



Focusing on Discipleship

For the past 102 years, Sacred Heart Area School has strived for academic excellence, to provide for students the tools they will need to succeed in the future. What sets Catholic schools apart from public schools is our ability to also develop the spiritual part of the student for a happy life. Teaching students to be followers of Christ and keeping God at the center of what we do, and who we are, is the key to our success. Instilling in students gratitude for what they have and a love and respect for each other and all of God's creation gives them the guidelines to accomplish this. In our Veterans Day and Christmas programs we learn to be thankful to God and others. In community service projects we learn to show our love for others. We learn about respecting creation in religion class, recycling, and community spruce up. From our teachers, alumni, parishioners, and families, we learn about the Church and discipleship. We learn the most of how to live happily in God's Kingdom from each other. Thank you all, for playing such an important role in our lives and faith.

New Techniques Help

In the past two years, Sacred Heart Area School teachers have been studying and practicing the instructional techniques, developed by Dr. Robert Marzano. These techniques are standards based, helping students and teachers have a better focus on what they need to learn, and how well they need to learn it, to meet and/or exceed their academic standards (Minnesota Standards). These practices challenge students to excel in their studies, and encourages and guides teachers, to help students to perform at more cognitively complex thought processes. Teachers have spent a lot of time and energy at workshops and PLC (Professional Learning Community) time, working together to develop these strategies in their classrooms that benefit our students. Our students' test scores are starting to reflect these efforts.

Planning for the Future

This year, SHAS will be working on a 7-year school strategic plan (SSP) as part of our MNSAA (Minnesota Non-public School Accrediting Association) accreditation renewal. SHAS is now on its 7th year of its 7-year accreditation cycle, where we are tasked to develop a new 7-year SSP. As part of their October professional development, the staff developed their first objective regarding technology. So far, the main plan for this objective is to obtain the best choice of technological devices for the students in the classroom. Research will play a large part in carrying out this objective as there are many options available. As the staff and school advisory board continue with this objective and other objectives to come, we invite all stakeholders to share their input for the future advancements of SHAS. Objectives being worked on apply to; curriculum improvements, increasing enrollment, and enhancing the school's Catholic Identity. A MNSSA onsite visitation team will visit us on April 11 and 12 to evaluate our status.

*Save the date:
Spring Blast
May 6th, 2017*

Work-athon Fun

The 3rd Annual, Sacred Heart Area School Work-athon took place on Wednesday, October 19, 2016, starting at 12:00pm and ending around 2:30pm. Parents, staff, and students in 1st, 3rd, and 5th grades worked at Pine Grove Park, 4th grade worked at Veterans Park, 2nd grade at Northern Pacific Park, and preschool and kindergarten on the school grounds, picking up sticks and raking leaves and pine needles. It was enjoyed by all who participated. Thank you SHAS families for your service, and raising \$8,500 for our school! The work-athon replaces the SHAS Marathon, where in the past, students rode bike or walked for pledges. The work-athon event benefits both the Staples community and Sacred Heart Area School while providing a community service experience for our students.



Twigs, branches, and pine needles were hauled away by students to the city's compost piles for the work-athon.

Playground Improvements

Sacred Heart Area School has made several improvements to its playgrounds! Last year the sand playground base was replaced with pea gravel to eliminate the growth of obnoxious weeds. Before the school year started parents of Sacred Heart Area School spruced up the playgrounds; trimming the trees and fence lines, removing unsightly and unnecessary barriers, and replacing them with flower beds. They painted dull looking furnishings, and prepped the perimeter of the basketball court and installed a wood-chip border. The adjacent parking area was landscaped and resurfaced. A sprinkler system was installed with the donated help of Youngbauer's Landscaping of Verndale, and GB Directional of Sebeka, for the creation of a large green space on the large playground. This past summer, sod was laid by school families and additional furnishings were installed. Since these improvements were made, we see school families, as well as families from the entire community coming to enjoy this facility. Thank you parents and area business owners for making such a huge difference in our school's appearance!



