



THE TORCH



January 2024

Aquinas Families,

- **(Update) Strategic Plan** – Thank you to those that sent in applications for the strategic plan committees. We had close to fifty people submit applications, half of our staff and half parents. This should give us a good perspective from within the school and outside eyes as well. Just this past week the board of Advisors updated our five pillars of the Strategic Plan. These pillars are not totally finalized and changes can still be made but we wanted to apprise them since this is a new plan for 2025-2030. These pillars are in ascending order of importance. Our primary focus will be on Christ. Second, who he has brought to our school, the students, and finally who helps us make this school viable, parents, parishes, and the community.

Sacred Catholic Foundation: To foster an authentic relationship with Christ that permeates all aspects of our school and community; that all may know they are loved by Jesus and share that love with others.

Enriching Student Life: To enhance a positive student-centered experience created through achievement, mutual support, and Christian example.

Exceptional Learning Environment: To maintain high standards of academic excellence, while encouraging students to discover and fulfill their individual potential.

Supportive Community Partnerships: To develop and maintain strong relationships with our supporting parishes and the extended community.

Financial Sustainability and Advancement: To secure the financial future and the long-term success of Aquinas Catholic Schools.

- **(Update) Security** – Over the Christmas Break concrete will be poured and leveled at the front entrance along concrete footing poured as we hope to have our new front doors installed by Spring.
- **One Act** – Congratulations to our One Act cast and crew who placed 2nd/Runner up at State on Thursday December 7th. In addition to placing 2nd our school also received the NSAA Sportsmanship award. Congratulations to the following students who received Honorable Mention Acting Awards: Cecilia Sisco, Lizzie Roh, Tate Hain, Stella Wessling, Tyler Kastl, Luke Reiter, Isabel Grady, and Wesley Miller.
- **(Update) Holy Family ELC Openings** - We continue to need both full-time and part-time workers at Holy Family. Again, even if your 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/>

Please know of my gratitude for each of you, the students you have entrusted to us, and the sacrifices you make daily for our school. Have a Blessed Christ and Happy New Year!

Fr. Michael Ventre

Fr. Michael Ventre
CAO, Aquinas Catholic Schools

WWW.AQUINAS-CATHOLIC.COM





.....from everyone at

Aquinas Catholic Schools!

Thank you to all who supported the Angel tree fundraising for Genesis PDC sponsored by SOUL CLUB. The Chamber dollars and cash will be put to good use by those needing assistance this time of year.

From One-Act

A huge THANK YOU to everyone who helped in anyway with the State Runner up One Act this year. Jean Brown and Deanna (Pohl) Hanson for taking time to help with the production and being the best assistant directors in the state! To Jim and Maggie Miratsky for letting us use their trailer for all competitions.

To Karla and Chuck Brezina for driving the trailer to competitions. To everyone who came out to watch ANY of the competitions—your support does not go unnoticed. To all the parents for feeding us and creating care packages and highway signs for state—you made us feel so special and loved! Thank you!!



TRULY PRESENT

— + —
AQUINAS CATHOLIC SCHOOLS



.....from everyone at

Aquinas Catholic Schools!

Thank you from the Booster Club!



Thank you to the following for selling Booster Club Raffle Tickets:

Jeff Banholzer

Jason Lavicky

Jason Campbell

Bryan Meysenburg

Jeremy Coufal

Jimmy Miratsky

Andrew Daro

Matt Pohl

Jared DeWispelare

Rick Schneider

Eric DeWispelare

Eric Semin

Todd DeWispelare

Jared Storm

Kyler

Ryan Svoboda

Jon Eller

Chad Thege

Scott Hlavac

Dave Vandenberg

Paul Krivanek

AQUINAS
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

AQUINAS
MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL

1. Front door access over break- If you didn't notice, there is some concrete work being done at the front entrance today and more will be done next week. If you plan to come to school at all over break, please plan to use a door other than the front door. They will be putting things up that should make it clear to not walk over the area they're working on, but just to be safe use a different door.
2. Professional development committee information- At last check, the Professional Development committee had only received responses from 6 teachers with the information they requested. If you aren't one of those 6, please make sure to send that information to Lizzie. This needs to be done before the end of the day on January 3rd, and preferably before that. Thank you all for your work on the School Improvement committees. The external visit will be coming up before we know it (February 27th) and all your work will help make that a success.
3. January 3rd retreat and PM plan- Fr. Graeve sent out the agenda for the retreat on the morning of January 3rd at St. Gregory the Great seminary. After the conclusion of the retreat, the rest of the afternoon will be work time, except for those involved in the monthly calendar meeting at 2:00pm.
4. Take a break- I hope you all are able to relax and enjoy some time with family and friends for Christmas and New Year's. Take advantage of this chance to recharge and gear up for another semester full of opportunities for both staff and students. I can't thank everyone enough for the work you do for Aquinas Catholic Middle/High School and our students.

