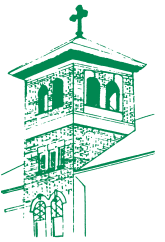




ALUMNI SACRED HEART NEWS



December 2017 • Vol. 36 No. 3

Earl Hartman, SHA '66, Editor

Paulette Andres Green, SHA '64, Newsletter Chairperson

TWICE AS NICE!

Sacred Heart Academy Boys & Girls Cross Country Win State Championships



2017 Division IV Cross Country State Championship at Michigan International Speedway in Brooklyn, Michigan. Pictured front row, left to right: Lauren MacDonald (**Keith '85**), Cammie McConnell, Megan Nowak, Rowan Fitzpatrick, Bailley McConnell, Noah Schafer (**Patty Ahlers '83**, grandmother **Phyllis Theisen Ahlers '55**, great grandfather **Clarence Theisen '23**), T.J. Moore, Matt Nowak, Josh Lynch, Chase Nelson, Zach Ervin (**Marty '89**, **Lisa Hauck Ervin '89**, grandparents **Kathy Anton Ervin '63** and **Ron Ervin '63**, along with **Diane Scully McConnell '68** and great-great grandmother **Anna O'Hara Scully '15**). **Back row, left to right:** Desiree McConnell, Sara Peltier, Scout Nelson, Natalie Ruiz, Emmanuel Chiejina, Michele Reinke (**Michele Pacholka Reinke '84**), Brooklyn Bigard (**Paul '85**), Lesley Armah, Charlie Morton, Luke Pramuka (**Caroline Thering '84**, great grandmother **Ann McDonald Thering '26**), Matthew Szymczak, Jack Pramuka (**Caroline Thering '84**, great grandmother **Ann McDonald Thering '26**), Luke Predum, Brennan Moore, Zach Partlo, Xavier Addison and Ben Thering (**James Thering '89**, great grandmother **Ann McDonald Thering '26**). Not picture are: Head Coach Mark Zitzelsberger and Assistant Coaches Luanne Goffnett, Rob McConnell, Casey Voisin '12 and Chad Zitzelsberger '02.

2017 season accomplishments:

- The Lady Irish won the Division IV Championship in 2017 with 39 points, which is the second lowest score in history. They set the record in 2016 with 34 points.
- The combined score of the boys' and girls' teams of 165 points was the second lowest combined team score in history.
- This is the first state championship for the boys' team in 40 years.
- This is the third state championship in a row for the girls' team.
- There were six all-state runners: Rowan Fitzpatrick, Lauren MacDonald, Bailley McConnell, Desiree' McConnell, Scout Nelson, and T.J. Moore.
- Coach Z was named Class D Coach of the Year and selected as Region 30 Coach of the Year by MITCA.

What a season!

According to Head Coach Mark Zitzelsberger, the boys' team made up their minds to make a run at the State Championship this year. They started strong at the beginning of the season, never lost to a Division IV team all season long, and were ranked #1 from start to finish!

The Back-to-Back State Champion girls were also ranked #1 from start to finish all season. They dominated Division III & Division IV Teams all season, and ran to a perfect score of 15 points at their Regionals meet.

"What I will always remember about this season, Coach Z said, "Is the poise and confidence shown by both teams. They never took their eye off the [goal]."

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HOMECOMING 2017



Celebrating 45 Years---The Class of 1972 has a wonderful reunion tradition. They gather to celebrate and participate in a Scavenger Hunt around town. What fun! Special thanks to Marge Deibel who assisted them this year (and in prior years), and to **Marcy McDonald Hosking '90**, who — despite technical difficulties — had class members racing around town. Just like the old days, right?

Pictured following the Scavenger Hunt at Hunter's Ale House are, **from left:** Bill Johnston, Jean Luttig (friend of Dr. Kane), Dan Kane, Barb Quillen Crandall, Margaret Simons Wood, Kathy McCormick Assmann, Pat McNerney, Doug Bowers, Rita Webster Ackerman, Mike Smith, and Bill Beltinck.



HALL OF FAMERS RECEIVE RECOGNITION

Hedlun Walton '92 (left), **Michael Hackett '96** (center), and **Steve Fox '87** entered the SHA athletic Hall of Fame at Homecoming, with halftime recognition. Their plaques now hang on the wall of "Championship Hall" at the athletic entrance of the Academy. Duplicates of their awards—and all the other Hall of Famers—can be found on the SHA web site at www.sha.net. Please remember that you can nominate yourself or someone you know for the Hall of Fame. Send your nomination, along with any information you have about the candidate, to alumni@sha.net.

GRAND MARSHALS

Not only did they celebrate their 50th class reunion at homecoming, **Dorothy (Naumes)** and **Mick Natzel '67** also served as Grand Marshals of the 2017 Homecoming Festivities. They opened the student homecoming assembly with a message of pride about the Academy and how much their teachers and coaches meant to [them]. Mick and Dorothy also led the parade and were introduced at the football game. As a former SHA coach, athletic director and teacher, and a current trustee serving on the SHA Foundation, Mick said the honor was "truly a privilege, and very meaningful for both [him] and Dorothy."



