



MCDONELL AREA CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Est. 1882

1316 BEL AIR BLVD., CHIPPEWA FALLS, WI 54729 • TEL 715.723.0538 • FAX 715.723.1501 • WWW.MACS.K12.WI.US

Our Mission: Centered on Jesus Christ and His Church, we partner with families to nurture young people’s spiritual, intellectual, physical, and moral formation through a PreK-12 Catholic liberal arts education and vibrant student life of discipleship, athletics, and the arts.

Our Vision: MACS will be a beacon of faith, hope, and love by inspiring each student to embrace his or her identity as a beloved son or daughter of God, while discovering and developing their unique gifts. We will immerse students and families in an authentic Catholic culture which fosters love of truth, beauty, and goodness. We will challenge all students to pursue academic excellence, critical thinking, and intellectual inquiry. We will prepare McDonnell graduates to be a transforming force within society, sharing the Gospel and working for the common good as productive, virtuous citizens.

Education Commission - Summary

March 21, 2024

5:30 p.m.

McDonnell Library

+1 563 538 1633

Pin: 864 679 281#

meet.google.com/czh-vgxs-sra

AGENDA

LEAD

NOTES

AGENDA	LEAD		NOTES
Welcome and Call to Order • Welcome	Andy	5:30 p.m.	• Welcome from Chair Andy Shakal
Prayer • Opening Prayer	Priest	5:35 p.m.	• Prayer led by Fr Burish - Solemnity of St Joseph
Evidence of Mission/Vision • Review Vision	Andy	5:40 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommended for full accreditation. Will be official in June. Auditors noted that we are welcoming and that our standards show that we live by our mission and vision. • Students receiving the grace of confession • Holy Ghost parish priests have opened confession up to any students before school Mass • Transformation into Classical model - seeing momentum building in ND/McD • Partnership with parents supporting their children to ensure success at school • Seniors returning from the senior class trip late tonight. Pray for safe travels especially with the potential snow storm coming.

<p>CONSENT AGENDA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finance and Facilities Report • Technology Report • Advancement Report • Long-Range Planning Report • Enrollment Report • Principals' Reports • Dean of Academics Report • Student Services Report 	Andy	5:45 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Call out inviting everyone to the alumni event • Hall of Fame: Eric Fouts, Eric Wedemeyer, Mary Jacobson, Mary King and Carolyn Peloquin • 8th Grade 2024-25 grade capacity is 46. 3 sections in 6th and 7th grade and 2 sections in 8th grade.
<p>Reports from Parish and Student Representatives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	Fred Blair	5:50 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • March 28, 2024 Community Day. • Community breakfast open to all in the morning. • Winter sports coming to a close and spring sports starting • Holy Ghost parish: Teacher/parent Sean Hanson scheduled to become ordained as a Deacon June 1.
<p>Committees/Department Presentation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None this month 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • .NA
<p>Commission Chair</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commission "Statutes and Guidelines" modifications 	Andy	6:45 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review Bi-laws for accreditation standards • 5.2 Governing Body: Education Commission leadership policies and procedures. Is there a succession plan? • Is there a paper trail? Are there instruction manuals? Is there intentional thought for next steps? • Reviewed current standards for electing Chair and Vice Chair and will follow-up in April
<p>President's Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accreditation update • Strategic Plan Draft for advisory approval 	Molly	5:55 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MACS had March 4-7, 2024 a successful accreditation and is recommended for full accreditation. • Review overall strategic plan with updates. • Nurturing Our Students • Spiritual foundation with students. partnership with parish having Michael Van Hemert working for both the parishes and the school through campus ministry • Question asked of how we will assess results • Changed some of the language to simplify • Suggested to add a period after each objective to be corrective with grammar • Partner With Families

