

# THE LEDGE

The St. Mary's Springs Academy Magazine



Tate Jaster '34



2020 EDITION





# A Message from our President, Stacey Akey

## Dear Friends of St. Mary's Springs Academy,

So much has changed so quickly. Amid the uncertainty and challenges of the past year, which is unlike any in our lifetime, I witnessed the strength, resilience, and generosity of our Ledger community. The grace and support with which we were afforded, leaves me filled with optimism and faith as we continue to navigate through this together.

As we reflect on 2019-2020, there is much for which to be grateful, as evidenced in the stories of innovation and perseverance, community engagement, and faith-in-action which are detailed within these pages. Words cannot begin to convey my personal appreciation for:

- Our devoted faculty and staff who pivoted seemingly overnight last March, all in an effort to ensure continuity of learning for our students as we switched to virtual.
- Parents and family members who worked tirelessly in partnership with us last spring to support their children, academically and emotionally, from home.
- Every donor, volunteer, and contributor—we are blessed to have such unwavering support, even in the midst of economic crisis, as evidenced by the generous response for emergent needs resulting from the pandemic and the transition to remote learning.

• The strength of our community who rallied together in support of our students, one another, and the Academy during this difficult time — Ledger loyalty shines brightly!

• Our students — I am both amazed and humbled by the resilience demonstrated by our students. With the support of family and the Ledger community, they continued to learn, grow, and adapt to whatever came their way. It is clear, they are prepared to make a difference, regardless of the uncertainty the future holds.

As much as has changed at SMSA, much has remained the same — we celebrate one another and our communities' accomplishments, we provide students with a profound, faith-filled Catholic educational experience, and we remain true to the mission and core values that define us. Ensuring SMSA remains a place of exceptional teaching and learning is an honor and responsibility together we share. For this we are grateful. To the faithful alumni, parents, donors, friends and community who continue to make an investment in our students, today and for future generations, we thank you!

In closing, we understand that this pandemic reaches well outside the walls of SMSA. We recognize that all of you are facing your own challenges and struggles. Do know, we are holding you all in our prayers and will remain vigilant and ready to help in any way possible.

Grace and blessings for a safe and healthy holiday season!

Stacey Akey

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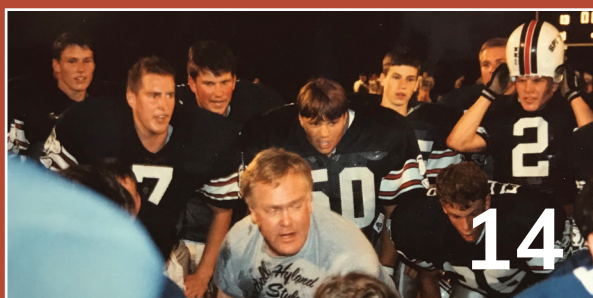
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Kathryn Tank '08, Chief Development Officer  
Melissa Trepte, PreK-8 Assistant Principal





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† Denotes person has passed away

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# THE NEXT CHAPTER.

## The 2020 Graduating Class' Plans Following Graduation.

\*as of May 7, 2020

### **115th Fighter Wing**

Jacob Liethen

### **Arizona State University**

Elizabeth Treichel

### **Army National Guard/ St. Norbert College**

Elizabeth Guerin

### **Berklee College of Music**

Emma Holzmänn\*

### **City of Fond du Lac**

Collin Mielke

### **Duke University**

Cecelia Rodriguez - Valedictorian

### **Fox Valley Technical College**

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Ashlynn Roberts

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Lillian Wahl

### **Marian University**

Madeline Baitinger  
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Macy Bowe  
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Winter Guyette\*  
Megan McGalloway\*

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Noah Cavazos

### **Mount Mary University**

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Brennan Van Horn\*

### **Texas A&M University**

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Meagan Haupt\*

### **University of Notre Dame**

Zachary Hahn

### **UW Fond du Lac**

Zoe Barta  
Niket Burman  
Alexis Kuechenberg  
Nicholas Tagliapietra\*  
Shayna Wiza\*

### **UW La Crosse**

Justin Ditter  
Shaylyn Dreifuerst  
Jenna Gilgenbach\*  
Marcus Orlandoni  
Peyton Walters

### **UW Madison**

Madeline Gehring  
ByeongGeun Lee  
Juilanna Loehr  
Allison Taylor  
Luke Vander Kooy

### **UW Milwaukee**

Camila Fields  
Peyton Hyland\*  
Nolan McDermott  
Elizabeth Petersen\*  
Sarah Petersen\*

### **UW Oshkosh**

Lilly Diedrich\*  
Mitchell Huettl\*  
Taylor Jahns\*

### **UW Platteville**

Veronica Cox  
Connor Kollman

### **UW Stevens Point**

Elizabeth Pierret  
Megan Pollard  
Nicole Tennies

### **UW Stout**

Andrew Hoepfner

### **UW Whitewater**

Jatavia Freeman

### **United States Army**

Jacob Koffman

### **Universal Technical Institute**

Sponsor Spranger

### **University of Colorado Boulder**

Ariel Feucht

### **University of Utah**

Augustin Sell



# 40 YEARS...AND COUNTING.

It's all in the science.

by: Chelsea McKay, Marketing Coordinator



There has been a steady presence in the Science Wing for 40 years at SMSA. Teacher, Deb Sosinski. As a young girl, Deb spent her childhood “growing up country” and immersed herself in everything outdoors. She spent her days finding flowers along hedgerows and fence lines and enjoyed a welcome snack of a green pepper from her father’s very robust garden. Her grandmother would take her near the marsh to look for marigolds and when the time was right, trilliums. Deb’s seasons were always marked by outside events; hunting for asparagus in the spring, picking raspberries and blackberries in summer and gathering hickory nuts in the fall.

She attended a two-room schoolhouse for the first three years of her education. Deb remembers her classes were very small and she just adored her teachers and always loved what they did. She knew she wanted to spend her life helping people. At first, she pursued an education in nursing and it just didn’t feel right. Deb then switched her major to biology and her minor to secondary education and everything just clicked, her calling was to be a teacher.

High school science was always her dream, but Deb was very excited to begin her career at St. Mary’s Middle School, after being hired by Sr. Jane Kraus, teaching 7th and 8th grade science and math. Later on, when FACES was formed, she taught 8th grade science and language arts. After 17 years of teaching at the 8th grade level, Deb was offered to teach high school biology!

When asked if she had any unforgettable moments during her teaching career, she recalled one in particular about an iguana named, Angus. Deb explained, “When I first came to the high school, I inherited an iguana as the class pet. I was not fond of the little guy, but the students loved to take him out and play with him on the lab desks. They would also let him wander around the room during class. One day I was lecturing and Angus jumped at me and started running up my leg. I started screaming hysterically and frantically kicking my leg around trying to get the thing off. The students were laughing so hard they were literally falling out of their chairs!”



Top: Deb celebrates homecoming with fellow teacher, Nicole Storey.

Bottom: Deb enjoys a waterfall in Ireland with high school faculty, Kathy Bartel and Tammi Burkart.

As the years passed, Deb fell more in love with teaching. She has also enjoyed the time spent with them outside of the classroom. She recalls taking class trips to Milwaukee Brewer games, Great America, service days at Easter Seals Camp Waubeek, music trips (especially Ireland), Wisconsin Dells, hiking in the Horicon Marsh, visiting the Genetics Lab at UW Madison, behind the scenes tours at the Milwaukee County Museum and exploring the plants at the Olbrich Botanical Gardens, just to name a few.

Outside of her dedication to the classroom, Deb has also involved herself with Key Club (advisor for 15 years), March of Dimes, Children’s Miracle Network, UNICEF and Loaves and Fishes (since the beginning...around 35 years). She was also on the team that started the annual Elves R’ Us event. She has been awarded the Outstanding Key Club Advisor of the Year for the Wisconsin-Upper Michigan District, Kohl Teacher Fellowship as well as Teacher of the Year recipient from SMSA!

