

THE TORCH



May, 2024

Aquinas Families,

- (Update) Strategic Plan Our Strategic Pillars continue to meet. On Wednesday April 17th we hosted our Open Forum. Parents and community members were updated on the projects each Strategic Pillar had come up with. Each Pillar then broke into their groups to receive additional feedback from anyone who attended. I am grateful for those who came and the ideas shared with the different Pillars. We will have an additional Open Forum towards the end of the school year. Please save the date and join us: Thursday May 16th at 7pm at Aquinas High School (Old Gym)
- New Staff At Aquinas Elementary were happy bring on board last March Mrs. Molly Klosterman as the School Secretary. We also welcome Ms. Ahren Ebel who will be teach 2nd Grade next year. At the MS/HS, we welcome Shelly Kubicek as the new VoAg teacher and Melissa Yindrick as our new Campus Minister. Keep sending prayers as we are working on a new Business teacher.
- **Gold Rush** This year we were blessed as the Aquinas Community showed its commitment and generosity at Gold Rush as \$405,000 was raised for our schools. Thank you so much for your generosity to our schools!
- Ordinations Ordination season is here again, this month our Diocese gives thanks to God as young men lay down their lives as they are ordained Deacons and Priests. In our Diocese, we are blessed to have five men being ordained to the priesthood and two men to the diaconate. The Aquinas community also has a reason to give thanks as one of our very own, Augustine Reimers, Class of 2016, will be ordained to the Priesthood.

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

Thursday May 23th Holy Hour and Reception for those to be Ordained 7PM, Newman Center, Lincoln

Friday May 24th Ordinations to the Diaconate 7PM, Cathedral of the Risen Christ, Lincoln

Saturday May 25th Ordinations to the Priesthood 11AM, Cathedral of the Risen Christ, Lincoln

Sunday May 26th First Mass of Fr. Augustine Reimers 4PM, St. Vincent de Paul, Seward

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

- **Ascension Thursday** Next Thursday we celebrate the Solemnity of the Ascension of our Lord. This is a Holy Day of Obligation. Please remember to get to Mass Wednesday evening or during the day on Thursday.
- 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/.

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

Fr. Michael Ventre **CAO Aquinas Catholic Schools**

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WWW.AQUINAS-CATHOLIC.COM







Notes from the Elementary School May, 2024

Grandparents Day/Spring Program

straps,



- o May 14: 1:30 Grandparents Day Program at Aquinas High School gym, treats and a gift provided! (K-5 only—no Preschool) See you then!!
- o 6:30 Program, Preschool-5th grades at Aquinas High School gym
 - Dress Code: Dressy clothes (no jeans/jean shorts or t-shirts with words). Dresses (with thicker torso covered, past the finger tips) and dress shirts/pants are great options. Tenny shoes day (since they still have recess/PE), can wear dressy shoes in the evening.

during the

Special Thank you to our **ACE School Council Burger Bash** Committee Members (listed later in the Torch) who led our Burger Bash fundraiser. It raised over \$14,000 for the school! Thank you so much for your support!



Listening and Improving

Thank you to all the parents who participated in the **Strategic Planning** process. We will be taking your recommendations and putting those into a timeline for action items for the 5 years to come. Please continue to share ideas and comments with me that would affect the school at a general level. **The final presentation will be May 16 at 7 PM.**

Communication has been listed on many parent surveys. We are always looking for ways to better communicate with families. I just wanted to share our current methods of communication to make sure you aren't missing anything.

- School Messenger texts and emails If you still do not receive texts from the school—it is imperative that you
 contact us to check on your account. We also use this system to email a duplicate of the Friday Note and other
 non-emergency information.
- Friday Notes (print): We try to send out all current information about upcoming events, activity information, community information, and more on this note. Please check folders, backpacks, or email for this each week. Summer Camp info will come home in here soon!
- Teacher communication It is good to stay in contact with the classroom teacher. They send valuable news
 out via email as well as information specific to your child.
- PowerSchool Some parents have accessed their parent accounts this year. You can find current attendance, grades (1-5), and discipline/Paws notes in that account. If you have not yet logged in and would like your child's access information again (this was sent in Oct.), please email jenna-urban to get you logged in. This will be used even more next year and as your children move into middle/high school.
- Canvas This is an online learning management system. At the elementary, we have used it a little, depending on the teacher, but may be using it even more to share "static" information this summer and into the fall. (flyers, curriculum information, classroom information, etc.) Look for more details on this. Our big hurdle was getting parents access into one info-sharing class, but after attending a Canvas training last week—I think we have a solution!