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Goal 1 Objective 3: Request that teachers communicate consistently whether it be through Infinite Campus, emailing, Google classroom. All communication comes from one place. Does communication also include communication from coaches. ● Goal 1 Objective 5 - more description requested <p>Growing Our Catholic Identity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● More information for the Cardinal Newman Society ● Actively seek sisters and priests ● Goal 1 Objective 4: possibly remove second sentence removing lecture/speaker. ● Request transparency in the admissions process and how this ensures Catholic identity <p>Embracing Our Community</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Embracing our community. Comment: Schools are included in the strategic plan but the parishes were not. Updated to a combined goal. ● Several goals do involve the parishes so we will not create a separate goal for parishes only ● Thoughts about continuing to market for enrollment. Will be reviewed annually along with student grade capacity. ● Goal 3/Objective 6: tighten wording <p>Building Our Future</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Our goal is a capital campaign to support the facilities plan ● Explanation of annual giving ● Ensure supporters feel connected - added more description so not so vague.
<p>NEXT Education Commission Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Budget for advisory approval ● Fundraising ● May Meeting - Adding a listening session 5:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. ● IT will provide a written presentation versus an in-person presentation ● Follow-up for process of electing Chair and Vice-Chair 	ALL	6:55: p.m.	April 11, 2024 5:30 p.m.
Closing Prayer and Adjournment	Priest	7:00 p.m.	Close by all with a Glory Be

Membership

X	Andy Shakal	Staff Engineer Executive Committee Finance & Facilities Committee Strategic Plan Steering Committee Ad Hoc Pandemic Committee	Chair/St John's Rep 1st Term
X	TJ Proue	Long Range Planning Committee Co-Chair	St Charles Rep 2nd Term
X	Brian Eslinger	Eslinger Insurance Strategic Plan Embracing Our Community Committee	All Saints Rep 1st Term
EX	Tamara Bohaty	Bohaty Trucking Long Range Planning Committee	Holy Cross Rep 1st Term
X	Erin Brick	Homemaker (Biology and Theology degrees) Strategic Plan Steering Committee Ad Hoc Dress Code Committee	Holy Ghost Rep 1st Term
X	Chad Brady	Construction Consultant Executive Committee LRP and Finance/Facilities	Vice Chair / Holy Ghost Rep
EX	Mike Crawford	Access Security Sales and Estimations Finance & Facilities Committee	Notre Dame Rep 2nd Term
X	Matt Elstran	Hideaway Resort & Francesca Resource Center Strategic Plan Steering Committee	Notre Dame Rep 3rd Term
X	Scott Siegenthaler	Assistant Director Financial Aid UWEC Long Range Planning Committee	Notre Dame Rep 2nd Term
	Vacant		Sacred Heart Rep
X	Tracy Bormann	Director of Human Resources Advancement Advisory Committee	St Bridget's Rep 2nd Term
X	Justus Busse	Deputy Chief Fire/EMS Safety and Emergency Procedures Ad Hoc Pandemic Committee	St Charles Rep 2nd Term
EX	Regi Geissler	Registered Nurse HSHS Safety and Emergency Procedures Chair Ad Hoc Pandemic Committee	St Charles Rep 2nd Term
EX	Victoria Silvas	Ad Hoc Tuition	St Paul's Rep
X	Diane Herron	Homemaker Faith Boosters	St Peter's Rep 2nd Term

Ex-Officio

X	Fr Jesse Burish	Chippewa Falls Deanery	Dean
EX	Fr Alex Kren	McDonnell Area Catholic Schools	Chaplain

X	Molly Bushman	McDonell Area Catholic Schools	President
X	Mary Huffcutt	McDonell Area Catholic Schools	Dean of Academics
X	Eric Wedemeyer	McDonell Area Catholic Schools	Principal ND/McD 6-12
X	Gwen Doyle	McDonell Area Catholic Schools	Principal HG 3-5
X	Jamie Dodge	McDonell Area Catholic Schools	Principal SC Pk-2
X	Scott Sokup	McDonell Area Catholic Schools	Controller
X	Kathleen Adams	McDonell Area Catholic Schools	Exec Admin Asst Admissions Coordinator

Student Representatives

EX	Frederick Blair	McDonell Area Catholic Schools	Senior Representative
X	Ben Siegenthaler	McDonell Area Catholic Schools	Junior Representative

Guests

NA			
NA			

Reports

Director of Finance and Facilities Scott Sokup

Finance

- Review budget with Finance Committee on April 4th
- Review Budget with Commission on April 11th
- Due to the Diocese on April 18th
- Final budget due for DPI on June 30th.

