

LEAVING A SHAMROCK LEGACY

BY: RANDY HODGE

Welcome to the first edition of *A Shamrock Legacy*. This is the new newsletter for the St. Patrick School/Parish advancement and development committee. This newsletter will be sent to you three times each year.

St. Patrick School was started in 1906 and has been providing students in the greater Portland area with a strong Catholic school education ever since. Many generations have come and gone

throughout the years building the foundation which exists today. Now is the chance for all of us to continue in that great tradition and leave our legacy for future generations of shamrocks. With this thought in mind, St. Patrick School is launching an advancement and development program.

“ We are extremely excited about this new, exciting and dynamic process that will focus on engaging others and working together for the advancement and development of our Catholic school and parish.”

appreciate today. Now is the time to pass this gift down to our children, grandchildren and even our grandchildren.



Advancement and development are used synonymously. The idea is that we want to look at advancing and developing our school/parish to be the best it possibly can be in all areas. Development is the meaningful involvement of people in our mission and vision for the future.

We want to involve all who believe in our mission and vision to create a lasting legacy that will be valued and appreciated by generations to come. Without the dedication and commitment of previous generations, we would not have what we value and

Principal, continued on pg. 2

INSIDE:

Class of 2019
accomplishments

Pg. 3

Plants and Grounds
Committee is Getting it
Done

Pg. 4

Leaving a Legacy

Pg. 5

While most people believe that advancement and development is just fundraising, that is not the case. The program we are developing will cover the following areas:

- Enrollment management
- Fund development
- Constituent records
- Fundraising management
- Communications
- Support or contact with Alumni (ae)

The school administrators will oversee the advancement and development program at St. Patrick School, along with a core team of individuals. We will be following a program developed by Mr. Frank Donaldson, who worked with the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA).

This process is not going to be completed in a short amount of time. The goal was to get our program started over the course of this summer, which we have done. We will begin ramping up now that the 2019-20 school year is underway. This is not something that is done overnight. It is a constant cycle of planning, implementing and evaluating.

We are extremely excited about this new, exciting and dynamic process that will focus on engaging others and working together for the advancement and development of our Catholic school and parish.