ALUMNI OF THE YEAR

Julie (Flannery) and **Andy Theisen**, both members of the Class of 1978, were honored for their many contributions to Sacred Heart Academy, Sacred Heart Parish, and the SHA Foundation, when they were selected as

Alumni of the Year for 2017. They were transported in the parade by son **Andy Theisen Jr '02**, and accompanied by grandchildren Emerson and Brookston, who are in 3rd and 1st grade (respectively) at SHA this year.



HOMECOMING 2017

50-YEAR REUNION



Front row, left to right: Helen Esch, Carol Quillen, Sharlene Hall Hansknecht, Tony Slater Tenbrink, Mary Lynne Huber, Patty Stangle Krcmarik, Angela Keehbauch Hopkins, Bob Brown, Patty Kane Wampler, Tim McGuire, and Kathy (Archey) Merrifield. **Back row, left to right:** Tom Zeneberg, Ken Hubble, Brian Murphy, Tony Fox, Pat Murphy, Mike Hackett, Dan Kovach, Jim Cotter, Tim Fallon, Dorothy Naumes Natzel, Mick Natzel, Ed McQuaid and Mike Soriano. (Photo taken by **William Courtright '64**) Present at the reunion, but missing from the photo were Kathy (Meister) Lancaster and Dave Rice. The Class of '67 celebrated in grand style. Classmates Dorothy (Naumes) and Mick Natzel were Grand Marshals of the Homecoming activities. Class members rode in the parade, cheered the Irish at the football game, and attended the Alumni & Friends Reception hosted by the SHA Foundation. On Saturday, the group toured the Academy, attended 5 o'clock Mass together, and then enjoyed dinner and memories at Riverwood.

40-Year Reunion-- The Class of 1977 celebrated a 40-year class reunion at Homecoming. On Friday, class members participated in the parade and joined in the fun of the homecoming game and the Alumni & Friends Reception. On Saturday, classmates toured the Academy, shared memorabilia and had dinner and beverages at Mountain Town Station. They finished the weekend sharing Sunday morning Mass in memory of classmates who have passed. Pictured at dinner Saturday evening are, **front row, from left:** Joan Vogel, Carol Goenner Gerbensky, and Tammy Cashen Wydick. **Second row from left:** Carol Rice Shaw, Betty Frick Bahadori, and Sue Huber Beaver. **Back Row, from left:** Chris Milan, Helen Johnson Hackett, Mike Newman, and Christine Veit James.



Can it be 10 years already?

The Class of 2007 celebrated their 10-year reunion Homecoming weekend in the Cask Room at Hunter's Ale House.

Pictured from **left to right** are: Tim Taylor, Kelsey Boulter, Ben Voss, Sara Myler Brown, Catherine Newman Boemer, Caleb Simons, Monica Zipple, Riley Sandborn, Erin Coughlin, Bret Schulte, and Chris Clay.

A STORY WORTH TELLING

At 100 years young, **Frank Courter '35** has a lot of stories to tell. A few of those stories, in fact, some really good ones, are about his school years at Sacred Heart Academy, where he attended grades 9 through 12.

At SHA, Frank played on the 1933 state championship football team, met the woman (Betty Naumes) who would eventually become his wife, and graduated in 1935. When he celebrated his 100th birthday this past June, Frank took the time to reminisce about Sacred Heart, what it was like "back then", and what a difference a Catholic education made in his life. His stories are treasures worth sharing and the Alumni Office is happy to reprint his words for the enjoyment of all.

Frank came to SHA in 9th grade because his father was laid off from a factory job in Lansing due to the Depression. His mother's family owned some land and a house in Mt. Pleasant so they came here, even though the house was run-down and needed lots of work. "It was on the southwest corner of town," Frank said. "The furthest you could get away, on Watson Road." He had to walk a mile-and-a-half to school every morning, on muddy, unpaved roads, and right through the Teachers' College, which had four buildings at the time. "Until one burned down. Then there were only three buildings at the college," Frank said.

"When we first came to Mt. Pleasant, tuition at SHA was free. It had to be because I could not have gone there. We were poor. The entire school was in one building and there were four or five classrooms. The second floor was a big hall, just one big room. There were parties and dances there every month or so. Sometimes a speaker, but there was no microphone. I went to SHA from 9th to 12th grade and played football. I made great

friends. Students at SHA were friendly and you got acquainted with everyone in short order.

"Sports teams did fairly well in most years. Sports were for boys only. There were no girls sports at that time. Basketball teams were average, but boys football had good teams. The 1933 football team had a good year, winning games by big scores.

SHA won the Class C State title. I didn't play much during the championship game. I was probably only 135 pounds. I played more the next two years. There was no trophy, just a football the team signed. I think it is in a showcase at the school now.