Facilities

- Planning summer work, a final proposed list will be completed in April.
- Budget cycle update:

Director of IT Josh McCormick

- SIS/FACTS Transition: The application and enrollment feature is up and running for the new SIS, FACTS. We have sent over the required documents, details and current backup of Infinite Campus to Facts, so their engineers can migrate our historical, and current data into Facts. We have our next Milestone training scheduled for March 20th.
- Building Security: We have received quotes from Access Security to upgrade our door bell system at St. Charles, as our current software is outdated, and not always reliable. We also received quotes from Access Security to upgrade our fob readers and fobs after a security vulnerability was brought to our attention.
- Looking to implement an auto attendant menu for the Central Office phone. This would give the caller

options to select which building or department they want to get a hold of, which would cut down the number of calls the Administrative Assistant would have to answer and transfer, allowing more time to focus on other duties without interruptions.

- Library Software: We are currently working on building our own database to run open source software for our elementary libraries. Our current software is expensive, and not as intuitive or user friendly.
- Configured VPN access for our Journalism classes.

Director of Advancement

Mardi Gras numbers are in.

Description	2024 MG	2023 MG	Difference
Night of Results	8954.00	11663.00	2709.00
Cash Raffle Tickets	5680.00	8010.00	2330.00
Sponsors	25250.00	33400.00	8150
Mardi Gras Gross	39884.00	53073.00	13189.00
Fund A Need	18170.00	33360.00	15190.00
MABC Match	18170.00	0	
Night of Total Raised	76224.00	86433.00	10209.00
Expenses	-17944.82	-18520.98	576.16
	58279.18	67912.02	
(232 guest registered) 197 sponsors registered, 35 guests, 72 volunteers, 6 Ambassadors, 6 court, 9 staff (325 total registered)	300 Guests	236 Guests	2023 guest count does not include volunteers as they were not encouraged to participate in the event
Volunteers	(170 spots open in 2024) (152 spots open 2023)	102	112

- Cost per guest \$59.82 @300 people (2024)
- Cost per guest \$78.49 @236 (2023)
- Overall the event went well and we received a lot of good feedback along with a number of opportunities to improve.
- Analysis: Immediate Opportunities Identified to increase the revenue of this event.

Key Strategies for Mardi Gras

- Move the event date to a day with less/no community conflicts.
- Current date is also the same as the Volume One Best of the Best Event in EC drawing a number of our prospective Cash Sponsors away from attending or sponsoring
- Current date is the same as UWEC Jigs Up Contest drawing some potential attendees away
- Current date is the same as a local sponsors Holiday party drawing away many of our corporate sponsors from attending
- Proposal to increase system wide engagement including volunteers for planning committee vibrancy, encouraging more involvement from parents of SC & HG students.
- Continue to find ways to highlight our students and staff through this event.
- Proposal to have raffle tickets available to sell at the start of school or at minimum end of November.
- Bring back the Silent Auction and remove the Live Auction.
- Consider ads (free mostly or minimally boosted through Social Media) outside of the system if one of the goals is to include the community at large
- Make key adjustments to the event itself to generate more revenue the night of from raffle tickets, games, silent auctions and other offerings.