Spencer Zysset

Join the diocese of Lincoln on
a Youth Pilgrimage for the

NATIONAL MARCH FOR LIFE

in Washington DC!

January 16-22, 2024

Open to all students in grades 9-12.

Student Price: \$480 (transportation,
housing, and breakfast included)

Chaperone (21+) and Clergy Price: \$250



Scan the QR Code for more information and
to register, or visit

<https://www.lincolndiocese.org/pilgrimages/march-for-life>



REMINDER!

**Baccalaureate Mass
will be May 15, 7:00pm,
at the Aquinas Chapel.**

Weather Late Starts and Closings Notified through SchoolMessenger



If weather conditions warrant consideration, the administrations of Aquinas Catholic Schools and David City Public Schools will confer and decide on what action will be taken. The administration will attempt to make this decision by 6:30 a.m. If the decision is made to delay or cancel school, SchoolMessenger calls and/or texts will be made to our patrons and we will notify these radio stations: KFOR1240 AM, KZKX96.9 FM, KFRX106.3 FM, KIBZ104.1FM, KTGL92.9FM, KLMS1480 AM, WJAG 780 AM, KEXL106.7FM, We will also notify channel 10/11, channel 8 and channel 7 television stations.

10:00AM LATE START: means no morning preschool



important information to you via SMS text messaging

Have you been receiving text messages from the school?

If not and you would like to get them, please do the following:

1. Log into your PowerSchool Parent Portal account and make sure the correct telephone number is listed OR call the school to double check
2. **OPT IN** by **texting YES to 67587**



Aquinas Catholic Black Illusion Dance Team
Invites you to our annual dance camp!

For girls in grades K-5

Saturday, January 20, 2024

Learn the routine 9:00am to 11:30am at Aquinas High School

Perform at halftime of the boys basketball game that evening

at Aquinas High School at approximately 3:30pm

Cost: \$20, includes t-shirt

Camp Date: Saturday, January 20, 2024

Location: Aquinas High School North Gym (use Activity Entrance)

Time: 9:00am to 11:30am

Registration Due: Thursday, January 4

Student Name: _____ Grade Level: _____

Parent Name: _____

Parent Phone: _____ Parent Email: _____

T-Shirt Size (specify youth or adult): _____

I, _____ give permission for my daughter, _____
to participate in the Aquinas Catholic Black Illusion Dance Camp.

I acknowledge that she is physically able to participate in physical activities. I further acknowledge that, as with any physical activity, there is risk of injury. I will not hold Parent/Coaches, Coaching Staff, Board of Directors, or Aquinas Catholic Schools liable in the case of accident or injury.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

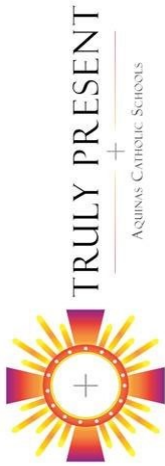
Please return this form and payment by Thursday, January 4, 2024 to

Aquinas Catholic Elementary

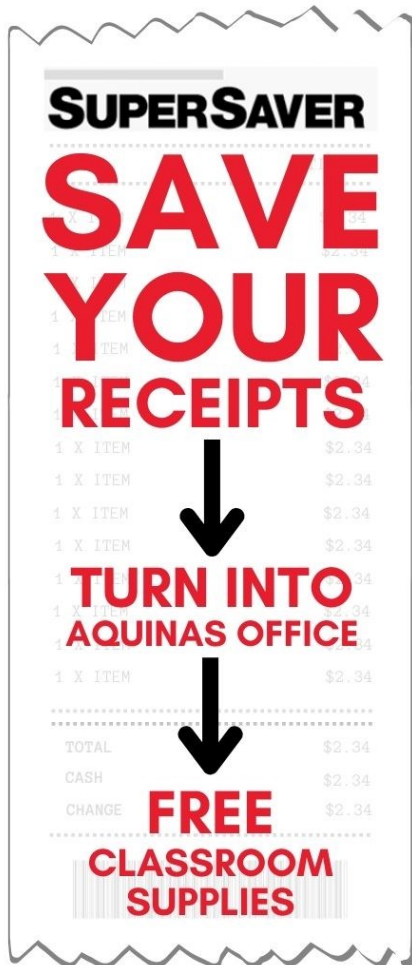
Checks should be payable to Aquinas Catholic Dance Team. Please contact Black Illusion Dance Coach, Jodi Prochaska, with any questions at prochaskajodi@gmail.com

