



# THE TORCH

www.aquinas-catholic.com



2022-23 Theme

Dear Aquinas families,

Happy New Year 2023! I hope you enjoyed a wonderful Christmas with family and had some good down time during the break.

While it is still early in the new year we have begun looking towards the fall for the academic year 2023-2024. Our finance committee has just about finished up the budget for next year. I am excited to share with you a vision for Aquinas that expands a couple of roles needed for our schools.

Next school year, we will be adding a new IT person to our staff. Since going one to one last December and the increasing role of technology in the field of education, we need a full-time member as both a resource and a teacher for our teachers and our students. Technology is only as valuable with proper oversight and continuous education.

After three years here at Aquinas, it is my desire to add a counselor to our staff as well. Fr. Holdren, campus ministry and our priest have made great strides in Spiritual Direction but we need to assist that effort with a full-time counselor. Our students struggle with many things especially mental health issues and we need this resource as we form both body and soul.

The upcoming school year brings openings within our staff. Next month, we will be interviewing for our current open positions: band teacher, math teacher, librarian and business manager.

We continue to have openings for both full-time and part-time staff at Holy Family Early Learning Center. Additionally, we are beginning our search for a new program director. After three years, Mary Coufal, our original program director, has taken a new position. We thank her for the hard work of opening our center and the work that has been done in three short years. This position is crucial for our center. Please spread the word.

Applicants can fill out an application for all openings at: <https://aquinas-catholic.com/careers/>

Lastly, please consider the following spiritual opportunities for your children in the next few months.

**TEC Retreats:** Feb. 18-20 at Neuman High School, April 15-17 at Camp Kateri (McCool Junction) and June 10-12 at Aquinas.

**Steubenville Youth Conference:** This annual summer conference will be held July 7-9 in St. Louis.

I cannot state enough how much these events have transformed our own students and others throughout the diocese. Students come back changed and alive. This is the mission and identity that I want pouring out of our school and our students. These encounters outside our school coincide with the work of Campus Ministry to enhance the Catholic identity of our school. I strongly recommend these opportunities. Please consider one or both for your child this Spring/Summer.

Wishing you and your families health and peace in 2023!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads 'Fr. Michael Ventre'.

Fr. Michael Ventre

FR. MICHAEL VENTRE, CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

MR. SPENCER ZYSSET, PRINCIPAL

### **Middle/High School Principal letter- February 2023**

#### **Recent happenings**

**Aquinas Catholic Schools' mission-** There has been no shortage of reminders recently of what Aquinas Catholic Schools are trying to accomplish. We do teach academic content, but we are also trying to form disciples of Christ and good Catholic witnesses. The month of January was jam-packed with opportunities for students to grow in their own faith, serve others, and speak for the voiceless. A number of students and staff attended the March for Life in Washington, D.C., the Mexico City mission trip, Nebraska's Walk for Life in Lincoln, and our own Pro-Life Week and Catholic Schools Week festivities. These are excellent opportunities for our students to take what they learn in the classroom and apply it in their lives.

**Civic engagement-** If you have followed the news recently, you are hopefully aware of a variety of topics that can and should inspire increased civic engagement, especially in the form of reaching out to our elected representatives to let them know how you feel about certain issues. Some of these issues that I would encourage all of our parents to contact elected representatives include school choice and abortion access. The following is a link that you can use to find your state senator and his/her contact information: [https://nebraskalegislature.gov/senators/senator\\_find.php](https://nebraskalegislature.gov/senators/senator_find.php). Most of our area is covered by Bruce Bostelman of Brainard ([bbostelman@leg.ne.gov](mailto:bbostelman@leg.ne.gov)). **Please reach out to Senator Bostelman and let him know you appreciate his continued support of school choice in Nebraska!**

**Thank you, parishes, for your support-** I would again like to thank our deanery parishes for their support of Catholic education. Without their support, Aquinas Catholic Schools would not exist to provide a Catholic education to area families. So thank you once again for your support and partnership!

