

THE TORCH



April, 2025

Aquinas Families,

Greetings to all of you! Lent, although later this year, is now in full swing. The fourth quarter has begun, and we are headed to the final two months of the 2024-2025 school year!

New Hires:

Mrs. Tessa Hain (Masek) will be teaching first grade at Aquinas Elementary. Tessa is a graduate of Bishop Neumann High School Class of 2020. She is the daughter of Amy Masek and the granddaughter of Dave McMahan. She is married to Colin Hain (Aquinas Class of 2020). She and her husband live in Seward. Tessa also has an endorsement in Theatre and will be helping with One Act and the Spring Musical. Mrs. Hain replaces Mrs. Smith who was hired as our new Elementary Principal. We thank her for the last nine years as a teacher and look forward to her passion and leadership in her new role!

Mr. Tony Smith will be returning to Aquinas High School as our Business Teacher as well as Broadcasting. Mr. Smith will also assist in coaching Football and Girls Track. Mr. Smith is replacing Mr. Adamson. Thank you, Mr. Adamson, for teaching here at Aquinas this past year.

Mr. Spencer Zysset will be teaching Middle School Math. He will also assist in Middle School Track. As was sent out in an email last week Mr. Zysset will be stepping down from his duties as Principal. We thank him for the past four years as an administrator to our school.

Ms. Sarah Juranek will be heading up One Act and the Spring Musical. Ms. Juranek is not new to us as she has coached Speech this year. Ms. Juranek is replacing Mrs. Heermann who is stepping down after 25 years of leading our Drama Department. Thank you so much Mrs. Heermann!

New Principals:

Mrs. Katie Smith will serve as our next Principal at the Elementary. Mrs. Smith needs no introduction having taught at our school for nine years serving on school improvement and strategic pillars while finishing her administration degree. We look forward to her leadership with our little ones and thank Mrs. Zook for her hard work over these past years.

Mrs. Sandy VanCura will serve as our interim principal for the 2025-2026 school year. Mrs. Vancura retired in 2020 as principal of St. Cecilia Middle/High School after serving 40 years in the Hastings Catholic Schools system. Recently, she has been teaching Education Courses through Wayne State for students at Columbus Scotus Highschool interested in becoming teachers. Additionally, she serves as a Field Experience Supervisor with the University of Nebraska at Kearney. She will also assist me as we begin the search for a new principal for the Middle School/High School.

Spring Musical – This year our Spring Musical will be *Nunsense*. Shows are Friday April 4th at 7pm, Saturday April 5th at 7pm, and Sunday April 6th at 2pm. Please come and support our students and the drama department. Thank you in advance to our students for their hard work and efforts. Along with their studies, many of these students had to navigate through the end of Speech Season and the beginning of Track Season. A word of thanks to our dedicated staff who make this possible through leadership and guidance: Ann Heermann and Jean Brown!

Wishing you and your family a blessed Easter! May you know peace and joy in the Resurrected Lord!

Fr. Michael Ventre

Fr. Michael Ventre
CAO Aquinas Catholic Schools

WWW.AQUINAS-CATHOLIC.COM



Middle/High School Principal update- April 2025

Current news

- **Staff changes-** We have several staff changes for the 2025-2026 school year, with a couple more changes still possible.
 - **Departing-** I would like to thank Roger Gallaway, Tom Adamson, Bennett Shane for their contributions during their time at Aquinas. We also wish them luck as their journeys take them away from Aquinas on to the next adventure in life.
 - **Incoming-** I am excited to welcome Tony Smith (Business, Broadcasting) and Sandy VanCura (principal) to Aquinas. I am also excited to take on the Math position vacated by Mr. Shane.
- **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. Parents can still also call absences in to the office.
- **Announcements-** The way we do daily announcements for Aquinas MS/HS has changed. They are now found on PowerSchool in the daily bulletin feature. The 3 ways you can access the daily bulletin are below.
 - **PowerSchool parent portal**
 - **Mobile app-** At the bottom of the app in the "School bulletin" section. On the mobile app, you can only view the current day's announcements.
 - **Web browser-** On the left side navigation bar of the parent portal on a web browser, select "School bulletin". On the parent portal on a web browser, you can select any other day to view the announcements from that day.
 - **Static link-** Announcements always available here: <https://powerschool.cdolinc.net/bulletin/160?date=>. This link is also on the [Parent and Student Links](#) page of the school website.
 - **Email-** We are setting up an email that will be sent to parents [similar to](#) how it was done in the past. This email | will contain the static link above so you can easily click on it and view the announcements on a browser.
- **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!
- **Student schedules-** Students started receiving class request forms on March 27th (started with current sophomores and juniors first, then will work down through younger students). Student and teacher schedules will be created in April and finalized in May.
 - **8 periods vs. 9 periods-** Part of the request process will give us data to determine whether an 8-period schedule or 9 period schedule makes the most sense for us.

