appearance in the Elite 8. Junior High went 9-5-1 and took 1st in the Kaysinger Conference tournament.

CROSS COUNTRY graduated several of its members, but the small team still delivered big results this season. The three-member team reached some new personal records. Junior Jared Owens made his return to the Class 1 State meet, placing 43rd out of 196 runners.

GIRLS GOLF demonstrated strength and tenacity and growth. Sophomore Olivia Dillon competed at districts. All three members of the team will be returning next season.

VOLLEYBALL featured a 17-player roster, with a large freshman class. Success in recent seasons bumped the Gremlins into Class 2 for the second year, bringing tougher competition. Despite a 7-15-1 record, the team stayed competitive and showed strong potential. Junior High posted an impressive 16-4 record, and enthusiasm for the sport continues among our elementary players.





GIRLS BASKETBALL took a strategic step back to rebuild, playing a shortened season. The young team went 4-5 and will be returning all of its starters. Junior High girls finished 8-3, taking 2nd place in both the California Invitational and Kaysinger Conference Tournament.

BOYS BASKETBALL finished with a 20-6 regular season record. The Gremlins took home the Kaysinger Conference title and placed 1st in the Kaysinger Conference tournament. The state-ranked Gremlins fell short in the Class 1 District 7 title game. The JH boys finished their season 7-4-1 taking 1st place in the California Invitational and 3rd place in the Kaysinger Conference Tournament.



CHEER brought the energy and enthusiasm with new creative cheers and impressive tumbling. The team took center stage as they traveled to Springfield for a cheer competition, where they held their own against schools of all sizes across the state.

SWIM AND DIVE made a splash as the all-girls, four-member team raised the bar and hit new personal records.





BOYS GOLF enjoyed record participation this season, fielding full varsity and JV squads. The team delivered a standout performance, placing 3rd in the conference tournament and finishing 5th out of 19 teams at districts. Zander Jackson and Grant Goodwin both medaled at districts and advanced to the Class 1 State tournament, where they placed 17th and 23rd respectively among 95 competitors.

TRACK stepped into a new era following the retirement of longtime coach Carrie Smith. The 17-member team included 7 girls and 10 boys. Junior Max Van Leer earned his third straight trip to state, setting a new school record and placing 11th in the Class 1 State 800-meter run. Junior High track had another great season as they prepare for high school track in the upcoming years.



GIRLS SOCCER navigated a rebuilding year after the graduation of a large senior class. Despite a 4-12 record, the team stayed competitive in nearly every match, playing with determination and tenacity.

BASEBALL Baseball took to the field, coming off of a Class 1 runner-up state finish in 2025. The young team went 14-12, playing with heart and consistency.



POST SEASON AWARDS

All State

Zander Jackson (SR) 1st Team Soccer
 Gabe Malcara (JR) 1st Team Soccer
 Max Van Leer (JR) 2nd Team Soccer
 Joleen Frost (SR) 2nd Team Soccer

All District

Conner Brown (SR) Basketball
 Ebrinn Cahill (JR) Second Team Soccer
 Cash Conardy (FR) Baseball Honorable Mention
 Colt Conardy (FR) 1st Team Soccer
 Diego DeLeon (SR) Soccer Honorable Mention
 Joleen Frost (SR) First Team Soccer
 Yovanny Gardenas (JR) 1st Team Soccer
 Grant Goodwin (SR) Golf
 Zander Jackson (SR) Golf and 1st Team Soccer
 Miles Johnson (SO) Baseball
 Gabe Malacara (JR) 1st Team Soccer
 Josh Pacheco (SR) 1st Team Soccer
 Ramses Rivera- Montoya (SR) 2nd Team Soccer
 Tony Sierra (JR) 2nd Team Soccer
 Max Van Leer (JR) Basketball, Track and 1st Team Soccer