#### **Upcoming events, schedule changes and reminders**

- **SAT Day-** 1:00pm dismissal on February 8<sup>th</sup> (notifications for students who need to stay for SAT Day will be sent out after mid-quarter on February 3<sup>rd</sup>)
- **Tri-Councils-** 1:00pm dismissal on February 9<sup>th</sup>; Tri-Councils 2:00-4:00 & 4:30-7:30
  - ◇ Progress reports will be available when you arrive for Tri-Councils
- **CANCELLED: 10:00am late start (teacher PD)-** Wed. February 1<sup>st</sup>- this will be a regular day of school
- **CHANGED: No School-** Fri. February 17<sup>th</sup> (Bishop's Day Off #1)
- **CHANGED: No School-** Thur. April 6<sup>th</sup> (Holy Thursday)
- **CHANGED: End of school year schedule** (Bishop's Day Off #2)
  - ◇ Friday May 19<sup>th</sup>- Last day for PK-8
  - ◇ Monday May 22<sup>nd</sup> and Tuesday May 23<sup>rd</sup>- HS Finals
  - ◇ Wednesday May 23<sup>rd</sup>- Faculty workday
  - ◇ Progress reports will be available when you arrive for Tri-Councils

God Bless!

*Spencer Zysset*

Spencer Zysset, Principal

## Aquinas High School Quarter 2 Honor Roll

**Freshmen Honor Roll:** Lilly Collins, Nathaniel Hain, Grace Masek, Lauren Meister, Lydia Meysenburg, Marissa Miratsky, Becca Podolak, Violet Schmid, Kaitlyn Schneider, Madison Vandenberg, Rebecca Wacker, Ainsley Wollmer, Augustine Yindrick

**Freshmen Honorable Mention:** Berenice Alarcon, Oliver Antholz, Danica Bohuslavsky, Bella Fontenot, Evan Hoelscher, Brynn Kudlacek, Colby Miller, Miranda Novacek, Sydni Svoboda

**Sophomore Honor Roll:** Isabella Comte, Isaiah Coufal, Flora Dalton, Caleb DeWispelare, Keltie Hein, Isabella Kadavy, Marcus Krivanek, Garrett Novacek, Avery Oltmer, Alexandra Prochaska, Elizabeth Roh, Tylee Truksa, Traeton Vandenberg, Reese Woolsey

**Sophomore Honorable Mention:** Alan Antholz, Kurtis Baer, Miriam Frasher, Sydney Hartman, Jacksen Jelinek, Karmen Karpisek, Kasen Lavicky, Molly Ruiz, Sara Schmid, Bryant Stouffer, Brooklyn Stutzman

**Junior Honor Roll:** Dylan Andel, Rebecca Andel, Jordyn Bohuslavsky, Josiah Brezina, Timothy Duke, Gianna Frasher, Tate Hain, Ryan Hein, Jakob Kavan, Wesley Miller, Jacob Moravec, Emma Prochaska, Bianca Romshek

**Junior Honorable Mention:** Robert Pytlik, Luke Reiter, Cecilia Sisco

**Senior Honor Roll:** Aletha Breiner, Lacie Hartman, Brooke Hoelscher, Colin Hough, Allisen Jelinek, Zander Kavan, Natalie Kovar, Krae Lavicky, Adam Oltmer, Joshua Palik, Luke Sellers, Jocelyn Stara, Margaret Svec, Antonia Wachal, Rachel Wacker, Claire Wisnieski, Mara Yindrick

**Senior Honorable Mention:** Delayne Adamy, Noah Grady, Ava Hilger, Mackenzie Kobza, Veronica Reimers

## Semester 1 Honor Roll

**Freshmen Honor Roll:** Lilly Collins, Nathaniel Hain, Grace Masek, Lauren Meister, Lydia Meysenburg, Becca Podolak, Violet Schmid, Kaitlyn Schneider, Sydni Svoboda, Madison Vandenberg, Rebecca Wacker, Ainsley Wollmer, Augustine Yindrick

**Freshmen Honorable Mention:** Berenice Alarcon, Oliver Antholz, Danica Bohuslavsky, Bella Fontenot, Evan Hoelscher, Brynn Kudlacek, Colby Miller, Marissa Miratsky, Miranda Novacek

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**Senior Honorable Mention:** Delayne Adamy, Noah Grady, Ava Hilger, Adam Oltmer, Veronica Reimers

## Aquinas Middle School Honor Roll Quarter 2, 2022-2023

### Improving:

**Grade 6:** Kayle Coufal, Charlotte Hays, Bailee Hough, Masen Jelinek, Steven Krafka, Brecken Rader, Noah Schneider, Keyshia True-Nielsen, Benjamin Zook

**Grade 7:** Allisson Alcantara, Carter Cech, Natalie DeWispelare, Simon Grady, Emmett Kadavy, Jonathan Kunasek, Ellie Piitz, Joseph Rohloff