Upcoming events

- **Spring Musical-** Friday, April 4th-Sunday, April 6th
- **Fine Arts Luncheon-** Tuesday, April 22nd
- **SAT Day-** Wednesday, April 23rd

Schedule changes/reminders

- **No school-** Thursday, April 17th-Monday, April 21st (Easter Break)
- **1pm early dismissal-** Wednesday, April 23rd (SAT Day)
- **No school-** Thursday, May 15th (hosting district track)

God Bless!

Spencer Zysset
Spencer Zysset, Principal

AQUINAS CATHOLIC

2024-2025 QUARTER THREE HONOR ROLL

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

Freshman Honorable Mention: Allisson Alcantara, Kaylee Anandel, John Meysenburg, 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, Annastasia Meysenburg, Mary-Kate Moravec, Anna Schmid, Kade Semin, Taylor Smith, Jordyn Vandenberg, Jacob Wacker

Sophomore Honorable Mention: Mason Krivanek, Gunner Marushak, Max Oliver, Sylvia Piitz

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, Danica Bohuslavsky, Lauren Meister, Jarin Thege

Senior Honor Roll: Kurtis Baer, Katie Burwell, Isabella Comte, Flora Dalton, Caleb DeWispelare, Miriam Frasher, Jackson Jelinek, Marcus Krivanek, Kasen Lavicky, Garrett Novacek, Avery Oltmer, Alexandra Prochaska, Elizabeth Roh, Molly Ruiz, Sara Schmid, Matthew Storm, Bryant Stouffer, Brooklyn Stutzman, Tylee Truksa

Senior Honorable Mention: Sydney Hartman, Keltie Hein, Isabella Kadavy, Kailer Pohl, Reese Woolsey, Finley Zook

Middle School Quarter 3 Scholastic Achievement Awards

Grade 6 Honor Roll: Carly Collins, Kyle Coufal, William Dalton, Trey Davis, Halle Eller, Carter Emory, Nora Hays, Kadiance Helgoth, Isaac Hoelscher, Brecken Romshek, Lynn Schmid, Grace Zook

Improving: Hunter Didier, Wyatt Dresch, Case Hein, Harper Meysenburg, Andrew Oltmer, Adam Rerucha, Jett Schommer, Koda True-Nielsen

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

Improving: Eboney Haberman, Owynn Kastl, Lainley Piitz, Ryker Truksa, Morgan Urban

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

Improving: Jordyn Masilko, Noah Schneider, Jaydyn Schommer, Tanner Smith, Keyshia True-Nielsen, Benjamin Zook