All Conference

Carson Bentch (FR) Track
 Cassidy Bentch (JR) Track
 Conner Brown (SR) 1st Team Basketball
 Diego DeLeon (SR) Soccer
 Ebrinn Cahill (JR) Track
 Paisley Carl (SO) Basketball Honorable Mention
 Lauren Diller (SO) Track
 Cash Conardy (FR) Soccer
 Colt Conardy (FR) Baseball Honorable Mention
 Noah Damlo (JR) Baseball
 Yovanny Gardenas (JR) Soccer
 Grant Goodwin (SR) Basketball Honorable Mention and Golf
 Zander Jackson (SR) Golf and Soccer
 Miles Johnson (SO) Baseball
 Gabriel Malacara (JR) Soccer
 Jared Owens (JR) Track
 Josh Pacheco (SR) Soccer
 Ramses Rivera- Montoya (SR) Soccer Honorable Mention
 Mason Trelow (FR) Track
 Maggie Van Leer (FR) Track
 Max Van Leer (JR) Track, Soccer and 1st Team Basketball

Academic All State

2024-2025 Baseball Team
 Sarah Hill (SR) Cross Country and Cheer
 Sophie Anderson (SR) Cheer
 Cassidy Bentch (JR) Cheer and Track
 Abby Cramer (SO) Cheer
 Katherine Kehl (SO) Cheer
 Emilee Jackson (JR) Volleyball
 Bailee Vogel (JR) Volleyball
 Addison Figge (FR) Volleyball
 Paige Diller (SR) Track
 Max Van Leer (JR) Track
 Ebrinn Cahill (JR) Track
 Jacob Velando (SO) Track
 Lauren Diller (SO) Track
 Aedan Brennan (FR) Track
 Diego Lopez (FR) Track
 Mason Trelow (FR) Track
 Maggie Van Leer (FR) Track



Academic All-State Honors are managed by the coaches association of each sport. Criteria for Academic All-State are as follows:

Baseball: Athletes must have a 24 or higher on the ACT or be ranked in the top 25% of the class. Team awards are based on the GPA and ACT scores of sophomore, junior, and senior players.

Basketball: Athletes must be a senior, in good standing with the team, possess outstanding moral character, and have met one or more of the following: 27 or higher ACT, 1280 or higher SAT, PSAT of 185 or higher, and or 3.25 or higher GPA.

Volleyball: Varsity teams must average a 3.30 GPA on a 4.0 scale or better for the entire 2022-2023 academic year.

Track: Athletes must have competed in a state series meet and have met one or more of the following: 25 or higher ACT, 1150 or higher SAT or 3.6 or higher GPA.

Girls Soccer: Athletes must be seniors and in good standing with the team and school. They must have participated in at least two additional extra-curricular activities. The academic score is a combination of GPA and ACT. The top players on this objective ranking are placed on the Academic Team.

Swim: Academic All-State is not awarded.

2024–2025 IOWA RESULTS (GRADE EQUIVALENTS)

GRADE	NATIONAL NORM	SACRED HEART AVG
3	3.2	3.8
4	4.2	4.5
5	5.2	5.8
6	6.2	6.6
7	7.2	7.6
8	8.2	10.2
9	9.2	13+
10	10.2	13+

Each fall, Sacred Heart School administers the IOWA Assessments, a nationally normed, traditional standardized test used to measure student achievement and growth across core academic areas. This year's results once again affirm the strength of our academic program. Sacred Heart students in grades 3–10 consistently outperformed national averages, with several grade levels scoring well above expected grade equivalents.

Across the board, Sacred Heart students demonstrated academic readiness and above-grade-level performance, especially in writing, math, and science. Highlights include:

3rd Grade: Students excelled in Written Expression, showing strong skills in grammar, sentence structure, organization and clarity of writing.

4th Grade: Demonstrated strengths in both Written Expression and Science, with impressive knowledge in Life, Earth and Physical Sciences.

5th Grade: This class stood out by scoring above grade level in every subject area—Reading, Math, Social Studies, and Science.

