

CRUSADER UPDATE

ALUMNI, DEVELOPMENT & SCHOOL NEWS

GRANDPARENTS AND SPECIAL FRIENDS DAY

On September 8th, 2022, Central Catholic welcomed guests to celebrate our annual Grandparents and Special Friends Day. A crowd nearly doubling the size of our student body were in attendance. The significant event brings together grandparents and friends to celebrate the influence and value they have upon our families and school community.

The day began with Fr. Sid Bruggeman celebrating Mass, during which he gave a homily sharing his own experience as a grandparent. Following the Mass, Principal Jordan Engle narrated fond memories of his grandparents before directing everyone to the cafeteria for refreshments. The Foundation office staff and board members handed out donuts and beverages while students and grandparents mingled in wholesome, quality conversation together.

"My favorite part was going to Mass with them and having them tell us things from their past. I also just loved visiting with them. They told us where our middle names come from, so that was interesting," said Lilly Alberts, a 7th grader. At the end of the event, grandparents shared some words of encouragement and wisdom with their grandchildren before saying goodbye.

Many thanks to all our grandparents for your company and the gift of love and support. ●





EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR NOTES



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What a blessing and a whirlwind it is to be a part of Central Catholic! The Foundation Office is busy busy busy, preparing for A Sterling Knight this year with all the added activities of the Grounded in Faith – Building our Future capital campaign for the new elementary school.

I am so grateful for all those who support Central Catholic through the Foundation. We feel proud of our accomplishments these past few years. We feel privileged to be in a position to witness firsthand the tremendous outpouring of generosity both annually and as part of this once in a lifetime effort to transform GICC into the Pre-K through 12th grade Catholic education so needed and desired by our community.

Above all, we praise Him, we adore Him, we glorify Him, and we give our Lord thanks for all the gifts he has bestowed upon our school. ●

Many blessings,
JOLENE M. WOJCIK, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

A WORD FROM OUR PRINCIPAL



Crusader Family –

As we carry through the fall semester, I would like to reflect for a moment on our school as a community. We recently celebrated Grandparents Day and I enjoyed hosting our many grandparents of students as well as special friends to the school. I am reminded that our school is not just our students and teachers and our campus is not just a building and grounds. We are a community.

At GICC, moms and dads are on campus daily, of course during drop off and pick up, but also to visit and to volunteer. Spouses of faculty stop in to say hello. Supporters of the school drop off gifts to the Foundation Office. Local businesses bring gifts for the Knight and guest speakers visit the students during the day.

Indeed, our school Mass brings together all our loved ones, both near and far, living and deceased, along with all the angels and saints, and in a profound way.

Thank you all for being part of our Central Catholic community! ●

With Christ's Love,
JORDAN ENGLE, PRINCIPAL



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STERLING KNIGHT

1998  2022

A Sterling Knight makes its entrance on November 18, marking the 25th anniversary. Since its inception at Fonner Park in 1998, friends, business associates, and family have gathered annually to celebrate fellowship and unity and to support GICC. We are grateful to announce that, over the years, through raffles, auctions and the support of the Grand Island community, the Knight has raised over \$5.7 million for Central Catholic Schools.

By preparing for the Knight, student volunteers are oriented to a greater purpose.

“

I like getting to work with other kids, working hard, and still being able to enjoy it and have fun

Gabe Rief, 10th grade



Our Knight Chairs, Brandon & Stephanie Connick and Greg & Jennifer Alberts have been working to bring together all of the elements to make the Knight an exceptional experience again this year.

VEHICLE RAFFLE!

It's back! We again have a very unique vehicle raffle donated by Kim & Tom Dinsdale and Dinsdale Automotive. Raffle tickets are being sold for \$100 and the winner will receive \$40,000 towards a new vehicle of their choice at any Tom Dinsdale Automotive location! Pick a Corvette, a Jeep, a Cadillac, or whatever you've always wanted. **Need not be present to win.**



THE STERLING STAKES!

You will have the chance to win \$1,000 OR \$500 cash back in your pocket, or a 65"4K Smart LED TV. Thank you to Jordan & Jenna Engle, Brandon & Steph Connick and Computer Concepts for their donations. Need not be present to win.