"We did not have a gymnasium. Some games were played at the public high school, some were played at the college. For practice, we would have to go to Island Park. And they didn't really have a field there. Parents would drive us to games, there was no school bus. And roads were terrible. The equipment we got was inherited. I got a new uniform my senior year. There were two players who got new uniforms and I was one of them. Uniforms only had a number, that's all. Nothing on the front. Shoes were passed down from year-to-year also. Sometimes, you would find a pair that almost fit! I don't think the school even provided them. I think someone just brought them in and gave them [to the school].



Frank Courter '35 was presented a replica SHA Irish Football jersey at his 100th birthday party in June. He said, "It will always remind me of a wonderful high school."

"Back then, when you played football, you played the whole quarter. They didn't do the running in and running out [for plays]. You played offense and defense both. You didn't have enough people for separate teams. There were 100 people in the whole high school. All the boys played football.

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CLASS OF 1997 CELEBRATES A 20 YEAR REUNION

20-Year Reunion Celebrated--- The Class of 1997 celebrated a 20th Reunion August 5 at Hunters Ale House. Pictured at the get-together are, from **left to right**: Kirt Hartman, John Hunter, Patty Fyke, Ryan Tasker, Sarah McDonald Kunik, Colin Hughes, Blayne Bott, Dan Campbell, Angie Long De La Rosa, Reilly Wilson Cribbins, Jon Carlo Barberi, Nikki Jones, Angie Bollman Pifer, Spencer Krapohl, Kristina Rodgers Bindschatel, Chrissie Bingham Makinen, and Nick McConnell.



Cross Country ...continued from pg. 1

Casey Voisin '12 was an assistant coach for the boys' team this season. He enjoyed the opportunity to mentor the student athletes and credits one of his high school coaches, **Chad Zitzelsberger '02**, for helping make him into the kind of coach he wants to be.

"Many of the meets we went to this season were the same ones I competed at while I was in high school. This team was much different than mine and had a tighter spread (less than 30 seconds between our first and seventh runners), so this season definitely felt different than any of my seasons in high school. During my senior year, we were ranked second in the state for the entire season, including at the State Finals. I believe we were the best team in Division IV history to not win a State Championship, so it was very rewarding for me to finally help one of SHA's teams win a State Championship," Casey said. "The student athletes taught me to have fun with the sport. They taught me that if you are not having fun with running and racing, then you're missing out. Every single meet this season, the team was focused on having fun and taking things for what they're worth. That is something which will benefit them in the future."

In Other Sports News

The SHA Girls Golf Team qualified for state finals this fall. It was the first time ever for the girls team to qualify for State play. The girls team at SHA is actually a young program, formed in 2004. The team is currently coached by Andrew Doerr, a high school math teacher at SHA, who also coaches the boys golf team. Visit the school web site at www.sha.net for details and a photo of the Girls Golf Team.

The 2017 Volleyball Team won their fifth straight regional championship to qualify for semi-final play. Unfortunately, the girls lost a chance at semi-finals in a heartbreaking five-game match, which came down to the final game score of 14-16. The team was led by first team All State honoree Sophie Ruggles (**John '89**). One thing we know for sure: the Lady Irish keep coming back!

The 2017 Football team, dubbed "The Final 11", made it to football playoffs, but were edged out by eventual state finalists Saginaw Nouvel. For more on the SHA Football Team, see pages 8-10.

A Story Worth Telling...continued from pg. 4

"Nuns were in charge of the school, they were Dominican nuns from Grand Rapids. Fr. Mulvey came to the school once in a while to talk to the students. Sometimes he wore his World War I uniform! Girls wore dark blue uniforms with white cuffs that could be removed for washing. Boys wore regular clothes, but dark pants and dress shirts. The nuns frowned on sloppy clothes.

"Living conditions were much different. Most students didn't have much spending money so we lived accordingly. Books were used for many years, sometimes 18 or 20. My first algebra book had names on the pages of student who went to school 20 years before me!

"[My classmate] **Jerry Campbell '35** and I had a lifetime friendship because we both attended Resurrection School in Lansing before moving to Mt. Pleasant and attending Sacred Heart. We both married SHA gals, he married **Pauline Codden '35** and I married **Betty Naumes '35**, and those girls had been friends since they were three years old. Betty and I had our first date at our Senior Prom in May of 1935. Our Senior Trip was to the Dow Plant in Midland. We toured the plant and saw oodles of pills.

"I went to work in Lansing shortly after graduation. More than half the class went to college. I visited Mt. Pleasant often because my parents still lived there, and on October 5, 1940, married Betty at Sacred Heart Church.

"Thank you for the Sacred Heart football jersey and cap [for my birthday] which will always remind me of the wonderful high school which prepared me for a good and practical life time experience. It also made it possible for me to meet a wonderful girl who would be my life partner for 67 years."

Best Wishes,
Frank Courter



If the Christmas season or end-of-the-calendar year are motivating you to think about charitable gifts and giving, perhaps you would consider the SHA Foundation.