**Grade 8:** Luke Hovorka, Myles Kobza, Gunner Marushak, Sylvia Piitz, William Podolak, Logan Vandenberg, Paxton Zook

### Honor Roll:

**Grade 6:** Camden DeWispelare, Damon DeWispelare, Madelyn Emory, Thomas Juranek, Emerson Krivanek, Sabra Meister, Payton Meysenburg, Zane Meysenburg, Danica Romshek, Emily Schmid, Holly Schmid

**Grade 7:** Jacqueline Comte, Kristin Coufal, Robert Dalton, Royce Fontenot, Allie Kudlacek, Natalia Lopez, Rebekah Masek, Brogen Semin,

**Grade 8:** Sarah Coufal, Tristan Davis, Dayne Jakub, Annastasia Meysenburg, Mary-Kate Moravec, Max Oliver, Anna Schmid, Kade Semin, Taylor Smith, Jordyn Vandenberg, Jacob Wacker

*Reminder:*

*due to the small Senior class,*

*Baccalaureate Mass*

*will be at the Aquinas Chapel*

*May 17 at 7:00p.m.*



# ANNUAL APPEAL UPDATE

**\$150,000 GOAL**

**89%**



Rev. Mr.  
Scott Nemec  
2015 Grad



Trev Moravec family  
2006 Grad

**FUND  
VOGATIONS**

Thank you for all who have donated to the Annual Appeal. We have reached 89% of our \$150,000 goal to fund the gap.

If you haven't yet, please help us reach our goal!  
*This campaign will end on June 30, 2023*

## Gold Rush Steering Committee

Todd & Malinda Hilfiker

Corey & Jenny Kavan

Jason & Tori Lavicky

Trev & Michaela Moravec

Zack & Morgan Chadwick

Travis & Lindsay Truksa

Kyle & Carly Eller

Brad & Chana Sloup

Brian & Bri Birkel

Jared & Paula Dewispelare

AQUINAS CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

# BUS RAFFLE

**TICKETS ON SALE NOW**

**ENTER FOR A CHANCE TO WIN**

**\$5,000**

**\$2,500**

**\$1,000**

**\$1,000**

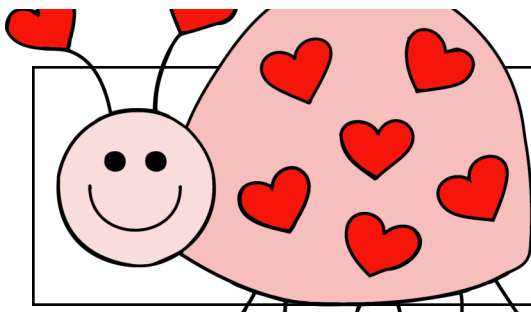
**\$500**

**\$100 A TICKET**

Winners drawn at Gold Rush, April 1, 2023

**NEED NOT BE PRESENT TO WIN!**

Tickets sold at the Aquinas Office, in your Gold Rush Invitation, or from any Gold Rush Committee Member



# Aquinas Catholic Elementary

## February 2023

USDA is an Equal Opportunity Provider

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
		1 Pork Patty Mashed Potatoes Gravy Corn Pears Cookie	2 PIZZA PARTY! Stop Inn Pizza Lettuce Salad Breadstick Dragon Punch	3 Fish Sticks Macaroni & Cheese Peas Oranges
6 Bacon Cheese Burger French Fries Strawberry Cup	7 Beef Nachos Churro Corn Pineapple	8 Breakfast Sandwich Hash Brown Yogurt Fruit	9 Chicken Strips Smile Fries Green Beans Roll Dragon Punch	10  NO SCHOOL
13 Hot Dog on Bun Baked Beans Potato Chips Mandarin Oranges	14 Spaghetti w/ Meat Sauce Corn Garlic Breadstick Applesauce	15 Steak Fingers Mashed Potatoes Gravy Roll Green Beans Emerald Pears	16 Breaded Chicken Patty on Bun French Fries Mixed Veg Blend Fruited Jell-O	17 Cheese Stuffed Crust Cheese Pizza Broccoli Ranch Peaches
20 Orange Chicken Rice Egg Roll Cooked Carrots Pineapple	21 Chicken Alfredo Rotini Pasta Broccoli Garlic Toast Tropical Fruit	22 Shrimp Poppers 1/2 Baked Potato Sour Cream Peas Tropical Fruit	23 Corn Dog Baked Beans Tater Tots Mandarin Oranges	24 French Toast Sticks Scrambled Eggs Oven Potatoes Yogurt Strawberries
27 Fiestada Pizza Corn Lettuce Salad Pears	28 Sloppy Joe on Bun Baby Carrots Smile Fries Applesauce Slush	<u>Reminder:</u> We are not able to get all food items we are asking for, so bare with us as menus may need to change, we will try to let students know.	Milk & water offered Daily Fruit/Veggie/Salad Bar Offered Daily	Menu is Subject to Change and will be posted for students knowledge





