

CRUSADER UPDATE ALUMNI, DEVELOPMENT & SCHOOL NEWS

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK 2022

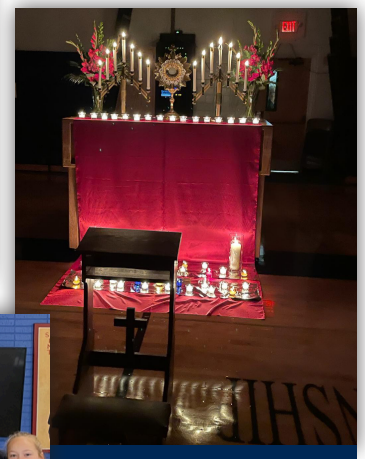
Central Catholic celebrated Catholic Schools Week Jan. 29th through Feb. 4th. Students kicked off the week by volunteering at their parishes and wearing GICC apparel to Mass. On Monday, the GICC staff attended a faculty day of prayer led by Father Canela where they prayed for the success of the students and the school as well as grew deeper with their own faith.

On Tuesday, students held a food drive, Snacks for Soldiers, as a way to give back to the community during our week of celebration. An early morning Mass was held in the chapel and the teachers served donuts and juice to all students.

Wednesday, students participated in a living Rosary. Each bead was represented by a student who was responsible for leading the school in the corresponding prayer. Thursday, adoration was held in the gym from 8-2:30 where students and staff were encouraged to take time to pray throughout the day. The Big and Little Crusaders mentoring program participants were given a pizza party for lunch.

On the final day of Catholic Schools Week, Bishop Hanefeldt celebrated Mass and students dressed in their "Sunday best." Students new to GICC received medals of the patron saint of Catholic Schools, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton. A check of \$31,000 from an anonymous donor was presented to Mr. Engel and Mr. Manivong at the conclusion of Mass.

We are deeply appreciative of our Catholic school's staff and students and are happy that we were able to honor them throughout the week. The tradition of our Catholic school is something to be proud of and we love our GICC community.





EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR NOTES



As many of you know, we have begun the exciting conversation of a Catholic elementary school, which had to be put on hold two years ago due to the Covid pandemic. You'll find more details on our progress in this newsletter.

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SCOTT WEYERS

One donor approached me and expressed her desire for the grade school to open. During our discussion, she spoke of her brother, who had passed away unexpectedly. The funeral, held in another community, was so difficult for everyone she stated. As they drove away from the church to make their way to the cemetery, they passed a Catholic grade school. At that moment, every child on the playground dropped to their knees, folded their hands and bowed in prayer until the entire procession had passed by. Just telling me this story, the tears welled up in her eyes. "I will never forget that as long as I live. Maybe the children do not realize it now, but some day they will realize the gift they gave us by their prayers and action that day. I want that for Grand Island. I want that for our kids."

I would ask that all of you to pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit for us as we continue our efforts. At a time when Catholicism is in decline in many places, we can contribute to the next generation of faithful Christians. We are closer to achieving this than ever before, and I would absolutely love to see elementary age children receiving a Catholic education right here at Central Catholic! ●

JOLENE M. WOJCIK, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

A WORD FROM OUR PRINCIPAL



Dear Crusader Family,

As you probably know, in 2019 leadership at Grand Island Central Catholic began significant discussion regarding the addition of a pre-K-5 elementary school to the GICC curriculum. The talk led to a feasibility study which showed significant support for this project. However, the Covid 19 pandemic forced us to put our plans on hold.

Now, three years later, we are eager to tackle this project and bring a much-needed Catholic elementary school to Grand Island. However, before making any decisions on the best path we need to take to achieve this goal, we would like to hear from you.

We are conducting a comprehensive survey of the entire community. This planning study will enable us to determine potential support for our proposed grade school and to identify prospective campaign participation.

You will all be asked to share your thoughts regarding our hope to add an elementary school and the possibility of conducting a major fundraising effort. The Steier Group, our development firm, will compile the information shared and present it to GICC leadership. At that time, we will make an informed decision regarding our plans.

Please visit our website, www.gicentralcatholic.org, for a link to take the survey today!

