

THE TORCH



February, 2025

Aquinas Families,

“Go therefore and teach all nations: baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever that I have commanded you. And behold I am with you all days, even until the end of the world.” (Mt. 28: 19-20) These are the last words of Christ spoken to His apostles before He ascended into heaven. Christ passes on to them the power and mission to teach the faith. Teaching and passing on the Catholic faith are an indispensable duty that the Church still has today. There is no other institution in the history of the world that has done more in terms of educating her people, especially in the United States. The Catholic Church has made education a mission, a mission we continue today!

Catholic Schools Week - Last week, we celebrated Catholic Schools Week (January 27th – January 31st). On Tuesday the 28th, the feast of our patron St. Thomas Aquinas, Bishop Conley came to celebrate Mass for us, and a Eucharistic Procession was held in our school. It was a week of activities celebrating our parishes, our faculty and staff, our community, our nation, and our students. Our families are a vital part of this school and its future. Thank you for your continued support of our schools. Your sacrifice and efforts do not go unnoticed!

GSS Announcement - The Good Shepherd Scholarship for the 2025-2026 academic year will be \$1,800 for grades K-8 and \$2,100 for grades 9-12 and will cover families within 225% of the Federal Poverty Level. To be eligible for the Good Shepherd Scholarship families must complete an application and upload tax document through the FACTS Scholarship Management program. Any family may apply, regardless of religious affiliation. For more information or to apply for these scholarships go to www.goodshepherdscholarship.com. The scholarship application is open now and the **deadline to complete the application is March 31, 2025**.

Tri-Councils – February 6th is a great opportunity to make some time to talk with our teachers. Constructive and positive feedback is very important to our staff. It is also an opportunity for our teachers to inform you on the progress made in class and the development of your child. Please make time for this if there any academic struggles or concerns of students grades as we progress through the 3rd Quarter.

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/>

Activities - Basketball and Wrestling are in full swing. The end of the month will bring Sub-Districts in basketball and Districts and State for Wrestling. FFA and Speech have numerous events/meets as well. Wishing all our students and athletes well!

Continued prayers for you and your family and the daily sacrifices you make for our school!

Fr. Michael Ventre
CAO Aquinas Catholic Schools

WWW.AQUINAS-CATHOLIC.COM



Middle/High School Principal update- February 2025

Current news

School attendance and absences- Parents of MS/HS students now can report absences directly on the parents' PowerSchool account rather than having to call the office. Unfortunately, this can only be done by logging in to PowerSchool on a web browser (either on a phone or computer). This function is not supported on the mobile app. Instructions for reporting student absences can be found on the next pages of this Torch newsletter. Parents can still also call absences in to the office.

Create parent PowerSchool account- If you haven't already created a PowerSchool parent account and would like to do so, or if you have questions about the PowerSchool parent portal, please contact Laura Adair laura-adair@cdolinc.net.

Front door access- The front door project is slowly creeping closer to completion. We have encountered numerous obstacles along the way. When completed, all visitors to the building will enter through the right-hand door (single walk-through door) closest to Mrs. Shonka's office. Visitors will need to be buzzed in the exterior doors as well as the interior doors. Students entering the building in the morning will also use the single walk-through door.

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!

Handbook highlight-

Cell phones- It will be interesting to see where the topic of cell phones in schools goes after Governor Pillen's mention last week of wanting to push through a bill mandating that schools ban student cell phone use at school. Aquinas Catholic Middle/High School's student cell phone policy can be found in section III.J in the handbook.

In summary, students are to turn in their cell phones to the cart they retrieve their 1:1 device from each morning prior to the start of 1st period. Students found with a phone, or phones discovered in any location other than where it was to be turned in, will have the phone confiscated and must pay a fine that increases with subsequent violations. Parents must also come to retrieve the phone instead of the phone being given back to the student.

Upcoming events

Tri-Councils- Thursday, February 6th

SAT Day- Wednesday, February 12th

Schedule changes/reminders

1pm early dismissal- Thursday, February 6th (Tri-Councils)

No school- Friday, February 7th

1pm early dismissal- Wednesday, February 12th (SAT Day)

No school- Friday, February 21st (State Wrestling- Bishop's Day Off)

God Bless!



Spencer Zysset, Principal





.....from everyone at

Aquinas Catholic Schools!