Alumni

- Alumni Giving Competition Kicked Off on Friday, March 8th running through May 1st. Please consider sharing the post from the MACS Events Page and encouraging any fellow Alumni to get involved. We are still looking for class ambassadors or team leaders from a number of classes.
- The purpose of the event is to cultivate engagement using peer to peer means in order to update our alumni records in donor perfect and to start a cultivation model for those key identified class years of 1980-2010.
- The first gift of the event exemplifies the goals of the program. Class of 1982, small gift but from a member who has never given.
- Additional highlights and focus will be during the Alumni Weekend tournament, planned in conjunction with the Alumni Association.
- An Alumni Visit to Minneapolis/St. Paul is being planned for the weekend of April 19th-20th. This will be planned in conjunction with the Show Choir as student entertainment, Rolly Enderes, Alumni Rep, and hopefully Eric Wedemeyer, as Molly is still out of country on that weekend, along with myself. The details are still in the works with venues, guest lists, and such.
- The goals of this trip are much the same as the ones we set for the California/Arizona trip.
- Connection with Alumni in different regions to provide information about the schools
- Listen to Alumni for feedback on their focus interests and perceptions of the MACS System
- Cultivation of key identified donors
- Recruitment and re-engagement of alumni into the moves marketing plan for current and future school goals.
- Identification of Planned Giving Prospects and large capital donors

Fundraising Policy Steering Committee Update

- The Committee has met several times to create, develop, and adjust a plan for fundraising that will guide our school system into a responsible future respecting donors, stakeholders, volunteers, and providing for the fiscal needs and growth of all programs. We have made edits through a proposed Phase 1 of a 3 Phase program that I believe has been both educational and beneficial for all involved in the process. By the April meeting, I am hopeful that one of the Commission Members on our steering committee will be able to propose a finished policy proposal for the Commission's review. If you have any questions please reach out or check in with Scott S. and T.J. as they are also on the Steering Committee.

Grants Update

- If you know of any grants that you think we should look into, please pass them along. I would prefer the grant name, foundation name if not the same, and website if possible. I will look into our eligibility, the grant amount, reporting requirements and report back. Thank you.
- 2024-25 School grant for tuition assistance (this foundation prefers to stay anonymous) increased from \$68,000 last year to \$100,000. This is split between St. Charles, Holy Ghost, and Notre Dame.
- The Pablo BDG Grant is complete and a reception is being planned for the McDonell Fine Arts Night to unveil the art. We will be inviting the Education Commission, Notre Dame parents, and A.B. McDonell Vision Society Members to the reception, school tour, and encourage them to attend FAN. Molly will be presenting the Strategic Plan at the beginning of FAN as well.
- I plan to pursue the Mayo Health Grant to focus on funding for DBT and ESFAP for 2024-25 School Year and the United Way 3 year grant to cover the cost and expansion of these and potentially additional staff training that would fall under the grant specifications for 2025-2028 school years.
- Additional grants being pursued: RCU Foundation, Pablo Foundation, Walmart Spark, Marshfield Clinic Grant, AnnMarie Foundation 2nd Quarter 2024, and Scheels Foundation.

Temporarily Restricted Funds Update: \$183,198

- 142 gifts from 73 donors (11 of them new to the organization)
- Please note this number may include numbers previously reported on. (ie: grants, fund-a-need realized pledges, etc.)

A.B. McDonell Vision Fund Update: \$542,802

- 341 gifts from 263 donors (35 new donors to the organization)

Admissions Coordinator Kathleen Adams

Grade	Total Students 2023-24	Current MACS Students Enrolled	New Students Enrolled	Total Students Enrolled 2024-25	Current MACS Students Not Enrolled	Inquiring for 2024-25	Total Potential With Inquiring Students
3K	15	0	8	8	0	8	16
Total 3K	15	0	8	8	0	8	16
4K	23	10	5	15	3	7	25
K	39	22	6	28	3	11	42
1	40	31	1	32	8	2	42
2	28	33	1	34	7	1	42
Total 4K-2	130	96	13	109	18	21	148
3	34	22	0	22	6	2	30
4	34	30	2	32	4	0	36
5	42	29	0	29	4	2	35

Total 3-5	110	81	2	83	14	4	101
6	53	40	1	41	2	7	50
7	42	46	0	46	7		54
8	53	39	4	43	2	2	47
Total 6-8	148	125	5	130	11	10	151
9	44	45	4	50	7	4	61
10	55	35	0	35	9	2	46
11	48	41	1	42	10	2	54
12	51	32	0	32	14	0	46
Total 9-12	198	153	6	159	40	18	217
Total 4K-12	586	455	26	481	83	53	617
Total w/3K	586	455	34	489	83	61	633