At home, Deb enjoys gardening, camping, biking, reading and knitting/crocheting. Just like when she was a young girl in the country, she still finds comfort in the outdoors. When asked if she had advice for her students, she always tells them, “Don’t wish your life away and create good memories in each day.” As for Deb, no word on retirement. She just plans on creating good memories each day.

Help us celebrate  
Mrs. Sosinski’s milestone!

Make a donation today  
in her honor at  
[smsacademy.org/donate](https://smsacademy.org/donate).

You can even leave her a  
note of appreciation!



# CLASS NOTES

## Faculty/Staff Necrology

Colleen Kay Brady  
Dr. Rick Erickson

## 1940's

**Pat Blewett '47** tells us he has many happy memories of Life on the Ledge including Latin with Sr. M. Agnes Therese (SMAT) and math and physics with Sr. M. Imogene.

## 1940's Necrology

Michael Gerred '40  
(One of the first two male  
graduates at St. Mary's Springs Academy)  
Dorothy Ellen Fitzgerald Tremblay '44  
Evelyn Frances Braun '45  
Catherine (Goebel) Petrie '45  
Evelyn (Marcoe) Giese '47  
Rita Loehr '48  
Robert Mackenzie '48  
Anna Marie (Balthazor) Whealon '48  
Doris (Thome) Duwell '49  
Evangeline "Evie" (Haensgen) Fritz '49  
Howard "Red" Heimerman '49  
Diane (Wirtz) Warner '49

## 1950's

**John Johnson '51** proudly states that he is a Minnesota Vikings Fan! He and his wife Celeste are blessed with four children, eight grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

**Mary Louise (Kirk) Broske '52** sadly reports that her husband passed away in 2019. In spring of 2019 she gathered with several friends from SMSA at a lake home. They all had a great weekend filled with lots of talk and laughter.

**Evelyn Krail Siegrist '52** is living in Landsdowne Woods, an over 55 year community in Leesburg, Virginia and loving it. Three of her four children live nearby and she's grateful to have seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. In 2020 she planned on cruising with friends in the Caribbean as well as traveling for two weeks in Europe, ending in Germany.

**Vincent Piazzizi '54** and his wife Carole state that "Thanks to God's Blessings our family has really grown!" They have three sons, one daughter, 13 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren. Vincent and Carole live in California while the rest of their family lives in Arizona, Florida and California.

**Donald Pitzen '54** offers congratulations to his classmates who celebrated their 65th class reunion in 2019. It was great event, with a great crowd, planned by a great committee! May God bless all the chairpersons of this memorable class reunion.

**Barb Baldwin Neroni '55** tells us she and her husband Peter are proud to have four children, six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

**Patricia Prellwitz '57** continues to show her dogs traveling in her RV. She was honored to judge the Futurity Class of the Miniature Pinscher show in May. Additionally she has traveled to Alaska on a cruise ship and to Korea.

**Paul Runkel '59** continues to work as a self employed CPA-tax consultant. His wife **Judy (Schrage) '59** is still a hardworking homemaker, keeping Paul in line! They have two wonderful sons and two beautiful grandchildren. One is off to college and the other is a senior in high school.

## 1950's Necrology

Mary (Leonard) Seibel-Dobyns '51  
Patrick O'Brien '52  
Dr. Edward Fox '53  
John Reichling '53  
Rose Mary Iva (Schmitt) Francis '54  
Joan (Snyder) Horne '55  
Janet Francis (Wagner) Kiltz '55  
Harvey Steffes '55  
Marilyn (McCullen) Huberty '56  
Terrence "Terry" Hintze '57  
John Kovarik '57  
Barbara Jean Glas '59  
Elizabeth "Betty" (Masilko) Hawley '59

## 1960's

**Rose (Konon) Winter '60** is still loving life in Florida after 28 years. She and her husband Tony are traveling all they can, while they can. They make it back to Wisconsin once each year - in the summer of course!

**Elizabeth Feldmann '62** is happily, blissfully, retired from being an RN. She is married with children and proud to be a grandparent of four.

**Lore (Giesler) Weber '62** retired in 2019 after 28 years of being a German Professor at the University of Notre Dame.

**Janet and John Coon III '62** are proud grandparents of SEVEN students at SMSA!

**Rita (Cartwright) Last '66** and her husband Bob are enjoying time with their seven grandkids and traveling. They are both involved at St. Bernard's Parish in Green Bay.



## 1960's Necrology

Kathleen Neumann '60  
Rita (Mand) Petrie '61  
Mary Ann (King) Vogds '61  
John P. Dobyns '62  
Robert Mendlesky '63  
Mary (Kees) Morgen '64  
Mary Sue Twohig '65  
Gerald Birschbach '66  
Dennis Heaney '66  
Mary Ellen Leonard '66  
Terrence Deer '68  
Jeffrey Passini '69

## 1970's

**Gary Birschbach '71** tells us that Catholic education led by the Sisters of St. Agnes has been an important influence in his life and thanks them for building the foundation of the person he is today.

**Dave Schmitz '73** lost his battle with cancer on 6/3/19. Son, **Tony '14** is taking over Schmitz's East Branch Dairy and son, **Aaron '16** graduated from UW Green Bay in spring of 2020 with a business degree and is also helping with the family business.

**Vicki Verbeten Strenski '74** has been living in the Green Bay area for over 30 years with her husband, Jeff. They have just become grandparents for the third time and it's "the best!" Her husband will soon retire but Vicki enjoys her part time receptionist job and isn't certain when she'll take that step.

**Suzanne "Sue" LaPlante '74** attended the 45th class reunion and said "It was so nice! Now everyone, donate \$45.00!"

**Dennis Schneider '75** is still working at the family business, Silica TV and Appliance, and is happy to say that all six of his grandchildren are now students at St. Mary's Springs Academy!

## 1970's Necrology

Margaret "Meg" Gores '70  
Mary Kelley (O'Brien) Fitzgerald '72  
Gary Hoerth '73  
Daniel Gallitz '75  
Amy (Gross) Bertram '77  
David Cook '78  
Julie (Perrizo) Mahnke '78

## 1980's

**Br. Steve Herro, O. Praem '81** is in his second year of the Spiritual Direction Preparation Program at the Franciscan Spirituality Center in La Crosse, WI.

**Pat Skalecki '87** was promoted to Vice President at GRAEF, a multi-disciplinary consulting architecture/engineering firm headquartered in Milwaukee. Pat is the Green Bay office Leader and Principal of the firm.

**Noelle Feucht '88** shares that she made the 2020 All American Trap Shooting Team.

## 1980's Necrology

Ann Marie Flood '84  
Shannon Lee (O'Grady) Bangert '86

## 1990's

**Amy (Ellestad) Conlon '93** is the Director of Research Administration at the UW Center for Tobacco Research and Intervention. Amy and her husband John are proud parents of Claire (10) and Jack (8).

**Jeff '95 and Connie '95 Coon** are proud they have three children currently attending SMSA: Sam '23, Grace '25 and Joey '27. Jeff is the owner of Stream Creative, a Milwaukee area marketing company and Connie is the Human Resources Director at C.D. Smith in Fond du Lac.

**Nici Colwin '96** received the 2019 Herb Kohl Educational Foundation Teacher Fellowship Award. This award is granted to those who exemplify great leadership skills, act as an agent for positive change and possess superior ability to inspire the love of learning.

## 2000's

**Steve Wagner '05** and wife Andrea proudly state that both of their children are currently attending SMSA. Cameron, class of 2031, and Jackson, class of 2034, are "Little Ledgers!"

**Meredith Medina Kahnke '05** and husband, Nick, welcomed their third child, Harrison Allen, on February 14, 2020. Big brother Kellan and big sister Joelle are very proud.

**Robert and Katie (Kemp) Tank '08** welcomed their son, Declan Robert Tank, in May 2020! Robert is a Production Supervisor at Mercury Marine and Katie works at SMSA.



Above: Welcome baby Harrison Allen Kahnke!



Above: Katie Tank '08 and Robert Tank '08 welcomed son, Declan, in May.

**We'd love to hear from you!**

Visit  
[smsacademy.org/alumniupdate](https://smsacademy.org/alumniupdate)  
to keep us posted on any news  
or contact information.