We believe this process is extremely important, and we encourage every member of our school community to participate. Your input is of great value as we plan for the future of GICC. ●

With Christ's Love,

JORDAN ENGLE, PRINCIPAL



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GICC NEW SCOREBOARD



THANK YOU TO ALL WHO MADE THIS POSSIBLE

ANCHOR SPONSORS:

- Tom Dinsdale Automotive
- Five Points Bank
- Grand Island Physical Therapy
- U-Save Pharmacy

FOUNDER SPONSORS:

- CHI Health St. Francis
- Grand Island Dermatology
- Hornady
- Indianhead Golf Course
- Olsson
- Pump and Pantry

If you haven't noticed, it's been quite the winter for our school gymnasium. Gone is the old scoreboard, which has been here since the unveiling of the gym some 16 years ago. In its place is a state-of-the-art video board and scoreboard. The scoreboard was made possible by the generosity of our local business community partners. They have been consistent supporters of Central Catholic for many years, helping sponsor major events like The Knight. Their generosity affords us the opportunity to enhance our school without affecting the school budget.

Thanks to the dedication and hard work of our staff and the board manufacturer, Daktronics, we successfully launched the scoreboard on Friday, January 7th for our home game versus Kearney Catholic. Daktronics is the leader in video and

scoreboard technology in the entire country. If you watch professional or college sports and you see a video board, it's most likely Daktronics equipment. Our school will benefit from this partnership in two very specific ways. First, Daktronics provides a detailed curriculum for use in a classroom setting. We now have a video journalism class here at GICC. Learning the Daktronics system, which includes running the scoreboard, creating video content for the board, operating the replay system, will open up opportunities on hundreds of college campuses across the country to earn scholarships or be a part of work study programs. Second, the scoreboard has a more visible community presence and can serve as a recruiting tool to help market the benefits of Central Catholic to both potential parents and students.





DEEP ROOTS

Catholic education has been a staple in Grand Island for 129 years. Its roots date back to the late 19th century – 1893 – when St. Mary’s Parish was the first to offer a faith-based education. Grand Island Central Catholic (GICC) opened its doors in 1956 and over the ensuing 66 years has educated thousands of young adults, many of whom eventually became successful businessmen and women – leaders in our community. Today, proud of its long history, GICC continues as a leader in education, serving families in Grand Island and surrounding communities.

A DESIRE TO OFFER MORE

It’s satisfying for us to recognize the success of 60 plus years of educating Central Nebraska students, especially knowing that achievements are grounded in the teachings of our Lord and Savior. We put His lessons into practice first in our homes, reinforce them in the classroom, then use them daily while striving to gain tolerance and understanding of all people.

Now, as moral and social issues heighten concerns for all families, the need for children to receive a Jesus Christ-centered approach to education is arguably more compelling than it’s ever been. We recognize this want and hope to meet it by expanding our influence and GICC’s outreach by returning to our roots and adding a Pre-K-5 elementary school on our campus.



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1200 North Ruby Ave.
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308-382-5499
jwojcik@giccfoundation.com

A NEED IDENTIFIED



Grand Island’s two Catholic grade schools were closed in 1975 by the Grand Island diocese. Since then, many civic and school leaders have formed the belief that this decision needs to be corrected. A study conducted in 2019* confirmed this opinion. The community-wide review indicated there is strong support to reinstate an elementary curriculum. 90% of parish-sponsored respondents and 88% of community members surveyed agree that Grand Island again needs a Catholic grade school. In addition 65% of survey participants with grade school-aged children indicated they would definitely or likely enroll their children in a Catholic elementary school. Survey results alone projected an enrollment of 65, K-5th grade students in year one.

**Conducted in
March 2019 by
Dr. Richard C. Meyer*

In response to the results, the GICC Board of Trustees began taking the next steps to make this happen, but the COVID-19 pandemic forced a delay. Three years later, the need for a Catholic grade school in Grand Island remains – as does our resolve to meet this demand. In fact, more than ever, community members are approaching GICC with a desire that Grand Island offer a choice in schools at the elementary school level. Offering school choice at the K-5 level is necessary to bring professionals to Grand Island and to get young people to come back to their hometown. When businesses ask potential employees and their families to consider relocating to Grand Island, they respond that their family must have access to quality education for them to consider our community. As a result, we are eager to re-start our project and hope to soon move forward with a major fundraising effort to fund our new school. (over)

PROPOSED CAMPAIGN PROJECT #1: A NEW SCHOOL

GICC leadership worked with CMBA Architects and Chief Construction to design a proposed elementary school that could comfortably accommodate 280 students. Plans call for the construction of an approximately 27,500 square foot building to hold 14 classrooms, allowing for two rooms per grade, including two preschool classrooms. Other planned amenities are an atrium, offices, additional resource rooms, restrooms and storage space. The building will connect to the existing school creating easy access for elementary students to use the chapel, cafeteria, gymnasiums and library. We hope to begin construction in the summer of 2023 and welcome the first class of students for the 2024/2025 school year.