Thank you to all the parents, students, staff, teachers and community members for an amazing Catholic Schools Week! We had so many great treats, lunch, activities and visitors during the week.

The students had amazing spirit all week!

From FFA:

Thank you to Todd Hilfiker for all of his help getting the shop tools cleaned out and moved to Kobza Auctions.



Thank you to Brittany Kovar from Bar-S Vet Clinic for volunteering your time and coaching our FFA Livestock Management CDE Teams!

Thank you to Christina Podolak for volunteer coaching our Floriculture team for our district FFA CDE contest!



February 2025

Aquinas Catholic Schools

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Denotes change in schedule 						1 10:00AM WR @ Boone Central Speech @ Wayne
2	3 6:00PM Res. G/BBB vs Wahoo	4 5:00PM GBB vs Scotus	5 Penance Service	6 Mid Quarter 4:30PM MS BBB @ Schuyler 1:00PM Dismissal 2:00-4:00PM	7 NO SCHOOL	8 9:00AM MS BBB @ Scotus 1:15PM G/BBB vs Lincoln Christian(Senior Night, BB, Dance, Cheer)
9	10 5:45PM MS BBB @ Milford Tournament 6:00PM MS/HS Council Meeting 7:00PM ELM Council	11 6:00PM G/BBB @ Humphrey Archangels	12 1:00 Dismissal for SAT (Student Assistance Time) State BBB Tournament	13	14 TBA WR Districts	15 TBA WR Districts 9:00AM MS BBB @ Fullerton Tournament
16	17 TBA GBB Subdistricts This Week 7:00PM Board of Advisors Meeting	18 4:30PM MS BBB vs Seward St. John	19	20	21 State WR Tournament 5:00PM BBB vs Columbus Scotus	22 State WR Tournament GBB District Finals TBA Speech @ Aquinas
23	24 TBA BBB Sub Districts 	25	26 Penance Service	27 4:00PM MS BBB @ Seward	28 Spirit Day	

2024-2025 High School Quarter 2 Honor Roll

Freshman Honor Roll: Jacqueline Comte, Kristin Coufal, Robert Dalton, Natalia Lopez, Rebekah Masek, Damian Miratsky

Freshman Honorable Mention: Allisson Alcantara, Kaylee Andel, John Meysenburg, 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 Jakub, Mary-Kate Moravec, Anna Schmid, Taylor Smith, Jordyn Vandenberg

Sophomore Honorable Mention: Mason Krivanek, Gunner Marushak, Max Oliver, Kade Semin, Logan Vandenberg, Jacob Wacker

Junior Honor Roll: Lilly Collins, Bella Fontenot, Nathaniel Hain, Evan Hoelscher, Grace Masek, Lydia Meysenburg, Colby Miller, Marissa Miratsky, Miranda Novacek, Becca Podolak, Violet Schmid, Kaitlyn Schneider, Sydney Svoboda, Madison Vandenberg, Rebecca Wacker, Ainsley Wollmer, Augustine Yindrick

Junior Honorable Mention: Berenice Alarcon, Clarice Andel, Danica Bohuslavsky, Dillon Bohuslavsky, Lauren Meister, Luke Storm

Senior Honor Roll: Isabella Comte, Flora Dalton, Caleb DeWispelare, Kasen Lavicky, Avery Oltmer, Alexandra Prochaska, Elizabeth Roh, Molly Ruiz, Sara Schmid, Brooklyn Stutzman, Tylee Truksa

Senior Honorable Mention: Katie Burwell, Kurtis Baer, Miriam Frasher, Sydney Hartman, Keltie Hein, Karmen Karpisek, Marcus Krivanek, Garrett Novacek, Bryant Stouffer

2024-2025 High School Semester 1 Honor Roll

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

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

Sophomore Honor Roll: Brookelynn Banholzer, Riley Campbell, Sarah Coufal, Tristan Davis, Madelyn Hein, Dayne Jakub, Mary-Kate Moravec, Anna Schmid, Taylor Smith, Jordyn Vandenberg, Jacob Wacker

Sophomore Honorable Mention: Max Oliver, Kade Semin

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

Junior Honorable Mention: Danica Bohuslavsky, Marissa Miratsky

Senior Honor Roll: Isabella Comte, Flora Dalton, Caleb DeWispelare, Kasen Lavicky, Garrett Novacek, Avery Oltmer, Alexandra Prochaska, Elizabeth Roh, Molly Ruiz, Bryant Stouffer, Brooklyn Stutzman, Tylee Truksa