## JEANNA (GIESE) FRASSETTO '07

Jeanna with husband, Scot, and their children.

by: Chelsea McKay, Marketing Coordinator

Most of our Ledger community knows the extraordinary survival story of alumna, Jeanna (Giese) Frassetto '07. After being bitten by a rabid bat in 2004, Jeanna fell ill with the virus, and through the quick action of a doctor's experimental treatment (The Milwaukee Protocol), her strong will to survive, and by the grace of God, Jeanna survived this normally fatal virus, becoming the world's first known rabies survivor, without receiving a rabies vaccine. Jeanna has since traveled the world to educate others on the importance of the rabies vaccine.

### **You've been very busy since graduation! Where did you head after graduation? What did you go on to study? Which career path did you take?**

After I graduated from SMSA in May of 2007, I went on to college at Marian University that fall. After two and half years at Marian in the biology program, I transferred to Lakeland College to complete my Bachelor's Degree. I graduated in 2011 with a BA in biology. My original plan when I started college was to go on to school to become a veterinary technician, but I learned in my college classes that rabies had left my hands with the inability to do most maneuverable science (precise measurements, carrying of open containers of liquid, quick reaction, etc.) so I graduated with the degree and got jobs at boarding kennels, humane societies, other miscellaneous customer service jobs. My chosen career path was halted by my disabilities. I found jobs in animal care and customer service. I was great with customers and still got my "animal fix."

### **You've since married and become a mother....twice! Reflecting back, how excited were you, your family knowing another miracle was in the making, twin babies!**

I met my husband in 2012, we married in 2014, and had our girl-boy twins in 2016. They are a gift. It was shocking when we first found out we were having twins, but we couldn't be happier. In 2018 we had another son. It is such a blessing to have the three of them in our lives. I was blessed with the miracle of life first with my own surviving, and then again with each of my three children.



## **How excited were the twins when they found out another brother was on the way?**

My twins were so excited. My son would show his toy cars to my belly and my daughter would play “this little piggy” with her doll in preparation. They are terrific big siblings.

## **What do you find yourself up to nowadays? Any activities or hobbies that you enjoy?**

I am a stay-at-home mom, so my days are spent with my kids. I wouldn't have it any other way. I also currently have five Siberian Huskies that make up the Alpha Survivors Sled Dog Team. I race four of them in races all over the state in fall and winter. After rabies, the ability to play sports was almost completely stripped from me. But I discovered dog mushing in my college years, and that became part of me. Since surviving rabies I have had back surgery for a chronic problem, knee surgery, been diagnosed with Postural Orthostatic Tachycardia Syndrome and Central Positional Vertigo, plus the ongoing side effects of the disease. With all of that, being a wife, a mother and dog sledding still make up my entire life.

## **Spreading awareness about the rabies vaccination is a passion of yours. Where have you traveled and where can one find more information about the vaccination?**

Promoting rabies vaccinations in animals is a huge passion of mine. Rabies is 100% preventable through animal vaccination and human education. With that, I love telling my story and spreading the knowledge I have gained. I have spoken at schools, retreats, church groups, environmental groups, medical conferences, and more, in the US, Canada, and the Philippines. The information is retained so much better when it is heard from someone who has experience with it. For someone to find out the basic rabies info, I usually recommend [CDC.gov](http://CDC.gov), [WHO.int](http://WHO.int), and [rabiesalliance.org](http://rabiesalliance.org).

## **What takeaways do you have from SMSA?**

My survival would have been so different if I was not attending Springs. The acceptance and compassion that I received from the students and staff at the time was amazing. The support, both emotional and spiritual, created a camaraderie that I will never forget. Although I grew up in a Catholic home, attending a Christian school helped to develop my own faith and I attribute it to my refusal to give up.

## **What would your advice be to future graduates on following their passions and never giving up?**

If you hit a roadblock in your plan, create your own detour. Your final destination should always be your personal happiness. My life got shut down, my career goal got shut down, my future got shut down at age 15. At 31, I am happier than I ever could imagine because I altered my path. Never stop striving for your happiness.

The treatment used to save her life, The Milwaukee Protocol, has been used to save 10 other lives; two in the United States, four in Peru and one each in Columbia, Brazil, Chile and Qatar. The protocol places the patient in an induced coma to put symptoms on hold, protecting the brain, followed by administering antibacterial drugs combined with ketamine and amantadine.



Jeanna mushes with her four-legged companions.



Jeanna, center front, visits the Philippines to speak about the importance of rabies vaccinations.



# LIFE ON THE LEDGE.

2019 - 2020 student life.



We were very honored to have Brenna and her father at SMSA! The family was the recipient of our largest elementary service project, the Christmas card sale. We were very pleased to present them with a check in the amount of \$2,988.48 to help support her and her family as she continues to get stronger every day since being diagnosed with a brain tumor called, Medulloblastoma.



Students gathered together to make pies for Loaves and Fishes.



High school science students enjoyed a visit from, Jeanna Geise '07, the world's first un-vaccinated rabies survivor. She not only spoke of her survivor story, but shared with us her love of animals and passion to educate the world on the rabies virus and vaccinations.



Freshman and new high school students took part in the annual "Challenge Day." The day-long experience strengthens emotional safety and social relationships.



The varsity girls basketball team received the Division 4 Team Academic All-State from the Wisconsin Basketball Coaches Association! This is the 2nd year in a row that the girls have received the award. The team GPA was 3.95.



Campus Ministry Servant Leadership students hosted an All-System jeans day to support the Missionary Fraternity of Mary. Fr. Fabian is a Holy Family Associate Pastor and a Missionary Fraternity of Mary priest. We were able to raise \$2,351.92 to help support the mission of his order! Thank you to all who supported this great cause!





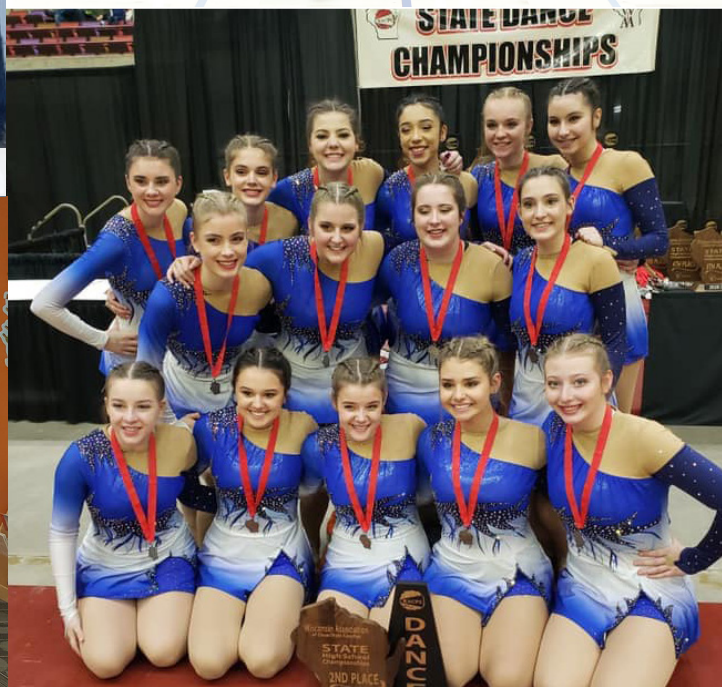
Junior Ledger Basketball Club 7th grade boys won the State title!



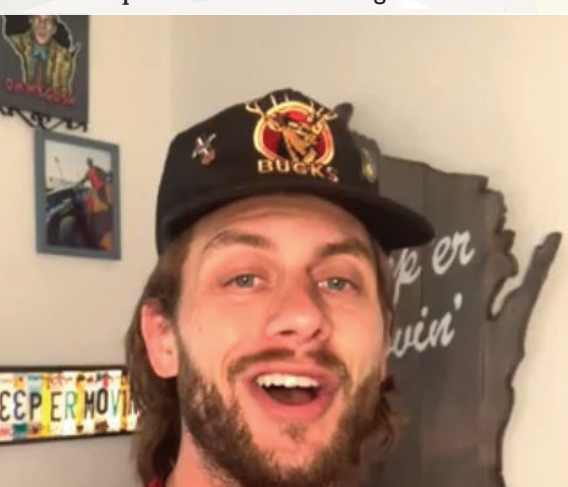
Our P3 and 4K classes explored a FdL Sheriff's Office squad car thanks to Sergeant Zitlow and Lieutenant Khankel!



