



# THE TORCH



Aquinas Families,

December 2024

- **Board of Advisors (BOA)** – Due to lack of membership and needing non-faculty voters, the BOA had an extra session in October to nominate and add members. While the board's primary role is to advise the CAO they do vote on the annual budget and on proposed tuition. Members were added to the BOA primarily from the Strategic Pillar Committees. Nominations were held for a new Board President, Vice President, and Secretary. Congratulations and a big thank to the following new members of the BOA: Austin Witmer (President), Maggie Miratsky (Vice-President), Kelly Koranda (Recording Secretary), Phil Zegers, Trent Jakub, Jared DeWispelare, Kyle Eller, Christina Podolak, Ryan Meister, and Colleen Storm.
- **Educational Scholarship** – While it was a great night for Life Initiatives 434 and 439, Initiative 435 was defeated 580,097 votes (57%) to 382,867 votes (42%). Some have asked why not as much effort was put into 435. Simply put, the Nebraska Catholic Conference has only so many resources and when it came to life issues those took precedent in trying to pass 434 and defeat 439. I can tell you that over \$7 million was spent by opponents in defeating 435. This defeat means LB1402 will not be in place in the future for Nebraska families. This of course is unfortunate as we had 96 kids and over \$231,700 in scholarship money awarded to Aquinas families this school year. This would have been the positive impact to our school as we continue to try to make tuition affordable for our families. I know many have spoken to Laura and Alina about how to use this money that is coming to our families. I would strongly encourage saving that scholarship money for the 25-26 school year as that scholarship will not be available to families next school year.
- **Advent** – This weekend we begin the great season of Advent. A perfect time to renew and recommit ourselves to the Lord as we prepare for Christmas. As look at our Advent wreath with its four candles, we can focus on those four themes: Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. We can also focus our attention on being more alert and vigilant of God's presence in our lives. As always, a great way of preparation is the healing power of Confession. The Deanery wide day for confession is Sunday December 15<sup>th</sup>. All parishes will have times for confession that day as well as additional times before Christmas. Please go to confession as a family this Advent Season in preparation for Christmas.
- **(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. Blessed Advent to you and your loved ones!

*Fr. Michael Ventre*

Fr. Michael Ventre  
CAO, Aquinas Catholic Schools



Dear Parents and Students,

This is the December 2024 Semester Test Schedule for grades 9 - 12. We are using a different format for finals than in previous years, so please read the schedule below closely. Finals will be taken in the gym like last May's semester finals.

Semester exams count for 20% 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*

December 2024 Semester Finals Schedule  
Grades 9 - 12

All classes having projects as finals should have them scheduled early enough to allow students to have them done by Monday, December 16<sup>th</sup>.

Monday, December 16<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday, December 18<sup>th</sup>: Regular school days. All final projects due by Monday, December 16<sup>th</sup>. Classes *other than the ones listed below* that give a final will take finals in the regular class on Tuesday, December 17<sup>th</sup> and/or Wednesday, December 18<sup>th</sup>.

*\*Wednesday December 18<sup>th</sup> is the last day of the semester for PK-8\**

Thursday, December 19<sup>th</sup>- **NO LUNCH SERVED, NO TRANSPORTATION**

*\*Report to the North Gym for testing\**

8:00 – 8:55	Religion classes
9:00 – 9:55	American History, Personal Finance, World History, American Government
10:00 – 10:55	Math classes
11:00 – 11:55	Flex (students doubled up on Math classes)

Friday, December 20<sup>th</sup>- **NO LUNCH SERVED, NO TRANSPORTATION**

*\*Report to the North Gym for testing\**

8:00 - 8:55	English classes
9:00 - 9:55	Science classes
10:00 - 10:55	Spanish I, Spanish II
11:00 - 11:55	Flex (students doubled up on <u>Science</u> classes)

Notes: All students will take finals in the gym and teachers giving finals will be available in the gym as well. Students will remain in the gym for the duration of the testing period. Students may not take a final early (during another scheduled testing period or during the Flex period on Thursday). When students have no more finals for the day, they may leave after their last testing period.

**Grades PK-8**

Buses will run like usual on Monday, December 16<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, and Wednesday, December 18<sup>th</sup>. PK-8 students will not have school on Thursday, December 19<sup>th</sup> and Friday, December 20<sup>th</sup>.