You can purchase your raffle tickets online or at GICC:

- www.bidpal.net/knight2022
- GICC Foundation Office
- Text knight2022 to 243725



Join us as we launch our capital campaign
 to build the new Central Catholic
 Elementary School on our current
 Grand Island Central
 Catholic campus.



OUR CAMPAIGN GOALS

CENTRAL CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BUILDING **\$9 MILLION**

The new Central Catholic Elementary School addition will provide a nurturing learning environment for up to 280 students at the Pre-K through 5th Grade level, including:

- 27,000 square feet of space added to GICC's current building.
- 14 general education classrooms and 2 additional resource classrooms.
- A new atrium and office space for the elementary school which includes a new conference room for Central Catholic.
- Playground space on the northeast side of the school campus.
- Remodeled cafeteria/kitchen space to accommodate additional students at lunchtime.
- Improved logistics and parking in the northwest parking lot to accommodate for elementary school drop off and pickup.

BISHOP JAMES GOLKA LEGACY FUND **\$2 MILLION**

The Bishop James Golka Legacy Fund will:

- Create scholarship funds enabling students from all walks of life and demographics to attend.
- Reserve funds for start-up and ongoing operating expenses and maintenance.
- Allow GICC to hire qualified and joy-filled elementary teachers.

**WE ARE GRATEFUL TO ANNOUNCE THAT WE HAVE RAISED
 OVER \$7 MILLION OF OUR GOAL OF \$11 MILLION!**

\$2 million

\$4 million

\$6 million

\$8 million

\$9 million

\$10 million

\$11 million



GROUNDING IN
FAITH



BUILDING OUR
FUTURE

Join us on
Facebook to
follow the
campaign
and the
building
project.

“Catholic education is in my blood and has been a big blessing for me. We need to build the Catholic Pre-School and Grade School!”



Bishop William J. Dendinger

“The community of Grand Island needs a Catholic elementary school to provide faith formation for children from the moment they begin their education. I enthusiastically support these efforts to add an elementary school at Grand Island Central Catholic Schools.”



Bishop Joseph G. Hanefeldt

“Catholic education is part of the mission of the Church. Not only does it provide an alternative choice for families, but more importantly we will offer a distinctive and intentional Catholic education experience for our children... Come and help us. Be part of this great adventure!”



Bishop James R. Golka

Our waitlist for our inaugural 2024-2025 school year is filling up fast!

CURRENT GICC
ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL
WAITLIST:

180+
students

SIGN UP FOR THE
WAITING LIST:



COLLEGE COURSES FAMILIAR TERRITORY FOR HIGH SCHOOL CRUSADERS

Taking college courses in high school is becoming common nationwide, and Central Catholic caters to its students by offering dual-credit and college course opportunities both on-campus and online.

"This semester alone, there are 54 Crusader high schoolers enrolled in 16 different collegiate courses, for a total of 92 college classes being taken by our students," GICC Guidance Counselor Dr Julie Hehnke said.

Central Catholic partners with Central Community College (CCC), Wayne State College, and Wesleyan University for its on-site courses.

College Calculus is taught by Mr Engle via CCC, Wayne State College's Education Pathway is taught by Ms Peters, and Music History is taught by Mr Koepp via Nebraska Wesleyan University. In addition, Professor Ashley Scheil from CCC comes to the GICC campus to teach College Composition I and College Composition II on-site.

Ayonya Birthi, a Crusader senior, has 12 credit hours under her belt already and is now enrolled in CCC's General Chemistry, English Composition I & II, Analytical Geometry, Calculus I, and Intro to Sociology to earn 15 more credit hours.

She views these college courses as a stepping stone that will pay off in multiple ways.

"Taking college courses in high school will give me an upper hand in college as I will have already had experience with college-level classes," Birthi said.

"I will be able to adapt to the lifestyle change a lot easier as I have been easing into it already. And taking these courses now should also allow me to hopefully get done with my [collegel] schooling sooner and save money!"

Dr. Hehnke agrees that saving money on college tuition is an obvious benefit to students starting college courses in high school.

"Our partnerships with area colleges give Crusaders the chance to take courses at a more affordable price," Hehnke added.



[SCHOLARSHIPS]

THANK YOU TO ALL THE WONDERFUL FAMILIES FOR FUNDING SCHOLARSHIPS FOR OUR CRUSADERS!