Senior Honorable Mention: Kurtis Baer, Katie Burwell, Miriam Frasher, Sydney Hartman, Keltie Hein, Marcus Krivanek, Sara Schmid

2024-2025 Middle School Quarter 2 Scholastic Achievement Awards

Grade 6 Honor Roll: Diego Alarcon, Avery Chermok-Williams, Carly Collins, Kyle Coufal, William Dalton, Halle Eller, Carter Emory, Nora Hays, Kadience Helgoth, Isaac Hoelscher, Brecken Romshek, Grace Zook

Improving: Trey Davis, Aubrie DeWispelare, Renesmee Marino-Ramirez, Harper Meysenburg, Mariflor Ramon, Adam Rerucha

Grade 7 Honor Roll: Leah Adair, Alexander Alcantara, Claire Busse, McKie DeWispelare, Leah Emswiler, Turner Hartman, Kendra Havlovic, Chase Janak, Jocelyn Janak, Esther Meysenburg, Elizabeth Moravec, Vincent Oliver, Henry Sisco, Wyatt Svoboda, Caden Vandenberg, Elliot Wacker, Samuel Yindrick

Improving: Carter Banholzer, Olliana DeWispelare, Jacey Kudlacek, Wyatt Meister, Lainley Piitz, Austin Pracheil, Emma Scheele, Leonard Schmid, Ronda Schmid, Elizabeth Storm.

Grade 8 Honor Roll: Regina Breiner, Camden DeWispelare, Madelyn Emory, Charlotte Hays, Bailee Hough, Thomas Juranek, Dirkson Kavan, Steven Krafka, Emerson Krivanek, Sabra Meister, Payton Meysenburg, Zane Meysenburg, Danica Romshek, Emily Schmid, Holly Schmid

AQUINAS S.O.U.L. CLUB FUNDRAISER 2:00 pm to 7 pm Saturday February 8, 2025

Raffle tickets

\$1 for many prizes.

1st prize = \$100

2nd prize - \$ 50

3rd prize - \$ 25

Other prizes donated by area businesses & individuals.

6 tickets for \$5 (for book) or \$1 a ticket

Winners announced at half time of boys varsity game 2/8/25(need not be present to win)



by Amy Tomasevicz on silent auction that night.

**ALL FUNDS GO TO
AREA CHARITIES**



January has left us feeling so Blessed! We have enjoyed playing with the toys that were donated for Christmas. We made experiments with the freezing temperatures when it was cold. Lately, we have been able to spend some time outside playing and developing our muscles and coordination skills. We are excited to have a few new families joining us and are ready to welcome more! As always, we thank you for your support and generosity!

Daycare

HOLY FAMILY
Early Learning Center
402-367-3062
622 J St., David City



Our early learning center provides a welcoming environment for your child to learn, grow, and develop in a nurturing and safe space.

- ✓ Early Education
- ✓ Outdoor Activity
- ✓ Faith



<https://aquinas-catholic.com/holyfamily/>

**Holy Family
Full/Part Time
Openings
Ages 2, 3, 4, 5**

**Drop-in
availability**

Aquinas Elementary Catholic Schools
February 2025
USDA is an Equal Opportunity Provider

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
3	4	5	6	7
Hamburger on Bun Cheese & Pickles Tater Tots Cheese Stick	Tacos Hard/Soft Shell Corn Churro	Pork Patty Mashed Potatoes Gravy Roll Green Beans	Breakfast Sandwich Egg, Bacon, Cheese Hashbrown Patty Yogurt	NO SCHOOL
10	11	12	13	14
Popcorn Chicken Mashed Potatoes Gravy Roll Corn	Tater Tot Casserole Green Beans Garlic Bread Mandarin Oranges	Chicken Nuggets Potato Wedges Dragon Punch Grapes 1:00 Dismissal	Chili Cinnamon Roll Baby Carrots Warm Apples	Shrimp Poppers Mac and Cheese Peas Oranges
17	18	19	20	21
Corndog Baked Beans Tate Tots Peaches	Spaghetti Meatballs Breadstick Corn Tropical Fruit	Hot Ham and Cheese Chips Cucumbers Side Kick	Orange Chicken Roasted Broccoli Rice Egg Roll Pineapple	Pancakes Cheese Omelet Yogurt Granola Oven Potatoes
24	25	26	27	28
Pepperoni Pizza Garlic Bread Green Beans Applesauce	Chicken Noodle Soup Baby Carrots Roll Cheese Stick	Walking Taco Corn Churro Peaches	Chicken Bacon Ranch Wrap Sun Chips Dragon Punch Lettuce Salad Mandarin Oranges	Fish Sticks Mac and Cheese Cooked Carrots Blueberries
			Menu is Subject to Change and will be posted for students knowledge	Milk & water offered Daily Fruit/Veggie/ Salad Bar Offered Daily



Student lunch currently costs \$3.50 daily, NOT including 2nds.