In October, Sacred Heart parishioners were invited to contribute to the SHA Foundation during the Foundation's annual fundraising appeal. As you consider your end-of-the-year investments, please keep in mind the importance of the SHA Foundation, a fund established in 1976 for the sole purpose of supporting the mission of Sacred Heart Academy. Now more than ever, the Foundation is counted on to assist Sacred Heart Academy in an effort to increase teachers' salaries and keep up with rising technology and facility costs. Donations continue to benefit the fine tradition of excellence at SHA, which helps develop the skills, knowledge, and attitude graduates need for a lifetime of achievement.

The SHA Foundation is proud to support SHA with an endowment where contributions build the principle and the interest earned is given to the Academy to offset operational expenses.

For information about giving options, please contact SHA Foundation President **Bill Myler '76** at (989) 772-4900 or Sacred Heart Development Director **Connie McCann '81** at (989) 772-1385 or cmccann@sha.net.



ACADEMY NEWS

Mary Kay Reetz, Admissions/Marketing Director



GOOD THINGS HAPPENING AT SHA

As I begin to write this column I can't help but think about all the good things going on here at the Academy that make me feel proud to be a part of this organization. On November 18, SHA hosted a **Shop for SHAgala** craft and home-based-business show. It was heartwarming to see so many vendors present and SHA families and other community members visiting the event. It has been quite a few years since one of these events was held at Sacred Heart. In addition to the over 30 vendors, SHA Close Up students ran a concession stand and bake sale to raise funds for their Washington DC and New York trip in 2018 or Hawaii in 2020. Several teenagers "manned the table" and many even baked their own treats for the bake sale. They did an excellent job serving the customers and politely thanking them for supporting their Close Up trip.

On the other end of the parish center, Home and School Association members set up their new portable "spirit wear closet" designed and built by SHA Alum, Andy Theisen '02. They are offering a wide variety of SHA items, including youth and adult apparel and many other novelty items. It's always nice to see our alumni giving back to the academy as were **Megan Spence Theisen '03** and **Callie Burkholder Meyer, '01** while they sold spirit wear.

The SHA girl scouts, decked out in their little scout uniforms, were right next to Home & School. Many of them, along with several mothers, were very successful at selling one or more boxes to everyone who walked past their booth.

While many of the SHA community were either volunteering in some capacity or were shopping at the event and support-

ing it, many other members of our community were across town volunteering at the Division 6 state semifinal football game between Ithaca and Traverse City St. Francis hosted by SHA at Mt. Pleasant Community Memorial Stadium. In spite of the less-than-ideal weather conditions, volunteers awoke early that morning to transfer concession stand goods from SHA to the football field to prepare for an estimated crowd of over 300. Portable awnings were set up for ticket sellers at the gate, while the chain gang guys weathered the cold, wet, rain, and snow without any cover. You see, whenever there is a need for volunteers, our school families, alumni, and SHA community members always deliver.

In October, SHA hosted several activities for our seniors during Early College Application Week. New this year--and definitely one of our students' favorite activities--was Job Shadow Day. Each senior went into the community to shadow a professional in a field they may be interested in pursuing after high school. Thirty-seven professionals, including several alums and parents, gave freely of their time and knowledge to help our seniors navigate the path to their post-high school plans. From flying a plane at Mt. Pleasant airport, to sitting-in on a surgery, to working side-by-side with a local dentist, our students had a diverse range of experiences. Later that week, our students participated in Mock Interview Day. Again, our alumni and other members of the Mt. Pleasant community came through by spending a few hours here at SHA conducting mock interviews with our seniors or

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At far left, **Karmen Chippeway Fox '99** (left) and **Jenna Fox '09** (center) interview SHA seniors at Mock Interview Day on October 26. **Callie Burkholder Meyer '01** helps set up the Irish Spiritwear display at SHOP for SHAgala. If you are interested in ordering Spiritwear, visit <http://academy.sha.net>. Choose "Quicklinks" from the upper right corner, then Spiritwear.



FROM THE PRINCIPAL



Mary Kay Yonker, Principal

MISSION POSSIBLE!

Every organization, school, big business, non-profit, etc. has a mission statement. Some of them are followed and some are just plaques on the wall. The mission statement of Sacred Heart Academy says,

"Sacred Heart Academy, a Catholic school founded in 1889, is committed to the mission of Jesus Christ. With our families and faith community, we provide a balanced curriculum to strengthen mind, body, and spirit so each student fulfills God's purpose."

Alan M. Blankstein, in his book **Failure is Not an Option** says, *"The mission of an organization is essential to its success. A mission statement should be created and published as a means of giving those involved with the organization a clear understanding of its purpose for existence."*

The first sentence in our mission statement speaks to our Catholic identity and our commitment to the mission of Jesus. In 1889 our school was built to be different, to teach students things they could not learn in a public school. We are unapologetically Catholic. Every student in grades DK (developmental kindergarten) through 12th grade is taught religion every day. Students in 1st through 12th grade attend weekly Mass and students in grades 4 through 12 attend reconciliation services twice a year. Some teachers take their students to adoration on Tuesdays. High school students are offered the opportunity to attend the March for Life in Washington, D.C. and juniors and seniors attend a fall

retreat. Our students in the junior high and high school are required to have 100 community service hours to graduate. This is a way for them to reach out to our community and help those less fortunate. We are proud of our Catholic identity and are always looking for ways to improve it.

