



Alumni Mission Statement: The Alumni and Friends Association is a group dedicated to the spiritual, moral, and intellectual growth of Sacred Heart Area School and Parish. Through service activities, communication, and attitude, this organization supports the educational goals of the school and fraternity for its membership.

Off to a Great Start

Dear Alumni and Friends,

A Focus on Christ

At Sacred Heart Area School, we are blessed with another year of continuing our mission to form young hearts, minds, and souls for a life of fulfillment, and success as Disciples of Christ. Our job is not an easy one. For us to succeed, it is critical that we keep Christ as our focal point and together continue to work hard at building the Kingdom of God. For lifelong results, it is important as parents, teachers, and members of the community to instill faith, morals, discipline, and knowledge into our students through all that we do. Attending a Catholic school is more than incorporating work and play with each other. It is also seen in our willingness to forgive and care for each other on a daily basis. As many of you know, there is much to share and learn from each other in our classrooms and school yard.

On Track for the Future

At Sacred Heart Area School, we realize the importance of not only meeting the academic norm, but exceeding it. In the attempt to ensure that SHAS is up to date with the latest educational practices, the staff did a comparison study of the St. Cloud Diocesan Standards and the MN Academic Standards in Math, Language Arts, Science, and Social Studies. After investigation, study, and staff input, the SHAS Board of Education has adopted the MN Academic Standards in these subject areas. We continue to maintain our diocesan standards for religion. To find our students baseline, grades 3-5 took the MCA's in language arts and mathematics. It was found that most students exceeded the standards for language arts, while many struggled to meet the standards in mathematics. To address this, we are focusing our attention on developing our math curriculum and instructional practices. As a Catholic school, we must aspire to academic excellence, if we are to survive in this fast paced changing society. We are on the right track!

Jim Opelia Principal

Sacred Heart Area School



2012 Marathon was a huge success!

Students and staff walked along the new Airport Rd. walking/biking path to the Dinosaur Park. All enjoyed cookies and drinks along the way. Students raised \$10,200 this year. AWESOME JOB!



Our Mission; As believers in God and moved by the power of the Holy Spirit, we foster spiritual and academic formation of our students in a positive, welcoming atmosphere that reflects a respect for all people.

Four Generations at Sacred Heart Area School

The Roy and Mary Lou Olander family have attended SHAS for four generations. Roy is an alumnus. Mary Lou has graciously agreed to share her experience with the school. Here is her story.

All of our eleven children have had the privilege of attending and graduating from Sacred Heart School. I know through monetary help and prayers from others that this was made possible. Now we have grandchildren and also great grandchildren attending this school. This school is not only blessed by God, but also by our Church circles, devoted teachers, and the KC's as well as other organizations in our community. What a great "Grandmothers" program we have in our school! Where a child can get individual help, or share a story with someone who takes time to listen. In our busy world today, mothers and fathers are busy working to keep their children clothed, fed, and provide shelter for them. Many have forgotten the important suppertime table where all can discuss and share their problems of the day or just look for support. Sacred Heart Area School is a place where our children's conscience is formed by the Word of God. Students are taught to respect each other as fellow children of God. Bullying is not allowed to be part of their school day because teachers themselves love God and want these children to also show their love to each other. The Christmas programs are always based on the true meaning of Christmas. I remember the conversation at home was "which one of the girls would be picked to be Mary?" for the play. One time one of our grandsons was Joseph, holding sleepily to the side of the crib where he and Mary were kneeling. Mary gave him a good nudge that brought him back to life.

"This school is not only blessed by God"...



The world pulls hard to take away our faith but the "good seed" planted here at SHAS will always remain in their heart, soul and conscience. Then there is the "proof of the pudding" when our children are leaving high school. Take notice of how many of them are the honor students. They become successful in life, not always in material ways but are the workers, honest business people, and a real tribute to the communities where they live. This is my feeling of how this Catholic School has helped us to raise our family. The support is out there for this school. But as God said, "Ask and it shall be given unto you." Thank you to all who support this wonderful institution. God Bless! Mary Lou Olander



Bernie St. Pierre Scholarship Winner

Courtney Lisson, daughter of Al and Carol Lisson was the 2012 recipient of the St. Pierre scholarship. Courtney is currently enrolled at Central Lakes College in Brainerd.