Communication Paths – please follow the general process of subsidiarity - speaking with the person at the lowest level first. Contact teachers about a classroom concern/idea, the principal about a building/multi-class concern/idea, and the CAO about a system-wide concern/idea. Only move up the ladder after having spoken with the person most directly involved/impacting. This allows each person to share the most relevant information with you. For example, if you talk to me about what a class did in reading yesterday—I may not be able to address that—the teacher would be the best choice. *Ideas about our school? Please share them with me. We can't always do everything you suggest, but we are happy to hear you out. This helps us grow and improve..*

God Bless, Mrs. Zook, Principal

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

As we near the end of the school year please keep in mind that regular deposits need to be made to your child(ren)'s lunch account to keep up with lunches that have been & will be charged. When accounts become extremely or continuously overdrawn this becomes a hardship in supporting the cash flow of the Hot Lunch Program.

Elementary lunches are currently \$3.25 a\day excluding seconds.

Middle\School lunches are currently \$3.50 a\day excluding seconds.

Please send enough to cover any negative balances <u>plus future charges</u>. If there are funds in an account at the end of the year the balance will carry forward from year to year.

Also, we are transitioning to a new lunch point of sale system estimated May 07 2024. We cannot bring forward negative balances into this new program. Please bring negative balances current by May 03 2024.

During this time it is expected that My School Bucks will be temporarily disabled. Checks can be sent to the school.

Sincerely,

Hot Lunch Program

Aquinas Catholic Schools | 402-367-3175

invites you to a

Farewell CELEBRATION

SATURDAY | MAY 11 | 2-4 PM

honoring

MRS. LORETTA DARO
MR. MARK MASUR
MRS. BETH NEMEC
MR. TONY SMITH

AQUINAS CATHOLIC NORTH GYM 3420 MN RD. DAVID CITY, NE

Email: Fr.Stephen-Graeve@cdolinc.net

Director: Mrs. Nemec

Email: beth-nemec@cdolinc.net

Dear Parents and Friends of Aguinas,

With a grateful heart, I share with you that this is my last year at Aguinas. There is sadness considering the relationships that have been formed here and I will definitely miss the students. The Lord has taken me closer to my home to a position at St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Seward, where I will be the Coordinator of Youth and Adult Spiritual Formation.

My part-time position has been filled with a full time Campus Ministry Director. It is very exciting that Melissa Yindrick will be taking my place. Her passion, love for the Lord and talents will be an amazing fit to achieve goals in bringing transformation in Christ more and more to Aquinas Schools.

I will be sad to walk away, but also filled with joy and hope for a bright future here. Ministry is hard and life is messy; at the same time, it has been a great privilege to work with Father Holdren over the last 4 years and with Father Graeve this year to assist in laying a foundation that will be built upon. There is reason for great hope that Aguinas School will be a place of building up each other and building of the Kingdom of God. This will be achieved through giving all praise to God first and working as a team for his greater glory, family, school and community.

May God continue to bless you and your families abundantly.

In Christ,

Beth Nemec



____from everyone at

Aquinas Catholic Schools!

The Junior Class and Mrs. Cech would like to thank all who helped with Prom! Your time and energy was greatly appreciated!

Thank you to....

Amanda Helgoth and St. Francis Alter Society for planning and preparing the Prom meal.

We are grateful for the following parents who helped in various ways:

Pat & Beth Roh, Amy Jelinek, Jackie & Eric DeWispelare, Camille Dalton,
Jason & Tori Lavicky, Miranda Fontenot, Karla Brezina and
Bobbi Schmid.

We'd also like to thank Mrs. Shaunaman and the following students for helping with Mass, and serving the Prom meal:

Kaleb Andel, Nathaniel Hain, Landon Pohl, Gunner Marushak, Max Oliver, Sylvia Piitz, Rebecca Wacker, Colby Miller, Calle Muntz,
Rose Wessling, and Anna Meysenburg.





....from everyone at

Aquinas Catholic Schools!

Thank you to Par IV, Mason
Samek, and the grounds crew for
their help with the Aquinas Golf
Invite!

-Teresa Pokorny; Golf Coach

Thank you to Branched
Oak Observatory, 14300
NW 98th St, Raymond,
NE 68428 for donating all
the Eclipse glasses for
the whole school!

