🍎 Welcome to the 2026–2027 School Year!

We are excited to welcome everyone back for another wonderful year at Aquinas Catholic Elementary! We hope your summer has been filled with fun, family, and opportunities to rest and recharge. As the first day of school approaches, this newsletter will help you prepare with important reminders and updates.

Welcome, New Families!

A very special welcome to our newest Aquinas families! This year, we are blessed to welcome **five new families** to our Kindergarten–5th grade community, along with many new families joining our Preschool and Pre-K programs. We are so grateful that you have chosen Aquinas Catholic Schools for your child's education. Please know that you are already a valued part of our school family, and we will be praying for each of you throughout the school year.

Required Forms Due by August 12

To help us prepare for the first day of school, please submit all required forms and documents to the school office by **Wednesday, August 12**.

Required documents may include:

- **Kindergarten physical examination**
- **Birth certificate**
- **Baptism certificate**
- **Current immunization records**

Nebraska law requires schools to have all required documents. If you have questions about what your child still needs to submit, please contact the school office—we're happy to help!

Lunch Accounts

We are happy to share that the price of school lunches will remain the same this year at **$4.25**. We are grateful to continue providing nutritious, home-cooked meals at the same affordable price for our students. Be sure to download the **MySchoolBucks** app to easily manage your student's lunch account! The app makes it simple to add funds, monitor your child's balance, and view account activity throughout the school year.

Free & Reduced-Price Meal Applications

Applications for **Free and Reduced-Price Meals** will be sent out soon. If you believe your family may qualify, please be on the lookout for the application information and complete it as soon as possible once it becomes available. Even if your child does not regularly purchase school lunches, submitting a qualifying application can benefit our entire school by helping us receive additional state and federal funding for educational programs and student services.

Stay Connected with Our Bound Calendar

Be sure to check out our **new Bound Calendar** on the Aquinas Catholic Schools website! This is the best place to stay up to date on school events, athletic contests, activities, and other important dates throughout the year.

You can also download the **Bound app** to have schedules and event updates right at your fingertips. Whether you're planning ahead or checking for last-minute changes, the Bound Calendar is a great resource for staying connected with everything happening at Aquinas!

Supply Drop-Off Night- Preschool-5th grade

🗓️ **Wednesday, August 12**
⏰ **4:30–6:30 p.m.**

Join us for our **Supply Drop-Off Night!** Students can bring their school supplies, meet their teacher, see their classroom, and reconnect with friends before the first day of school.

Afterward, stay and enjoy a **hot dog and ice cream** as we celebrate the start of another great year together as an Aquinas community!

First Days of School

- 🍎 **August 13 – First Day of School (K–5)** *(1:00 p.m. dismissal)*
- 🌟 **August 14 – First Day of Pre-K**
- 🧸 **August 18 – First Day of Preschool (T/TH)**

We can't wait to welcome everyone back for an amazing school year filled with faith, learning, friendship, and growth!

Picture Day

Picture Day is scheduled for **Friday, August 28**, for all **Preschool–5th grade** students. Students may dress up for the day, and pictures will be taken during the regular school day for **Pre-K–5th grade**.

For our **Tuesday/Thursday Preschool** students, if you would like your child to have school pictures taken, you are welcome to bring them to school that morning. Picture times are typically between **7:45–8:45 a.m.**, and we will confirm the exact schedule as the date gets closer.

Before & After School Program

Enrollment is now open for the **Holy Family Learning Center Before & After School Program**!

This program provides a safe, caring environment for students before or after the school day ends.

To secure a spot for your child, please contact **Chloe Lavicky or Chloe Miller, Co-Directors of the program**, at **Chloe-Lavicky@cdolinc.net; Chloe-Miller@cdolinc.net**

We encourage families who are interested to enroll early, as space may be limited.

Opportunity Scholarships of Nebraska (OSN)

Exciting opportunities are on the horizon for Catholic education in Nebraska! **Opportunity Scholarships of Nebraska (OSN)** is preparing to launch a new **Federal Tax Credit Scholarship Program** beginning **January 1, 2027**.

Thanks to legislation passed by Congress in 2025, taxpayers with federal income tax liability may be able to contribute **up to $1,700** to OSN and potentially receive a **dollar-for-dollar federal tax credit**. Those contributions will fund K–12 private school scholarships, helping make a Catholic education more accessible and affordable for Nebraska families.

This program has the potential to make a significant impact on families across our state, and we are excited to share more information as it becomes available.

PTO

Want to help support our teachers and build a strong Aquinas community? Be on the lookout for ways to get involved with our PTO throughout the school year!

We will need volunteers for events such as **Muffins with Mom, Donuts with Dad, and Teacher Appreciation Week**. If you are interested in helping or have questions, please reach out to **Amy Didier, our PTO president, or the school office**.

Monarch Dad Program

We're excited to continue our **Monarch Dad Program** this school year! This volunteer program provides fathers and father figures with opportunities to spend time at school, support our students and staff, and help create a safe and welcoming environment. Whether you can volunteer once or several times throughout the year, we'd love to have you involved!

Library & Lunch Volunteers

We would love to welcome volunteers throughout the school year to help support our students and staff!

There are opportunities to assist **Mrs. Roh in the library** by organizing materials and encouraging a love of reading. We also welcome volunteers to help in the **lunchroom** by assisting during mealtimes and helping create a positive experience for our students.

If you are interested in volunteering, please reach out to the school office.

RaiseRight (Scrip) Program

Looking for an easy way to support Aquinas while doing your everyday shopping? Join our **RaiseRight (Scrip) Program!** Simply purchase gift cards for stores, restaurants, gas stations, and online retailers you already use, and a percentage of each purchase is donated back to our school—at no extra cost to you!

Our Enrollment Code: ADL85AC943322

Thank you to all of our families who already participate. Every purchase helps support our students and school programs!

We also have a **local Scrip order form available in the school office** for your convenience. This is a great way to support local businesses while helping our school community.