



AQUINAS & ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

THE TORCH

www.aquinas-catholic.com



May, 2023

Aquinas Families,

Here is run down of the last month:



2022-23 Theme

Holy Family ELC Openings - We continue to need both full-time and part-time workers at Holy Family. Even if availability is only a couple of days a week, please consider putting in an application. Online applications can be submitted on the Aquinas website: <https://aquinas-catholic.com/careers/>. If we are not able to find enough help for August there may be a possibility of reducing numbers due to staff shortages. Please send people our way!

Gold Rush Recap – Just a simple rundown of the numbers for Gold Rush.

Event Total: \$491,725 (Unbelievable! Thank you for the generosity!)

Net Total: \$473,251

Breakdown: \$250,000 (Amount budgeted for 2022-2023)

\$103,000 (Blue Sky – School Security)

\$120,251 (Surplus that can be used for both security and deferred maintenance)

Please know that we have several projects that need attention in our building. I will make sure to let you know of these improvements and post them to both our Aquinas Website and Facebook Page.

Ordinations – As I mentioned in April, during the month of May, our Diocese gives thanks to God as each year young men lay down their lives as they are ordained Deacons and Priests. In our Diocese, we are blessed to have three men being ordained to the priesthood and five men to the diaconate. The Aquinas community also has a reason to give thanks and be proud as two of those men are graduates of Aquinas. Scott Nemec, Class of 2015 will be ordained to the Priesthood and Augustine Reimers, Class of 2016, will be ordained a Deacon.

Here is the Schedule of Events. All are welcome to attend:

Thursday May 25th Holy Hour and Reception for those to be Ordained 7PM, Newman Center, Lincoln

Friday May 26th Ordinations to the Diaconate 7PM, Cathedral of the Risen Christ, Lincoln

Saturday May 27th Ordinations to the Priesthood 11AM, Cathedral of the Risen Christ, Lincoln

Sunday May 28th First Mass of Fr. Scott Nemec 2PM, St. Vincent de Paul, Seward

Most importantly, pray for those men as they prepare for the BIG day.

Wishing you and your family a continued Blessed Easter Season as we journey to Pentecost!

Enjoy the much-deserved summer break!

Fr. Michael Ventre

Fr. Michael Ventre

CAO Aquinas Catholic Schools

WWW.AQUINAS-CATHOLIC.COM





.....from everyone at

Aquinas Catholic Schools!

**Thank you to Spencer Zysset and Dayne Jakub for
their help at the Aquinas Golf Invite!**

**Thank you to all of
the 8th Grade par-
ents that helped
clean up the school
after Gold Rush!**



**Thank you to every-
one that volun-
teered to help make
Prom and Post-
Prom a safe evening
for the students. It
was a wonderful
evening!**

**Thank you to all of the volunteers, com-
mittee members, donors, teachers and
staff that helped make Gold Rush a
successful event!**



AQUINAS CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Aquinas Catholic School invites you!

Farewell Open House

Sunday May 14, 2023

2pm - 4pm

Aquinas Catholic North Gym

Mrs. Helen Ostdiek

&

Mrs. Sharon DeWispelare

Did your child receive a Sacrament this year? Congratulations!

Save your child's Sacramental information in your Parent Portal account.

Forms --- Sacramental ---

Preschool/Pre-K Student Enrollment

**Please complete your online enrollment
BEFORE the end of this school year**

Online Enrollment

Choose PS/PK Class
and emergency contacts

For a new student, first complete the
pre-enrollment form, add student to
your PowerSchool Parent Portal Ac-
count, complete Forms

Current PS students, sign into your
PowerSchool Parent Portal, under
student, complete Forms

Tuition Payment

FACTS

Set up payment
plan.

[https://
online.factsmgt.com/
signin/43NG4](https://online.factsmgt.com/signin/43NG4)

Documents

Present original **Birth
Certificate** to the Office.
Baptism Certificate and
updated **Immunization
Record** may be uploaded
during online registration
or copies may be turned
into the Office.