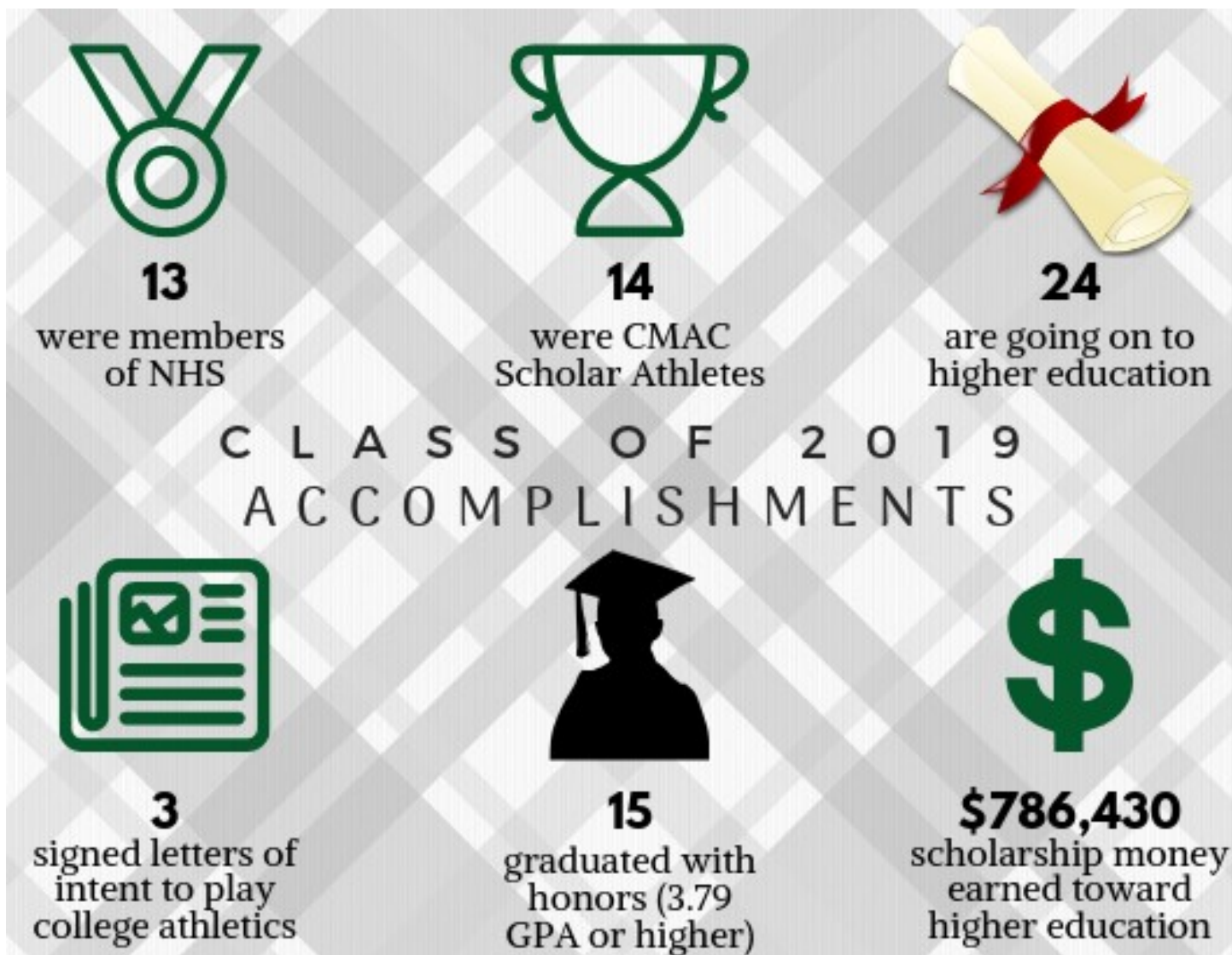
If you are interested in working with the school administration, along with the support of advancement and development veteran Mr. Michael Wolfston, please contact Mr. Randy Hodge (randyhodge@portlandstpats.org) or Mrs. Cortney Smith (cortneysmith@portlandstpats.org) by email or by calling the school office at (517) 647-7551.

ADVANCEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE HELP WANTED

The St. Patrick School Advancement and Development committee consists of the following members:

- Randy Hodge, high school principal
- Cortney Smith, elementary school principal
- Michael Wolfston, advancement and development co-chair
- Elizabeth Hager, advancement and development co-chair

The committee is looking to grow our team and is seeking individuals who may be interested in becoming a part of the committee. If you are interested or need more information, please contact school administrators Mr. Randy Hodge, randyhodge@portlandstpats.org, or Mrs. Cortney Smith, cortneysmith@portlandstpats.org, by email or by calling the school office at (517) 647-7551.



On May 19, St. Patrick School said goodbye to the Class of 2019 as they ended an outstanding school career. Here are some of their major accomplishments:

- 13 of the 25 students were members of the National Honor Society.
- 14 were recognized as CMAC Scholar Athletes, meaning they had at least a 3.4 GPA and lettered in at least two sports, one of which was in their senior year.
- 24 out of the 25 plan to go on to higher education with one student taking a gap year before going to university.
- Three signed a National Letter of Intent to participate in college athletics.
- 15 graduated with honors (3.79 GPA or higher) with six of those having a weighted 4.0 GPA or higher. 24 had a GPA of 3.0 or higher.
- They were offered a total of \$786,430 in scholarship money. They accepted approximately \$534,295 of that money from the colleges and universities they plan on attending.

