

Kiwanis Leaders

At Sacred Heart Academy, we provide our students with many opportunities to develop the love of volunteerism. After all, we are raising Christians to make their way into heaven, and service to others is a natural feature of this call. Thankfully, our community has organizations in place to help with our mission. In particular, the Kiwanis International Organization offers several service leadership programs, designed to allow individuals of all ages to learn leadership skills while serving the community through various opportunities. As a point of pride, Sacred Heart Academy is the only school in the state of Michigan that has all three school-age organizations on one campus. The K-Kids Club, Builders Club, and Key Club all facilitate the development of the heart to serve in our students. While each group has an advisor, students hold full responsibility for all aspects of their roles and responsibilities in each of their respective clubs. We are thankful for our Kiwanis advisor, Mercia Foster, who supports all three clubs and ensures continued compliance with Kiwanis ideals.



To formally introduce students to the world of service organizations, the K-Kids Club is comprised of fifth and sixth grade students in our elementary building. In the 2024-25 school year, fifth grade teacher, Beckie Gulick, was the K-Kids advisor to sixteen students. This entry level group is where young leaders learn to help others in an organized format by holding fundraisers, participating in community service projects, and discovering the methods in which they can impact the world around them in big ways. In the 2024-25 school year, the K-Kids hosted their first fundraiser of the year in the



K-Kids president, Eli Dubridge (5th in 24-25) and the group, present a check of proceeds from the Cocoa for a Cause fundraiser to Cindy Hoyle with ICRH.

“Cocoa for a Cause” hot chocolate sale. The group raised over \$400 for the local homeless shelter, the Isabella County Restoration House (ICRH).

Middle schoolers in grades seven and eight account for the dozen members of the SHA Builders Club, advised by language arts teacher, Theresa Audretsch. This group helps to build self-esteem in students at a crucial age by empowering them and allowing them to work together, make plans, set goals, and act. Lily Dubridge (8th in 24-25) was the 2024-25 president of the Builders Club, which works to keep our school

grounds tidy and host events for middle school students. At their last meeting, they determined their spring service project, which was a stuffed animal/fidget drive for Special Olympics.

Our Key Club is comprised of 45 ninth through twelfth students and advised by theology teacher, Lee Ann Puhlman. Students in this group learn to develop empathy for those less fortunate as they participate in many service projects, and they have the opportunity to build confidence and character

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as they strive for academic achievement. The Key Club also works to create a more inclusive culture in our school. As the 2024-25 president, Savannah Jones, and the e-board have organized several service projects, including gift baskets at Thanksgiving, a coat drive, and helping at Christmas Outreach.

Sacred Heart Academy is known for developing leaders that continue to make a positive impact far exceeding their school club responsibilities. For years, SHA has supplied the Key Club district officers, and that trend is not expected to change anytime soon! Recent Lieutenant Governors and Governors emerging from SHA include Emma Reid (SHA '21), Rose Kothra (SHA '23), and Jenna Morrison (SHA '25). What's more is SHA leaders also serve at the district level. In the 2024-25 school year alone three of the District Board positions were filled with Sacred Heart Academy students. Class of 2025 seniors, Jenna Morrisson was the Governor, Addy Shull was the Lieutenant Governor, and Cecilia Lossio was a Co-Chair of Events.



24-25 Key Club Officers, left to right: Isabel Rookard, (Secretary) Marin Haskin, (Historian) Savannah Jones (President) Elise Latham, (Treasurer) Madigan Anderson. (Vice-President)

As Helen Keller once said, "Alone we can do so little. Together we can do so much." At Sacred Heart Academy, we are thankful for our relationship with the Kiwanis International Organization, and for the generous support volunteered by Mercia Foster, both of which play a strong role in aiding in our mission of developing a heart to serve in our students.