



Season Preview: Boys Basketball

Emmitt Huhn

After winning three conference championships in a row, the boys basketball team had a disappointing year last season, finishing with a total of 13 wins and 13 losses - their worst record since the 2019-20 season. Last year came to a close in a 102-80 loss to Kohler in Division 4 Regionals.

The Ledgers' roster will look mostly the same this time around, but with a few key additions and a lot of improvement. Three- year varsity player John Coon (13 points per game) is a pivotal loss, but the team will add 6'8" forward Emmitt Huhn. Emmitt was

required to play on the JV team last year due to a school transfer. After averaging 7.1 rebounds per game advantage over their opponents last season, the solid play near the basket will only improve. Another key addition is guard Joey Coon. The sophomore played JV last year and hopes to consistently spend time in the varsity rotation. Coach Kyle Krueger enters his 26th season as head coach, and 36th year involved in coaching. "We will be doing some different things this season to try and utilize the skills and abilities of our roster," says Krueger.

The team returns a handful of starters from last year's squad, most notably leading scorer Noah Moul (17 points per game), who looks to continue his strong play to earn another All-Conference award. Ben Anderson looks to improve on his 5.8 points, 3.6 rebounds, and 2.8 assists per game. Injuries slowed down progress last year and might continue to do so this year. Ben Baker, Jack Holzmann, and Jack Vander Sanden all enter this season with injuries. Last season the Ledgers placed 4th in the flyway conference, again their lowest since the 2019-20 season. The Ledgers, with hopes to once

again be atop the Flyway, face Lomira and Laconia, both young teams with new coaches, representing the biggest competition within the conference.

Home Games to Remember:

New Holstein

Tuesday, November 26th @ 7 pm
(Home Opener)

Lomira

Thursday, January 16th @ 7 pm

Oakfield

Saturday, January 18th @ 7 pm

WLA

Thursday, January 30th @ 7 pm

Laconia

Friday, February 21st @ 7 pm
(Senior Night)

SMSA Celebrates All Saints Day

Hazen Norton

As November begins, a special feast day in the Catholic Church is being celebrated: All Saints Day. Celebrated on November first, this feast day, as the name suggests, commemorates the more than

during the Litany of Saints after Mass.

While preparing for this feast day, the third-grade teachers were invited to share their insights, and, the star of the show, the



The third graders pose with Father Kevin Durand
10,000 saints officially canonized by the Church. On the Ledge, a longstanding tradition is performed annually: the third-grade students dressed as various saints and paraded through the church

students' thoughts. The celebration begins in the classroom, with the students each choosing a saint to research, a process that can be quite challenging, as each must

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Drama on the Ledge

Annabelle Seel and Cece Wagner

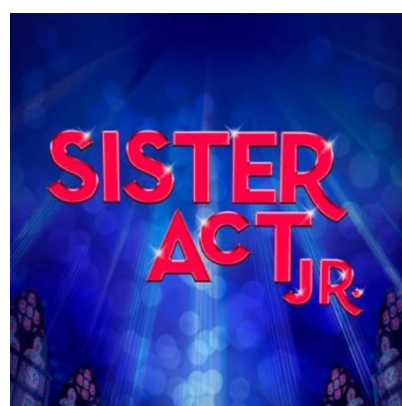
Theater is about more than just putting on a show. Being part of a production, whether it be in the cast or behind the scenes, fosters community, creative expression, and builds confidence. Every year, the high school and middle school theater directors, Mrs. Lewis and Mrs. Packer, manage theatrical productions. Mrs. Lewis is working with the high schoolers on the fall play *All's Fair*, and the middle school director, Mrs. Packer, is in charge of *Sister Act Jr.*

All's Fair, by playwright Pat Cook, is a wholesome comedy about a county fair in rural Texas.