By: Randy Hodge

PLANTS AND GROUND COMMITTEE IS GETTING IT DONE

By: Randy Hodge

St. Patrick Parish and School has a new plants and grounds committee that is overseeing the facilities. They have been very busy. Recently the following projects were completed thanks to your generous donations:

- A new sound system was installed in the school gymnasium.
- A hot water heater was installed in the school cafeteria.
- A new science lab table, thanks to a mini-grant from the Father Flohe Foundation, was installed in the high school science classroom.
- Work has been completed to refurbish the church sanctuary with the original, tabernacle and crucifix.
- The pole barn at Father Flohe Field that was destroyed by the tornado has been rebuilt.
- A new roof has been installed on the school.
- A new boiler was installed in the newer portion of the school. Last winter, one of the boilers failed.
- The sign designating the school office entrance has been relocated to be more “eye-level” and noticeable to visitors.
- A new storm door was installed at the parish office.

There are several projects that have been started or are in the planning stages. These include:

- Replacing all kneelers in the church (estimated cost \$23,000).
- Replacing two aging copy machines in the school that no longer have replacement parts available (estimated cost \$10,290 per machine).
- Remodeling the approach to the main entrance of the school so it meets American with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards (estimated cost \$13,000).
- LED lighting upgrades for the parking lot and driveway in between the church and school. This will provide better safety for the school and greater illumination of the church & parish hall handicap entrances.
- The stained-glass window near the west church entrance (facing the courtyard) will see

repairs, as well as the addition of new tempered glass for protective measure and to save on heat loss.

- Bids for upgrades thanks to our Michigan State Police security grant are under evaluation by the committee. Due to timing required for federal approvals and Michigan State Police oversight, work will now be completed during the school year.
- Prep work is being completed on the parish properties along Grape Street that will be up for sale soon.
- The project to replace the gym floor has started with the goal of having everything completed by the end of September.

We are very excited with all the great things that are currently happening at St. Patrick Parish and School. We are also thankful and appreciative for those who have been generous with their time, talents and financial support. We are especially thankful for the members of the plants and grounds committee that have been behind the planning of all that is being completed. While we are thrilled with all that has been accomplished, we are ready to roll up our sleeves and get to work on all that yet needs to be completed. If you would like to join us, please feel free to contact the parish to share your expertise on any of the aforementioned projects with our plants and grounds committee or be generous with any financial support, which can be earmarked for any projects you feel would be the best investment of your money. We welcome prayers for both our parish and school. We must be good stewards of the resources we have to ensure our church and school are not only available for our current generations but for many generations yet to come.

HOW TO LEAVE A LEGACY THROUGH THE FATHER FLOHE FOUNDATION

BY: ZACH WIGHT

What Is Planned Giving?

Planned giving is also referred to as gift planning or legacy giving. It enables individuals to make larger gifts to charitable organizations than they could make from ordinary income. Some planned gifts provide lifelong income to the donor. Other gift plans use estate and tax planning to provide for charity and heirs in ways that maximize the gift and/or minimize its impact on the donor's estate.

Thus, by definition, a planned gift is any major gift, made in a lifetime or at death as part of a donor's overall financial and/or estate planning. These include gifts of equity, life insurance, real estate, personal property, or cash. By contrast, gifts to annual appeals are made from a donor's discretionary income, and while they may be budgeted for, they are not planned. Whether a donor uses cash, appreciated securities/stock, real estate, artwork, partnership interests, personal property, life insurance, a retirement plan, etc., the benefits of funding a planned gift can make this type of charitable giving very attractive to both the donor and charity.

What are the tax benefits of planned gifts?

- Donors can contribute appreciated property, like securities or real estate, receive a charitable deduction for the full market value of the asset, and pay no capital gains tax on the transfer.
- Gifts payable to charity upon the donor's death, like a bequest or a beneficiary designation in a life insurance policy or retirement account, do not generate a lifetime income tax deduction for the donor, but they are exempt from estate tax.

What is the mission of the Father Flohe Foundation?

The Father Flohe Foundation's mission is simply to ensure the stability of St Patrick as a K-12 school for future generations. Since its humble beginnings, the Foundation has been able to contribute nearly \$1,700,000 to support the operating needs of St Patrick Catholic School. The

"The benefits of funding a planned gift can make this type of charitable giving very attractive to both the donor and charity."