Baker Gym was filled with music as the 4K students performed their Nativity rendition.



Congratulations to our dance team, they took 2nd at State!



## For St Mary's Springs Academy Class of 2020

❤️ 4

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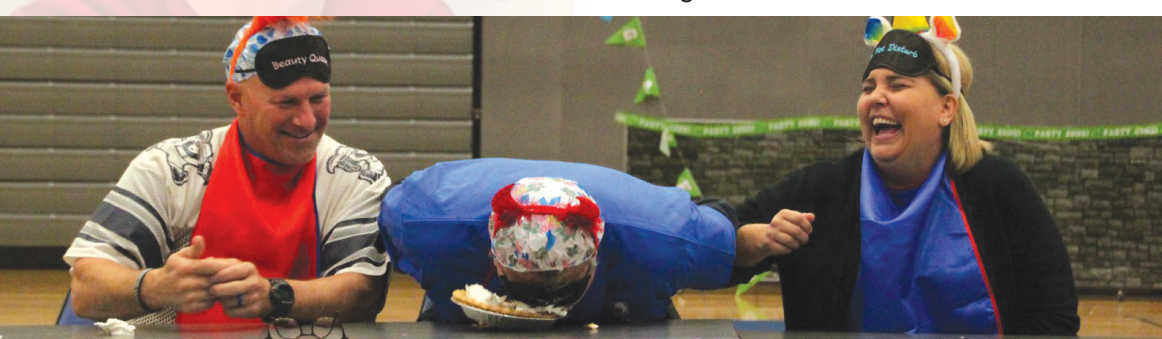


**Charlie Berens**

Youtuber

BOOK CHARLIE BERENS

Charlie Berens, host of the Manitowoc Minute, gave a shout out to our seniors.



9-12 Principal, Eamonn O'Keeffe, was tricked into an "annual" pie eating contest.



Seniors received their diplomas on the Ledge this summer.





Jacinta Emmer, Administrative Assistant, donates her wedding dress to the Angel Gown Project (run by 10 year old Naomi Ochs). Emily Hahn '23 lead the charge in gathering donated wedding gowns, which are turned into baby gowns for families at area hospitals who have sadly lost their baby.



Varsity football defeats an undefeated Regis Ramblers, bringing home their 17th State title.



Students from SMSA, Holy Land Catholic and Shepherd of the Hills bring up gifts at the Catholic Schools Week All-System Mass.



Fr. John LoCoco, Chaplain, blessed SMSA on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, when our patroness Saint, Mary, was conceived without original sin.



Students from Kathy Bartel's high school social studies homeroom prepared brown bagged lunches for those in need.



The 8th grade class ended the 27th year of Elves R' Us with 397 kids shopping! The money they made from the sales went towards a charity of their choice and their class trip. Thank you for the support from all the parents, staff and teachers who helped make this possible!





Varsity hockey becomes the State's first D2 State Champions in the sport, defeating Northland Pines 5-1.



26 SMSA students participated in the Flyway Conference Academic Bowl. Medals were awarded to the top two students in each of the 16 subjects in the areas of math, science, social studies and language arts.



Student Servant Leaders took part in their annual dog sledding field trip.



To celebrate Epiphany, the Feast of Three Kings, 3rd graders treated their fellow students and families to a play on the King's journey to Bethlehem!



Nine SMSA students competed in the math meet at Mayville high school. Zach Hahn '20 earned a first place medal and other high scorers were Bill Lee '20 and Victoria Gaertig '21.



Staff and Faculty hand delivered graduation caps and gowns to our 2020 seniors.



"Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that." -Martin Luther King, Jr. In celebration of MLK day, Catherine Abler's 7th graders cracked eggs with Amanda Cord's kindergarten class, teaching them what really matters is the inside, not the outside.

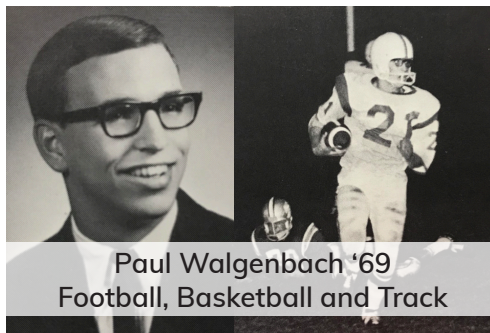


# ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME.

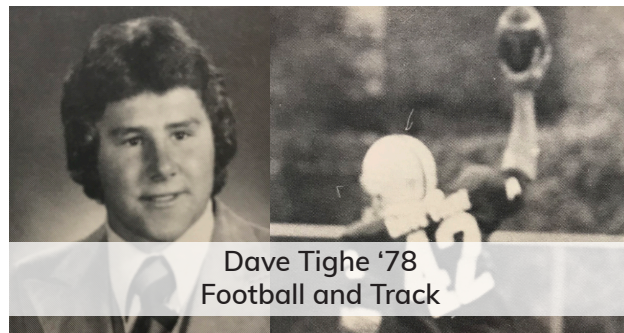
Tradition Never Graduates.

The 2020 Hall of Fame event was rescheduled this year due to COVID-19. The athletes below were set to be inducted on Saturday, October 3, 2020 and will now be honored and inducted in the 2021 event. Join us in congratulating them on their successes!

Watch your email and SMSA's Facebook page for information on the 2021 event or visit [smsacademy.org/ahof](https://smsacademy.org/ahof). Not receiving our emails? Visit, [smsacademy.org/alumniupdate](https://smsacademy.org/alumniupdate), to get on our contact list.



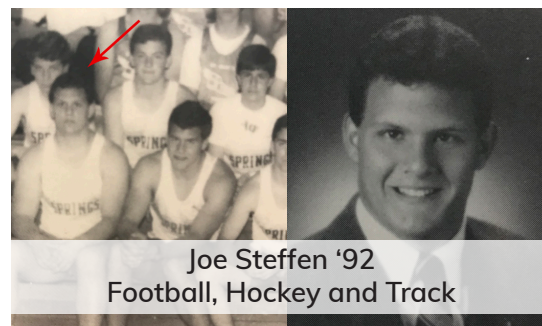
Paul Walgenbach '69  
Football, Basketball and Track



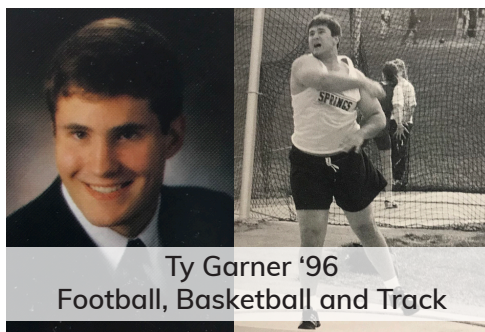
Dave Tighe '78  
Football and Track



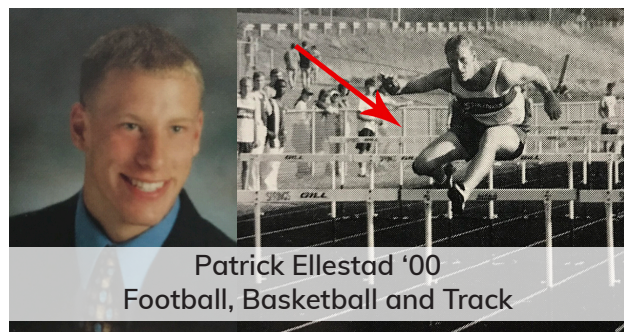
Julie (Pickart) Riese † '78  
Volleyball (player & coach), Basketball and Track



Joe Steffen '92  
Football, Hockey and Track



Ty Garner '96  
Football, Basketball and Track



Patrick Ellestad '00  
Football, Basketball and Track



The Honored 2004 State Champion 4x100 Boys' Relay Team  
From Left: Matt Birschbach '04, Nathan Derks '05, Kevin Kocos '04 and Keegan O'Hearn '04



# ONE GAME AT A TIME.

Since 1971, Celebrating Bob Hyland's 50th Season.

by: Chelsea McKay, Marketing Coordinator



Bob stands with his parents, Betty† and Bob† at State.