For more detailed instructions along with side by side pictures visit

<https://cdolinc.net/enrollment/>

Questions? Contact Laura at 402-367-3175 or laura-adair@cdolinc.net

AQUINAS ELEMENTARY
IS HOSTING A

BURGER BASH

FRIDAY, APRIL 28TH, 2023

5:30pm—7:00pm

DINE IN—DRIVE THROUGH—CARRY OUT

AQUINAS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
1026 N 5TH STREET, DAVID CITY

ONLINE AUCTION!

April 24th—May 1st



[https://www.32auctions.com/
burgerbash2023](https://www.32auctions.com/burgerbash2023)

FREE WILL DONATION
RECOMMENDED \$10.00

CAKE WALK

&

CARNIVAL GAMES



* IF YOU NEED DELIVERY, CONTACT THE SCHOOL BY 4:00PM ON THE 27TH AT (402) 367-3669

Kindergarten

Mrs. Fozzard
Mrs. Miller



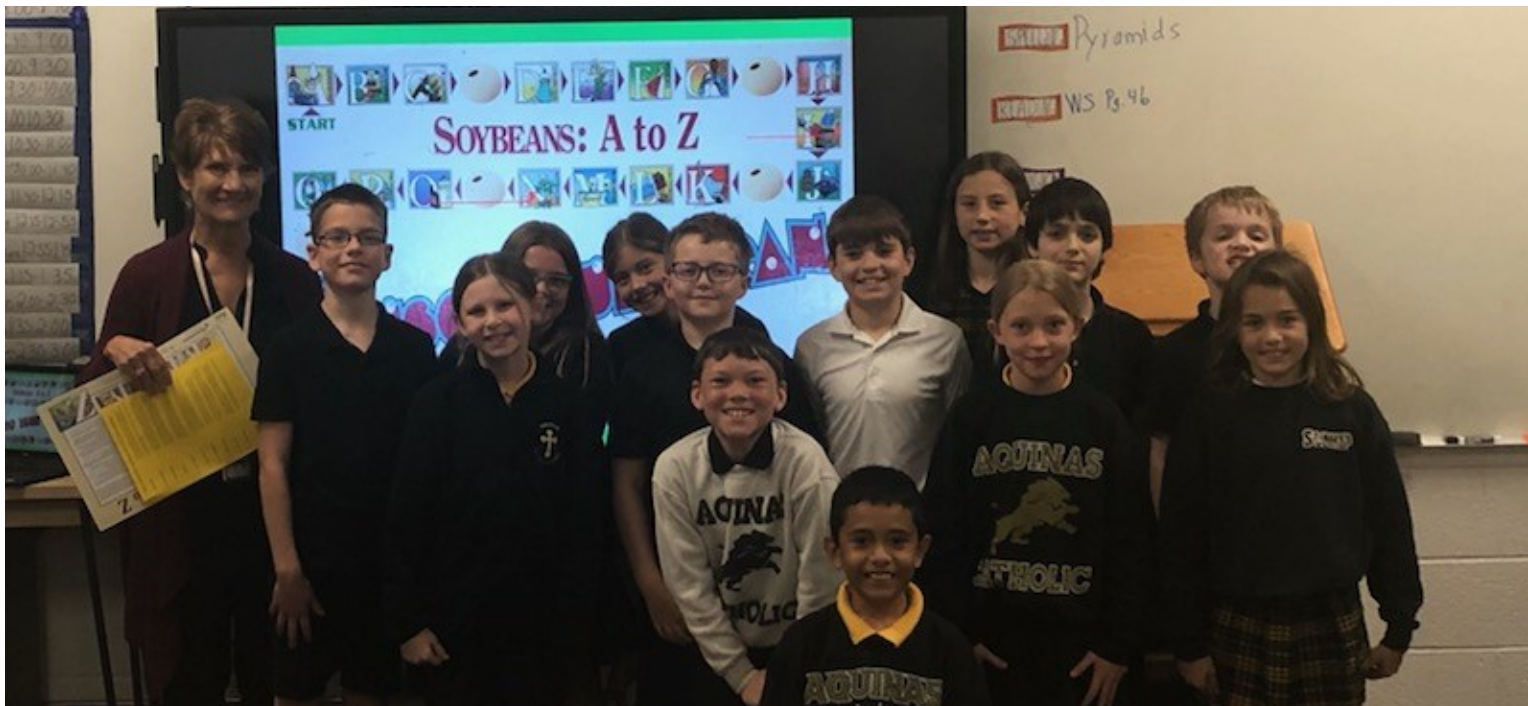
Kindergarten students prepared for Holy Week and ended with a 'Last Supper' of unleavened bread, grapes, and sparkling grape juice.