GICC TUITION ASSISTANCE SCHOLARSHIPS:

- Jane Rachael Aranha Memorial Scholarship
- Frances, Mary & Diane Dolton Scholarship
- Dryer Family Memorial Scholarships
- Bill Dunn Memorial Scholarship
- Audrey & Harry Hoch Sr. Memorial Scholarship
- Dr. Michael L. Janda Memorial Scholarship
- Eleanor & Ronald P. Jones Memorial Scholarship
- Francis & Arnette Kalin (Wenzl-Capaldo) Scholarship
- Maureen & Jim Kahrhoff Scholarship
- Don Leifeld Memorial Scholarship
- Jack & Dee McGowan Scholarship
- William Marshall III Gratis Award
- Tom Randolph Mathematical Award

COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS:

- Jerry Binfield Memorial Scholarship
- Helen Janky/Joyce Janky Sekutara Memorial Scholarship
- Jay's Helping Hands Scholarship
- Eleanor & Ronald P. Jones Memorial Scholarship
- Gus Kallos Memorial Scholarship
- Kaufman-Cummings Foundation Scholarship
- Dwaine and Rita Kubicek Trust Scholarship
- Dale and Mary Lyons Memorial Scholarship
- Fred Northup Memorial Scholarship
- John and Mary Seery Memorial Scholarship
- Diane Smollen '76 Sizemore Memorial Scholarship
- Vern and Esther Taylor Charitable Trust Scholarship
- US Bank Scholarship
- U-Save Scholarship

OUR HEARTFELT CONDOLENCES

KATHLEEN M. BIXENMANN

Survived by her father Eugene Sullivan; brothers Tim (Shellie), Dennis (Sharon), & Tom (Yetta) Sullivan; children Elli (Cory) Eastin & Ben (Leslie) Bixenmann; and grandchildren Maddie, Will, Mae, & Henry Bixenmann, Brooks & Jacob Eastin.

KINYON "KEN" BROOKS

Survived by his wife Jean Brooks; daughter Jerri (Jeff) Palik; son Taylor Brooks; daughter Shelby Brooks; grandchildren Jayden, Jared, and Jacie Palik and EllaRae Brooks; sisters Renee (Ken) Henggeler, Lea (Chuck) Brooks-Wytias, Michelle (Bob) Soulliere; brothers Bill (Lynne) Brooks, Michael Brooks, and Patrick Brooks.

ROBERT COLGAN

Survived by his wife of nearly 60 years, Vianne; two sons, Rob Colgan and James Colgan; nine grandchildren and numerous great-grandchildren.

LOREEN CZAPLEWSKI

Survived by her sons and daughters-in-law; Kellen (Ann) Czaplowski, Mark (Rita) Czaplowski, Dr. Nicholas (Cheryl) Czaplowski, Dr. Rodney (Connie) Czaplowski. Others left to

cherish her memory include her grandchildren, Beth, Derek, Rachel, Sarah, Bridget, Jessica, Michael, and John, and her eight great grandchildren.

THERESA (POELS) HOLT '69

Passed away January 25, 2022 in Oviedo, FL. Survived by her sister, Mary Poels.

DR. LEONA JANDA

Survived by her brother, Dr. David E. (Carol) Janda; sisters, Mary (Jerry) Shelton, Linda (Dan) Goodman and Alice (Dr. Norm) Grosbach and Life partner, Gary Eilenstine. Her family also included niece and nephews, Gary's children and grandchildren, cousins, and friends.

MIKE MEDJO

Survivors of the immediate family include his children, Madison and Jaman; parents, Terry and Cheri Medjo; and sisters, Cindy (Jason) Kosmicki and Kristi Medjo.

REV. DONALD O'BRIEN

Survived by his sister, Shirley O'Brien Corwin; 13 nieces and nephews, 18 great nieces and nephews, and five great-great nieces and nephews.

REV. JAMES O'KANE

Survived by his nieces and

nephews, Mike (Marlene) Stearns, Sharon (Terry) Anson, Rosie Stearns, Dan (Cindy) Stearns, David (Shirley) Stearns, Mark (Lin) Stearns, Matt (Mandy) Stearns.