6th Grade: Noteworthy achievement in Writing Conventions and Science, surpassing expectations.

7th Grade: Students were well above average across all subjects, including ELA, Math, Social Studies and Science.

8th Grade: Particularly strong in Math and Science, performing at a 10th grade level in Math and a 12th grade level in Science on average.

9th Grade: The freshman class posted a 13+ composite score, indicating performance beyond high school level in all subjects.

10th Grade: Sophomores also averaged a 13+ across every test section, showing advanced mastery and readiness for post-secondary success.



NEWS



The Speech team gave us something to talk about. Led by Ms. Chelsea Turner, the team rode a wave of highs placing second in the Fall Kaysinger Conference and then 1st place in the Spring Kaysinger Conference. In the District 7 Tournament, competing against schools of many sizes, the seven member team took 3rd place, and five students qualified for state, which is the most to advance in recent Sacred Heart history: Sophie Anderson, who was crowned the 2025 District Champion in Humorous Interpretation and became a three-time state qualifier; Dakota Williams, who advanced in Radio Speaking; Sarah Hill and Olivia Dillon, who qualified together in Duet Acting; and Anthony Sierra, who not only qualified in Radio Speaking but also captured 4th place in Prose.

STUDENT

For their final writing assignment as Gremlins, Seniors turned their school uniform polos into memory books, collecting signatures, sweet notes, and hilarious inside jokes from fellow classmates, friends, and teachers. Dress code approved!



Following the election of Pope Leo XIV, our fourth graders rotated through stations to learn more about our new pontiff. They made mitre hats, Vatican City flags, shields depicting the stages of his life, and individual deep-dish Chicago-style pizzas in honor of the Chicago-born pope. They also learned the vocabulary for the various vestments worn by the pope. Finally, each student wrote a letter to Pope Leo, sharing what they hope he will accomplish during his papacy.

This year's Choir calendar hit every note at lightning tempo, delivering a steady rhythm of performances. In addition to singing at student Masses, XLT Adoration and our annual Follow the Star and Grammy Awards performances, the choir was invited into the community for various events, including the KOMU 8 music holiday program, the Sedalia Chamber of Commerce Parade, State Fair Community College Jingle on the Green, Rotary Club, Knights of Columbus, and a special performance at Crown Center. Under the direction of Choir Director Mr. Darrin Hartman, three soloists competed in the Missouri State Music Contest. Sophie Anderson, Riley Bradley, and Logan Howell earned Gold Distinctions and Thomas Jenkins earned a Silver Distinction.





The day before Easter break, sixth graders in Mrs. Manning's religion class baked and enjoyed Resurrection Rolls (also known as Sweet Empty Tomb Rolls). They're a soft roll with a butter dipped cinnamon sugar coated marshmallow inside. The marshmallow symbolizes Christ's body being wrapped in white clothes, the butter the oils he was anointed with, the cinnamon and sugar the spices used during burial, and the dough represents the tomb. As the dough baked the marshmallow melted leaving the roll empty and representing the resurrection of Christ.

Senior Paige Diller recently had the opportunity to witness Missouri state government in action through her participation in the FCCLA Legislative Shadowing Project in Jefferson City. This two-day experience, organized by the Missouri Family, Career and Community Leaders of America, offered students a firsthand look at the legislative process and the work of elected officials. As part of the program, Paige was assigned to shadow Representative Brad Pollitt, where she observed legislative sessions, attended committee meetings, and explored the roles and responsibilities of lawmakers. The experience also included presentations from guest speakers and state leaders. A highlight of the visit came when Paige met Governor Mike Kehoe, who shared a warm moment of connection by asking her to "say hi to Mark Register" (Class of 1975 and retired SHS administrator) on his behalf.



Sacred Heart's Chapter of the National Junior Honor Society spent time cleaning the grounds of St Patrick's Chapel, Sacred Heart Chapel, and Sacred Heart School in preparation for the coming Easter weekend. Twenty eight students weeded flower beds, re-mulched, and picked up trash and sticks. After finishing these projects, they walked to Sonic for a sweet treat, then on to Heckart for an afternoon of swimming and playing volleyball and pickleball.