April 2025

Aquinas Catholic Schools



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Denotes change in schedule 		1 2:00PM BG TR @ Scotus Invite	2 10:00AM Golf @ Aquinas Invite <i>Penance Service</i>	3 <i>6:00PM Pre School Open House</i>	4 ELEM Baptism Mass <i>7:00PM Spring Musical</i>	5 <i>7:30PM Spring Musical</i>
6 5th Sunday of Lent <i>2:00PM Spring Musical</i>	7 1:00PM B.G TR @ Monarch Invite	8 9:00AM MS B.G TR @ Scotus Relays	9 <i>Activity Pictures</i>	10 <i>6:00PM Pre School Open House</i>	11	12 9:00AM B.G TR @ Wisner-Pilger Invite <i>Prom</i>
13 Palm Sunday	14	15	16 Mid Quarter 9:00AM Golf @ Clarkson Invite 9:00AM B.G TR High Plains Invite @ Osceola	17 NO SCHOOL Holy Thursday 2:00PM MS B.G Track @ Humphrey Invite	18 NO SCHOOL Good Friday	19
20 EASTER	21 NO SCHOOL Easter Break	22 Fine Arts Salad Luncheon 4:00PM MS B.G TR @ North Band Quad	23 1:00 Dismissal for SAT (Student Assistance Time) 6:00 PM TFFA Banquet	24 9:00AM Golf @ Scotus Invite 10:00AM B.G TR @ Schuyler	25 District Music Contest Spirit Day	26 St. Mary's Parish Fun Raiser Variety Show
27 Bee St. Wenceslaus Parish Dinner	28 4:00PM MS B.G TR East Butler Quad @ DC 7:00PM Board of Advisors Meeting	29 1:00PM MS B.G TR @ Utica Centennial Invite 2:00PM B.G TR @ Lakaview	30 Penance Service 9:30AM Golf @ North Band Invite 1:30 & 6:30PM ELEM Spring Program @ HSMS			

**AQUINAS
CATHOLIC**



COME LET US ADORE HIM

All members of the Aquinas Community are invited to join us
for a day of Eucharistic Adoration!

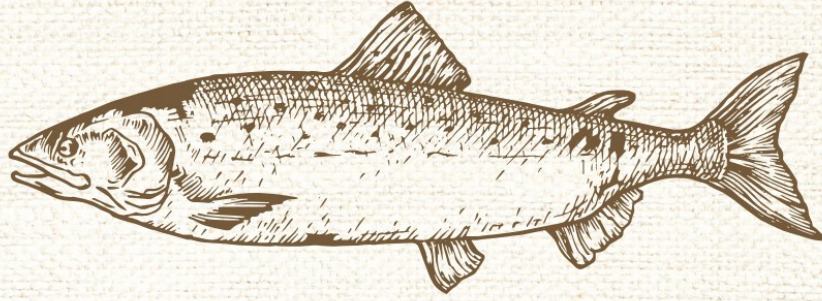
4 | FRIDAY, APRIL 2024
Adoration from 11:00 am - 3:30 pm

St. Thomas Aquinas Chapel

Sign up for 1 or more 15-minute slots



OPEN TO PUBLIC



JOIN US FOR A
FISH FRY

Friday, April 4
5 PM - 7 PM

DRIVE THRU – DINE IN

All you can eat fish - \$20

Kids (10 & under) - \$10

Aquinas Catholic Elementary Gym

1026 N 5th Street David City, NE

PROCEEDS TO AQUINAS CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY

**Baccalaureate Mass: May 14,
7:00pm, at the Aquinas Chapel.
(Parents of graduates should be there by 6:50)**

Graduation: May 18, 4:30pm

**Friday Show
7:00**
**Saturday Dinner
Reservations
only-6:00**
Show at 7:00
**Sunday Lunch
Reservations
only-1:00**
Show at 2:00

Aquinas High School Drama and Music Departments

Present:

Nunsense is a hilarious spoof about the misadventures of the "Little Sisters of Hoboken" trying to manage a fundraiser. Sadly, there are only a few left since the rest of the sisterhood died from botulism after eating vichyssoise prepared by their cook; Sister Julia Child of God. Thus, the remaining nuns, including ballet-loving Sister Leo, street-wise Sister Robert Anne, befuddled Sister Mary Amnesia, the Mother Superior Sister Regina, and mistress of the novices Sister Mary Hubert – stage a talent show in order to raise the money to bury their dearly departed. With catchy songs and comedy, *Nunsense* is sure to keep you rolling with laughter.



THE MEGA MUSICAL!!!