First Grade

The first graders learned all about Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and the stations of the cross. They played a game of charades in the outdoor classroom to try and guess what day of Holy Week/ which station of the cross was being acted out.

Mrs. Vavrina
& Mrs. Ketteler





FOURTH GRADE

We had two ladies from the Nebraska Soybean Board come last week. They discussed the many uses of soybeans, where soybeans are grown, and the consumption of soybeans around the world. The students were really engaged in the presentation.

Ms. Koranda & Mr. Beller

During these past eight months, your children have been able to experience Christ's love and forgiveness every month. Don't allow this beautiful sacrament to be put aside during the summer!

A wise person once observed that confessing sins is a little like taking out the trash: it's a job most people don't get excited about doing, but if we neglect it, the mess piles up and starts to stink. Through confession, God brings us healing. God can help us and our children deepen our relationship with our Heavenly Father.

Confession teaches our children what to do with their guilt

Whether it's cheating on a test at school, disobeying parents, or looking at something they ought not to look at, our children carry with them feelings of guilt. Left alone, guilt has a way of curdling into shame. Try as we might we can't simply ignore our feelings of guilt. Teaching children to confess their sins is good spiritual hygiene. It lets them discover that there is a place they can go when they do something wrong to be restored.

Confession helps our children experience the goodness of God's grace

Through Christ, God has promised us forgiveness. Confessing our sins is like acknowledging to our Father that we have hurt Him. In Christ, our punishment has been paid in full, and we can assure our children that God will never stop loving them, no matter what they do or how many times they do it.

(Read more here [Teaching the Importance of Confession — Family Fire](#))

The following is a printable handout. This specific handout is the one they received for their First Reconciliation. Please print this out or use any confession guide and take your children to receive this powerful sacrament every month this summer.



Celebrates the Sacrament of Reconciliation

Begin with the Sign of the Cross

**In the Name of the Father and of the
Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Begin your confession by saying:

**Bless me Father, for I have sinned.
My last confession was
_____ weeks ago.**

Tell the priest your sins.

When you are finished say:

**I am sorry for these and all my past
sins.**

Listen to what the priest will say to you.

He will give you a penance to say and then ask you
to say an **Act of Contrition**.

Prayer of Thanksgiving After Confession

O how good you are God!
I want to tell you so
with all my heart and soul.
I will not forget Your goodness to me.
You have forgiven me.
You help me love you and others more.
You have made up for my sins.
Your kindness and mercy make me
happy.
Amen.

Listen to the words of forgiveness.

Child: **Amen.**

Priest: Give thanks to the Lord for He is good.

Child: **His mercy lasts forever.**

Priest: Go in peace.

Child: **Thank you, Father.**

Act of Contrition Longer form

O my God, I am heartily sorry for having
offended you; and I detest all my sins because I
dread the loss of heaven and the pains of hell,
but most of all because they offend you my God
who are all good and deserving of all my love. I
firmly resolve, with the help of Your grace, to
confess my sins, to do penance, and to amend
my life. Amen.