Bob sitting with his daughter, Molly '94, at the office.



Bob instructs his son, Rob '92, on the field.

**Bob Hyland.** The name immediately resonates mental images of celebrating, hoisting trophies, and faces stretched wide with smiles of happiness. Most high school students dream of these experiences when cheering on their hometown team; the Ledgers have been living it for decades. SMSA football has come from a not so intimidating place in high school sports, to being revered and loathed in our local communities all while under the same, hard-nosed, coaching style.

Shortly after graduating from North Dakota State, as a very accomplished football player himself, Bob Hyland moved to the Fond du Lac area with his wife, Carol, and began his search for a high school football coaching position. In 1971, Bob took the reins of a not so successful football program, ending his first two years with a record of 1-15-2. Bob was very adamant that he needed just four years to make this program successful. Well, like clockwork four years later, Bob true to his word, led the Ledgers to the State Championship in '75, '76, '77 and '78. Those four back-to-back years sent the Ledgers home with 2nd place trophies and in 1983, the Ledgers won their first State title and repeated the following year shutting out their opponents in both games. In total, he has won 33 Conference Championship titles, 9 State runner-up titles and 17 State Championship titles. He is celebrated as the most winningest high school football coach in Wisconsin history, with 478 wins, and stands strong as the 3rd most winningest active high school football coach in the Nation.

Now, if you were to read Bob those first couple paragraphs, he would more than likely wave his hand at you and say something like, "It's not about me, it's about my players." He always kept them center stage and made it known that, "The players put in the work, they've always worked hard to be the best they can be." As for the attitude of his players, well, if you ask current and/or former players about their experiences, they all seem to say the same thing, "It was always one game at a time, we're still 0-0." It's that humble, level headedness, that many of his former players say they carry with them today. Yes, they were coached and driven to play the nearly mistake free football we have all become accustomed to watching, but hidden behind the routes, the plays and the training, they were also unknowingly being molded into well-rounded and grounded adults.

Even though Bob's upcoming 50th season is far from what we all were anticipating, there is no doubt that he and his Ledgers will be ready once the season starts. Great coaches have the ability to be successful regardless of all matters of adversity, and we're just over here smiling, because our coach is Bob Hyland.

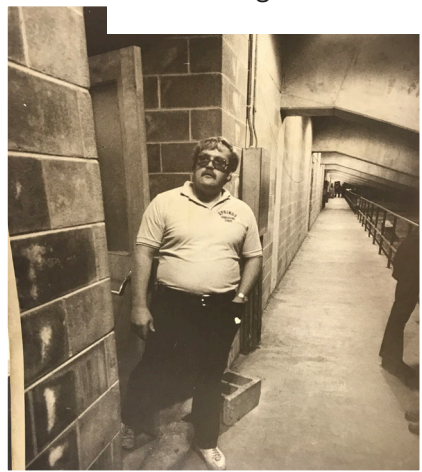


1971



Coach explains game strategy to Tom Hauer '72 during his first year coaching.

Hyland heads out of the locker room at Mansfield Stadium-Madison after winning his first State Championship.

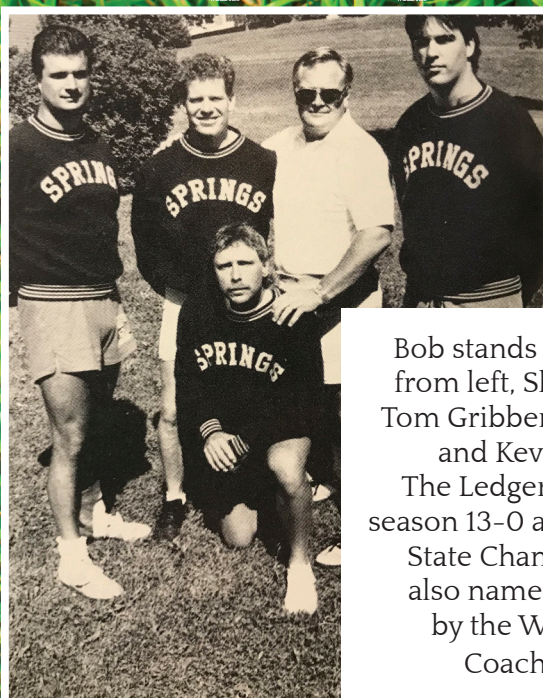


1983



Celebrating 20 years coaching! SMSA takes on the Tritons from Green Bay Notre Dame in the 1992 homecoming game.

1991



Bob stands with fellow coaches, from left, Shawn O'Laughlin '75, Tom Gribben, Blaine Toshner† '84 and Keven Grunwald '85. The Ledgers ended the regular season 13-0 and went on to win the State Championship. Bob was also named Coach of the Year by the Wisconsin Football Coaches Association.

1992



2022?



No official comments on what the future holds for Coach, we're just taking it one game at a time.

2019



Hyland wins his 17th State Championship and his 33rd Conference Championship. He was also named Coach of the Year by the Wisconsin High School Sports Awards.



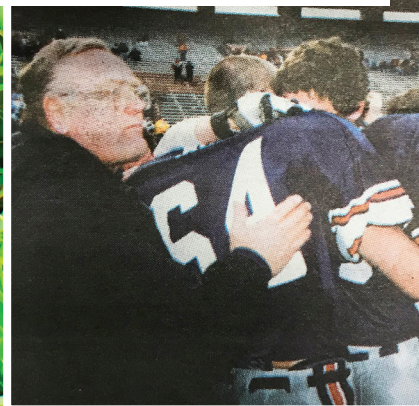
Coach Hyland reached 400 victories on August 22, defeating Sheboygan Falls 30-7. The Ledgers went on to win another State Championship, for the 13th time.

2014

The Ledgers defeat Hilbert 16-14 to win SMSA's first WIAA State Championship. In total, it was the school's 9th State title at the helm of Coach Hyland.



2002





# Construction Season Coming to the Ledge



In late 2017, the State of Wisconsin announced plans to make improvements to Highway 23, spanning from Highway 151 in Fond du Lac to Sheboygan County. These road improvements, which will begin in our area in spring 2021, include the addition of overpasses, frontage roads and on and off ramps. In order to make all of this happen, expansion of land along Highway 23 was necessary, resulting in the State purchasing a few acres of land from St. Mary's Springs Academy!

Based on preliminary plans, we stand to lose our current baseball and softball fields, as well as a practice field, and the discus and shot-put area. County Road K is being relocated through the backside of our parking lot, resulting in a loss of the current concession stand and bleachers that serve the football field. We will also need to slightly move our north parking lot and relocate our retention pond. We will not, however, need to move our track or football field!

In an effort to be good stewards of our resources, we engaged in conversation with Marian University, and will be partnering with them for use of Smith Field (soccer field) and Herr-Baker Field (baseball and softball diamond). The current school year will end in mid-May, allowing construction to take place in the late spring and summer months. During this time, the

north parking lot will be moved and attached to the campus, eliminating the need for students to cross County Road K.

As many of you know, Fruth Field has had recent issues with flooding causing the field to be too wet on which to play. As a result, we have had to move games to North Fond du Lac and Lomira in order to play football. This, coupled with the highway reconstruction project and COVID-19 pushing fall athletics to spring 2021, provided a unique opportunity to put artificial turf on the existing football field, right here at SMSA! This will allow 5-8th grade, freshman, JV, and varsity football to practice and play, and gym classes to take place, without compromising the integrity of the field, and allow us to host regional WIAA track and field events.

At this time, we are not installing lights, a new scoreboard, new bleachers, bathrooms, etc., but hope that one day we will be able to do so!

To view a time-lapse and real-time updates on the artificial turf installation, visit: [smsacademy.org/turf](https://smsacademy.org/turf).