The lunch program is a not-for-profit program therefore there are no funds available to cover lunch accounts that are negative.

The lunch system will **NOT** allow additional charges when an account is excessively negative.

All families are welcome to quickly & easily apply for Free - Reduced lunch at any time.

If you have a change of income or household size, you may re-apply anytime.

Eligibility requirements can be found by clicking [here](#)

Applications can be found [here](#), then click on "Application C" (Spanish available)

Completed forms can be returned to the school office

You have 3 payment options: Check, Cash or MySchoolBucks.com*.

Send check with your student's **Name** and **Customer ID** on your check

Send cash addressed to Hot Lunch with student's **Name** and **Customer ID**

MySchoolBucks.com, easily pay for meals (fees apply) or get FREE notifications

*If you need assistance with MySchoolBucks.com, please call the

Parent Support line at (855) 832-5226.

Aquinas Catholic HS/MS
 February 2025
 USDA is an Equal Opportunity Provider



Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
3 Breakfast Sandwich Hashbrown Strawberries	4 Loaded Nachos Corn Apple Crisp	5 Chicken Nuggets Mac & Cheese Fries Bananas	6 Spaghetti Meat Sauce Garlic Toast Green Beans Mandarin Oranges	7 NO SCHOOL
10 Orange Chicken Rice Egg Roll Fortune Cookie Pineapple	11 Meatball Sub Roasted Broccoli Fries Grapes	12 Pizza Tri-Tater Side Salad Tropical Fruit	13 Chicken Alfredo Garlic Bread Peas Fruit	14 Pizza Tots Baby Carrots Sidekick
17 Cheeseburger Fries Baked Beans Fruit Cup	18 Popcorn Chicken Cheesy Hashbrowns Blueberries	19 Hot Ham & Cheese Chips Cucumber Salad Fruit	20 Chili Cinnamon Rolls Baby Carrots Pears	21 NO SCHOOL
24 Breaded Chicken Patty Chips Tots Applesauce	25 Biscuits & Gravy Cheese Omelet Hashbrown Strawberries	26 Chicken Fried Steak Mashed Potatoes & Gravy Corn	27 Hot Dog/Polish Dog Fries Baked Beans Fruit	28 Grilled Cheese Tomato Soup Peas Peaches
				Milk & water offered Daily Fruit/Veggie/ Salad Bar Offered Daily



STEUBENVILLE YOUTH CONFERENCE

JULY 11-13, 2025

What: Steubenville Catholic Youth Conference

When: July 11-13, 2025

Where: Missouri State University, Springfield, MO

Who: Open to all high school students

Cost: \$430 (registration, transportation, accommodations with breakfast, 3 additional meals, t-shirt)

Extras: Incidental expenses

steubenvilleconferences.com/youth

TO SECURE YOUR SPOT
COMPLETE THE REGISTRATION FORM
\$125 DEPOSIT BEFORE JANUARY 15

The Steubenville Conference offers dynamic speakers, adoration and powerful prayer encounters, plus uplifting music to inspire and empower young people in their faith journey. It's a chance for students to step away from their routines, encounter Christ in a deeper way, and build lasting friendships--first and foremost with Jesus.



Aquinas FFA



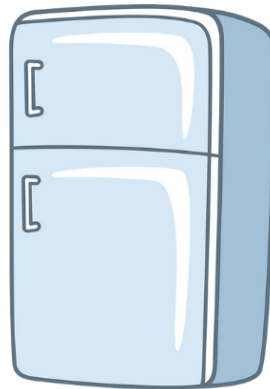
Deadline approaching!
Donate to our local FFA chapter
Learn more by scanning the QR code.



Our floriculture team is looking for donations of any extra floral items for practice and design. This includes artificial flowers, ribbon, vases, stems, etc.