Aquinas Catholic Elementary

May 2023

USDA is an Equal Opportunity Provider

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
Milk & water offered Daily Fruit/Veggie/ Salad Bar Offered Daily	Menu is Subject to Change and will be posted for students knowledge			
1 Warm Ham & Cheese on Bun Tater Tots Celery Sticks Peaches	2 Beef Nachos Corn Salad Churro Pineapple Salsa Sour Cream	3 Breaded Chicken Patty on Bun Tri Tater Baby Carrots Apple Slush	4 Steak Fingers Mashed Potatoes Country Gravy Green Beans Dinner Roll	5 Cheese Stuffed Crust Pizza Corn Fruit
8 Bacon Cheeseburger On Bun Cucumber Salad Smile Fries Rosy Pears	9 Orange Chicken Rice Egg Roll Roasted Broccoli Tropical Fruit	10 Meat Spaghetti Green Beans Garlic Toast Peaches	11 No School	12 French Toast Sticks Scrambled Eggs Oven Potatoes Fresh Fruit
15 Breakfast Croissant Sausage, Egg & Cheese Hash Brown Yogurt	16 Sloppy Joe on Bun Baked Beans Potato Chips Mandarin Oranges &	17 Chicken Nuggets Tater Tots Baby Carrots Applesauce	18 No School	19 Sack Lunch for Field Day! PB&J Sun Chips Fruit Punch Fruit Cup
Summer Break! See you in August! Enjoy!				

Middle/High School Principal letter- May 2023

Recent happenings

- **Faculty and staff changes**- A few more staff changes have happened since April's Torch. Lizzie Dewispelare has been hired for MS English, and the diocese announced priest assignments for next year. We will be getting Father Stephen Graeve (Bellwood- St. Peter and Bellwood- St. Joseph) as a full-time chaplain (no teaching assignment) and Father William Holoubek (Bruno- St. Anthony and Abie- Sts. Peter & Paul) as a teacher. Best wishes to Father Holdren and Father Homes at their new assignments! Welcome to Aquinas Lizzie, Fr. Graeve, and Fr. Holoubek!
- **Finals schedules**- The Senior Finals/Last Days and 9th-11th Finals schedules can be found on separate pages in this Torch newsletter.
- **2023-2024 calendar**- The updated 2023-2024 Aquinas Catholic Schools calendar can be found on a separate page in this April Torch newsletter. The only change is Diocesan Teacher's Institute (No school for students) was moved to October 16th instead of October 9th, so it is not on Columbus Day.
- **Safety, security, and health**- Due to the extreme generosity of the Aquinas community at Gold Rush, we are looking at a variety of options to upgrade the security of Aquinas MS/HS, especially in the front entrance area. We have also joined the Safe2HelpNE program, which is a 24/7 anonymous helpline specifically for students/schools manned by professional counselors. Threats against students or schools, mental health, and similar concerns are strongly encouraged to be reported, either by students themselves, friends, or family members. As I've mentioned before, our chances of helping our students stay safe and healthy increases significantly if anyone that sees something concerning reports those concerns to administration. Our entire community (school, students, parents) need to be working together to keep our students safe and healthy, as well as teaching them to make good decisions.

Upcoming events, schedule changes and reminders

- **MS Fine Arts Night**- Tues. May 2nd
- **Senior Retreat**- Tues. May 2nd
- **Late Start (Professional development)**- Wed. May 3rd
- **HS Bowling tournament**- Fri. May 5th
- **MS Bowling tournament**- Tues. May 9th
- **HS Awards Night**- Tues. May 9th
- **HS Fine Arts Night**- Wed. May 10th
- **CHANGED: No School**- Thur. May 11th (hosting district track)
- **Baccalaureate Mass**- Wed. May 17th
- **No School**- Thur. May 18th (Ascension)
- **CHANGED: End of school year schedule** (Bishop's Day Off #2)
 - Fri. May 19th- Last day for PK-8 (1:00pm dismissal)
 - Mon. May 22nd and Tue. May 23rd- HS Finals
 - Wed. May 23rd- Faculty workday

God Bless!

Spencer Zysset

Spencer Zysset, Principal

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Senior Final Testing Calendar 2023

*****Important***** Finals will count for 20% of your grade. Please do not take them lightly and do not wait for the last few days to review.