ESTIMATED CONSTRUCTION COST: \$9 MILLION*

**Note: As of November 2021. It does not include operating expenses or start up fees.*

PROPOSED CAMPAIGN PROJECT #2: ENDOWMENT SUPPORT

Establishing the Bishop James Golka Legacy Fund is the second proposed campaign project. Bishop Golka is a GICC alum who also attended St Mary's grade school until it closed. The purpose of this endowment is to provide financial support to the elementary school to ensure its future. It will also serve to honor Bishop Golka for his work and influence during his 25 years of service in the Diocese of Grand Island.

ENDOWMENT GOAL: \$2 MILLION TOTAL CAMPAIGN GOAL: \$11 MILLION*

Grand Island has spoken. The community desires a Catholic elementary school to provide school choice at the K-5th grade level. Our school leaders are now prepared to take the next bold steps to fulfill that void.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Pray and participate. We ask that you pray for GICC leaders as they continue planning. They are demonstrating great courage and vision taking steps to reach this point and must continue to be bold thinkers. We also ask that you take time to participate in this study. We need to hear from you before we move ahead. It only takes a few minutes to share your thoughts. **You will help define the future of Catholic education in Grand Island.**



A DAY TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE. A DAY THAT STARTS WITH YOU.

JOIN US FOR 24 HOURS OF GIVING ON TUESDAY MAY 5TH, 2022

The day you make a difference for Central Catholic.

The day you can support technology, curriculum upgrades and tuition assistance.

The day hundreds of donors like you come together to make a huge collective impact, to help our students, to keep Central Catholic thriving.

So save the date. There's no better day to give!

Go Big Give day is the day gifts from hundreds of donors add up to a huge collective impact for Central Catholic's greatest needs.

It's the day you can help us do something extraordinary — raise \$75,000 for three causes that support our students, faculty, staff and friends.



WHAT WOULD \$75,000 IN GIFTS MEAN FOR THE SCHOOL?

- Chromebooks for all Crusaders
- 5-year renewal of curriculum improvements
- Tuition assistance

On Go Big Give day, donors will continue to impact our students, making possible the Central Catholic education that will define their lives. For the Crusader community, there's no better way and no better day to come together and support the Central Catholic. The funds we raise are a great tool in our mission to provide the students and staff the best experience we can. Funding towards Chromebooks, curriculum and tuition assistance ensure the school will continue its history of academic excellence.



Whatever the size of your gift, whether it's \$1, \$100 or \$1,000, know that we are deeply appreciative and please know that you are helping to change the lives and shape the minds of young people.

Please donate online at

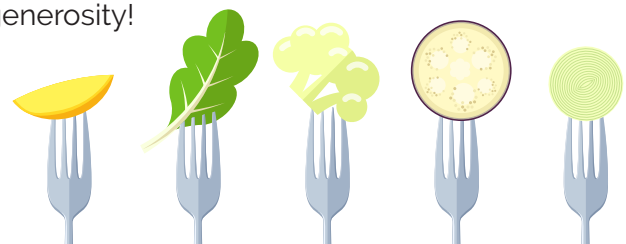
www.gobiggive.org/giccfoundation

or you can drop off or mail a check made out to "Go Big Give".

CENTRAL CATHOLIC LUNCH ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Children need healthy meals to learn. Central Catholic offers healthy meals every school day. GICC Alum Jeff Dolton wanted to make sure there are not any students worried about getting a hot lunch. He kicked off a program to assist those in need with a nice donation to the school. Jeff stated "I never had to contemplate that I might not get lunch...I knew the cafeteria staff and others were taking care of me. Somebody was stepping in and helping families that just needed a little extra help." If you would like to make a donation,

visit our website -<https://www.gicentralcatholic.org/foundation.html> under the donation tab, and choose "Lunch Assistance Program" under the drop-down menu. Thank you Jeff for your generosity!



OUR HEARTFELT CONDOLENCES

JANNAN MCLELLAN '69

Survivors include her spouse, Bill; daughters, Shayla (Kyle) Nabity and Angie (Brian) Butler; five grandchildren; one great-grandson; sister, Jude (Bill) Lammert; and brother-in-law Bob Buffington.

JOHN MILLER, JR.

Survivors include his spouse, Padi (Petersen) '82; sons, Aaron (Magan), and Derek; brother Jeff; two grandchildren.