**Kindergarten** has been blessed with the visits from the Seniors! This is a highlight of their day. Virtues being lived through the years. **Mrs. Fozzard & Mrs. Miller**





# First Grade



The First Graders are practicing how to count large collections of items in Math. We worked with a small group to put our items in groups of ten. Then we counted them by 10s and our extras by 1s. Soon we'll be putting our numbers on a place value chart and identifying our hundreds, tens, and ones. It was also a good time to work on some social skills like cooperating, taking turns, and collaborating.

**Mrs. Ketteler & Mrs. Vavrina**





## Grade 3

After a long, relaxing Christmas break we are back into the swing of things. In Math, we have learned the perfect squares and are learning many new multiplication facts. We continue to do daily word problems, tell time, addition and subtraction problems with regrouping along with calendar skills.

For Christmas the 3<sup>rd</sup> graders received flashlights so we could have Flashlight Friday! It is a fun way to read!!

**Mrs. Janak & Mrs. Naiberk**







4<sup>th</sup> Grade!

Fr. Stec brought in some gold, frankincense, and myrrh for his weekly visit.

Mr. Beller  
&  
Ms. Koranda

# LEARN. EXPLORE. ROAR!

Aquinas Catholic Elementary

## KINDERGARTEN ROUND UP

### REGISTRATION & TOUR



Tues. March 14, 2023

6:00 PM-7:30 PM

Aquinas Elementary Gym

**BRING**

Birth Certificate

Baptism Certificate

Tax Info. for Scholarships



# Campus Ministry

Dear Parents and Grandparents,

It is so important to put our kids in front of Jesus in many different ways and **getting out of the norm and being with thousands of other Catholic teens in this venue is an experience like no other!** It is not like everything changes like a magic bullet, but it does open up a young person's mind and heart to new possibilities. Possibilities through encountering Christ in a way like never before. New holy friendships happen through mutual experiences. Please do consider sending your student, even if they think they do not desire to go. They WILL THANK YOU LATER!!! I have heard over and over young people say, "My mom made me go and I am glad she did!"

Many of you may know my son, Deacon Scott Nemec will be ordained a priest this May. He graduated from Aquinas in 2015. I want to share this with you: In his testimony as part of the application to enter seminary he said, "When I was a sophomore in high school my mom made me go to the Steubenville Conference." It had a HUGE impact on him.

God bless you and your families!

With prayers for you and all students at Aquinas,  
Beth Nemec, Campus Minister

*Inviting 8th - 12th grade students  
into a life-changing encounter with Christ!*

**Refuge**  
MT 11:28

**STEBENVILLE ST. LOUIS - MID-AMERICA ONE  
JULY 7-9, 2023**

**Register by February 10th**

Contact Mrs. Nemec for additional information.  
beth-nemec@cdolinc.net | 402-641-4023

685 S. John Q Hammons Pkwy, • Springfield, MO 65807

Featuring Fr. Mike, Sarah Swafford, and other top notch Catholic presenters

Awesome music included



**FR MIKE SCHMITZ**

 **STEBENVILLE  
CONFERENCES**  
An outreach of Franciscan University of Steubenville

 **FRANCISCAN UNIVERSITY  
OF STEUBENVILLE**

# February 2023

## 6-12 Lunch Calendar

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>Veg/fruit bar &amp; milk offered everyday</b> <b>Menus are subject to change</b>	30 Orange Chicken Rice Stir Fry Veggies Fortune Cookie	31 Walking Taco Garnishes Corn Fruit Cookie	1 Breakfast Sandwich Hashbrown Patty Yogurt Parfaits Fruit	2 Popcorn Chicken Bowls Corn Fruit, Brownies	3 Shrimp Poppers Mac & Cheese Peas Fruit	4	
5	6 Loaded Tots Garnishes Green Beans Fruit Rice Krispie Bar	7 Ham Patty/Bun Potato JoJo's Mixed Veggies Fruit	8 1:00 Dismissal for SAT (Student Assistance Time) Chicken Noodle Soup Chicken Salad or Lunch Meat Sandwiches Crackers Fruit	9 Hoagie Sandwich Chips & Queso Broccoli Normandy Fruit	10 NO SCHOOL	11	
12	13 Beef and Cheddar Sandwich Chips Broccoli Normandy Fruit	14 Creamed Chicken Over Biscuits Mixed Veggies Jell-O Fruit	15 Fiestadas Tri-Tater Side Salad Fruit	16 Pigs In A Blanket French Fries Baked Beans Fruit	17 Fish Sandwich Tater Tots Peas Fruit	18	
19	20 Chicken Nuggets French Fries California Blend Fruit Blueberry Muffin	21 Chicken Bacon Ranch Wraps Garnishes Corn Fruit Apple Crisp	22 Ash Wednesday Tuna & Noodles Peas Fruit Bread Stick	23 Chicken N Rice Broccoli Jell-O Fruit Tea Roll	24 Grilled Cheese Tomato Soup Garnishes Fruit	25	
26	27 1st Sunday of Lent Crispitos Spanish Rice Refried Beans Fruit	28 Chicken Fried Steak Mashed Potatoes/Gravy Corn Fruit Tea Roll					