We have such amazing family and parish support. Our families sacrifice to send their children to SHA and our parish gives generously to our school to keep tuition reasonable. The Sacred Heart Academy foundation also gives a large donation each year to keep tuition affordable. We are truly blessed.

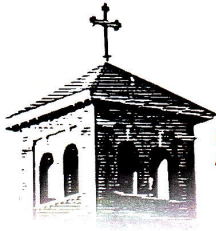
The balanced curriculum we provide to strengthen mind, body, and spirit refers to what is learned both in and out of the classroom. Our most recent SAT scores were the highest in three counties. Our students continue to do well in our academic clubs – Quiz Bowl, Model United Nations, Science Olympiad, Language Arts and Forensics teams. This fall was a banner year for our athletic teams. Both our boys' and girls' cross-country teams were state champions! Our girls' golf team made it to the state finals; our football team qualified for the playoffs and our girls' volleyball team went to quarterfinals.

As I break down our mission, it seems we live by it every day. While there will always be things we can improve upon, we have many things for which to be proud. Have a blessed Christmas season and thank you for your continued support of Sacred Heart Academy.



Elementary and secondary students are getting lots of hands-on experiences in the STEM Science Lab at SHA thanks to donors who funded the program. Alums might recognize a couple of the kindergartners pictured here. In the photo at left, second from left, is Claire Campbell (granddaughter of **Christine Campbell James '77** and **Tom '77**, and great granddaughter of **Arden '40** and **Patricia Fitzgerald Campbell '40**). At right, are Alexis VanBuskirk (**Alicia Wickert VanBuskirk '98**) and Chelsie Gross (granddaughter of **Cathie McCann Cluley '74**).





SACRED HEART ACADEMY

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October 3, 2017

Dear Parents, Alumni and Supporters of Sacred Heart Academy:

For those of you who have been closely watching SHA Football over the years, this information will not come as a surprise. Former Head Coach Rick Roberts, a coach who led the Irish to countless conference championships, post-season appearances, and a coveted State Championship in 2010, forecasted this day would come.

Since 2010, colleague schools, both parochial and public, have made the move from 11-player to 8-player football, causing the Michigan High School Athletic Association to sanction new divisions and new championship playoffs. Sacred Heart, with our deep traditions, football pride, and some Irish luck, has been able to avoid the change, until now.

Because of the reduced number of players going out for football, the growth of other sports at the Academy, and our desire to keep the Friday Night Experience alive, Sacred Heart Academy coaches, with the support of the Athletic Association and the school administration, choose to move to 8-man football in the 2018 season. The decision will be made official by the SHA School Board this month.

We need your support and encouragement as we make this change, and seek to fill our 2018 schedule, which will include 9 games with other 8-player teams. We need to act quickly to get open spots, including an acceptable Homecoming date, with teams who are within reasonable travel distance and offer the competitive level of play SHA desires.

If you have questions or concerns about this change, please direct them toward either of us. Please know this decision was not made lightly. The current players, dubbed "The Final 11", know the importance of this memorable season. Some of them, returning next year, will be just as excited to be among "The Original 8". We appreciate your continued support.

Sincerely,

Dan Haggart
SHA Athletic Director

Jamie Slate
SHA Head Football Coach

Enclosures: Information Sheet
Q & A Page

OUR MISSION

Sacred Heart Academy, a Catholic school founded in 1889, is committed to the mission of Jesus Christ. With our families and faith community, we provide a balanced curriculum to strengthen mind, body, and spirit so each student fulfills God's purpose.

One Community, One Spirit, One Heart

8-MAN FOOTBALL AT SHA

WHY CONSIDER IT

Reduced-player football has gained popularity since 2010 in high schools across the United States, making it possible for schools with smaller enrollments to continue to offer the sport and enjoy the long-standing benefits associated with it (athlete engagement, alumni connection, homecoming festivities, and more). In 2017, the Michigan High School Athletic Association saw an increase to 61 teams, which created two 16-team playoffs in 8-man football for Class D. The MHSAA has been sponsoring 8-man football for six years. Each year there are fewer and fewer Class D teams playing 11-man football. Even Class A schools have asked to participate because they don't have the numbers for football. However, the tournament for 8-man is reserved for Class D schools.

With just 20 boys out for football this year, the lack of a junior varsity football program, a look ahead at middle school players, the number of boys choosing to participate in cross country, and parents' concerns about injury, Sacred Heart Administration is proactively making a decision regarding an 8-man experience in the 2018 season.

WHAT IT IS

- Eight-man football consists of fast-paced games, more high scoring than the traditional game. Eight-man scores vary depending on the offensive and defensive strategies, but scores typically fall in the 40 to 60 point range.
- Eight-man football is noted for producing multi-skilled players who are responsible for playing several positions which require speed, agility, and strength.
- Most 8-man leagues mandate the 100-yard field, similar to indoor football leagues. Due to the reduced size of the team and players needing to know different positions, players' jersey numbers do not affect pass eligibility. Every year, 8-man football players, as well as other reduced-player football players such as 6-man, receive scholarships and/or opportunities to play collegiately.