Tuesday, May 2nd
Senior Retreat

Wednesday, May 3rd
LATE START- Professional development

Thursday, May 4th
Golf @ Wayne- depart before school
HS Track @ Bergan- dismiss 8:15am

Friday, May 5th
HS Bowling Tournament

Monday, May 8th
English during class time
Government during class time

Tuesday, May 9th
All Senior Math classes during class time
Religion during class time
HS Awards Night at 6:00pm (dress appropriately- no shorts)

Wednesday, May 10th
All Senior Science classes during class time
Classes not listed such as Senior Accounting, Art, Building Trades, Broadcasting or Speech should have their projects due today.
HS Fine Arts Night at 7:00pm

Thursday, May 11th
NO SCHOOL- District Track

Friday, May 12th
Last day for seniors (barring any reason for this to be changed).
Seniors clean lockers and check out.
Graduation and Baccalaureate Practice 4th/5th periods

Wednesday, May 17th
Senior Zoo trip
Baccalaureate Mass in Aquinas Chapel at 7:00

Sunday, May 21st
Graduation at 4:30pm in the Aquinas North Gym
Seniors report by 3:45 with cap and gown.

Due to the small Senior class, Baccalaureate Mass will be at the Aquinas Chapel May 17 at 7:00 p.m.

Dear Parents,

This is the May 2023 Semester Test Schedule for grades 9 - 11. Semester exams count for 20 percent of the total semester grade, so I can't stress enough the importance of being prepared. Please encourage your sons and daughters to prepare for these exams. Some students tend to procrastinate, so a reminder from time to time may help to keep them focused. This is an opportunity for students to raise their grades. Take advantage of it.

Spencer Zysset

**May 2023 Semester Test Schedule
Grades 9 - 11**

All classes having projects as finals (Art, Computers, Speech, and Accounting) should have them scheduled early enough to allow students to have them done by Wednesday May 17th.

Monday May 15th, Tuesday May 16th, and Wednesday May 17th: Regular school days

Thursday May 18th: No School (Ascension)

Friday May 19th: 1:00pm dismissal

Wednesday May 17th and Friday May 19th: Tests during regularly scheduled classes (may use both days if needed).

Psych, Building Trades, Cabinetry

Monday May 22nd: **NO LUNCH SERVED, NO TRANSPORTATION**

Report directly to your first testing location

8:00 – 9:20	Religion 9, 10, 11
9:25 – 10:45	Science classes
10:45 – 11:05	Lunch/study- must bring your own lunch
11:10 – 12:30	Spanish 1, 2, 3

Tuesday May 23rd: **NO LUNCH SERVED, NO TRANSPORTATION**

Report directly to your first testing location

8:00 – 9:20	English 9, 10, 11,
9:25 – 10:45	Intro to Business, American History, World History
10:45-11:05	Lunch/study- must bring your own lunch
11:10-12:30	Math classes

Campus Ministry

TEC (Teens Encounter Christ)

June 10-12 @ Aquinas

- For current Sophomores to Seniors
- Cost: \$120

REGISTRATION FOR TEC AND THE CONOE TRIP [CLICK HERE](#)

Canoe Trip 2023

Trip 1: July 9 - 11

Trip 2: July 11 - 13

The Diocesan Niobrara Canoe Trips down the Niobrara River began in 1995 under the direction of Fr. Ronald Homes. The trips are open to high school seniors, juniors and sophomores. Adults are also invited along as chaperones and drivers.