Plans include a relocated parking lot, relocated shot-put and discus fields, long and triple jump, a pole vault pit, and a turf field.





# JUST KEEP PEDALING

by: Megan McGalloway '20

Halfway through my Sophomore year of high school, I attended a dental leadership conference in San Antonio, Texas known as Crown Council. This conference brings leading dental personnel together for the betterment of their practice. Every year on the first night of the conference, they prepare a team-building exercise revolving around a local or global charity. For the next hour, the entirety of the conference attendees (about 1000 people) began the year's project: building bikes for the Boys and Girls (BGC) Club of San Antonio. Through teamwork and leadership, the group put together 136 bikes and donated them to this cause.

This experience inspired me to bring this idea back to Fond du Lac. I brought this big idea, scaled back a bit, to Mrs. Tammi Burkart, SMSA Student Services Support, who then wanted to get it started as soon as possible! We began brainstorming at the beginning of my junior year, getting in touch with the Boys and Girls Club of Fond du Lac. We kept working out the logistics of this idea, trying to incorporate every last bit of leadership and service into it that we could.

The months flew by and soon enough it was my senior year. We were finally ready to put our plan to action and begin fundraising. With the help of many student volunteers who sold Honeypots at sporting events and sold Faris Popcorn during lunch, we began to raise money for the bikes. We planned on working with freshman leadership to have them assemble the bikes, allowing them to practice their leadership skills through a hands-on approach. Just when we were

ready to begin the actual assembly of the bikes, an unfortunate turn of events occurred. Our in-person school year was cut short due to COVID-19. This put the bike project on hold for a while, but Mrs. Burkart and I rolled with the punches and found new ways to make this project happen.

The bike project was finally able to be completed during the 2020-2021 school year. Unfortunately, I was not able to be there to watch the actual assembly of the bikes since I am now in college, but I'm happy that it was able to be completed nonetheless. As of September 2020, a number of our bikes were assembled by numerous SMSA students and delivered to the BGC!

This project was very important to me because the BGC is such an asset to the Fond du Lac community. They provide so much support to children and teens in the Fond du Lac area, helping them thrive in all aspects of life. To be able to contribute to the well-being of this Club and the children in it, is an amazing gift. I am so grateful for all of the students, faculty, parents, and supporters of SMSA who helped make this project possible!

A special thank you to Donovan McGalloway '23 and Ben Fouch '20, who helped me carry out this project in all aspects. Finally, the bike project would not have been possible without the help of Mrs. Burkart. Her positive attitude helped us overcome so many obstacles and breathed life into our ideas. Mrs. Burkart's constant love for SMSA and the Fond du Lac community does not go unnoticed and I am so grateful to have had her working right next to me throughout this project.



Students added an extra challenge of blindfolding themselves and tying one hand behind their back, while building the bikes.



# Can't Miss Events.

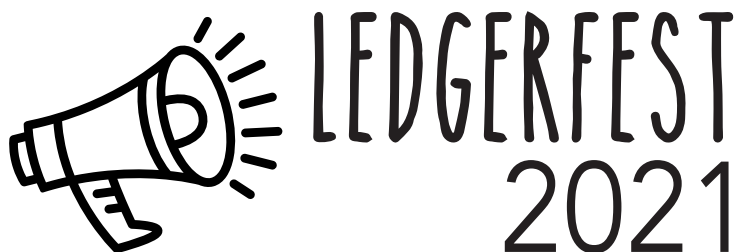
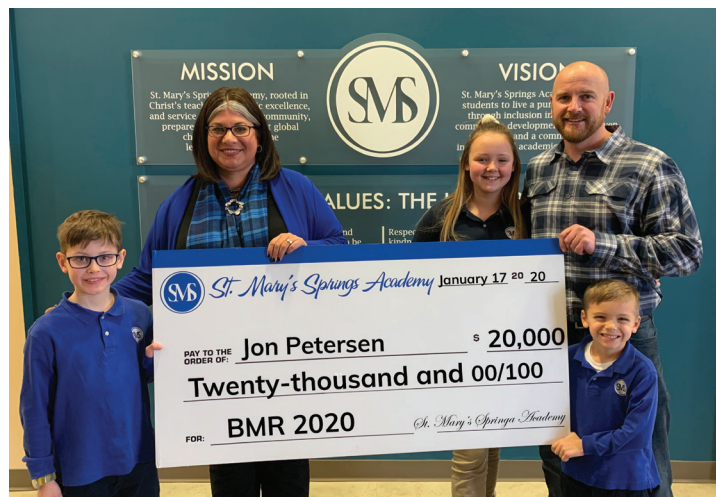
For a full list of events, please visit  
[smsacademy.org/events](https://smsacademy.org/events)



**Friday, January 22, 2021**

What would you do with \$20,000!?  
Purchase your tickets today!

Visit [www.smsacademy.org/BMR](https://www.smsacademy.org/BMR)



**Information Coming Soon!**

Please watch your email and mailbox for  
information on Ledgerfest 2021!

Visit [www.smsacademy.org/ledgerfest](https://www.smsacademy.org/ledgerfest)



**Friday, July 30, 2021**

Save the date for this fun summer event!

Not a golfer? Not a problem! Join us in the  
evening for dinner and entertainment.

Visit [www.smsacademy.org/SFS](https://www.smsacademy.org/SFS)







# Report on GIVING



Katie (Kemp) Tank '08  
Chief Development Officer

Typically, I would use this space to provide you with an update on the previous fiscal year, highlight our financial performance, and share stories of how your dollars have impacted students.

But this is no typical year.

In March 2020, along with the rest of the nation, we found ourselves struggling, facing extreme uncertainty and relying on our faith more than ever. There were a lot of new challenges demanding our attention, time, and financial resources.

Through all the chaos, thanks to the hard work and generosity of so many, the 2019-2020 fiscal year, ending June 30th, was one of our most impactful yet! Because of you, we were able to meet and exceed fundraising goals, provide increased assistance, align resources to System needs, and implement several strategic initiatives.

Upon reflecting back on a successful fiscal year, and looking ahead to the challenges of operating in a pandemic, SMSA leadership chose to prioritize two items above all else.

- Continue to serve all our students, providing an excellent Catholic education in a safe and comfortable environment, whether in-person or virtual
- Keep all of our staff and faculty employed

A decrease in the financial contributions from our largest annual donor, coupled with COVID-19 creating

volatility in enrollment and unexpected expenses, has resulted in much uncertainty on the Ledge. In an effort to be financially responsible, we applied for and received Payroll Protection through the federal CARES Act. This has provided significant financial relief and without this, the expense of our greatest asset, our people, would've been too great to absorb. This experience magnifies just how important you, our loyal supporters, continue to be in delivering an excellent Catholic education.