- Current MACS families can enroll for the 2024-25 school year by going to the [MACS Website/Admissions/How To Apply Re-Enroll](#), scroll down to Current Families #2 Create Family Portal Account. The District Code is MCD-WI. Once created there is an option on the left side of the page to enroll for the 2024-25 school year.
- The Wisconsin Parental Choice Program (aka WPCP or Choice) application is open February 1 - April 18, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. This is a strict deadline with zero flexibility.
- To apply for Choice go to the [MACS Website/Admissions.Tuition & Financial Aid](#), scroll down below tuition rates and see the information for WPCP.
- Last year today, we had 465 enrolled for 4K-12. This year 481.
- If you have any questions on applying please contact Kathleen Adams directly at k.adams@macs.k12.wi.us or 715-723-0538 ext 3301

St Charles Grades Pk-2 Principal Jamie Dodge

- Our accreditation went really well, and the team had a lot of positive feedback. The team leader even gave us a card saying that our love for God, the church and his children shines through everything we do!
- The students will be participating in the Mite Box program, which is based on the Biblical story of the widow's mite (Luke 21:1-4 and Mark 12:41-43). The Mite Box is for regular contributions of "mites" – offerings above and beyond the support normally given to the church. All funds collected go to the Missionary Childhood Association to help the poor worldwide. This year, students will have the opportunity to bring their Mite Boxes up as an offering during Mass on March 27th.
- We're almost done finalizing the Camp Macks schedule, and there are so many fun activities planned for students this summer – from visits to Como Zoo to plays at the children's theatre to trips to Beaver Creek.
- Summer school will be held at St. Charles from June 3rd to June 28th.
- At Merry Monday on March 18th, the students performed an Irish dance accompanied by Ms. Lisa Covelli, a 2nd grade teacher, on her Irish fiddle.
- Next week, on March 28th, we'll have #TheMackWay Day. On this day, students will participate in various community service activities.

Holy Ghost Grades 3-5 Principal Gwen Doyle

Review:

Four great commendations from our Accreditation visit are as follows:

1. The team appreciated how well we work with our area priests in organizing visits to the elementary

schools. All four of our area priests visit each building twice throughout the year. “What a blessing!” the team said.

2. The team said it is really wonderful that we are open to including staff voice in our processes and decisions.
3. The team spoke highly of the students’ kindness. “It’s like you could see the little halos on their heads!”
4. The team commended Holy Ghost’s efforts to incorporate more student voices. The student council had given the tour and they loved it! I also shared that I would like students to eventually lead our Terrific Tuesday assemblies.
5. Also, a 5th commendation from accreditation to add to my list is that it was very evident to the team that we infuse the Catholic faith in everything we do.

Present:

We are hoping to move forward with a new Math Curriculum called [Math in Focus](#). With Mary, the elementary principals will come up with next steps that include training teachers and communication with parents.

The teachers are piloting a new grammar program [Well-Ordered Language](#) in April and May that focuses on diagramming sentences.

Student Council has given four tours to potential new students and has another scheduled this coming week.

Future:

The 4th and 5th graders will be touring the Chippewa Area History Center on Tuesday, March 26th.

We are in the midst of planning [#TheMackWay Day](#) on March 28th and look forward to high school students joining us to visit the Chippewa Manor as well as a few other activities centered around the facets of our mission: physical, moral, intellectual, and spiritual.

The Holy Ghost teachers will be reflecting on our current grading and assessment practices as well as taking a closer look at how we are utilizing our academic standards in teaching, learning, assessing and grading.

Notre Dame/McDonell Grades 6-12 Principal Eric Wedemeyer

Diocesan assessments

In the past few weeks our Theology departments at both the Middle and the High School have been working to complete the Religion assessments for our 8th and 11th graders. A special thank you to Mrs. Olivia Eibes, Mr. Gilbertson and Mr. Christian Ruf for proctoring these exams.