Book, Music and Lyrics by Dan Goggin

**No Tickets will
be reserved
without a pay-
ment with
them**

**NO EXCHANGES-
NO REFUNDS**

Saturday dinner Theater Buffet Style:
Roast Beef, and/or Broasted Chicken ,
Potatoes, Salad, Bread, Dessert, Tea,
Coffee, Water

Sunday Luncheon: Baked Potato &
Taco Bar with all the fixings, Dessert,
Tea, Coffee, Water

\$18.00

Name: _____ Home Phone: _____
Address: _____ Cell Phone: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

I would like to order:

Saturday Night: (please be seated by 6:00pm) Number of Tickets: _____ x \$25.00 each Amount: _____

Sunday Afternoon: (please be seated by 1:00pm) Number of Tickets: _____ x \$18.00 each Amount: _____

I am enclosing a check for \$ _____ with this form.—

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

Daycare

HOLY FAMILY

Early Learning Center

402-367-3062

622 J St., David City



- ✓ Early Education
- ✓ Outdoor Activity
- ✓ Faith

March gave us lots of reasons to celebrate! For Dr. Seuss week we read lots of stories, had fun dress up days, and tried eating "green eggs". We DO like them, Sam I Am! There was so much green to be seen all around the building on St. Patrick's day. Several of our staff finished their CPR certifications; a very big "Thank You" to Scottie Hlavac for teaching our class. We are really enjoying the beautiful spring weather! Check out our facebook page for more pictures and happenings!





AQUINAS CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY

Preschool Open House

THURSDAY, APRIL 10

Explore & Play

PRESCHOOL ROOM - 6:00 PM

Parent & Child Meeting

GYM - 6:30 PM



with
Mrs. Rachel




Register
for this event here

- ✔ See Preschool, Pre-Kindergarten, and All Day Options
- ✔ Bring Birth Certificate & Baptism Certificate

Enrollment is open through May 1

All new and current incoming preschool & pre-kindergarten students need to enroll.

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

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
<p style="text-align: center;">3</p> <p>Chicken Patty Tater Rounds Dragon Punch Strawberries</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">4</p> <p>Corn Dog Baked Beans Ruffles Emerald Pears King Cup Cakes</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">5</p> <p>Cheese Pizza Garlic Bread Carrots Peaches</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ash Wednesday</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">6</p> <p>Chicken Fried Steak Mashed Potatoes Gravy Roll Corn Tropical Fruit</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">7</p> <p>French Toast Sticks Fried Egg Round Hash Patty Apples</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">10</p> <p>Frito Pie Corn Churro Side Kick</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">11</p> <p>Chicken Noodle Soup Crackers Baby Carrots Yogurt Dragon Punch</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">12</p> <p>Bacon Cheeseburger Tater Crowns String Cheese Oranges</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">13</p> <p>Orange Chicken Rice Roasted Broccoli Egg Roll Pineapple</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">14</p> <p style="text-align: center;">NO SCHOOL</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">17</p> <p>Diced Ham Mac and Cheese Peas Blueberries</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">18</p> <p>Chicken Nuggets French Fries Carrots SideKick</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">19</p> <p>Spaghetti and Meatballs BreadStick Lettuce Salad Peaches</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">20</p> <p>Taco Hard OR Soft shell Churro Corn Ruby Pears</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">21</p> <p>Lasagna Rollup Garlic Bread Green Beans Applesauce</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">24</p> <p>Pepperoni Pizza Breadstick Carrots Tropical Fruit</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">25</p> <p>Deli Sandwich Chips Cucumbers Apples</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">26</p> <p>Loaded Nachos Corn Mandarin Oranges Icecream Cup</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">27</p> <p>Chili Cinnamon Roll Green Beans Cinnamon Applesauce</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">28</p> <p style="text-align: center;">NO SCHOOL</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">31</p> <p>Chicken Alfredo Roasted Broccoli Breadstick Strawberries</p>		<p>Menu is Subject to Change and will be posted for students knowledge</p>	<p>Milk & water offered Daily Fruit/Veggie/ Salad Bar Offered Daily</p>	



As we quickly approach the end of the school year please ensure negative lunch balances are paid.

This is especially important for seniors. They will **NOT** receive their diploma if any outstanding balances remain, including lunch. All balances must be paid prior to the last day of attendance.

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

- If sending check, please include student's name on your check made out to Aquinas Lunch.
- If sending cash, please place in sealed envelope addressed to Hot Lunch with student's name.
- If using MySchoolBucks.com, you can easily pay for meals (fees apply) in the app or set up FREE notifications for balance.

Please feel free to contact the school if needed.

Thank you!