Student Cost: \$100

6th Grade Retreat Photos



Cloisters on the Platte

Schramm Park

Holy Family Shrine



May 2023

Aquinas Catholic Schools

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 4:00PM MS B/G TR @ Aquinas Quad	2 Senior Retreat 7:00PM MS Fine Arts Night	3 Faculty Meeting 10:00AM Late Start	4 9:00AM Golf @ Wayne 10:30AM B/G TR @ Archbishop Bergan	5 ACT Registration Due HS Bowling	6 10:00AM Golf Conference @ Scotus
7	8 3:30PM MS B/G TR @ Fremont Bergan Invite	9 MS Bowling 6:00PM HS Awards Night	10 Penance Service 7:00PM AHS Fine Arts Night	11 NO SCHOOL District Track @ AHS 9:00AM Golf @ Schuyler	12	13
14	15 TBA District Golf	16 TBA District Golf	17 7:00PM Baccalaureate @ Aquinas	18 ASCENSION NO SCHOOL	19 State Track Meet 1:00 Dismissal (PK-12) Last Day of School K-8	20 State Track Meet
21	22 High School Finals	23 High School Finals TBA State Golf	24 High School Finals TBA State Golf	25 Faculty In-Service	26	27
28	29 Memorial Day	30	31			

May 2023

6-12 Lunch Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Veg/fruit bar & milk offered everyday Menus are subject to change	1 Chicken Bacon Ranch Wraps Garnishes Corn Fruit	2 Crispitos Spanish Rice Refried Beans Fruit	3 Faculty Meeting 10:00AM Late Start Goulash Green Beans Garlic Breadstick Fruit	4 Beef n Cheddar Sandwich Chips Mixed Veggies Fruit	5 Cheese Pizza Tri Tater Side Salad Fruit Dessert	6
	8 Chicken Alfredo Side Salad Garlic Breadstick Fruit	9 Chicken Nuggets French Fries Veggies Fruit	10 Hot Dogs Baked Beans Potato Salad Fruit	11 DISTRICT TRACK NO SCHOOL	12 Shrimp Poppers Mac and Cheese Peas Fruit	13
	15 Freezer Fun Day!	16 Freezer Fun Day!	17 Freezer Fun Day!	18 ASCENSION NO SCHOOL	19 Freezer Fun Day!	20
14						
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29 Memorial Day	30	31			

May 2023

Dear 2024 Seniors and Parents of 2024 Seniors,

Next year your son/daughter will be a senior. One of the most lasting and treasured reminders of this year will be the senior pictures which will be taken over the summer or the first part of the school year. You will be responsible for getting the following senior pictures to Mrs. Pokorny by **November 1, 2023**.

You need to have your photographer email your colored formal pose picture in a vertical billfold sized JPEG file at 250 dpi to me for the yearbook, composite, alumni board, press releases, and class video. This picture should be the colored formal indoor pose with a plain background. (This should be a head shot with no hands or lower arms visible please.) You are responsible for making sure the school has this by November 1st. They may email this to Mrs. Pokorny at teresa-pokorny@cdolinc.net

If we do not have your print by November 1st, you may miss out on being in the composite, yearbook, etc. or have to pay for the late fee to be included. Be sure to schedule your pictures to be taken by September 1st.

As we at Aquinas should always strive to live up to Christ's example of modesty and Christian decency, we ask that no inappropriate pictures be submitted for publication.

This would include:

Females-no off-the-shoulder dresses or blouses

Females-no tops with an immodest/low cut (cut of the top must be 1 inch above the line of cleavage); no spaghetti or thin straps on shoulders for dresses or blouses

Males-wear a collared shirt and tie. (A jacket is preferred but optional.)

Nothing that goes against the current dress code, for example-tattoo/body piercing, hair length (MUST be above the collar of the shirt), 'fad' hair styles, facial hair, etc.

***Remember that by a colored formal pose, we are asking for a head shot with no hands or lower arms visible in the picture. The background should be plain/one color and NO outdoor shots.**

Again, remember to have your photographer email your colored formal vertical pose picture in a billfold sized JPEG file at 250 dpi to Mrs. Pokorny by November 1st.

The administration reserves the right to refuse any portrait deemed unacceptable or immodest. Please read and follow the instructions we have provided and there should be no problems.

Please note that you MUST sign the publicity permission form in PowerSchool (under Forms) when you register your student at the beginning of the school year in order to have the senior picture as part of our composite, yearbook, and any other publications who might ask for the formal shot.

If you don't plan to have senior pictures taken, Ms. Brown will take a formal head shot picture, but this must be arranged with her before November.