Freshman Chloe Masarik in All's Fair rehearsals

Hilarity ensues as the locals compete over jelly contests, elections between Iola and Clatterhand for mayor get heated, and Southern gossip about a few love affairs are spread by the town loudmouths. Currently, the students are learning lines and practicing their blocking (actors mark down actions and



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United Soccer Team Finishes Season as Conference Champions

Peyton Grafton and Teresa Brunette

Our United Soccer Team deserves major congratulations for an amazing 2024 season. They have just achieved back-to-back conference wins and went undefeated in conference this year for the first time ever. Leo Desiderio is a senior who has been on the team for his entire high school career and has been a captain for the past two years. He attributes this year’s success to the dedication of his teammates. Simon Fidziukiewicz is a senior who has also been on the team his entire four years of high school. They began practicing over the summer through captain’s practices, working on the overall trust and connection of the team. This tight-knit camaraderie gave United the motivation to bring home the conference win. Simon

attributes the win to “each player playing for one another.” He also gives credit to the coach and the seniors who he says “pushed everyone to focus on the goal to win. Ultimately, we won



conference thanks to Jesus Christ, as He allowed us to be in that position.” For those who are unaware, the United Soccer Team is a combined team from students at St. Mary’s Springs Academy and North Fond du Lac High School.

Leo comments on this by saying, “the fact there are two schools doesn’t change anything. Everyone is family on this team.” Our seniors, Leo Desiderio and Simon Fidziukiewicz, will have to

words Simon added, “I would like to thank my coaches, fans, and teammates. Most of all, I want to thank my parents. Through their insanely busy schedules, they kept supporting me each and every day, pushing me to be a better player and teammate.” Leo also sees this goodbye in a positive light when he explains, “I understand that part of the journey is the end, and I am truly lucky to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard. I love everyone on the team and consider them some of my best friends and a second family. It truly is a special group that I know will continue to do great things.”

“Drama on the Ledge” (Continued from page one)

and locations in the scripts) in Mrs. Lewis’ middle school choir room before carpooling to North Fondy High. Mrs. Lewis’ favorite thing about the characters is their ultimate connections at the end of the show and their “intertwined relationships”



Freshman Remington Holzmann and Sophomore Ashton Lewis goof off in rehearsals for All’s Fair

plays,” she explained. “Very rarely you will see me pick a show that’s going to have a big set.” But she also chose a play with country accents “to make things as different and unique as possible.” This November, *All’s Fair* will be performed at Horace

Mann High School in North Fond du Lac on Friday November 22nd at 7 p.m., Saturday the 23rd at 7 p.m., and Sunday the 24th at 1 p.m. This show is sure to leave you crying with laughter and craving some of that Southern jelly. Tickets can be purchased for \$7.00 for students at hometowntickets.com.

However, that’s not all the theater going on at SMSA. Middle school students will be putting on *Sister Act*, *JR* in February. Students are attending workshops aimed at learning important performance skills and preparing them to audition for the show. Sixth grade teacher Mrs. Packer is excited to be back directing the middle school musical for the fourth year. She mentioned how performing in theater is exciting for sixth grade students who are having the opportunity to be a part of it for the first time, as well as for older students who may be looking forward to experiencing something they love again. The choice of *Sister Act*, *JR* this year was an exciting one for Mrs. Packer. “It’s always a musical that I’ve wanted to be in or to do. It has such great music. It has great

characters. It’s upbeat. I thought it was kind of fitting too, because we are in a Catholic school,” she said. As to why she keeps coming back to direct shows? She answered, “The love of theater arts and wanting to inspire the younger generations to have that same love and find a way to express themselves.” It is sure to be a fun year for middle school students looking to experience the performing arts! One of the most valuable parts of performing is hearing the audience clap and laugh at jokes. We encourage you to come support your fellow students and the vibrant theater program at SMSA. Best of luck and break a leg to all those participating in theatrical opportunities on the Ledge this year!

High School Students Look Forward to J-Term

Carson Kaufmann

As we near the end of our first semester, J-term is at the forefront of people's minds. Teachers and students alike look forward to the new experience, which is different from the norm of having eight separate classes. Having one class for an extended amount of time can bring less stress and provide opportunities to learn a lot more about a particular subject.