Fourth graders traveled to Jefferson City to tour the Missouri State Capitol. They learned about the Capitol's history, including its status as the third version of the building, and admired artwork by Thomas Hart Benton and others. Students visited the General Assembly chamber to learn how laws are made, toured the Capitol Museum, and spotted famous Missourians they had studied in class. A favorite moment was using a press to create an Official State Seal.



Several high school students pumped the brakes and made time to participate in a one-day leadership training seminar hosted by TRACTION. The program is centered around empowering youth to take an active role in promoting safe driving habits. The day included powerful testimonials, critical thinking breakout sessions, and an "action planning" process.



Be our guest! Sacred Heart's Theatre Department transported packed audiences to the world of Beauty and the Beast Jr. Under the expert guidance of Director Ms. Turner, Music Director Mr. Hartman, and Choreographer Trinady Klemme, this ambitious production featured a 36-member cast – from second through twelfth grade – who enchanted the crowd at the Hayden Liberty Center with their singing, dancing, and acting.

Thanks to start-up funding from generous alumni donations and an elegant costume loan from the Finke Theatre in California, MO each beloved character came vividly to life. The cast performed three nearly sold-out shows, drawing enthusiastic applause.

For seniors Sophie Anderson (Belle), Riley Bradley (Cogsworth), Laysha Lopez (Madame de la Grande Bouche), Sarah Hill (Narrator No. 1 & Monsieur Dark), and crew member Zander Jackson, this production was a magical finale as the curtain closes on their Sacred Heart theatre careers.





The Class of 2025 traveled to Oklahoma City for their Mission Trip. The group served at The Gospel of Life Dwelling hospice home. Students spent two full days visiting with the residents, preparing food, and helping with indoor housekeeping and yard work. Students shared that the most rewarding experience was interacting with the residents, such as singing, praying, reading, feeding, and conversing. SHS Associate Pastor Fr. Gregory Clever led daily Mass, morning prayer, and nightly group reflection. The seniors also had the opportunity to tour the Shrine of the Blessed Stanley Rother, the first American martyr. A special highlight came when students received letters of encouragement from family members and the Sacred Heart community. The week also included bonfires and s'mores and fun at Top Golf, a trampoline park and Bricktown.

Scholars in grades K-5 prepared nearly 200 blessing bags this year for our St. Vincent de Paul parishioners who are 80+ years young. They assembled the bags and our wonderful families delivered the goodies. The greatest blessing was being able to connect with one another in this special way.



The celebration of Las Posadas is a nine-day novena leading up to Christmas, commemorating Joseph and Mary's journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem and their difficulty finding room at the inns. This year, Sacred Heart Student Council organized the second night of Las Posadas for St. Vincent de Paul parish. Over 150 church and school members gathered to sing the traditional songs of Las Posadas as well as shared in food, fellowship, and prayer.

Back in the fall, we received a special visit from Kyah, the Sedalia Police therapy dog. Kyah has dedicated her life to caring for and comforting others. She is the inspiration behind the Kyah Cares Award which celebrates students in our community who consistently show outstanding character and set a positive example for others. Nolan Schmitz, a 3rd grader, was the October 2024 recipient of the Kyah Cares Award.



First graders in Mrs. Sobaski's class scooped up the concept of coins through a delicious ice cream party! From sprinkles to cherries, each item on the sundae bar came with a different price tag, requiring our little Gremlins to put their change counting skills to good use.



This spring, Sacred Heart juniors took part in the 2025 FIT Week (Forty-hour Internship Try-Out) This week-long program is designed to help students explore potential career paths through real-world job shadowing experiences. Students were matched with local businesses and organizations aligned with their career interests. Internship placements included: Bothwell Regional Health Center, Pettis County Courthouse, WK Chevrolet, PEAK Physical Therapy, Sedalia Fire Department, Family Medicine Associates, Academy of Cosmetology – Sedalia, River Valley Agriculture, Robert Rollings Architects and CSC Construction. Thank you to all of these community partners for generously opening their doors to our students and investing in their future.