January 2024

Aquinas Catholic Schools

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 SOLEMNITY OF MARY Christmas Vacation	2 Christmas Vacation 4:30PM B/GBB @ Clarkson-Leigh	3 Teacher Retreat & In-Service	4 Classes Resume 5:15PM B/GBB vs Pierce	5 ACT Registration Due ELEM Baptism Mass	6 10:00AM WR @ Aquinas TBA Speech @ Twin River
7	8 6:00PM Res. BBB @ North Bend	9 4:30PM B/GBB @ Twin River JV @ Monroe	10	11 6:00PM Res. BBB VS Cross County 6:30PM WR BC Tri @ EB	12 12:30PM JV WR @ Schuyler 4:30PM B/GBB @ GICC	13 9:30AM WR @ Schuyler 1:15PM B/GBB vs Lakeview TBA Speech @ Raymond Central Bellwood St. Peter's
14	15 K-12 Health Checks 4:30PM MS BBB Twin River @ Monroe 6:00PM Res. G/BBB vs Scotus	16	17 Activity Pictures	18 4:30PM MS BBB @ Shelby-Rising City 7:00PM WR Dual vs Filmore Central (Senior Night)	19 NO SCHOOL Teacher In-Service 4:30PM B/GBB @ Hastings St. Cecilia	20 10:00AM WR Conf @ Boys Town 1:15PM B/GBB vs Kearney Catholic TBA Speech @ Scotus
21	22 TBA B/GBB Conference This Week	23	24 Penance Service	25 5:30PM MS BBB @ Milford	26 Spirit Day	27 10:00AM WR @ Boone Central TBA B/GBB Conference Finals @ Hastings Speech @ Conestoga
28 Dwight Assumption God Bless America Dinner	29 6:00PM Res. BBB @ Wahoo	30	31			

HELP OUR SCHOOL WITHOUT BUYING ANYTHING EXTRA!



Apples
for the
Students

- ✓ Shop at Super Saver from September 1 – March 31
- ✓ Save your receipts and bring them to either school office
- ✓ Your receipts will earn points for FREE classroom equipment, donated by the store

Before you go to Super Saver...

PLAN AHEAD & PURCHASE SCRIP

Physical SCRIP (gift cards) can be purchased

- Aquinas MS/HS Office
- St. Mary's Rectory



*This is my body
which has been given up for you.*

Luke 22:19

TRULY PRESENT

Aquinas Catholic Schools

January 2024

USDA is an Equal Opportunity Provider

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
Menu is Subject to Change and will be posted for Students' knowledge	Milk & water offered Daily Fruit/Veggie/ Salad Bar Offered Daily		4 BBQ Pork on WG Bun Tater Tots Baked Beans Applesauce	5 Lasagna Roll Up Marinara Sauce Green Beans WG Garlic Stick Oranges
8 Walking Taco Corn Churro Condiments Pineapple	9 Ham & Chees on WG Bun Broccoli w/ Ranch Tots Sidekick	10 Chicken Fried Steak Mashed Potatoes Pepper Gravy Green Beans Pears	11 Fiestada Pizza Tri Tater Side Salad Mandarin Oranges	12 French Toast Sticks Cheese Omelet Oven Potatoes Celery/PB Apple Slices
15 Mini Corndogs Macaroni & Cheese Green Peas Peaches	16 Chili WG Cinnamon Roll Crackers Apple Crisp	17 Chicken Nuggets Tater Tots Fruit Muffin Banana	18 Spaghetti w/ Meat Sauce WG Garlic Toast Green Beans Tropical Fruit	19 No School
22 Sausage, Egg & Cheese Croissant Tri Tater Yogurt Parfait Strawberries & Blueberries	23 Beef Goulash Side Salad WG Garlic Toast Peaches	24 Chicken Alfredo WG Rotini Roasted Broccoli WG Roll Pineapple	25 Bacon Cheese Burger Condiments Potato Wedges Pears	26 Tuna & Noodles Green Peas WG Roll Apple Salad
29 Tater Tot Casserole Green Beans WG Garlic Toast Pears	30 WG Turkey Sub Condiments Chips Baby Carrots Ranch Apple Slush	31 Pizza Jo on WG Bun Tri Tater Side Salad Pineapple		

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14 6-8PM HS FIRE Night	15 K-12 Health Checks 4:30PM MS BBB Twin River @ Monroe 6:00PM Res. G/BBB vs Scotus	16	17 Activity Pictures	18 4:30PM MS BBB @ Shelby-Rising City 7:00PM WR Dual vs Filmore Central (Senior Night)	19 NO SCHOOL Teacher In-Service 4:30PM B/BBB @ Hastings St. Cecilia	20 10:00AM WR Conf @ Boys Town 1:15PM B/GBB vs Kearney Catholic TBA Speech @ Scotus
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What will you do with a year that's so new? The choice is yours
-God leaves that to you!-

**AQUINAS CATHOLIC
ELEMENTARY**

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DAVID CITY, NE 68632
402-367-3669

**AQUINAS CATHOLIC
MS/HS**

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HOLY FAMILY EARLY LEARNING CENTER

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