JAN RANDOLPH

Survived by her husband, Terry Randolph, her sister, Bonnie (Barry) Brown, children, Christina (Rhett) Martin, April (Keith) Allenstein, Lee (Tina) Randolph, Abbie LaVoie and Trisha (John) Johnson, and numerous grandchildren, great grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

JOAN MARY SHAMBURG

Survived by her children: Terry (Hazel) Pinger, Pam Scarrow, and Becky (Shane) Smith; grandchildren Mallory, Jeremy, Spencer, Nicole, Alyssa, Nathan, Joshua, and Mae; great grandchildren, Carson and Elena; sister, Marcella Pfeifer; and sister-in-law, Bernie.

DEB (PTACNIK) SIMPSON '70

Survived by her husband, Bill Simpson; a son, Steve; a daughter and son-in-law, Bethany and Dan Dewsnap, two granddaughters, Madaline and Anna Belle; and a sister and brother-in-law, Linda (Ptacnik) and David Rehovsky.

EILEEN STANCZYK

Survived by her husband, Paul; her children and their spouses, Rebecca and Doug Reardon, Andrea and Jake Jazwick, Miranda and Matt Jazwick, and Jonathan Stanczyk; seven grandchildren; her mother, Darlene McCray; a brother, Mike (MaDonna) McCray; sisters, Kathy McCray, Diane McCray and Jackie (Keith) Cornelius; a brother-in-law, Chuck (Jennifer) Stanczyk; a sister-in-law, Barb (Rusty) Newquist; and numerous nieces and nephews.

ADINE A. WARDYN '60

Survived by her sons and daughters-in-law, John and Vickie Wardyn and Jeff and Brenda Wardyn; seven grandchildren, Justin and Nora Wardyn, Chelsie and Jordan Watson, Jack and Mary Ellen Wardyn, Ben, Beau, Luke and Jacob; and ten great-grandchildren, Marie, Mildred and Joseph Wardyn, Ryker and Finley Watson, Rylie Wardyn, and Gypsy, Oliver, Sawyer and Arden; and sister and brother-in-law, Ardie and Tom Kaiser of Farwell.

MEMORIALS

MAY 17, 2022 - SEPTEMBER 15, 2022

KATHLEEN BIXENMANN MEMORIAL

Costello, Elizabeth
Curran, Randy and Trish
Johnson, Karen

KINYON "KEN" BROOKS MEMORIAL

Rhode, Sandra
Wojcik, Tim and Jolene

CLASS OF 1969 MEMORIALS

Garrett, Mike and Dee

CLASS MEMBERS OF 1972 WHO HAVE PASSED

Class of 1972 fellow classmates

ROBERT COLGAN MEMORIAL

Sindelar, Francis and Rose Ann

LOREEN CZAPLEWSKI MEMORIAL

Buchta, Bill and Nancy
Eden, Ted and Sonia
Schmidt, Steven and Cheri
Sindelar, Francis and Rose Ann
Stump, William and Therese

THERESA (POELS) HOLT MEMORIAL

Behring, Steve and Kathy
Brown, Richard and Mary
Garrett, Mike and Dee
Jacot, David and Patricia

McBride, Don and Patty
Meister, Frank and Donna
Mullen, Kristine
Nabity, Thomas and Jeanne
Rice, Mike and Joyce
Tipton, Michael and Sandra

PAULINE "POLLY" HUPF MEMORIAL

McGowan, James and Janell

DR. LEONA JANDA MEMORIAL

Curran, Randy and Trish
Janda, David and Carol
Kube, Mike and Linda
Markon, Clyde and Shirley
Smollen, Al and Maureen

MIKE MEDJO MEMORIAL

Schumann, Howard

JASON LILITH MEIS MEMORIAL

Hoch, Janie and Harry Jr.