If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Pokorny at 367-3175. Best wishes and have an enjoyable summer.

Sincerely,

Teresa Pokorny

Senior Class Moderator Aquinas High School



2022-23 Theme

2023 Aquinas Catholic Boys' Summer Basketball Youth Camp

Dear Parents and Campers:

We are about to begin our summer of conducting the Aquinas Boys' Summer Basketball Youth Camp at this great facility. Our program wants to be very successful and it all begins with our youth! We try very hard to ensure that each camper receives the best instruction possible, while at the same time making certain that they also have an enjoyable experience. We sincerely hope that you will join us this summer!

DATE: For boys who are going to be in grades 2, 3, 4, and 5 this next 2023-24 school year. The camp will be held on **May 23rd, 24th, and 25th from 9:30 to 11:30.**
For boys who are going to be in grades 6, 7, and 8 this next 2023-24 school year. The camp will be held on **May 23rd, 24th, and 25th from 12:30 to 2:00.**

LOCATION: Aquinas Catholic School South Gym

GOALS:

1. To provide instruction in the basic skills of dribbling, passing and shooting.
2. The camp will also stress defense, team play, and other forms of competition.

WHAT TO BRING: Please wear or bring the following: gym shorts, pair of socks, T-shirt, 1 pair of basketball shoes, water bottle, great attitude.

COST: The camp fee will be \$30. The fee should be sent in with the application. Please make checks payable to Trevor Weiss.

You can mail your application with your payment to Aquinas High School or Elementary. Also, you can drop your payments off at the High School or Elementary during their office hours.

STAFF: Camp will be directed by the Aquinas Catholic Boys Basketball Coaches and Players

APPLICATION:

Applicant's Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Phone: _____

Grade (Next School Year 2023-24): _____

Parent Signature: _____

****To be guaranteed the size of T-shirt you would like for your son please try to sign up no later than Monday, May 1st**
NOTE: We will take applications after Monday, May 1st but will not be able to guarantee that you will get the size of T-shirt you would like for your son.

Circle T-Shirt Size Youth: Small, Medium, Large

Adult: Small, Medium, Large, XL



2022-23 Theme

SAUNDERS COUNTY DRIVING SCHOOL LLC.

SUMMER 2022

DAVID CITY AQUINAS HIGH SCHOOL

Student Name _____

Address City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Date Of Birth _____

Day Phone _____ Cell Phone _____ Amount Paid _____

Please contact Randy Shada to make payment arrangements or a payment plan. Make checks payable to Saunders County Driving School LLC. Tuition \$330.00 CASH OR CHECK ONLY PLEASE

Return payment to
Randy Shada
1815 N. Locust
Wahoo, NE 68066

Return top portion with tuition payment

Classroom: David City Aquinas High School

3420 MN Road Highway 15

Instructor: Mr. Randy Shada

Classroom Dates/Times

JUNE 13,14,15,16,17

Classroom 8:00-12:00

Course Curriculum will include:

20 hours of classroom instruction

5 hours behind the wheel instruction which will include, residential, business, city, highway, interstate driving

Parking, emergency situations, gravel roads.

Course completion will allow student to obtain his or her school permit or provisional operators permit (POP).

Note: Students must have a Learner's Permit to drive in the driver's education car. Students can take the classroom portion WITHOUT HAVING A LEARNERS PERMIT. Students should bring a spiral notebook to class and a pen or pencil.

Driving times will be set up in class with Mr. Shada . If your child is scheduled to drive and can't, they must give the driving instructor a minimum of 6 hours notice or they will be charged a \$25 "No call, no show" fee.

Students will not be able to drive until the full \$330.00 tuition is paid in full.



**AQUINAS CATHOLIC
ELEMENTARY**

1026 5TH ST
DAVID CITY, NE 68632
402-367-3669

**AQUINAS CATHOLIC
MS/HS**

3420 MN RD. PO BOX 149
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HOLY FAMILY EARLY LEARNING CENTER

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