Spring Blast reminder

This year's blast will be

April 20th

Start planning your auction donations and mark your calendar!

Can't wait to see you all there.

SHAS HELD ITS 4TH ANNUAL GARAGE SALE DURING RAILROAD DAYS

"We are amazed at how much people find to donate." Marge Meyer explained. Meyers, the Platzers, Bergs, & other volunteers too many to count, put in countless hours setting up and pricing items. "It's so fun to see our school Alumni pass through and check out the sale. The visiting and the laughter are what make it fun. We did have a curious story involving a pair of shoes walking away."



We had items in 3 class rooms, on the stage, & piled high in the gym. The big items were outside where the men put all their salesman skills to good use!

What Your Support Means

Our alumni along with so many others from our community have graciously supported our school in many ways.



Because of last year's cash donations from alumni like you, our school was able to upgrade the curriculum with the purchase of new reading textbooks for 4th and 5th grade and new science kits and textbooks for our 5th graders. We also purchased new science equipment for our intermediate grade students, which included: a weather station, temperature and oxygen sensors, and the computer software (in memory of Margaret Wilhemson).

From alumni donations we also improved our Accelerated Reader program, which now gives all teachers and students access to 150,000 on-line reading, vocabulary, and literacy quizzes on books they are reading at home and school. WOW! Much can be accomplished by people who share a common goal and common dream. Because of this and the support of people like you, for Sacred Heart Area School, the best is yet to come. God bless you



Students using new science equipment.

From the Pastor

Fr. Joe Korf

Fifty Years ago this past October a watershed event in our faith took place in Rome with the opening of the Second Vatican Council. The results of this very important Council are still unfolding for us as the People of God today. Included among the many decisions that were made by the Council Fathers were two documents concerning the Liturgy and the Church in the Modern World. These two documents have had a tremendous impact on our lives. For these two documents highlighted the role of the laity in being fully and active participants in the liturgy, in the life of the Church and in society.

Sacred Heart Area School has over these past 50 years helped in forming the young people of our parish communities, as well as others, in understanding what this council means for the laity. 50 years ago the School was staffed mostly by nuns who were inspired by the documents of the Second Vatican Council and committed their lives to forming young people in the ways of faith. Today, although all of our teachers are laypersons, they follow in the footsteps of these nuns in passing on not only a great education in general, but one that is based in the principles and values that were taught by the Second Vatican Council. Another indication of the effects of the council is lived out today is realized in how the children are involved in various roles in the liturgy rather than just being present observing what is happening.

Alumni, formed in these Catholic principles, are actively involved in many areas of civic life on the local, state, national and international level. Some alumni are involved in a life of service to God and God's People such as Fr. Lauren Germann. Many others take an active role in the liturgical life of the Church by being lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, and many other forms of lay ministries. And all of this is a result of what happened 50 years ago as Blessed Pope John XXIII open this momentous council.

In order for Sacred Heart Area School to survive during these years since the Second Vatican Council, a time when many other Catholic Schools were closing for various reasons, Sacred Heart Parish made a commitment to keeping Sacred Heart Area School open. In doing so the parish made substantial commitments of her financial resources in some very difficult and trying financial times. The parish continues to make that type of financial commitment today as she also struggles to address the many other needs of her parishioners as well.

It is in this regards that I encourage you to not only be active and participating members of your local parish communities, but that I ask you to be active alumni of Sacred Heart Area School through the contributions of your time, talent and treasure. For Sacred Heart Area School to continue to form today's children in our Catholic principles it needs your help as alumni! I encourage you to do what you can to help us share the goals of the Second Vatican Council with our young people and to form them so that they might be the active laity who are willing to make Christ known in our world today.

Knights of Columbus

Giving of their hearts and hands to help Sacred Heart Area School

Thanks again to our Knights and volunteers who have helped SHAS replace our broken sidewalk and retaining wall this past summer. Many sweaty and selfless hours were given by these dedicated men. THANK YOU!!



The KC's are currently selling school raffle calendars. Contact your local KC or pick one up at the school.

Sacred Heart Alumni & Friends
324 4th Street NE
Staples, MN 56479

Forward Service Requested

CHECK OUT OUR
New & Improved WEB SITE
www.SacredHeartAreaSchool.org
Email: SacredHeartAreaSchool@arvig.net