## Middle/High School Principal update- December 2024

### Current news

- **Semester finals-** The schedule for semester finals is on the next page. Please be sure to encourage your student(s) to prepare well for finals as they account for 20% of the semester grade.
- **MAP testing-** MS/HS will begin MAP testing in early December. The elementary school has been using MAP testing for a few years now, and the entire diocese may be moving toward MAP testing as a replacement for the ITBS testing we have been doing after the current contract expires at the end of this year. MAP testing will be useful to us, especially in providing more frequent data to track progress and measure growth (3 times per year vs. once).
- **School absences-** While it is not ready yet, we are working with the Ed Tech office to set up the ability for parents to submit absences from school directly on the parents' PowerSchool account rather than having to call the office. I will send out more information when I have it.
- **Credit loss due to absence (HS only)-** This is a reminder that HS students who miss any individual class 10 or more times in one semester are at risk of losing credit for that class. There is an appeal process if a student is informed they are losing credit. Please refer to the handbook to read more on this policy.
- **Community service hours-** Reminder that community service hours need to be submitted to your student's Society teacher within 30 days of any service hours being completed!

### Upcoming events

- **MAP testing-** Thursday, December 5<sup>th</sup> & Friday, December 6<sup>th</sup>
  - 6<sup>th</sup>-Juniors report to school by 8:00am like usual, testing 8:00-10:00am
  - Seniors report to school by 10:00am- will run a 10:00am late start schedule after testing
- **MS/HS Christmas Concert-** Wednesday, December 11<sup>th</sup>
- **Christmas Day-** Wednesday, December 25<sup>th</sup>
- **New Year's Day-** Wednesday, January 1<sup>st</sup>

### Schedule changes/reminders

- **No school-** Monday, December 9<sup>th</sup> (Immaculate Conception observed)
- **Semester finals-** Thursday, December 19<sup>th</sup> and Friday, December 20<sup>th</sup> (done ~12:00pm)
- **Christmas Break-** Saturday, December 21<sup>st</sup>- Monday, January 6<sup>th</sup>
- **NSAA moratorium-** Sunday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> - Thursday, December 26<sup>th</sup>

God Bless!

*Spencer Zysset*  
Spencer Zysset, Principal



# Aquinas Catholic Elementary

## December 2024

### USDA is an Equal Opportunity Provider



Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
2 Meatball Sub California Blend Dragon Punch Pineapple	3 Potato Bacon Soup Dinner Roll Cucumbers and Ranch String Cheese	4 Tater Tot Casserole Green Beans Garlic Bread Peaches	5 Pulled Pork Baked Beans Potato Chips Appleslush	6 Fish Sticks Mac and Cheese Carrot Sticks Oranges
9 NO SCHOOL	10 French Toast Sticks Yogurt Granola HashBrown Strawberries	11 Sloppy Joe On a bun Tater Tots Berry Cup Rice Krispie	12 Loaded Nachos Corn Churro Mandarin Oranges	13 Lasagna Roll-up Garlic Bread Green Beans Apples
16 Pepperoni Pizza Breadstick Lettuce Salad Applesauce	17 Mini Corndogs French Fries Baked Beans Peaches	18 Deli Ham Sandwich Chips Carrot Sticks Dragon Punch Grapes	19 NO SCHOOL  CHRISTMAS BREAK	20 Christmas Break
23 Christmas Break	24 Christmas Break	25 Merry Christmas	26 Christmas Break	27 Christmas Break
30 Christmas Break	31 Christmas Break		Menu is Subject to Change and will be posted for students knowledge	Milk & water offered Daily Fruit/Veggie/ Salad Bar Offered Daily

# Aquinas Honor Roll – Quarter 1, 2024-2025

## Middle School Academic Achievement

**Grade 6:** Carly Collins, Kyle Coufal, William Dalton, Halle Eller, Anastasia Fontenot, Nora Hays, Case Hein, Isaac Hoelscher, Brecken Romshek, Lynn Schmid, Grace Zook

**Grade 7:** Leah Adair, Alexander Alcantara, Claire Busse, Leah Emswiler, Turner Hartman, Kendra Havlovic, Chase Janak, Jocelyn Janak, Owynn Kastl, Esther Meysenburg, Elizabeth Moravec, Vincent Oliver, Lucy Podolak, Wyatt Svoboda, Caden Vandenberg, Elliot Wacker, Samuel Yindrick