High School Scheduling Building

Next year’s High School students have begun registering for their classes for the 2024-25 school year. As this process continues we’ll monitor the numbers for each class and create the sections for each class. The teachers in all departments have met with school administration to voice any changes or needs for next year. There is a new process this year as we transition into our new SIS. Thank you to our School Counselors, Mrs. Jimenez and Mr. Baiertl for working on leading this process.

Field Trips

On Friday, February 9, both 7th and 8th graders traveled to The Pablo Center in Eau Claire to take in a 12:30 performance of The Giver.

Letters of Intent

On Friday, February 16 we had 4 students sign letters of intent to continue their academics while competing collegiately in athletics. The student athletes are:

- Emily Cooper (Basketball) - Black Hills State University
- Aubrey Dorn (Basketball) - Viterbo University
- Morgan Wirtz (Softball) - St. Mary’s University
- Andrew Thaler (Tack & Cross Country) - UW-Eau Claire

Lenten activities

Stations of the Cross

On Thursday, March 28 two High School members of the MACS Kolbe club will lead the Stations of the Cross for our entire Middle School.

Reconciliation

Notre Dame students will also have the opportunity to receive the sacrament of reconciliation on Thursday, March 21 and McDonell Students on Wednesday, March 27.

Adoration

The Notre Dame students will have the opportunity to participate in the singing version of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy in the church on Wednesday, March 27.

Senior Class Trip

This week 39 of our 51 Seniors are traveling out east on their Class trip. They spend two days and nights in our Nation's Capital, one night in Gettysburg, PA after touring the battlefield before traveling to and spending the last two days of the trip in New York City.

International Students

We are currently reviewing applications for International students. Our goal is to accept 10 Students from different countries to spend the '24-'24 school year at McDonell. Through this process we will be searching for host families for the students that we accept.

AI Policy Rollout

Starting the 3rd trimester, the new Ai policy will be in effect. Our teachers and students have been introduced to the policy. We'll use the end of this year to pilot the policy and determine if any changes need to be made for next school year.

Dean of Academics Mary Huffcutt

Key Activities

- **Virtue Initiative**

- This month is the month of Moderation - [Openlight media](#)
- Our virtue integration is our [SEL](#) (Social Emotional Learning). It is integrated in our history lessons, literature, and perseverance in accomplishments. It also helps in our mental well-being.
 - Michael Van Hemert is leading a small cohort of teachers through the [Insight program](#). Insight is a Social and Emotional Learning professional development program for K-12 Catholic school educators. It is a joint project of Aquinas College in Nashville and the Institute for the Transformation of Catholic Education at The Catholic University of America.
 - Openlight Media (we subscribe to for our virtue information) has a series called [Raised in Grace](#). It is a roadmap to help aid educators, parents, and caregivers who are entrusted with the essential role of nurturing children through their developmental years.

- **Professional development**

- In the process of mapping out summer PD opportunities. Math will be needed for our math refresh. Also an early learning session to help grow our programs in mission.
- I will also look at our strategic plan to identify areas that were noted.

- **Accreditation**

- The external review is DONE. We were **successful**. Thank you, Education Commission, for helping us in this process. Next steps:
 - External team leaders send the report to WRISA. The WRISA board meets in the summer (end of June). We will then get the official certification for accreditation.
 - Although there were no provisions that we must do to be accredited, the external review team will give us some ideas of strengthening some areas. These areas will be considered in the principal annual goals that are sent to WRISA each year.

- Each year, principals (with items from the central office) submit a report that indicates progress on goals, ratings for key benchmarks, and progress of teachers who are working on their diocesan teaching credential standards.

Student Support Services Coordinator Diane Hietpas

- Intent to Participate (ITP) in SNSP for the 24-25 school year was submitted.
- McDonell High School: 18 full time seats, 1 partial seat
- Notre Dame MS: 20 full time seats
- Holy Ghost: 11 full time seats, 1 partial
- St. Charles: 9 full time seats for grades 1-2, 5 seats for K and 2 seats for 4K
- **Total seats for 24-25 school year: 65 full time seats and 2 partial seats**
- **This is an increase of 6 seats over the 23-24 school year**