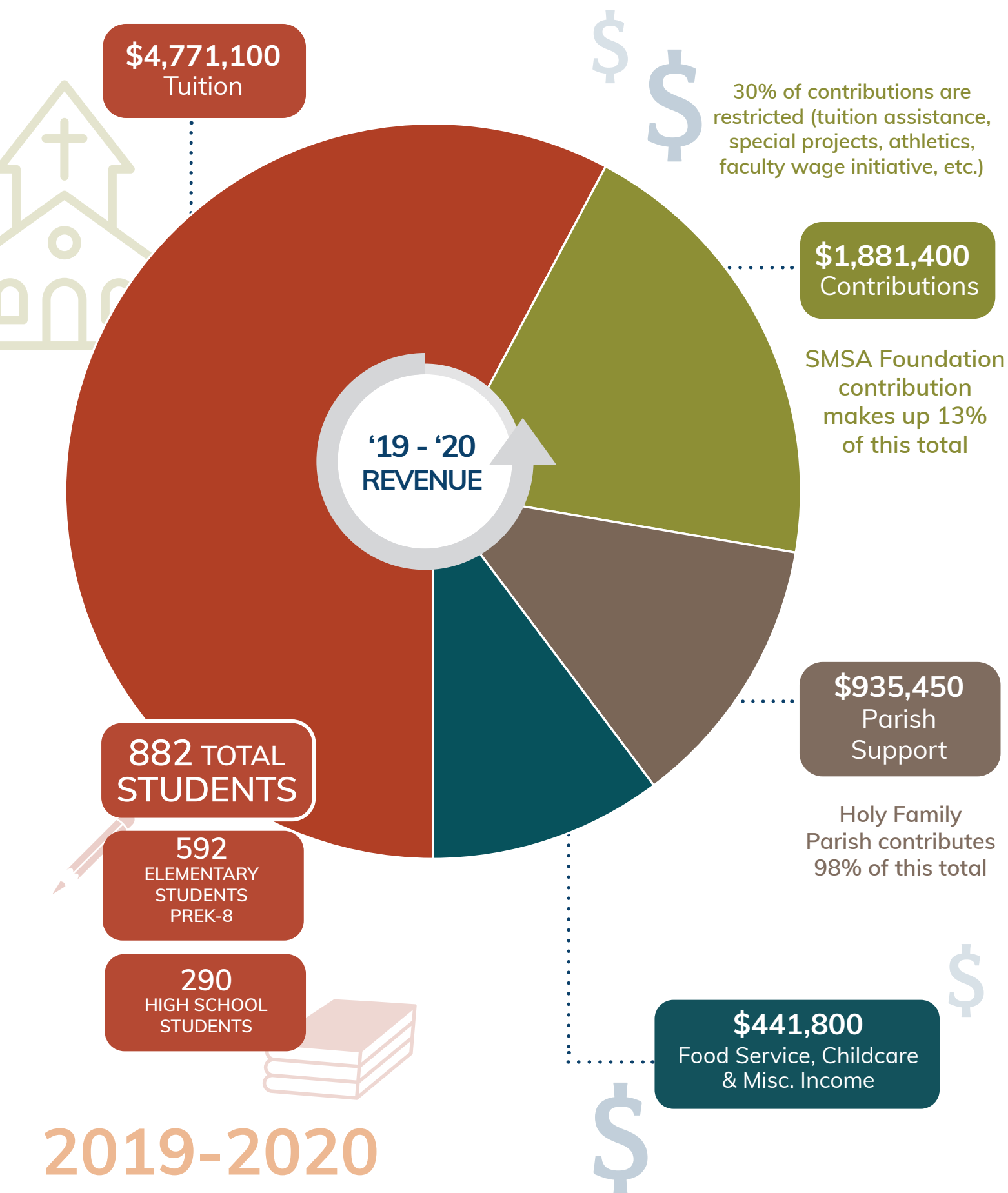
Ledger Nation is remarkable, as an alumna, I have always known that. But, the unwavering dedication of our invested donors, the outpouring of support, prayers, and the flexibility of our staff and faculty during this difficult time has truly embodied our Catholic mission and commitment to living the Ledger Way. I am inspired each and every day by the resilience and faith our Ledger community continues to display.

Before COVID-19 we had needs and aggressive plans to achieve excellence in all that we do. Although this pandemic has altered our school year, it has not changed our needs or our plans. Because of your continued generosity, we have been able to remain steadfast in our commitment to provide all students with an excellent Catholic education and keep all of our staff and faculty employed. Thank you for continuously answering the call and rising to the needs of our students and teachers!

I am truly blessed to be called a Ledger alongside you.

Katie (Kemp) Tank '08  
Chief Development Officer





# 2019-2020 REVENUE



# 2019-2020 EXPENSES

**\$300,900**  
Tuition Assistance

not including students on  
the voucher program (108)  
and special needs  
scholarship program (43)



**99% OF OUR  
STUDENTS**

who apply for  
financial aid  
receive it.

**\$1,100,400**  
Utilities, Maintenance,  
Food Service & Misc.

**\$567,800**  
Educational &  
Administrative  
Supplies & Fees

**\$54,700**  
Loan & Capital  
Lease Payments

**\$159,900**  
Development &  
Marketing

**'19 - '20  
EXPENSES**

**\$5,298,600**  
Payroll & Benefits

This makes up  
86% of the  
System's total  
expenses (excluding  
depreciation)



**125 STAFF &  
Faculty Members**





# 2019-2020 ANNUAL REPORT DONORS CIRCLES

This report represents  
new pledges and new gifts  
made between July 1, 2019  
and June 30, 2020.

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**\$10,000 +**

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Jeff and Kelly Baker  
Baker Family Foundation  
Sharon (Moser) Bell  
Mr. and Mrs. Donald Cayen  
Fischer Foundation  
Fond du Lac Area Foundation -  
Harold L. Sabel Fund  
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Marlys and Dr. John Welsch

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Fond du Lac Area Foundation -  
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Fond du Lac Area Foundation -  
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The Brunmeier Family  
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Daughters of Isabella Circle #360  
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 Ullenberg Law Offices SC  
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 Mr. and Mrs. Richard J. Volz  
 Wells Fargo Advisors-  
 Mid Town Fond du Lac  
 Steve and Agata Will  
 John and Michelle Wilson

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 Mrs. Mary Abler  
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#### SECOND CENTURY CAMPAIGN

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**Visit [smsacademy.org/donate](https://smsacademy.org/donate)  
to make your impact today!**

### Your Legacy Lives On. Endowment Funds Make it Possible.

Ledger alumnus, Jim Marcoe, loved St. Mary's Springs Academy. And 72 years after he graduated, that love resulted in a \$3.8 million endowment gift. Per the wishes of the Marcoe's trust, SMSA was named as the designated beneficiary of an endowment fund to support tuition assistance, helping to make a Catholic education affordable to all families.

This legacy gift is invested in the Jim and Jackie Marcoe Fund, and each year will provide SMSA with what is historically a 3-5% return, while the original \$3.8 million continues to grow.

The Marcoe's recognized the indelible impact their life's work could have on the students, staff and faculty at SMSA. A gift of this magnitude provides significant resources over the lifetime of the Academy and we are incredibly grateful.

#### How does this gift provide resources over the lifetime of the Academy?

An endowment fund is designed to keep the original investment intact, while only drawing off a percentage of the interest earned! For this reason, endowment funds are some of the most effective and far-reaching, as they support the Academy into eternity and continue to make an impact long after the gift is made.

#### en-dow-ment *noun* \in-daŭ-mənt\:

an investment fund established by a foundation that makes consistent withdrawals from invested capital, but never touches the capital.



Jim '48 and Jackie Marcoe designated SMSA as the beneficiary of a \$3.8 million endowment fund in which the Academy draws, on average, 3-5% off the interest into perpetuity to make an SMSA education affordable for all!



# 2019-2020 Foundation Report



ST. MARY'S SPRINGS  
Academy  
FOUNDATION

## INVEST TODAY. INSPIRE TOMORROW.

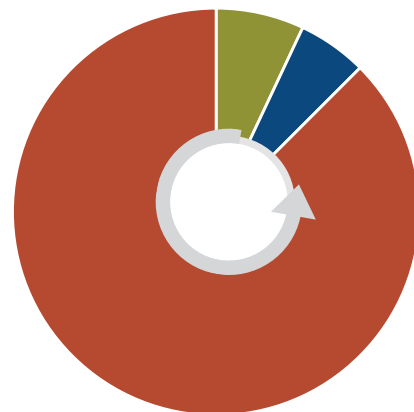
The St. Mary's Springs Academy Foundation is responsible for managing the System's endowment funds - totaling nearly \$6.5 million in assets. Total funds distributed to SMSA for all funds managed by the Foundation for use in the 2020-2021 academic year was **\$290,589**.



"A Catholic education is one of the greatest gifts that we can provide future generations. Endowment gifts are essential to assure that SMSA continues to be able to offer its unique education experience well into the future. What a wonderful legacy gift to strive for!"

-Jim '60 and Kathy Simon

Learn more at [smsacademy.org/foundation](https://smsacademy.org/foundation) or contact Katie (Kemp) Tank '08, Chief Development Officer, at 920-322-8011.