Where SHA stands as of December 1, 2017

The Sacred Heart Athletic Department has spoken with the MHSAA about how we would proceed with a change to 8-man play. We have approval from our School Board to proceed, and, after researching possible nine-game schedules for 2018 which included teams 75, 100 and up to 125 miles away from SHA, have applied to join the North Central Thumb League. These competitors include schools Sacred Heart competed against in the past. The League will allow us some weeks for open play as well. A Fall 2018 schedule is being created with Homecoming planned for Friday, September 28, 2018.

Questions & Answers about the Change

1. **Who made this decision?** The recommendation came from the Football Coach, the Athletic Director and the School Administration to the School Board for final approval.
2. **When would the change occur?** The change would occur in time for scheduling the 2018 football season, in order to secure a Homecoming game and other activities on the calendar.
3. **If SHA goes to eight-man now, can the school return to 11-man in the future?** Yes, it is possible to return to 11-man football in the future.
4. **If we raise enough money to protect football, or endow the sport, can we prevent this from happening?** The move to 8-man football has nothing to do with money or fundraising. It has to do with the number of players on the field; the number of students going out for football.
5. **Are there recruitment efforts in place to improve enrollment at Sacred Heart Academy? Is football the first of other activities to suffer from "lack of enrollment"?** It's not completely an enrollment issue, it has to do with the number of boys who want to play football. But to answer the question, yes, there are many active recruitment/marketing efforts in place.
6. **Isn't eight-man football more expensive? The travel required for conference play? The championship travel?** Eight-man football is not more expensive. Most leagues play on the same 100-yard field, so no change there. The travel / travel time to away games might be slightly more, but not too significant.
7. **Why not cut football altogether, as some schools have done?** This is exactly what we want to avoid! Keeping students who want to play engaged in the sport, keeping alumni connected through the bond of football, and hosting the fall homecoming event(s) are all important to Sacred Heart Academy. Schools who have let football go have suffered the loss of much more than their Friday Night experience.
8. **How can parents help?** Parents and alumni can help by understanding how tough this decision was to make, and by embracing the change. We have to ask ourselves, "What is best for our student athletes?" and proceed accordingly.
9. **How do you replace a rivalry like SHA vs. Beal City? What happens to that tradition?** We can keep the rivalry alive in other sports like basketball, volleyball and baseball. In football, we can start a new tradition.

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10. How does this affect SHA's participation in the Mid State Athletic Conference (MSAC)? SHA will continue to participate in the MSAC for every sport except football, for which we are seeking a separate conference.

Football Talk | You heard it here

Jamie Slate, *current SHA football coach and middle school science teacher*

"We are very excited about how competitive SHA will be in 8-man football. It should be a great opportunity for us to demonstrate all of the strengths that SHA has. Going to 8-man will tip the scales back to what the "olden days" of Class D competition used to be like. No longer will we be competing against schools 2-3 times our size, and it should really showcase the type of athletes we have here. Get ready for a really fast paced exciting show come Friday nights next fall!"

Rick Roberts, *former SHA principal, teacher, athletic director and state championship football coach*

"This was a decision that had to be made. With parental concerns over the injury factor involved with football and with the small number of boys in a few of the classes, there just aren't enough boys available to sustain a competitive 11-man program. This way we can assure that football will continue at SHA. [Coach] Jamie Slate is doing a great job coaching and encouraging kids to join the team so for those few who think if I was still there coaching this would not have come about they are incorrect. I am just so happy that we didn't have to cancel football. I have received a few calls from some alumni and I have told them that this is certainly what we need to do to keep the great game of football alive and well at SHA. GO IRISH!"

Dan Haggart, *current SHA athletic director and dean of students*

"We are excited to start a new tradition of athletic excellence in 8-man football. We are eager to have the support of our alumni when the Irish take the field next season."

Frank Courter '35, *member of the SHA 1933 state championship football team*

"I have mixed feelings about the [change in the] football program. Eleven-man football has been a tradition for years at Sacred Heart. Many other things have changed over the years, though, and serious injuries are a problem."

critiquing their completed application and resume. Many of our students said it was the first time they ever interviewed and were very grateful for the immediate feedback. They felt it would help them greatly in an actual interview.

Did you know we now have a high school Key Club at Sacred Heart? Key Club is part of the Kiwanis family, which is the oldest and largest service leadership organization for teens, and teaches leadership through service to others. Several members recently attended a Fall Rally at Mt. Pleasant High School that included several breakout sessions such as Officer Training, Social Media Do's and Don'ts, Public Speaking and Fundraising, just to name a few. Members also visited the Laurels Nursing Home after school one day where they played games, put together puzzles and visited with the residents. The club has nearly 20 members already, not bad for just getting started. They are looking forward to doing many more service activities.