We are looking for a gently used refrigerator for the ag classroom. If you have one sitting around that you are willing to part with, we would appreciate the donation.



AQUINAS CATHOLIC SCHOOLS 2025-2026 SCHOOL CALENDAR- DRAFT

FIRST SEMESTER

JULY 2025							AUGUST 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5						1	2
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30
							31						

SEPTEMBER 2025							OCTOBER 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6				1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30					26	27	28	29	30	31	

NOVEMBER 2025							DECEMBER 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1							1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	28	29	30	31			
30													

175 Days in session (9-12)
 85 Instructional Days S1 91 Teacher Contract Days S1
 6 Faculty Professional Development/Workdays

Semester One

- Aug. 7- New Staff Member In-Service
- Aug. 8, 11, 12- Teacher In-Service
- Aug. 11 - Fall Sports Practice Begins
- Aug. 12- 6-12 Student Orientation & Pictures
- Aug. 13- First day of school PK-12
- Aug. 15- Assumption
- Aug. 19- First day of school Preschool (2 day)
- Sept. 1- Labor Day
- Sept. 17- SAT Day
- Sept. 29- Teacher In-Service
- Sept. 28- Oct. 4- Homecoming Week
- Oct. 10- End of 1st quarter
- Oct. 13- Diocesan Teacher Institute
- Oct. 23- Tri-Councils 2:00-4:00, 4:30-7:30
- Oct. 24- No School
- Nov. 3- Teacher In-Service
- Nov. 18- SAT Day
- Nov. 26-30- Thanksgiving Break
- Dec. 8- Immaculate Conception
- Dec. 19- Last day 1st semester for PK-8
- Dec. 22 & 23- HS semester finals
- Dec. 23- End of 2nd quarter, end of 1st semester
- Dec. 24-28- NSAA Moratorium
- Dec. 24-Jan. 5- Christmas Vacation

Q1= 40 Q2= 45 Q3= 45 Q4= 46

SECOND SEMESTER

JANUARY 2026							FEBRUARY 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3							
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
25	26	27	28	29	30	31							

MARCH 2026							APRIL 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1					1	2	3
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	25	26	27	28	29	30	
30	31												

MAY 2026							JUNE 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2							1
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30				
31													

184 Teacher contract days
 90 Instructional Days S2 93 Teacher Contract Days S2
 3 Faculty Professional Development/Workdays

Semester Two

- Jan. 5- Teacher Retreat & In-Service
- Jan. 6- Start of 2nd semester
- Jan. 23- Teacher In-Service
- Jan. 25-31- Catholic Schools Week
- Feb. 12- Tri-Councils: 2:00-4:00, 4:30-7:30
- Feb. 13- No School
- Feb. 18- SAT Day
- Feb. 20- ANTICIPATED Bishop's Day Off- State Wrestling
- Mar. 12- End of 3rd quarter
- Mar. 23- Spring Break (hosting TEC)
- Mar. 27- Gold Rush set up, Teacher In-Service
- Mar. 28- Gold Rush
- Apr. 2-6- Easter Break
- Apr. 11- Prom
- Apr. 22- SAT Day
- Apr. 25- Spring Musical
- May 14- Ascension
- May 17- Graduation
- May 20- Last day PK-8
- May 21 & 22- HS semester finals
- May 22- End of 4th quarter, end of 2nd semester

21 = HS finals, no school PK-8 20 = 1:00pm dismissal
 17 = New qtr (Aug. 13, Oct. 14, Jan. 6, Mar. 16)
 14 = No School for students 10 = No School

Revised January 10, 2025

The Feast of St. Valentine

St. Valentine was a Roman priest martyred during the reign of Emperor Claudius II. Valentine was imprisoned for trying to convert people to Christianity. He even attempted to convince Emperor Claudius of Christianity! Claudius became enraged and sentenced Valentine to death, commanding him to renounce his faith or be beaten with clubs and beheaded. St. Valentine refused and was executed on February 14.

Another variation of the legend of St. Valentine says he refused to sacrifice to pagan gods, was imprisoned and while imprisoned he healed the jailer's blind daughter. On the day of his execution, he left the girl a note signed,
"Your Valentine."

Patron of Love, Young People, Happy Marriages

Author and Publisher - Catholic Online



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402-367-3175

www.aquinas-catholic.com

HOLY FAMILY EARLY LEARNING CENTER

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