JIMMIE NELSON

Survivors include his son, Darrell (Julie) Nelson; daughter Tracey (Christopher) Roberts; three grandchildren; sisters-in-law, Connie Puente, Carmen Luna, Virginia (Rich) Soto, Terri (Richard) Brown, Ramona Puente and Polly Puente; brothers-in-law, Manuel (Josie) Puente and Andy (Nancy) Puente.

MEMORIALS January 7, 2022 - March 8, 2022

HERESA "TERRIE" CLAUSEN MEMORIAL

Ryan, Steve and Kim

KIM ENGEL MEMORIAL

Engel, Danny

JAKE GILLESPIE MEMORIAL

Chapman, Mary

JOHN HARRIS MEMORIAL

Wenzl, Pat and Linda

VIRGINIA HARRIS MEMORIAL

Wenzl, Pat and Linda

WILLIAM 'BILL' HARRIS MEMORIAL

Wenzl, Pat and Linda

PAULINE "POLLY" HUPF MEMORIAL

Lammert, Bill and Jude

PATRICK KAYL MEMORIAL

Ryan, Steve and Kim

WARREN LESCHINSKY MEMORIAL

Ziller, Bob and Dianne

ALICE LONOWSKI MEMORIAL

Rerucha, Greg and Lisa

JANNAN MCLELLAN MEMORIAL

Kayl, Julie

Lammert, Bill and Jude
Sweley, Roger and Debra

JOHN MILLER JR. MEMORIAL

Jones, Janiece

JIMMIE NELSON MEMORIAL

Ryan, Steve and Kim

JOLENE NEWMAN MEMORIAL

Jones, Janiece

JACLYN PARTINGTON MEMORIAL

Partington, Bill and Kathy

JEAN ROCK MEMORIAL

Riecker-Karl, Joann

DON RUZICKA MEMORIAL

Riecker-Karl, Joann

JOE AND HELEN RUZICKA MEMORIAL

Riecker-Karl, Joann

JOHN SEERY MEMORIAL

Ryan, Steve and Kim

MARY JANE SEERY MEMORIAL

Ryan, Steve and Kim

MARY KATHERINE WALKOWIAK MEMORIAL

Whyte, Joe and Jean

BRADLEY WOODRUFF MEMORIAL

Henchal, Bob Jr. and Mary

DAVID WOODRUFF MEMORIAL

Henchal, Bob Jr. and Mary

MARGARET WOODRUFF MEMORIAL

Henchal, Bob Jr. and Mary

CLASS REUNIONS

CLASS OF 2001 REUNION

SATURDAY, JUNE 4, 2022 - MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW LATER

- Morning: Family get together at a park
- Afternoon: Tour the school
- Evening: Adult gathering

A Facebook page has been set up -
www.facebook.com/GICC2001

CLASS OF 1992 30TH REUNION

WEEKEND OF JUNE 17TH & 18TH IN GRAND ISLAND.

Contact Tim Steele at 704-621-9977 or
timothyssteele@gmail.com

CLASS OF 1982 40TH REUNION

SATURDAY, JUNE 4, 2022.

School tour at 3:30 followed by Mass in the chapel.
Dinner at Kinkaiders at 6:00 pm.
Contact Sherma for more info:
sherma@ideabankmarketing.com/402-461-6662.

CLASS OF '70 TURNS 70 ~ OUR 50TH + 2

FRIDAY, JULY 22, 2022

- 6:00 ~ Casual night at Anne Riebschlagers

SATURDAY, JULY 23 - SEE BELOW

Contact person ~ Anne (Northup) Riebschlager
(308-379-1009)

CLASS OF 1972 ~ 50TH REUNION

FRIDAY, JULY 22, 2022

- 5:00 - 11:00 ~ Casual night

SATURDAY, JULY 23 - SEE BELOW

Contact person ~ Karen (Nabity) Olson
(308-379-7753) or karenabo@msn.com

SATURDAY, JULY 23, 2022

GICC Classes of '70 and '72 - RSVP will be sent in May.

- AM ~ Golf Outing
 - 2:30 ~ Tour of Central Catholic followed by Mass
 - Evening at the Platt-Duetsche
5:00 - 6:00 ~ Social Hour w/Cash Bar
6:30 - 7:30 ~ Dinner
7:30 - 11:00 ~ D.J. ~ Music, Dancing and Fellowship
- *GICC Classes of '68, '69, '71, & '73 are invited to join us at 7:30 for the Music, Dancing, & Fellowship.



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WE WANT TO HEAR ABOUT YOU!

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