



St. Dominic School *Alumni & Friends* WHERE MIND, BODY AND SPIRIT ARE AWAKENED *Newsletter*

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Letter from the Principal

Dear Friends,

It is with great pride and excitement that I write to you as alumni, friends, and family of St. Dominic School. This is my 7th year as the principal, but my 19th year as a St. Dominic School member. I am deeply committed to the success of the school and excited about accomplishments we have achieved and those yet to come.



St. Dominic School
WHERE MIND, BODY AND SPIRIT ARE AWAKENED

Over the past year, the Archdiocese has offered innovative resources and ideas to Catholic schools that have allowed us the benefit of consistency with a number of policies, procedures and promises of Catholic education. The new Catholic Schools brand introduced at the Archdiocesan level is "Aim Higher." At St. Dominic School, we have embraced that idea and are challenging students, staff, and families to aim higher in all areas of their lives. The idea of Aiming Higher can be applied in a variety of ways through academics, spirituality, actions, and even health.

At school, students see and hear the words and are encouraged to live them, as well. We have recently started a new Student Recognition Program where students are recognized for Aiming Higher. Each month, staff members watch for actions or habits that are above and beyond what we would expect. Then, each staff member submits two names at the end of the month. From those names, two students are randomly chosen to have a special lunch with the principal. All submitted students are recognized for their efforts during an assembly, given a special certificate of higher achievement and a congratulatory note sent home to their parents.

St. Dominic School students, staff, and families strive to accomplish great things, facilitate a high level of learning, and develop deep spirituality. Together we are aiming higher than ever before, and with your continued support, we look forward to the great things that still lie ahead.

Blessings, Vicki Kalina Marvin

7th and 8th Graders - Faith-Filled Leaders

What do you remember about your seventh and eighth grade years? Most people remember it as a time of tumultuous ups and downs. Some even admit that it's not an age they'd choose to experience again. Whether or not it is a positive or negative experience, it's a time of incredible growth and learning. It's also a time when students are beginning to form their self-identity.

I feel fortunate to have taught seventh and eighth graders at St. Dominic School. It gave me a unique perspective of the middle school program. Because of small class sizes, students are able to learn based on their personal strengths. It is not a "one-size-fits-all" classroom.

The middle school teachers are able to focus on the specific needs of each sixth, seventh and eighth grader. The middle school students also have opportunities to live their faith through projects that serve God, the school and the community.

At the elementary level, St. Dominic students learn what faith means. At the middle school level, St. Dominic students have the opportunity to put their faith into practice. Through service projects, students learn valuable leadership skills. And, at a time when students are forming self-identity, learning to be a leader is beneficial to their growth and well-being. Early adolescents experience a unique set of challenges. It is a time of significant growth and change.

Graduates of St. Dominic School emerge as faith-filled leaders with a deep sense of identity, generosity and service.

Ann Jerdee, former 7th/8th Grade Teacher





Class of 1963 Reunion (1955 - 1963) - Memories by Eileen Cooper

The St. Dominic Class of 1963 will be holding a reunion this summer in late July. Fifty years have passed us by but the memories of Rosary/St. Dominic School, our teachers, and our friends seem to live on. Any person that was with us at any time throughout the eight years is invited to join in this great celebration.

Each of our eight years were taught by the School Sisters of Notre Dame with a few lay teachers teaching various classes in our final year along with Sister Helene our Principal. Throughout the eight years we had as many as 45 students in a class to as few as 30. Our day began each morning with Mass officiated by Father Robert Dillon and after his passing by Father Alfred Wagner. After Mass we would walk back to school to start the academics. Then when it was time for lunch we lined up and made the walk back over to the church basement to eat. And then we walked back to school again.

We did this each day until we reached the fourth grade when we no longer had to make those trips back and forth to the church. The new addition to the school was finished and with it came a cafeteria. Mrs. Lehman certainly enjoyed her new, big kitchen with all the latest. The new addition also gave us a new gym which sure was something in comparison to the old gym which is the present day

music/art room. Another big change with the new addition came a new name. Rosary School changed its name to St. Dominic School to coincide with the parish church. Dedication of the new school was held on May 24th, 1959, with Bishop Leonard Cowley, after which a dinner was given in the church basement.

Blue and white have always been the school colors. Uniforms for girls were introduced for the 1956-57 school year when we were in the second grade. They were navy blue jumpers with white blouses and were worn everyday until we graduated. Boys did not wear uniforms. There were no sports for girls. Boys basketball started when they were in the sixth grade.

Father Wagner planned our special Eighth Grade Class Day with a day spent in the Twin Cities. We toured the Ford Plant, Minneapolis Planetarium, Time and Space Gallery, and Science Museum. As written in our memoirs -- "Parents escorting the class to Minneapolis had an equally happy and rewarding day."

Save the Date All School Reunion
Saturday, Sept. 6, 2014
Mass at 5:00 pm

Please visit our website or FaceBook page for updates.

Technology Update

Every classroom is now equipped with a SmartBoard for greater interactive teaching capabilities. SmartBoards project computer screen images onto an interactive whiteboard surface. They are innovative, respond to touch and easy to use. Smart products have revolutionized the way students learn, connect and collaborate. We have also purchased 9 new iPads for student enhancement, thanks to the tremendous support of our GiveMN Campaign in November and other generous donations.

We Thank Our Development Fund Donors ...

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St. Dominic School strives for excellence in education at an affordable cost. As a non-public institution, revenue is generated from tuition, parish support, fundraising, grants, in-kind donations and the endowment fund. Endowment money is used for capital improvements, student scholarships, professional growth of teachers, program enrichment and special projects. The endowment fund is managed by a committee consisting of the pastor, the principal, and members of the Parish Finance Committee, Parish Pastoral Council, and members selected by the School Advisory Committee. Funds are disbursed according to a formula that takes a percentage of the interest and dividends earned for the year. The school depends on the generosity of alumni, family members, parishioners, and friends to help financially support the school and maintain a healthy endowment.