The school's new STEM lab, implemented two years ago, has gotten very busy with the hiring of a part time STEM coordinator. We are grateful to SHA parent and parishioner, Jennie Queen-Baker, for her expertise and willingness to lead our students in hands-on lab experiments for all ages. From making and blowing bubbles with the DK students to making slime with the kindergarten students and examining hair follicles with high school students and many things in between, our students have been getting some incredible hands-on science experience.

In looking to the future, we'll have some changes in our football program that should prove to be an exciting time for Sacred Heart Academy. We look forward to moving to an 8-man football team next fall. While it's hard to let go of long standing traditions and the memories that come with them, we know SHA will be much more competitive in the 8-man arena. We appreciate all the parental, family, friends and alumni support we've had for our football program throughout the years and are confident we'll continue to make many more fond memories with the 8-man format. With nearly 80 high schools in Michigan already switching to 8-man, SHA expects to be very competitive with this new format. See pages 8-10 for more details on moving to 8-man football.

As Admissions Director, I invite you to refer a friend or family to SHA. I would love to have the opportunity to speak face-to-face with prospective families and share with them why Sacred Heart Academy is the best place for their child's education. I always tell families that it's one of the best investments my husband and I have ever made and even with three already graduated from the Academy (one senior left), it continues to pay dividends. For that we are very grateful and feel very blessed. I hope you enjoy this special time of year and take time out of your busy schedule to be present with those you love.

Class Notes

CLASS OF 1943: **Patrick Ernest Hackett**, a resident of Brighton, Michigan, and Venice, Florida, died on December 2, 2017 at the age of 91. Pat was a WWII veteran of the U.S. Navy, a graduate of Central Michigan University and the University of Detroit Mercy Law School, and practiced railroad law for over 50 years. He is survived by Barbara, his beloved wife of over 65 years; seven daughters, eleven grandchildren and five great grandchildren and by his nine siblings **Jim '29, Mary Valliere '29, John '31, Ed '33, Tom '37, Rose Nanzig '39, Frank '41, Ann O'Brien '46, and Kathleen Ranier '48.**

CLASS OF 1949: Heard from **Mary Smiley '61** that her aunt **Dorothy Ellen Campbell Phillips** died November 11, 2016 in Fresno CA where she lived since 1960 with her family. Dorothy's mother, **Rose Donovan Campbell 1910**, and siblings **Margaret Smiley '38, Marion Tope '39, Charlotte LaPointe '46, and Charles "Ocker" Campbell '57** all graduated from the Academy, as did her numerous nieces and nephews. Also noted that **Viola Mahaffey Klashak** died on February 9, 2016. Viola worked for several years at Listening Ear. She is the mother of **John Weaver '73.**

CLASS OF 1950: **Pete McCann** passed away on September 6, 2017 in Mt Pleasant. Pete is the son of **Aloysius 1911 and Eleanor Marthey McCann 1913**, the brother of **Patricia Zwicker '48, Tom '53, Mary Jo '54 and William '57** and the father of **Chris '81, Michael, Kevin, Patrick and Jan Marie Raies.**

CLASS OF 1961: Two '61 ladies, **Karen Hackett Tasch** (and husband Bill) and **Mary Ellen Dionise Catanzarite** (and husband Joe) each celebrated their 50th anniversary this year. The Taschs live in Dexter, Michigan and the Catanzarites in Clarkston, Michigan.

CLASS OF 1965: **Sister Marie Lavern (Diane) Bullard** celebrated her 50th year as a School Sister of Notre Dame this past summer. She lives in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

CLASS OF 1968: **REUNION NEWS!** The Class of 1968 is making plans for a 50th Reunion in conjunction with Homecoming 2018, Friday and Saturday, September 28 and 29, 2018.

CLASS OF 1976: **Robin Greene Stressman** and her husband Steve celebrated their 40th anniversary in September. Robin is a top selling associate with Coldwell Banker Realty in Mt Pleasant.

CLASS OF 1990: **Katie Koenig Sens** reports that her family recently moved to Davidson, North Carolina after spending eight years in New York. Katie is now the Human Resources Manager at Autobell Carwash which has 80 stores and 3000 employees. She and her husband Mark have two children, son Lane who is 7, and daughter Erin who is 5.

Marcy McDonald Hosking accepted a job in the Sacred Heart Parish office as the Special Projects Coordinator. She is responsible for events such as SHAgala, the Parish Festival and the annual Irish Cup golf outing. She feels blessed to have her daughter Jordan (6th grade) and son Brennan (1st grade) attending SHA.

CLASS OF 1998: **REUNION NEWS!** The class of 1998 will celebrate their 20th class reunion the weekend of June 22, 2018. Details to follow! Please make sure your address is updated with the Alumni Office.

CLASS OF 2000: **Andre Green** and wife Jen welcomed their daughter Claire Joan on October 1, 2017. Claire joins brother Owen at their home in Bryan, Ohio. Andre is a Project Manager for Orion Energy out of Wisconsin.

CLASS OF 2003: On February 10, 2017, **Kyle Anthony Schafer** married Emily Frances Zimostrad. On June 28, they welcomed baby Vada Christine Schafer. The family resides in Mt. Pleasant.