The eighth-grade class had a standout year marked by academic achievement, spiritual growth and meaningful service. A highlight of the year was the class retreat and mission trip to Catholic Charities where they toured the facilities, made rosaries and delivered food donations. The Diocesan Mass, held at St. Joseph's Cathedral, brought more than 500 eighth graders from the diocese's 37 Catholic schools together for worship with Bishop McKnight, a celebratory dance and a stop at Central Dairy for ice cream. Academically, of the 27 students in the class, 90% made the honor roll. Nine students earned the prestigious President's Award for Outstanding Academic Excellence, recognizing those with a GPA above 3.5 and scoring in the top 85% nationally in math or reading.



Each year at Sacred Heart we emphasize the importance of service to others always, but especially during the holiday seasons. During the times of Thanksgiving and Christmas we come together as both a school and parish community to provide meals to those in the community who are in need. This year we were able to serve a total of 2,300 meals to members of our community from both our Thanksgiving and Christmas Eve Dinners combined. Thank you to all of the students, parents and parish members who helped us make a difference! It is moments like these that make Sacred Heart such a special place.



Faith, academic excellence, service and community are hallmarks of Sacred Heart School and they were on full display in a fun and energetic way for Catholic Schools Week 2025! Under the theme "Catholic Schools: United in Faith and Community." The week began with a mayoral proclamation, prayer service and a school-wide pep rally. Faith remained central throughout the week with activities like the blessing of doors, a tradition known as "chalking the door," inviting God's presence into our school. Students also participated in the Rosary, Litany of the Sacred Heart and the Divine Mercy Chaplet. A highlight for students was the McStudent Surprise, hosted by the Class of 2025 with support from McDonald's and the Rice & Marshall family. The school gym was transformed into a fun zone complete with inflatables, jousting, obstacle courses, games, and a sundae bar. Living out our mission of service, students collected 1,467 pounds of food for Open Door Food Pantry. The effort ended with a school-wide challenge to build creative displays from the food collected.





ATHLETES AND DISCIPLES

Athletes and Disciples is a new initiative led by the Student Council and the pastors to encourage students to grow not only as athletes, but as disciples of Christ. Throughout the year, the school hosted prayerful gatherings following major athletic events. Following a home volleyball game, more than 100 students, parents, and parishioners participated in a candlelit Eucharistic procession and blessing of the school, concluding with prayer and adoration in the Sacred Heart Chapel.



Capping off the end of a soccer victory and a festive Homecoming Week, the community took to the field with

blankets and chairs for the school inaugural Adoration Under the Stars, a moving night of music and worship. During the winter season, after both girls and boys basketball games, students and priests invited all in attendance to remain on the court for Adoration on the Court, gathering in prayer and lifting up the needs of our community. What a beautiful way to unite faith and education, reminding us that at Sacred Heart, every aspect of student life is a chance to grow closer to Christ.





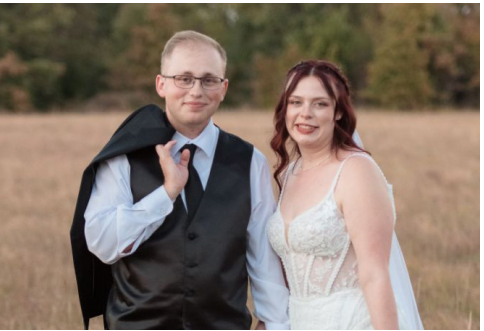
Back row: Roger Cook, Ron Huhman, Bob Mergen, John Menefee and Joe Heer. Middle row: Diane Scherer Bohanon, Arlene Koechner Silvey, Scott Dick, Linda Stone Fay, Martha Gibson Gilliland, Karen Burke Meyer, Sally Fechtel Alley and Marty Karigan-Winter. Front row: Mary Ellen Fischer Clark, Susan Pfeiffer Sanderson, David Esser and Tim Hogan.