**Grade 8:** Regina Breiner, Camden DeWispelare, Damon DeWispelare, Madelyn Emory, Bailee Hough, Thomas Juranek, Emerson Krivanek, Sabra Meister, Zane Meysenburg, Elijah Moulton, Holly Schmid

## Honor Roll – Quarter 1

**Freshman Honor Roll:** Jacqueline Comte, Kristin Coufal, Robert Dalton, Royce Fontenot, Natalia Lopez, Rebekah Masek

**Freshman Honorable Mention:** Allisson Alcantara, Kaylee Andel, Damian Miratsky, Anthony Oltmer, Ellie Piitz, Brogen Semin, Gregory Sisco, Sarah Storm, Jozlynn Weldon

**Sophomore Honor Roll:** Brookelynn Banholzer, Riley Campbell, Sarah Coufal, Tristan Davis, Madelyn Hein, Dayne Jakob, Mary Katherine Moravec, Anna Schmid, Kade Semin, Taylor Smith, Jordyn Vandenberg, Jacob Wacker

**Sophomore Honorable Mention:** Gunner Marushak, Annastasia Meysenburg, Max Oliver, Logan Vandenberg

**Junior Honor Roll:** Clarice Andel, Danica Bohuslavsky, Lilly Collins, Bella Fontenot, Nathaniel Hain, Evan Hoelscher, Grace Masek, Lauren Meister, Lydia Meysenburg, Colby Miller, Miranda Novacek, Becca Podolak, Violet Schmid, Kaitlyn Schneider, Sydni Svoboda, Madison Vandenberg, Rebecca Wacker, Ainsley Wollmer

**Junior Honorable Mention:** Jarin Thege, Augustine Yindrick

**Senior Honor Roll:** Katie Burwell, Isabella Comte, Flora Dalton, Marcus Krivanek, Kasen Lavicky, Garrett Novacek, Avery Oltmer, Alexandra Prochaska, Elizabeth Roh, Molly Ruiz, Bryant Stouffer, Brooklyn Stutzman, Tylee Truksa

**Senior Honorable Mention:** Kurtis Baer, Caleb DeWispelare, Miriam Frasher, Sydney Hartman, Keltie Hein, Bradan Junck, Sara Schmid

### COAT DRIVE

**The Aquinas S.O.U.L. Club is holding their annual Coat Drive. Please bring your slightly used winter coats, hats, and mittens to the Aquinas office. We will be collecting them through December and into the first part of January.**

S.O.U.L. Club is collecting items for their Annual "Angel Tree" project. All items collected are given local families in need to make their Christmas a little brighter





# MONARCH WRESTLING CLUB SIGN UP FORM

**WHEN: THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2024**

**TIME: 6:00 PM BEFORE THE H.S  
WRESTLING DUAL**

**LOCATION: HIGH SCHOOL CAFETERIA**

**NAME** \_\_\_\_\_ **GRADE** \_\_\_\_\_

**DOB** \_\_\_\_\_

**CHOOSE ONE:**

**BLACK SEASON: \$50** \_\_\_\_\_ SEASON ENDS IN FEB. AFTER THE EAST BUTLER TOURNAMENT. PAID ENTRY TO EAST BUTLER, SCHUYLER, AND OUR TOURNAMENT.

**GOLD SEASON \$75** \_\_\_\_\_ SEASON ENDS AFTER USA STATE IN MARCH. PAID ENTRY FOR EB, SCHUYLER, AND OURS. ALSO PAID ENTRY TO USA DISTRICTS & STATE.

**EXTRA SIBBLING FOR GOLD SEASON \$60** \_\_\_\_\_

**7TH/8TH GRADE \$20** \_\_\_\_\_

**NEED A USA CARD** \_\_\_\_\_ **MY CHILD HAS AN ACTIVE USA CARD AND DOES NOT NEED ONE** \_\_\_\_\_

**SHIRT SIZE: YXS YS YM YL YXL**  
**AS AM AL AXL 2XL**

**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**NAME & CELL PHONE PARENT 1:** \_\_\_\_\_

**NAME & CELL PHONE PARTENT 2:** \_\_\_\_\_

**EMAIL PARENT 1:** \_\_\_\_\_

**EMAIL PARENT 2:** \_\_\_\_\_

I give permission for my child to participate in the Monarch Wrestling Club. I release the Monarch Wrestling Club, Aquinas Catholic Schools, and any of their agents from responsibility and/or liability in case of accident or injury. I give permission for the Monarch Wrestling Club to purchase a USA card on behalf of my wrestler.