CLASS OF 2006: **James Hunter** and wife Jodi welcomed their daughter Haven Olivia on July 29, 2017. James is Operations Manager at Hunter Homemade Brewery in Mt Pleasant.

CLASS OF 2011: **Eric Fox** graduated from Central Michigan University with a Bachelor of Science Degree, after completing an internship at Gym Studios Austin, TX. His major is in Exercise Science and minor is Nutrition. He is also a Level I Functional Patterns instructor and will be completing his Level II in February in Seattle, WA.

TV STARS: Sacred Heart has prepared several students for careers in the past but one of the more popular recent success stories has been that of TV star. In 2013 **Shebba Vedula '13** took her amazing voice to the finals of American Idol and just this past winter the design talents of current 12th grader Izzy Kostrzewa (**Mike '68**) were on display nationally on Project Runway Junior. On May 26, 2017 (actually taped March 9, 2017) **Lori Wohlscheid Wangberg '80** came away a winner on the Price is Right. Lori became a contestant and won a trip to Nashville while also receiving several hugs from host Drew Carey. Lori is a health educator at CMU and is the daughter of **Bob Wohlscheid '47.**

PASSING OF A LEGEND

Although not a graduate, Sacred Heart lost a great supporter on November 21, 2017 when Dave Hunter passed away. Dave is the father of **John '97** and **James '06** and the grandfather of two current SHA students, David, 7th grade and Dylan, 5th grade. Dave came to Mt Pleasant in a rusted car with only a paper bag of clothes in 1975 and built a business empire in town. But Dave is best known for his love of Sacred Heart and athletics that put him on the bench with the baseball team for over 20 years and an honorary coach of the football team for many years. Dave also served on the SHA Foundation and affected many lives with his positive attitude and support. He will be missed.



ALUMNI SACRED HEART NEWS

Sacred Heart Parish
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Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858
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Alumni News For:



COMING SOON – 2018 EVENTS

February 10 | SHAgala Dinner Auction

Alumni and friends are invited to participate in this event which benefits operations of Sacred Heart Academy. You can purchase a cash raffle ticket, donate to the silent or live auctions, make a cash donation, or attend the event. Visit the Academy web site at www.sha.net or find the event page on Facebook for information. Alumni will be attempting to sell “100 Cash Raffle Tickets in 100 Minutes” on Tuesday, January 16, 2018 between 3 and 5 o'clock EST. Call (989) 772-1385, (989) 289-0924, or (734) 883-8130 or e-mail shagala@sha.net to participate in the “100 Tickets” sale. Alumni can also participate in the on-line auction happening January 21-28, 2018. School memorabilia such as some of the original state championship banners from the school gymnasium will go up for auction during that time. The following banners will be available:

- 1967 State Champion Baseball
- 1967 State Champion Basketball
- 1968 State Champion Baseball
- 1971, 1975, 1989 and 1997 State Runner Up Golf
- 1985 State Champion Golf
- 1987 and 1997 State Runner Up Baseball
- 1996 State Champion Baseball
- 1992 and 1995 State Runner Up Cheerleading
- 1997 State Champion Cheerleading

Those banners - and a lot of other great items-could be yours! For information about any SHAgala activities, contact the SHAgala office at (989) 772-1385 or shagala@sha.net.



April 6-9 | Cross + Light

In the Gospel of Mark, Jesus asks his disciples, “Who do people say that I am?” If Jesus asked us the same question today, how would we respond? Who do people say Jesus is today? Consider the people in your life...your family, your co-workers, and your social circles. Do they know Jesus? Many of us know people who have lost faith, left the Catholic Church, or simply remain indifferent to God and religion. The reasons for this are many and complex, but chances are that these people have never heard the Good News of Jesus Christ or witnessed the power of His love. How can we help them come to know Christ? Don't miss the international, critically-acclaimed musical and video-surround experience of Christ's Passion, Resurrection, and the coming of the Holy Spirit on Divine Mercy Sunday. It's a life-changing event. Sacred Heart Church will host five performances which are open to the public. Visit the web site at www.sha.net for information. Ticket prices are just \$20.



PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

Friday, April 6 - 7:00 p.m. Saturday, April 7 - 1:00 p.m.
Sunday, April 8 - 2:00 & 7:00 p.m. Monday, April 9 - 7:00 p.m.
Contact Marcy at (989) 264-5029 to purchase tickets or for information.

April 18 | Baseball at Dow Diamond

The 2018 Baseball Team will play a doubleheader at Dow Diamond in Midland on Wednesday, April 18. This is a great opportunity for the Irish to play on a big league field, under the lights, with use of batting cages and all the amenities. Irish fans are invited—and encouraged—to come out for the games, which will include fun with the sponsors, first-pitch honors, door prizes and more. Time of the first game is 4:30 p.m.

Friday, September 28 | Homecoming

Mark this date, and watch for details in future issues. Homecoming will be celebrated, including the parade, the game and the annual Alumni & Friends Reception.