THE SACRED HEART CLASS OF 1969 gathered in Sedalia the weekend of September 28-29, 2024 to celebrate their 55th class reunion. The group kicked off the festivities with cocktails and dinner at Fitter's, followed by Mass on Sunday, where many enjoyed revisiting fond memories of Sacred Heart Church. Afterward, several classmates returned to Fitter's for lunch before Scotty Dick and a classmate paid a special visit to their former 7th grade teacher, Mrs. Bea Maple. Even at 101 years young, Mrs. Maple still remembered some of the shenanigans from their school days! It was a joyful weekend of reminiscing and reconnecting.



AJ SILVEY '03 is a corporal with the Sedalia Police Department, entering his 20th year of service. He leads the department's Traffic Unit, specializing in crash reconstruction, DWI enforcement, and grant management. AJ founded the Sedalia SAFE Coalition, bringing together community stakeholders to improve traffic and pedestrian safety across the region. He serves on the executive board of the Missouri Law Enforcement Traffic Safety Advisory Council and helps shape MoDOT's Strategic Highway Safety Plan for 2025-2030. AJ was instrumental in the Sedalia Police Department's "Blue Shield" recognition by Governor Kehoe's office and was awarded the meritorious service ribbon for his efforts. A recent presenter at the Missouri Show-Me-Zero conference, AJ partners with local schools to promote traffic safety through impact speakers and docudramas. AJ lives near Cole Camp, MO, with his wife Nicole and three children. They enjoy farming, outdoor adventures and sports.

CODY DAMLO '20 and Chloe Whitaker were married on October 5, 2024 in Bartlesville, OK. Cody and Chloe graduated from College of the Ozarks with bachelors degrees in criminal justice. Cody is currently working on certifications to become a firefighter while working as a security officer. He plans to become an arson investigator. The couple currently lives in Springfield, MO.



ALUMNI NEWS



KELSEY BALDWIN BANDRÉ '09 has come full circle, returning to Sacred Heart as a member of the 2025-2026 high school faculty. After graduating from Columbia College, Kelsey began her teaching career in Warrensburg before moving to Charleston, SC, where she continued teaching and earned her master's degree. A few years ago, Kelsey moved back to Columbia, MO, to be closer to family. There, she completed her PhD in Curriculum and Instruction and met her husband Connor. Now settled in Sedalia, Kelsey will teach high school English and Yearbook. A standout athlete during her student years and a member of Sacred Heart's State Championship volleyball teams, she recently stepped into the role of head volleyball coach.

THE SACRED HEART CLASS OF 1974 celebrated its 50 year reunion on September 21, 2024. The celebration began with Mass at St. Patrick's Chapel, where Fr. Mark Miller served as guest celebrant. A tour of the school followed, guided by Liz Van Leer, Development Director. Oh, the memories! The evening continued at the Sedalia Country Club, where an anonymous classmate generously hosted an exceptional dinner. A memorial table displayed photos and candles in loving remembrance of the four deceased classmates, inviting quiet reflection and heartfelt prayers. It was an evening filled with joy, laughter, and unforgettable memories. The class vowed to stay in touch and gather more often to make even more cherished memories.



SUMMER CATON '20 earned her bachelor's in agricultural business, marketing and sales from Missouri State University in 2023. She married Kaden Harper on July 28, 2024, in Waverly, MO. The couple now resides in Sioux Center, IA, where Summer works as a project management assistant at Interstates, an industrial electrical solutions company.

NEWS FROM YOU

Have you changed jobs, gotten married, had a baby, received an award or recognition, or moved? Let us know. Share your update using the envelope enclosed or email shfoundation@gogremlins.com or visit the alumni page at www.gogremlins.com.