Total Assets Allocated as of  
December 31, 2019

■ System Operations  
■ Professional Development  
■ Tuition Assistance

## SMSA Foundation Current Named Endowment Funds

### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Barbara & John Lent Family Fund  
Caroline Elizabeth Fessler Memorial Fund  
Colwin/Klumpyan Faculty & Staff Enhancement  
Roblee Family Fund

### SYSTEM OPERATIONS

James & Kathleen Simon Operational Fund  
John J. O'Brien Memorial Fund  
Joseph G. & Anna Schubiger Estate  
Mary Lou Smith Estate  
Mary Theresa (Hefter) Bleck Memorial Fund

### TUITION ASSISTANCE

Albert & Helen Zeleske Memorial Scholarship  
Anonymous Fund  
Arlene & William Nett Family Scholarship  
Aschenbrenner Family Scholarship  
August M. & Mildred K. Hilbert Scholarship Fund  
Barbara & John Lent Fund  
Birschbach Family Fund  
Bob & Carol Hyland Fund  
Charles & Dorothy Gnewuch Memorial  
Scholarship Fund  
Clarence & Elizabeth Rozek Family Scholarship  
C.S.A Scholarship  
Dale R. & Ruth Michels Family Scholarship  
David & Mildred Tack Family Scholarship Fund  
Delores B. Ecker Memorial Scholarship  
Derek Wieland Memorial Scholarship Fund  
Donald & Carol Schneider Memorial Scholarship Fund  
Dorothy M. Guelig Scholarship Fund

Dottie & Jim Keenan Family Scholarship  
Doug Tighe Memorial Scholarship Fund  
Dr. Ewald & Dorothy Pawsat Scholarship  
Dr. Richard Haskett Family Scholarship  
Edmund & Margaret Phillips Scholarship Fund  
Elizabeth C. (Lotzer) & George W. Waehler  
Memorial Scholarship  
Emily Jane Becker Scholarship  
Eunice Hogan Memorial Scholarship  
Florian & Jane Koll Frazier Scholarship Fund  
Francis & Phyllis Baker Scholarship Fund  
Frank & Mary Ann Austin Family Trust  
Scholarship Fund  
Frank Nett Memorial Scholarship Fund  
Frank Shea Scholarship Fund  
Fr. George Gibbons Scholarship Fund  
Fr. Pat Heppe Scholarship Fund  
Fr. Raymond Fox Memorial Scholarship Fund  
Fr. Vic Capriolo Memorial Scholarship Fund  
Gary & Janet Smith Scholarship  
George & Claire Hutter Scholarship Fund  
Gerald Simon Endowed Scholarship  
Gormican Family Scholarship  
Harriet Huber Valedictorian Scholarship Fund  
Holy Family Congregation Scholarship Fund  
Huettl Family Scholarship  
Hutter Family Scholarship  
James J. Sexton Scholarship  
James & Kathleen Simon Scholarship Fund  
J. F. Ahern Foundation Fund  
Joe Bird Scholarship Fund  
John T. & Elizabeth Boyle Memorial Scholarship  
John & Susan Ahern Family Scholarship

Joseph Freund & Edwin Freund  
Joseph G. & Anna Schubiger Scholarship Fund  
Joseph Van Horn Scholarship Fund  
Josephine A. Kegel Scholarship  
Lorraine M. (Goebel) Wirth Memorial  
Scholarship Fund  
Louis G. & Mary Zacherl Scholarship  
Luke R. Martin Scholarship  
Marlys & John Welsch Endowed Fund  
Mary Lou Smith Scholarship Fund  
Mary O'Rourke Memorial Scholarship  
Massick Family Scholarship Fund  
Matt McCullough Memorial Scholarship  
Matthew Rapp Scholarship  
Michael & Dolores Korb Memorial Fund  
Miles R. Phalen Memorial Scholarship  
Nathan Overton Scholarship  
National Exchange Bank & Trust & American Bank  
Richard J. Kerch Memorial Scholarship  
Roger Korinek Scholarship Fund  
Rose Haensgen Memorial Scholarship Fund  
Ruth & Cletus Schneider Scholarship  
Schneider Family  
Sr. Deb Golias Scholarship  
Sr. Evangeline Kodric Memorial Scholarship Fund  
Sr. Michaela O'Brien Scholarship Fund  
Steve & Kay Victor Fund  
Sylvester & Lucille Haensgen Scholarship Fund  
The Father Gehl Scholarship  
The Sukawaty Family Scholarship  
Tom & Doris Gilles Scholarship Fund  
Vernon & Margaret Kuen Memorial Scholarship  
William J. Gores Memorial Scholarship





# WE'VE BEEN HERE BEFORE

by: Kassie Kelnhofer '22

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to rage around us at St Mary's Springs Academy, we are reminded of the influenza pandemic of 1918-1919 (also called the Spanish Flu) that heavily affected our school so many years ago and of the Sisters of St. Agnes, who bravely accepted the challenge to continue teaching despite the risks. The mission of servant leadership and perseverance through hardships with faith and trust, one of the core values of the Congregation of the Sisters of Saint Agnes, still lives in and guides the Ledger Way today during the challenges of COVID-19, just as it did for the Sisters more than a century ago. Together, this dedication represents the enduring commitment to Catholic education both then and now.

Just as we experienced last spring, during the Spanish Flu pandemic, the schools and churches were temporarily shut down to minimize the spread of this dangerous illness. And, just as we have done for the beginning of this academic year, St. Mary's Springs Academy reopened its doors the fall of 1918 to welcome back its students. The school was not left untouched by the Spanish Flu; by December 9, 1919, thirty students and four sisters had fallen ill. However, faith, and the drive to continue to provide a Catholic education for young girls, kept the school running. As we see evident on the Ledger, past, present, and future reflect the ongoing dedication to enlighten young minds while instilling Christian values, even in the face of a pandemic.

Then as now, the determination to provide face-to-face in-person learning was and is possible due to important precautions, including data tracking, quarantine, face masks, and disinfection procedures that help to keep faculty, staff and students safe and healthy. As we continue forward, there will certainly be challenges; however, there will also be our faith to guide us, perseverance to inspire us, and our foundation in the core values of the Sisters of St. Agnes that remind us of the true meaning and importance of a Catholic education.

In both situations, the staff of St Mary's Springs Academy worked tirelessly to keep the face-to-face learning available for each student and to keep all students healthy. In the future, our school will continue to do just that and educate young minds. Our faith will continue to provide a light in this trying time, continuing the mission of St. Mary's Springs Academy.



Above, Left: Students and sisters at St. Mary's Springs Academy, 1910s.  
Right: Students get their temperatures checked before entering the classroom, 2020.



# CHAPLAIN CHAT.

SMSA Chaplain, Fr. John LoCoco.



## PARADISE LOST, PARADISE FOUND

In the 17th century epic poem, *Paradise Lost*, the English poet John Milton immediately follows his prologue with a description of Satan, lying next to Beelzebub, chained on a lake of fire. Sent forth from heaven for the sin of pride, his corruption is complete; self-assured by his own plan, Lucifer remains stubbornly opposed to the Lord. Undeterred, the fallen angel bitterly proclaims, "Better to reign in Hell than serve in Heaven." This excessive self-regard in the face of his own punishment truly illustrates why pride is the deadliest of sins.

Nobody can deny that this has been a difficult year. The virus has not only taken lives – a tragedy, no doubt – but it has taken our freedom, our fellowship, and our sense of the familiar. In the midst of such uncertainty, we have all been tempted towards undue self-determination, a fixation with problem solving and reorienting ourselves by our own merit. While perhaps a solution for our age, this response is nothing but spiritually destructive.

Satan rejected Heaven. He would not have it, except by his own terms. But as the psalmist recounts, "For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than live in the tents of wickedness (Ps. 84:10). We are made for Him, yet we want Him on our terms. But His thoughts are not our thoughts, His ways not our ways (Isaiah 55:8)."

At Christmas, we celebrate the beautiful mystery of the Incarnation, God made man. He comes to us, to love and redeem us, not by our own understanding but by His plan. The fullness of life we have been called to is predicated upon a certain detachment – from our sin, from our pride, from our ways – so that we might learn to follow Him to our heavenly home.





St. Mary's Springs Academy  
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