Students, staff & parents alike, worked together to beautify the Staples city parks at the SHAS Work-athon on October 19th, raising \$8500



SHAS students enjoying the new playground grass



Families of the community enjoying new playground furniture

Voting for President

Sacred Heart Area School students voted for president on Election Day morning. This voting opportunity was hosted by Mrs. Trout's 5th grade class. Students in all grades, signed in to receive a ballot, voted in privacy, placed their folded ballot in the ballot box, and received a "I Voted" sticker. These ballots were not counted in the national presidential election day race, but their voting results did reflect the outcome of the national election. They now have a much better understanding of what happened around the country last month and what the importance is for citizens to vote.



SHAS student casting her ballot

Alumni Making a Difference

This year's alumni contributions went toward a variety of school needs, beyond our school's budget, including; social studies books, a "crazy science" lyceum, technological devices, and new U.S and Minnesota flags for the school. Several Alumni also contributed to the Sacred Heart Area School Scholarship Fund, which helps families to pay tuition toward attending SHAS who are challenged financially. Thank you all, for making a huge difference in our school and the lives of its children.



The \$10,000 Lucky Ticket

Last Summer's 3rd Annual Knights of Columbus \$10,000 Raffle was once again a huge hit raising \$11,400 for SHAS. From 250 chances, there were 5 prizes distributed in the amounts of \$10,000, \$1,000, and 3 at \$500. This year's big \$10,000 winner was Giles Korf. Let us know if you live out of the Sacred Heart Parish area and are interested in participating in this coming summer's raffle. You could be the next BIG lucky winner!!!

A Message from Father Joe

As I write this column in this final week of the Liturgical Calendar, the Year of Grace 2015, we are also celebrating the civic holiday of Thanksgiving. As believers in Christ we have the privilege of being able to live our faith without undo interference from our government. For this we can be thankful. Our local parish communities have the opportunity to share our faith with the young people. For this we can be thankful. In particular, we can have a school in which we can share knowledge of God without interference. For this we can be thankful.

We are thankful for the many students who have attended Sacred Heart Area School and their commitment to living a Christian life. We are thankful for the many alumni who share of their financial resources to make it possible for Sacred Heart Area School to provide a reasonable education for the young people today.

We are thankful as we enter into a new Liturgical Year, the Year of Grace 2016, for a God who came to live among us. Throughout this Liturgical Year we will recall how God has touched our lives in Christ's birth, in His preach, in His Passion, Death and Resurrection. We are thankful for the witness of saints who have gone before us showing us the way to the Father.

As we begin the Holy Year Jubilee of Mercy, we are thankful for a God who loves us so much that He is willing to share mercy with us even in our failures of sin. Thanks be to GOD!

May God's love, mercy and peace be upon all of you who are in some fashion or another connected to Sacred Heart Area School.

Fr. Joe Korf

SHAS Scholarship Campaign Fund

Consider a gift of a scholarship for a parish student this Christmas season. Our goal is to make our school available to all children in our parish communities that want a faith-based education, regardless of financial status. **The two ways you can help are to either become a sponsor and / or spread the word, sharing our need with others.** Thank you for consideration. Have a blessed Advent!

Congratulations!

to the 2016 Dollars for Scholars recipients of the;

Bernie St. Pierre Scholarship \$200

Hailey Koenig

Sacred Heart Area School Scholarship \$200

Amy Lochli

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

Visit us today at: sacredheartareaschool.org

ALUMNI & FRIENDS

The following donations were received from December 2015 to November 2016.
We sincerely thank each of these donors for helping Sacred Heart Area School.

Alumni Donations

Patricia Hollister in memory of Robert and Katherine Hollister
Francis Donlin
Beverlee Mutchler
Andrew Burrows in memory of Dick and Janet Nagel
Suzanne Clark in memory of Lillian Jackson
Clifford and Patricia Johnson
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Ardis Luconic in memory of Gene Ingebritson
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Pat Hollister
Beverlee Mutchler
Suzanne Clark in memory of Lillian Jackson
Charles Huff
SM and CS Olstad in memory of Pat Olstad

Scholarship Donations

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