CLAIRE SOBASKI '18 and Victor Ceausu were married on August 3, 2024. The couple met while studying abroad in Liverpool, England, in 2020. Claire graduated from University of Central Missouri with a bachelor's degree in dietetics and a minor in sports nutrition. She did her dietetic internship at Yale New Haven Hospital and is now working as a pediatric Registered Dietitian at Children's Mercy Hospital in Kansas City. At Children's Mercy, she specializes in counseling patients and families in the renal transplant and weight management clinics. The couple resides in Overland Park, KS.

CHRISTY BAHNER TAPPS '03 Head Athletic Trainer and Athletics Healthcare Administrator at Northwest Missouri State University, was recently named the recipient of the Glenn L. McElroy, MD Outstanding Service Award by the Missouri Athletic Trainers' Association. This prestigious award recognizes Christy's exceptional contributions to athletic training across Missouri. With over a decade of service, including leadership roles, clinical excellence and advocacy, Christy has impacted both her profession and countless student-athletes. Her dedication, innovation and long-standing leadership have made her a standout in the field and an inspiration to her peers statewide



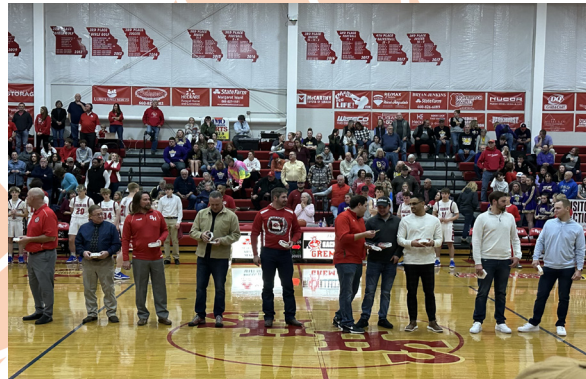
SARAH BISHOP TIPPIE '98 has been an educator for 12 years, with 10 of those years dedicated to Sacred Heart School. She earned a bachelor's degree in psychology from Missouri State University and a second bachelor's degree in special education from St. Louis University. Prior to serving as counselor, Sarah taught 4th grade at Sacred Heart. The Sacred Heart School Foundation recognized Sarah as the 2025 St. Boniface and St. Anne Excellence In Education Teacher of the Year. What makes Teacher of the Year so special is that the only people who vote for Teacher of the Year are the Sacred Heart School faculty. "Mrs. Tippie is compassionate and kind," said Principal Suzann Jenkins. "Students and staff alike know they can always count on her. She works tirelessly for the greater good of our school while also recognizing that each student is unique and special."

COURT OF CHAMPIONS

Homecoming 2025 held extra meaning this year as Sacred Heart celebrated one of its most legendary athletic accomplishments: the 2014 Missouri Class 2 Boys State Championship. On January 17, members of the undefeated 31-0 team returned to McGremlin Gym to be honored at halftime of the boys varsity game.

With the gym nearly full and buzzing with excitement, former players carried out the game ball to tip off the night. At halftime, the lights dimmed and fans were treated to a replay of the final moments of the championship game. As their iconic runout song, "The Man," echoed through the gym, players, coaches and members of the historic team were welcomed back to center court with a standing ovation. In his address to the crowd, Coach Steve Goodwin pointed out that the "perfect season" included three wins against Class 5 schools, two Class 4 wins and a victory over NBA World Champion Michael Porter Jr. of the Denver Nuggets, then a member of the Father Tolton Catholic High School Trailblazers.

"Most of the time they say you can't win them all, but with this team, they didn't listen to any of that," said Goodwin. "They were so fun to be around and just a great group of kids. I was truly honored to be a part of it. You made all my dreams come true and I appreciate you boys. You're the best."