Students participated in MPTC's Automotive Maintenance Class

Being in our second year of this new addition, many students are still learning more about it and what it can mean to them. Deacon Gagnon, co-

ordinator of the J-term class with Mrs. Summer Anderson and Mr. Dave Braun (and with assistance from Fr. Durand) *Have Mercy Will Work*, describes that the point of J-term is for students “to pursue an interest that they might have that can’t be met in a regular schedule.” It allows students to try new things and have fun in their areas of interest. Students can “look forward to a

different schedule, different opportunities, and more choice in picking what they have.” This year, seven more classes and two new MPTC on-campus classes

can grant dual credits necessary for college. Some of the students who took Mr. Gagnon’s class in January ’24 had very positive experiences that



Students in Mrs. Brusky and Ms. Pannier’s Life Skills course visited Holiday Automotive to learn about car maintenance.

showcase how interesting it can be. One of the students, Sophia Loehr, retells her experience, saying that the students in the class “helped a lot of people in the area, like kids at school and some older people.” Opportunities like these can be fun and beneficial for high schoolers and can provide insight into different aspects of education and learning experiences.

Overall, J-term can be a fun way to teach us about things in which we may be interested.

Each year, you can pick different classes that will help you learn about different topics. Emmitt Huhn gave one piece of advice: "Do not worry about not getting into a class.” You have plenty of time throughout high school to get the classes you want and you should enjoy the classes that you have. J-term should be a fun portion of the year, and we are all excited to experience this again.

“SMSA Celebrates All Saint’s Day” (Continued from page one)

choose a different saint. Mrs. Angela Raflik adds that the “tradition is a way for our students to practice their faith and participate in the Litany of Saints during this Holy Day of Obligation. This project gives students exposure to many saints they may not be familiar with.” This experience allows for the display of a reverence for the saints and supports the school’s mission to uphold the core values of faith and community.



The Litany of the Saints on the Ledge is a longstanding tradition, with many of the current seniors having participated in the same tradition when they were in

elementary school. “Students get very excited to pick a saint,” Mrs. Raflik adds. “They love to dress up.” The students, rightfully excited, process through the aisles of Holy Family dressed in their saint attire. Although many students have to step outside of their comfort zone in order to fulfill this duty, the center aisle is often shining with the smiles of proud students.

As this feast day draws to a close, it’s important to examine ourselves and think about how we can lead by example and live more saintly lives, a task that Jesus calls us to do each day, a reminder that we have the potential for greatness, no matter how young. Not everyone can be a Ledger, but anyone can be a saint.



Sports Highlight!

Congratulations to our seniors Anna Willis and Olivia Kremer! In October, they qualified for the Division 2 Girls Tennis Doubles State Tournament!



2024 Homecoming Week in Review

Savannah Meyer

St. Mary Springs High School's Homecoming week began on Monday, October 14. The week was full of fun activities and unique dress-up days, such as Pajama Day, Salad Dressing, and much more! The first homecoming activity was Powder Puff on Tuesday. The SMSA high school female students battled it out in the flag football games. The final game

was Seniors vs. Juniors. It was a tough game, but the Seniors were victorious. To follow the Ledger core value of Faith, the entirety of the high school gathered in Hutter Gym for Mass on Wednesday morning, accompanied by the angelic voices of Music Liturgy and a beautiful Psalm sung by senior, Teresa Brunette. On Thursday afternoon, Power Buff

took place in Hutter Gym. The final game was Juniors vs. Seniors boys. It was a very close game, but the Senior boys pulled ahead in the end. To wrap up Homecoming week there was a Pep Rally in Hutter Gym, consisting of fun games including a hanger relay, basketball musical chairs, and many sing-alongs! On Friday night the Homecoming football game was held at Fruth

Field versus Winnebago Lutheran Academy. The SMSA football team won 37-7. The dress-up theme was school spirit, so the student section was full of our school colors! To conclude a fun week, the Starry Night Homecoming dance took place on Saturday night in Baker Gym.



Homecoming Court 2024

Freshmen: Sam Flood and Antoinette Yelvington

Sophomores: Clark Kelly and Julia Fidziukiewicz

Juniors: Martin Ihnat and and Rylee Gilgenbach

Seniors: King Ben Anderson and Queen Alexandra Welsch, Simon Fidziukiewicz and Neva Baseley, Cannon Kluck and Caroline Adams



2024- 2025 Ledger Pick-Axe Newspaper Staff

Faculty Moderators: Mrs. Sales and Mrs. Besson

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Peyton Grafton
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