Aquinas Catholic Schools

April 2025

USDA is an Equal Opportunity Provider



Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
	1 Loaded Nachos Condiments Tots Fruit	2 Chicken Fried Steak Mashed Potatoes Gravy, Corn, Fruit	3 Hamburger on Bun Fries Baked Beans Fruit	4 NO SCHOOL
7 Chicken Alfredo Garlic Bread Green Beans Fruit	8 Sloppy Joe's Chips Peas Fruit	9 Hot Dog/Polish Dog Baked Beans Fries Fruit	10 Fiestadas Tri-Tater Corn Fruit	11 French Toast Sticks Cheese Omelet Hashbrown Fruit
14 Turkey Sub Condiments Tots Chips Fruit	15 Spaghetti Breadstick Side Salad Fruit	16 Crispito's Fries Corn Fruit	17 NO SCHOOL	18 NO SCHOOL
21 NO SCHOOL	22 Salad Luncheon Sack Lunches will be provided	23 Chicken Strips Fries Green Beans Fruit	24 Meatball Sub Roasted Broccoli Fries Fruit	25 Cheese Pizza Side Salad Fries Fruit
28 Pulled Pork on Bun Chips Baby Carrots Fruit	29 Popcorn Chicken Bowls Corn Fruit	30 Chicken, Bacon, Ranch Wraps Chips Fruit		Milk & water offered Daily Fruit/Veggie/ Salad Bar Offered Daily

MIDDLE SCHOOL SCIENCE

Middle School Science has been very busy as always but we have an activity that is not really our regular curriculum going on right now too. I am sure you have heard of March Madness but have you heard of March Mammal Madness? It is a simulated battle between different animals with random number generated winners all organized by the Arizona State University. It has been going on for 13 years. We have been doing it here at Aquinas for 6 years. They have just finished the first round and we have gone from 65 combatants to 32. Battles are on twitter March Mammal Madness every Monday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings starting at 7 pm. They then make an entertaining video recap on Youtube Rodent Roundtable. We check in each morning after the battles to see how our own individual brackets are doing. The winning class will get a Pizza Party for Lunch.

On St Patrick's Day we had a STEM challenge. They stole the pot of gold from a leprechaun but to run away they need to build a bridge to cross the river. The bridge is made out of only pennies and needs to be at least 3cm tall and 3 cm wide and stands for at least 10 seconds.

As for regular classes 8th graders finished up the biology unit with projects of bodies with organ systems. We went to the Lunchroom to critique all the projects. Then they dissected fish. They are now learning Astronomy where we are talking about planets, moon phases, and galaxies. They made the planets to a km to cm scale. They had to list interesting facts about the planets as well. They also did a project on adding machine paper that puts into perspective the distance between the planets. Then we demonstrated the distance between planets through the hall. The sun being at the South end and Neptune reaching clear to Miss Brown's door. They will be going out at to see the different phases of the moon as well. Soon we will be moving on to beginning Chemistry. What trouble can we cause there?

The 7th graders finished up weather They have learned to make weather station models that illustrate the temperature, wind speed and direction, cloud cover, dew point and air pressure. They researched different storms and made power point presentations to communicate facts and safety rules for each storm type. They then dissected frogs. They are now moving on to Motion. We will be doing many labs recording speed, velocity, and acceleration. Do you know the difference between these? We will do a Lab using matchbox cars and a ramp anywhere from one to five books high. Sometimes it is hard to tell if we are learning or playing in science.

6th grade has moved on to Earth Science learning about the Earth's interior. They created 3D models to represent the layers of the Earth. Then we learned about the supercontinent, Pangea. They read about continental drift, sea-floor spreading and plate tectonics and earthquakes. Can you build a structure to withstand an earthquake? Well the 6th graders will build it out of spaghetti noodles and marshmallows. The project includes researching earthquake safe structures, designing a structure on graph paper, then purchasing supplies from Mrs. Mayo (using fake money and checks and filling in purchase orders), staying on budget, and finally building the structure to withstand an earthquake. Next we will be learning about volcanoes.



How Is Your Lent Going So Far?

“The beauty of Lent is that it reminds us of God’s boundless mercy. The Cross was not the end of the story—Easter was. Our struggles, setbacks, and failures do not define us; God’s grace does. Every time we turn back to Him, He welcomes us with open arms.”

<https://www.thecatholicprofessional.com/how-is-your-lent-going-so-far/> (3-13-25)



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