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Starting Tues  
December 10th**

**PRACTICE DAYS:**

**Tuesday and Thursday**

**PreK-2nd grade 6pm-7pm**

**3rd-8th grade 7pm-8:15pm**

2nd group may go until 8:30 some evenings

Membership includes shirt, paid tournament entries, and USA card. See info next to what season you chose.

**PLEASE TAKE NOTE:**

Every family in the club is required to work at our club tournament on Friday January 10th. This is part of the requirement to get your singlet deposit back.

We will hand out singlets on an upcoming date to a parent who bring a \$65 per singlet deposit check

IF YOU SIGN UP YOUR CHILD AFTER DECEMBER 12TH, YOU WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR PURCHASING THE USA CARD ON YOUR OWN.

Our main form of communication will be on the app "Group Me".

Please make sure to download the app and scan the QR code at sign up.

# Aquinas Catholic Black Illusion Dance Team

## Invites you to our annual dance camp!

For girls in grades K-5

Friday, January 3, 2025

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 7:30pm

Cost: \$25, includes t-shirt

Camp Date: Friday, January 3, 2025

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

Time: 9:00am to 11:30am



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Registration Due: Friday, December 13

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 Friday, December 13, 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

DRAWING ON FEBURARY 8TH



**AQUINAS CATHOLIC  
BOOSTER CLUB RAFFLE**

Want a shot at winning some CASH?

**1 GRAND PRIZE WINNER**

**\$1,000**

**\$100 A TICKET**

PURCHASE AT AQUINAS OFFICE  
OR THROUGH MR. MIMICK

**37 RUNNER-UP WINNERS**

**\$500**

LIMITED NUMBER OF TICKETS AVAILABLE!  
**1 IN 8 CHANCE TO WIN \$500**



## AQUINAS SCRIP ORDER FORM

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NO: \_\_\_\_\_

Please circle one: Pick up at Aquinas OR Send home with my child: \_\_\_\_\_

Amigos	\$10__	\$25__		
Baker's	\$25__	\$50__	\$100__	
Dale's Food Pride	\$25__	\$50__	\$100__	
Didier's Groc.-DC	\$25__	\$50__	\$100__	
Didier's Groc.-Schuyler	\$25__	\$50__	\$100__	
El Centenario	\$20__	\$25__	\$30__	
Casey's	\$25__	\$50__	\$100__	
Gloria Deo	\$20__			
Hy-Vee	\$25__	\$50__	\$100__	
Menards	\$25__		\$100__	
Northside (Phillips 66)	\$25__	\$50__	\$100__	
Pac-N-Save	\$25__	\$50__	\$100__	
Pizza Hut	\$10__			
RB's Corner Stop(Cenex)	\$25__	\$50__	\$100__	
Runza	\$20__			
Speedee Mart (Shell)	\$25__	\$50__	\$100__	
Subway	\$10__	\$25__		
Super Saver	\$20__	\$50__	\$100__	
Sweet Harvest Popcorn	\$10__	\$25__		
WalMart/Sams	\$10__	\$25__	\$50__	\$100__ \$250__
402 Floral	\$10__	\$25__	\$50__	

Other Businesses (check raiseright.com - See Back)

**Send Orders To:**

Aquinas Office: P O Box 149, David City NE 68632  
OR Nancy Vrbka, 1840 29 Road, Brainard NE 68626

Thank you for supporting Aquinas Catholic Schools by buying SCRIP





# Holiday Gifting Checklist

AND BRANDS THEY'LL LOVE

Parents: \_\_\_\_\_

Co-workers & Employees: \_\_\_\_\_

Young Children: \_\_\_\_\_

Babysitter: \_\_\_\_\_

Teens: \_\_\_\_\_

Teachers & Administrators: \_\_\_\_\_

Grandparents: \_\_\_\_\_

School Bus Driver: \_\_\_\_\_

Aunts & Uncles: \_\_\_\_\_

Service Professionals: \_\_\_\_\_

Neighbors: \_\_\_\_\_

Public Workers: \_\_\_\_\_

Friends: \_\_\_\_\_

Stocking Stuffers: \_\_\_\_\_

Earn a rebate between 2% and 16% that immediately goes toward funding for Aquinas Catholic Schools.