Thanks to Brittany
DeWispelare, Tasha
Saunders, and Miranda
Fontenot for helping on
the 8th Grade field trip.
Also to Bob Cummings
for driving the bus!

Thanks to Barb Coufal, Terry Adair,
Andy & Tania Breiner, and Susie
Piitz and Zach Friend for helping at
the Science Olympiad competition
in Lincoln.

Also to Lori Sabata for driving the bus!

Thank you to all the Middle
School parents what donated
money, snacks and food to the
Middle School Girls' Retreat.
It was an amazing retreat!

The Aquinas Elementary would like to thank the Burger Bash committee!

Jimmy & Maggie Miratsky, RJ &
Cortney Hein, Julie Sabata, Beth
Moulton, Heidy Svoboda, and Camille
Dalton

May 2024



Aquinas Catholic Schools

	4 10:00AM Golf Conference @ Scotus		State Track Meet		
Sat	10:0	11	18	25	
Fri	3 ACT Registration Due ELEM Baptism Mass	10	Spirit Day State Track Meet	24	31
Thu	9:00AM Golf @ Wayne Invite 9:00AM MS B/G TR @ Battle Creek Invite 10:30AM B/G TR	9 ASCENSION NO SCHOOL 9:00AM Golf @ Schuyler Invite TBA District Track @ Centennial	Last Day of Preschool Open Forum Thurs. May 16 at 7PM at Aquinas MS/HS north gym	23 High School Finals End of Quarter 4	30
Wed	Senior Retreat 6:30PM MS Fine Arts Night NE Catholic Day of Giving	8 Penance Service 6:30PM AHS Fine Arts Night	7:00PM Baccalaureate @ Aquinas	22 High School Finals	29
Tue		7 6:00PM HS Awards Night	TBA District Golf @ Oakland-Craig 5:30PM ELM Music Concert @ AMS/HS	TBA State Golf 1:00 Dismissal (K-12) Last Day of School K-8 ELM Track/Field Day	28
Mon		6 3:30PM MS B/G TR @ Fremont Bergan Invite	13	20 Last Day of PK	27 Memorial Day
Sun		2	12	19 4:30PM Graduation	26



St. Expeditus House (Mrs. Sypal and Fr. Holoubek), is having a party celebrating their Patron's feast day!

It's that time of year again! We need your help so we can stay in touch with our alumni!

Please let us know of any address or phone number changes for graduates of Aquinas.

Reminder

Address and phone changes can be sent to the school the following ways:

Mail: Aquinas, PO Box 149, David City, NE 68632, Attn: Michaela Moravec or michaela-moravec@cdolinc.net or send







Senior Information:

May 1st-Senior Retreat-gone all day

May 3rd-WSC Composition Final Outline due for test on April 30th.

May 7th-Wayne State College Literature Final-12:30-3:30 (open note but notes must be printed or in notebook. You may NOT copy someone else's notes. I will look over the notes you'll use before we start the test!)

May 7th-Awards night-Remember to dress appropriately; Srs are in numerous pictures!-(dress slacks and nice shirt-no jeans or shorts please/clean shaven and ladies make sure your outfit is modest) Srs should sit toward the front so they receive their awards quickly.

May 14th-Zoo trip: Jeans (no rips)/sweats or shorts (must be a modest length and no running shorts!) with an Aquinas shirt. Gentlemen, make sure you are clean shaven-I will check before leaving. We will leave promptly at 8! We will stop in Omaha for lunch after we leave the zoo around 12:45. Plan accordingly!

May 15th-Clean/Test/Practice: Clean lockers at 8:00. (You should work on this a little each day the week before.) After ALL lockers are done, everyone to the chapel for Baccalaureate practice. Once we are done in the chapel, everyone to the North Gym for graduation practice. (Your attention and cooperation will determine how long this takes!) Mrs. Moravec will talk to you about alumni information. A reminder to take care of ALL bills for classes, activities, etc. so your diploma isn't withheld.

May 15th-Baccalaureate Mass-You will need to be at the North gym by 6:30 P.M with your full cap and gown. Ms. Brown will be taking a class picture at that time. If you are not here by that time, you may not be in the picture (it's happened before). Parents need to be at the North Gym by 6:45 to get lined up for Mass.

May 19th-Graduation- You will need to be in the cafeteria by 3:45 to put on caps/gowns, hand out cords and stoles, and get lined up. Family and friends will be asked to leave the cafeteria at 4:20. There will be tables set up for you to pick up materials after graduation. Gowns, cords and stoles will be collected after the ceremony. Remember we will buy back your gowns for \$10 if they are still clean and usable! All these items will be checked in by the chorus room.