FATHER DONALD O'BRIEN MEMORIAL

Bubak, Ronald and Theresa
Chmelka, David and Carolyn
Dolton, Richard and Gloria
Dubas, Richard and Jane
Durning, Brian and Deb
Flannigan, Randy and Jean
Francis, Bill and Susan
Hoelck, Nadean

Jarek, Jack and Sharon
Kayl, Julie
Lewandowski, Ed and Marlene
McDonald, Francis and Michelle
McDonald, Mike and Irma
Mildenstein, David and Priscilla
Narber, Jim and Donna
O'Brien, Patrick
Ostdiek, Scott and Jamie
Oit, Dean and Pamela Gallagher
Redman, Michael and Jennifer
Rice, Lonnie and Patricia
Schumann, Howard
Scott, Raymond
Staab, Kenneth and Rose Mary
Stava, Ted and Kathy
Sullivan, Myrna
Swantek, Marc and Annette
Wenzl, Michael and Jean
Wojcik, Tim and Jolene
Ziller, Bob and Dianne

FR. JAMES O'KANE MEMORIAL

Garrett, Mike and Dee
Maas, Dallan and Jody
Schumann, Howard

JAN RANDOLPH MEMORIAL

Maciejewski, Gladys

JOHN AND MARY SEERY MEMORIAL

Neid, Fred and Thoma

JOAN SHAMBURG MEMORIAL

Birch, Theresa
Curran, Randy and Trish
Jones, Janiece

EILEEN STANCZYK MEMORIAL

Rerucha, Greg and Lisa

DELORES STEC MEMORIAL

Schmidt, Steve and Cheri

TROY STRATMAN MEMORIAL

Gavers, Bill and Jody
Ziller, Bob and Dianne

PAM SWANSON MEMORIAL

Anderson, Melodee
Babcock, Terry and Tracy
Bigley, Tom and Jackie
Bishop, Jim and Nancy
Blazek, John and Michaela
Bolton, Tim and Maryann
Brostrom, Kevin and Beverly
Brown, Richard and Janice
Buchta, Bill and Nancy
Christensen, Brian and Nancy
Clyne, Todd and Kelsey
Brown, Richard and Stephanie
Curran, Randy and Trish
Dolton, Richard and Gloria
Dubas, Donald and Lynda
Dubas, Richard and Jane
Durning, Brian and Deb
Englehaupt, Wette

Green, Harold and Barb
Green, Kevin and Linda
Griffith, Larry and Kelly
Hamik, Greg and Julie
Harrison, Elizabeth
Haste, Larry and Cheryl
Hoch, Janie and Harry Jr.
Howard, John and Cathy
Huston, Dave and Nancy
Johnson, Karen
Kayl, Julie
Kelly, Kay
Kester, Keith
Kittridge, Jane
Krolikowski, David and Barbara
Lammert, Bill and Jude
Leisinger, Joan
Litz, Dave and Mary
Machmuller, Leo and Kathleen
Maddox, Dwayne and Lori
Martin, Bill and Raynette
O'Connor, Raymond and Jennifer
O'Neill, Gordon and Colleen
Partington, James and Mary Jane
Pellatz, Douglas and Ann
Pfeifer, Chuck and Christine
Phipps, James and Louann
Price, Jim and Dee
Redman, Michael and Jennifer
Reed, Christine
Reilly, John and Barbara
Rempe, Vern and Doris

Riesberg, Roger and Paula
Robison, Michael and Karen
Schaeffer, Greg and Judy
Schepker, Kris and Cheryl
Schmidt, Steven and Cheri
Slater, William and Tammy
Stecher, Joseph and Sandra
Stoltenberg, Wayne and Mary
Swanson, Connie
Sweley, Roger and Debra
Vincik, Christine
Wanek, Mike and Bonna
Wanitschke, Donna
Wanitschke, Dori
Wede, Andrew and Maureen
Wenzl, Michael and Jean
Wenzl, Norbert
Werner, Connie
Wetzl, Debra M.
Wojcik, Tim and Jolene
Wolfe-Williams, Stephanie
Woodward, Pam

ELEINE WIECK MEMORIAL

Goodwin, James Jr. and Christy



CENTRAL
CATHOLIC
DEVELOPMENT
FOUNDATION

1200 Ruby Ave. ■ Grand Island, NE 68803

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Email us your information at info@giccfoundation.com or use this form

YOUR NAME: _____

GRADUATING YEAR OR GICC RELATIONSHIP: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

HOME PHONE: _____ CELL PHONE: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

I'VE MOVED! I'VE CHANGED JOBS! I WAS PROMOTED! I HAVE GOOD NEWS!

DESCRIPTION: _____

RETURN TO: GICC DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION, 1200 RUBY AVE., GRAND ISLAND, NE 68803 ■ 308-382-5499 ■ INFO@GICCFUNDATION.COM