The 2014 team was coached by Missouri State Hall of Fame coach Steve Goodwin, assisted by John Smeltzer and Nick Turner, with longtime bookkeeper Randy Turley. Managers included Grace '20 and Grant '25 Goodwin. The history making roster consisted of: Stefan Cox (SR), Clint Spangler (SR), Chase Lyles (JR), Keyaire Marshall (JR), Garrett Strange (JR), Jaime Vilalobos (JR), Kohei Kodama (JR), Kolin Brace (SO), Will Prenger (SO), Calvin Racy (SO), Charlie Wendt (SO), Zack Dick (FR), Sam Eichholz (FR), Camren Hayden (FR), and Britten Mergen (FR).



Will Prenger, Garrett Strange, Coach Steve Goodwin, Chase Lyles and Cal Racy get together during the Alumni and Family post-game reception.



This custom-made patch was worn on the varsity boys jerseys and given as gifts to the 2014 team. An additional 50 patches are available. If you want a piece of history, grab yours today by calling the school at 660.827.3800 or email shfoundation@gogremlins.com

REMEMBER WHEN? Whether it's that unforgettable field trip, a team victory, or simply moments with friends, we'd love for you to share your pictures from your time at SHS. Email your high-resolution pictures to Liz Van Leer, SHS Development Director, at shfoundation@gogremlins.com. Submit your photos for a chance to be featured in an upcoming issue of our From the Heart magazine.

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Questions? Contact the parish office and ask for Liz Van Leer,
SHS Foundation Development Director

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TURN YOUR MISSOURI TAX LIABILITY INTO SACRED HEART SCHOLARSHIPS

There are so many meaningful ways to support Sacred Heart School—and here's one that doesn't cost you a dime out of pocket. Through the **MOScholars tax credit program**, you can turn your Missouri state tax liability into scholarships for Sacred Heart students.

We are proud to partner with the **Herzog Tomorrow Foundation**, which works with individuals, businesses, and corporations to direct MOScholars scholarships to low-income and IEP students across Missouri. Sacred Heart is a newly approved partner school, with students eligible to apply in 2025 for **\$6,400 scholarships** that support tuition, technology, and tutoring. The Herzog Foundation is committed to renewing current scholarships and expanding the program to serve more students each year.

HOW IT WORKS

These scholarships are funded by redirecting up to **50% of your Missouri state income tax liability** to the Herzog Tomorrow Foundation. In return, you receive a **dollar-for-dollar tax credit**—a powerful way to make a direct impact without increasing your expenses.

EXAMPLES

- An individual or business owing \$20,000 in Missouri income tax can donate \$10,000 to Herzog Tomorrow and reduce their state tax bill to \$10,000.
- Individuals can refer to line 36 on their most recent Missouri tax return to estimate 50% of their 2025 tax liability.
- Businesses that pay Missouri estimated taxes quarterly may redirect two of those payments.

READY TO GET STARTED?

To support Sacred Heart students through this tax-credit scholarship program, reserve your MOScholars tax credit **before December 31st** by following these steps:

- Visit the MOScholars Tax Credit Reservation System at <https://moscholars.com>
- Select Herzog Tomorrow Foundation as your Educational Assistance Organization (EAO).
- After the state processes your reservation, the Herzog Foundation will guide you through the donation process.
- You'll receive a tax credit certificate from the state to apply as a payment when filing your Missouri taxes.

If you have any questions or would like to talk more about how this program—and others—can support Sacred Heart, I'd be happy to visit with you.

Thank you for all you do to support our mission and our students! For more information, contact Liz Van Leer at shfoundation@gogremlins.com

What is the MOScholars Tax Credit?

Turn your tax liability into an investment in Missouri students.

How does it work?

With your MOScholars Tax Credit, you can direct up to 50% of your state tax liability to fund scholarships for students to receive a private education.

Traditionally, your tax dollars go to Jefferson City for the legislature to decide how to spend.

With MOScholars up to 50% state tax

100% state tax

HERZOG TOMORROW

Questions? Contact Mayela Esser at 816-601-3379 or donate@herzogtomorrowfoundation.com

Scan the QR code to learn more.

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