***YOU MUST HAVE ALL FINES PAID, ASSIGNMENTS AND BOOKS TURNED IN, AND COMPLETED ALL COURSE REQUIREMENTS BEFORE YOU ARE EXCUSED FOR THE YEAR! Transcripts will not be sent out if you have remaining balances for dues, fines, etc.**



How it works



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Use your gift cards for your everyday shopping.

GRADUATION GIFTS WITH SCrip

FEATURED RETAILERS













GRADUATION GIFT IDEAS

- If your Graduate isn't tired of reading, buy them a book to help transition them into the adult world. Check out Adulting: How to Become a Grown-up in 468 Easy(ish) Steps by Kelly Williams Brown.
- 2. You can't go wrong with gift cards or cash. Jazz it up a bit by making a "Money Tree" or "Money Wreath" (Pinterest has great ideas).
- 3. Make a college care package and pack it with all the essentials; shampoo, body wash, laundry detergent, toothpaste, etc. These items will never go out of style!

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Start earning today

- 1. Join our program by creating an account on the **RaiseRight app** or on **ShopWithScrip.com**.
- 2. Enter our organization's enrollment code: email: info-aquinas@cdolinc.net or laura-adair@cdolinc.net
- 3. Link your bank account to enroll in online payments and place your first order.

Have a question? Contact your coordinator:

Nancy Vrbka at 402-367-8835



Aquinas Catholic Schools May 2024

TRULY PRESENT USDA is an Equal Opportunity

AQUINAS CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Provider

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
		1 Hamburger on WG Bun Cheese/Pickles Tater Tots Lettuce Salad	2 Chicken Strips Fries Green Beans Fruit	3 Fish Sticks Mac & Cheese Peas Roll Watermelon
6 Chicken Fried Steak Mashed Potatoes Green Beans Roll Pears	7 Walking Taco Cheese/Lettuce Corn Salad Churro Pineapple	8 Sausage Egg & Cheese Croissant Tri Tater Yogurt Cup Peaches	9 No School Holy Day	10 Bosco Sticks Marinara Green Beans Cookie Tropical Fruit
13 BBQ Pork on WG Bun Baked Beans Ruffles Pears	14 Pizza Calzone Cucumber Salad Apple Slush	15 Chicken Bacon Ranch Wrap Sun Chips Baby Carrots Peaches	16 Sloppy Jo On WG Bun Tots Strawberries	17 French Toast Sticks Hash Brown Cheese Omelet Watermelon
20 Freezer Fun Day!	21 Turkey & Cheese Sandwich Chips Cheese Stick Baby Carrots Fruit Cup	22 MS/HS Finals	23 MS/HS Finals	SUMMER BREAK!!!
	As we are ending the school year Changes will be made according to what we have on hand		Menu is Subject to Change and will be posted for students knowledge	Milk & water offered Daily Fruit/Veggie/ Salad Bar Offered Daily



Monarch Volleyball Youth Volleyball Camp

Location:	Aquinas Catholic High School			
Date:	July 25^{th} & 26^{th}			
Time:	Grades 3-5(entering) 9:00-10:15			
	Grades 6-8 (entering) 10:30-12:00			
Cost:	\$25 per student			
Students will	learn fundamental skills for volleyball fro	om our high school team!		
Each particip	ant will receive a t-shirt.			
Please return	forms by June 24 to ensure getting a t-sh	irt!		
Name:		_		
Grade:	T-shirt size: YS YM	_ YL		
	Adult sizes: S M L XL	_ XXL		
Parent/Guard	ian Signature:			
Please make c	hecks payable to Kate Nienhueser.			
	ool office or Coach Nienhueser by June 2 4			
Nate Nienhije	ser, 1312 N 8th St., David City, NE 68632	, 1		

7th & 8th grade Aquinas football camp information

Monday July 22 11:30-1:00

Tuesday July 23 11:30-1:00

Wednesday July 24 11:30-1:00

Thursday July 25 11:30-1:00

Friday July 26 11:30-1:00

Cost \$40

Make checks payable to Monarch Football & return to Coach Mimick

Name_____ Size of t-shirt (circle) S—M—L—XL—XXL

High School Aquinas football camp information

Monday July 22 8:30-11:00 a.m.

Tuesday July 23 8:30-11:00 a.m.