For example, everyday purchases could add up to over \$1,000 each year.

OVER 550 BUSINESSES  
online and through the



1. Create an account on the **RaiseRight app** or on [Shop-WithScrip.com](http://Shop-WithScrip.com).

2. Enter our organization's enrollment code: **email Laura at [laura-adair@cdolinc.net](mailto:laura-adair@cdolinc.net)**

3. Link your bank account to enroll in online payments and place your first order.

Purchase physical scrip after Mass, at the Aquinas Office, or St. Mary's Rectory. Contact Nancy Vrbka at 402-367-8835 with questions or for special orders

# AQUINAS MS/HS



## COUNSELOR'S CORNER DECEMBER 2024

### What's Happening

#### THE ASVAB - UPDATE

The junior class received their ASVAB results this past month. We spent a class period going over the results AND created accounts for the ASVAB college and career exploration program called OCCU-Find. The OCCU-Find combines each student's strengths (determined by the ASVAB assessment) and their unique interests to come up with a list of potential careers that would help them find satisfying occupations. The OCCU-Find also has an educational component that allows students to discover what is required for each occupation, and gives them a list of institutions that provide that education.

#### FAFSA - SENIOR PARENT MEETING

The school counselors from DCHS and AQHS are partnering to bring valuable information regarding the FAFSA - Federal Application for Student Aid, to all Senior parents in the David City Community. This meeting will take place on Wednesday, January 8th from 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM at the DCHS Commons Area (please use the Activity Entrance). This meeting will address WHY the FAFSA is important, and will give information on how to fill out the application. There will be pizza provided for all those who attend.



### Senior Checklist

#### WINTER TO DO:

- Continue filling out scholarships
  - Start with the college specific scholarships!
- Fill out the FAFSA
  - Find information at: [studentaid.gov](http://studentaid.gov)
- Check financial aid award notifications from the college(s) you listed on your FAFSA
- Start narrowing down your college choices

### Important Dates

- Dec. 1st - FAFSA Opens!
- Dec. 14th - National ACT Test Day
- Jan. 3rd - Registration Deadline for February 8th ACT
- Jan. 8th - FAFSA Senior Parent Meeting @ DCHS

**If you need any assistance with registering for the National ACT please let me know!**

### Contact Info

**Sara Miriovsky**

- [sara-miriovsky@cdolinc.net](mailto:sara-miriovsky@cdolinc.net)
- 402-367-3175





- DCCHS and AQHS School Counselors Present:

# Senior Parent FAFSA Meeting

*Get valuable information on how and why to fill out the FAFSA - Federal Application for Student Aid*

## Date/Time

● January 8th

● 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM

## Location

● DCCHS Commons - Use the Activity Entrance

**Pizza will be provided!!!**



**Aquinas Catholic Schools**  
**December 2024**  
**USDA is an Equal Opportunity Provider**



Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
2 Popcorn Chicken Bowls Corn Mandarin Oranges	3 Chicken Noodle Soup Chicken Salad or Ham Sandwiches Baby Carrots	4 Hamburger Jo Jo's Baked Beans Peaches	5 Walking Taco Green Beans Blueberries	6 Tuna & Noodles Roll Peas Apple Slices
9 NO SCHOOL	10 Sweet & Sour Chicken Egg Roll Fortune Cookie Pineapple	11 Stromboli Fries Oven Potatoes Blueberries	12 Biscuits & Gravy Cheese Omelet Hashbrown Tropical Fruit	13 Broccoli Cheese Soup Roll Cooked Carrots Berry Cup
16 Chicken Fried Steak Mashed Potatoes & Gravy Corn Fruit	17 Pepperoni Pizza Tater Tots Side Salad Applesauce	18 Chili Cinnamon Rolls Peas Peaches	19 HS FINALS	20 HS FINALS
23 NO SCHOOL	24 NO SCHOOL	25 NO SCHOOL	26 NO SCHOOL	27 NO SCHOOL
30 NO SCHOOL	31 NO SCHOOL			Milk & water offered Daily Fruit/Veggie/ Salad Bar Offered Daily



Luke 2:10

We wish you a Merry Christmas  
and a Blessed New Year!



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

**HOLY FAMILY EARLY LEARNING CENTER**

622 J STREET  
DAVID CITY, NE 68632  
402-367-3062