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer

# February 2023

## Aquinas Catholic Schools

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
5			1 1:30PM Activity Pictures Catholic Schools Week	2 4:30PM MS BBB @ Schuyler 5:00PM GBB @ Scotus Catholic Schools Week	3 Mid Quarter Catholic Schools Week	4 ACT Testing Speech @ Schuyler 9:00AM MS BBB @ Scotus 9:30AM WR @ GICC 1:15PM B/GBB vs Lincoln Christian (Senior Night)
6	6:00PM Res. BBB @ Osceola Meeting 6:00PM MS/HS Council Meeting 7:00PM ELAM Council Meeting	7 5:45PM MS BBB @ Millford Tournament 6:00PM B/GBB @ Humphrey St. Francis	8 1:00 Dismissal for SAT (Student Assistance Time)	9 1:00PM Dismissal 2:00-4:00PM Aquinas/St. Mary's Conferences	10 NO SCHOOL	11 TBA Speech @ DCHS 8:00AM Res BBB @ Scotus Invite 9:00AM MS BBB @ Schuyler Tournament TBA WR Districts
12	13 TBA GBB Sub Districts This Week	14 4:30PM MS BBB vs Seward St. John	15 Penance Service	16 State WR Tournament 4:30PM MS BBB vs Seward	17 NO SCHOOL State WR Tournament 5:00PM BBB vs Columbus Scotus TBA GBB District Finals	18 TBA Speech @ Aquinas State WR Tournament
19	20 TBA BBB Sub Districts This Week	21	22 Ash Wednesday	23	24 ACT Registration Due	25 Speech Conference @ Aquinas BBB District Finals
26	27 1st Sunday of Lent TBA Speech Districts This Week 6:30PM Board of Advisors Meeting	28				

# From the Career Counseling Office

Seniors and their parents: Watch your emails for information from the Career Counseling Office. There have been several emails sent out this year.

## February To-Do List

- Start filling out local scholarships
- Apply for all scholarships.
- Log on and create a [FAFSA ID](#)
- Ask admissions rep about scholarships at the college
- Make an appointment with EducationQuest to assist you in filing the FAFSA

The average senior fills out between 30 and 40 scholarship applications. This may seem like a lot however, once you have completed one form, the rest get easier.

### *Tips for filling out applications:*

- Include an activities resume
- Turn applications in early
- Type everything!
- Write "see attached sheet" if there is not enough space
- Include letters of recommendation
- Explain your participation in clubs
- Be neat
- Keep copies (to use for other forms!)
- Have applications proof-read
- Be creative in essays
- Include a personal statement or letter
- Be professional

The average scholarship form make take 30 minutes to complete, if you are awarded the scholarship and its worth even \$100-if you look at it as being paid by the hour, you'll never be paid that well again!

## Testing Update

### [Iowa Test of Basic Skills](#)

This test will be given to 6-10th grade in week of March 6th.

### [ACT Testing Dates:](#)

April 15th

Registration: Due March 10th

NOTE: The April ACT is a popular date for Grade 10-11. Register early by going to ACT website and creating an account. For students in Track and Field there is a testing site at Wisner HS!

Start early to make sure you get a more local testing location!



*“Love is patient, love is kind, and is not  
jealous; love does not brag and is not  
arrogant...”*

*1 Corinthians 13:4*

**AQUINAS CATHOLIC**

**AQUINAS CATHOLIC**

**ELEMENTARY**

**MS/HS**

1026 5TH ST

3420 MN RD. PO BOX 149

**[www.aquinas-catholic.com](http://www.aquinas-catholic.com)**

**HOLY FAMILY EARLY LEARNING CENTER**

**622 J STREET**

**DAVID CITY, NE 68632**