Wednesday July 24 8:30-11:00 a.m.

Thursday July 25 8:30-11:00 a.m.

Friday July 26 8:30-11:00 a.m.

Cost \$50

Make checks payable to Monarch Football & return to Coach Mimick

Name_____ Size of **Two** t-shirts S—M—L—XL—XXL

High School Lineman Special Prep Camp

Tuesday July 16 7:00-8:15 a.m.

Thursday July 18 7:00-8:15 a.m.

2024 Aquinas Catholic Boys' Summer Basketball Youth Camp

Dear Parents and Campers:

We are about to begin our summer 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 ensuring they also have an enjoyable experience. We sincerely hope that you will join us this summer!

ence. We sincerely h	nope that you will join us this summer!		
DATE:	For boys who <u>are going to be</u> in grades 2, 3, 4, and 5 this next 2024-25 school year. The camp will be held on May 29th , 30th , and 31st from 9:30 to 11:30 . For boys who <u>are going to be</u> in grades 6, 7, and 8 this next 2024-25 school year. The camp will be held on May 29th , 30th , and 31st from 12:30 to 2:00 .		
LOCATION:	Aquinas Catholic School South Gym		
GOALS:	 To provide instruction in the basic skills of dribbling, passing and shooting. 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 or drop off your application and payment during office hours at Aquinas HS/MS or Aquinas Elementary.		
STAFF: APPLICATION:	Camp will be directed by the Aquinas Catholic Boys Basketball Coaches and Players		
	Applicant's Name:		
	Address:		
	City: State:		
	Phone:		
	Grade (Next School Year 2024-25):		
	Parent Signature:		
May 6 th	the size of T-shirt you would like for your son please try to sign up no later than Monday,		
	applications after Monday, May 6 th but will not be able to guarantee that you will get the ould like for your son.		

<u>Circle T-Shirt Size</u> Youth: Small, Medium, Large Adult: Small, Medium, Large, XL

SAUNDERS COUNTY DRIVING SCHOOL LLC. DAVID CITY AQUINAS HIGH SCHOOL 3420 STATE HIGHWAY 15 David City, NE 68632 SUMMER 2024 REGISTRATION

Student Name			
Address City/Street		State	Zip Code
Date Of Birth			
Day Phone	Cell Phone	Amount P	aid
Please contact Randy LLC. <u>Tuition \$340</u>	Shada to make payment arrangeme	ents. Make checks p	payable to Saunders County Driving School
Return payment to:	Randy Shada (402) 443-8051 1815 N. Locust Wahoo, NE 68066		1
Parent Signatrue			-
	Return the top	portion	
Classroom Location: Instructor: Randy Sh	David City Aquinas High School, 342 ada	0 State Highway 15	David City, NE

Classroom Dates/Times

June 10-14th 8:00 AM-12:00 PM daily

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 students to obtain his or her school permit or provisional operator's 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 scheduled by Mr. Shada. If your child is scheduled to drive and can't, they must give the driving instructor a minimum of 4 hour notice or they will be charged a \$25 "No call, no show" fee. Student course completion information will not be submitted to the DMV until class tuition is paid in full.

Dear 2025 Seniors and Parents of 2025 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 **December 1, 2024.**

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 December 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:

- 1. Females-no off-the-shoulder dresses or blouses
- 2. 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
- 3. Males-wear a collared shirt and tie. (A jacket is preferred but optional.)
- 4. 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 December 1st.

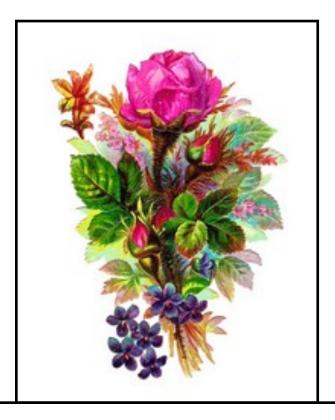
The administration reserves the right to refuse any portrait deemed unacceptable or immodest. Please read and follow the instructions we have provided and there should be no problems.

Please note that you MUST agree to the permission form which can be found on PowerSchool on your Parent Portal Account. Simply click on "Forms" and look for the "Media Consent & Release" form. This Must be done in order to have your senior's 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 December.

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



Wishing all Moms a Happy Mothers Day!

AQUINAS CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY

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

AQUINAS CATHOLIC MS/HS

3420 MN RD. PO Box 149 DAVID CITY, NE 68632 402-367-3175

www.aquinas-catholic.com

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