Foundation's success is completely attributable to the generosity of the St Patrick's community. We hope you will consider the Foundation in your gift giving and estate planning decisions! As members of the St. Patrick's community, we hope you feel as we do, that St. Patrick's has and will continue to provide an invaluable educational experience by instilling Catholic values and maintaining a curriculum that will provide value to students throughout their lifetime.

As always, please feel free to reach out to the Foundation with any questions, ideas, or random musings. We are here to help! Thank you for making St Patrick Parish and School truly special.



ESTABLISHING YOUR FAMILY'S SCHOLARSHIP

By: Michael Wolfston

No child should be denied a Catholic faith-based education because their parents or guardians do not have the financial means to pay their tuition. The Diocese of Grand Rapids and its schools strive to provide an exceptional educational experience in which all children can flourish. We partner with parents to awaken the whole child to a world of light and life – that grows better and brighter when children reach their potential. You trust St. Patrick to provide not only a wonderful education but also to reinforce the morals and values you set in your home. We care about your students both now, as they mature into their adult life, and in the future as they look to eternal life.

In order to assist our current families and those families who would like to send their children to St. Patrick School but are facing financial hardships St. Patrick School, in conjunction with the Father Flohe Foundation, is establishing the St. Patrick School Scholarship Program.

It is the intent of this program to establish as many endowed educational scholarships as possible, where a portion of the accumulated interest is returned annually in the form of student scholarships.

This is how it will work:

- This scholarship will be financially managed by the Father Flohe Foundation which will pay back 4% of the accumulated interest annually for scholarship use, consequently the larger the principal invested in the scholarship the more interest available for scholarships.
- Scholarships may be set up in honor of a loved one, in memory of a loved one, to support an educational program (STEM, social studies, religious studies, math studies, etc. Scholarships may also be set up to provide financial resources for educational equipment, e.g. computer or classroom equipment, etc.)
- Families or businesses that establish a scholarship will receive an annual financial statement showing the financial situation of

that scholarship.

- The individual or family establishing the scholarship will work with the high school and elementary principals in establishing the criteria needed to award the scholarship on an annual basis.
- The minimal amount to establish a named scholarship is \$25,000, payable over five years.
- To apply for a scholarship, students and families will be asked to submit an online application by the end of January of each year. The principals and a representative of the Father Flohe Foundation will review all applications and award the scholarships in March of each year. Please note that no cash will be exchanged, scholarships will be credited towards the tuition account of the student awarded the scholarship.
- If enough interest is earned scholarships will be awarded to more than one student.
- There will be a scholarship awards dinner on an annual basis for the donor who established the scholarship and the scholarship recipient to meet and discuss the student's educational goals and objectives.

Providing access to education through scholarships is increasingly important, as you assist students in realizing their educational dreams and reaching their fullest potential. Your gifts to unrestricted scholarships not only provide financial support for our student's educations, but they are also an investment in their future.

Please contact Mr. Randy Hodge or Mrs. Courtney Smith at the school office, 517-647-7551, to discuss the opportunity of establishing a St. Patrick Scholarship.

Thank you very much for your ongoing financial support of St. Patrick School and the students entrusted to our care.

SEEKING TUITION ANGELS

By: Randy Hodge

Every year approximately 20% of school families approach the school administrators seeking tuition assistance to keep their child enrolled at St. Patrick Catholic School. Would you consider being an angel in disguise and helping to make Catholic education for these families possible?

St. Patrick School is seeking individuals who are willing to assist those families who need tuition assistance. We are approximately \$20,000 short in scholarship money which would aide us in fulfilling all requests made for the 2019-20 school year. Please consider being an anonymous donor and assisting a family in achieving their desire to provide their child with a Catholic School education. Any gift made to this program will be used to provide a direct scholarship to school families.

SPONSOR A SHAMROCK

By: Randy Hodge

Would you consider sponsoring a Shamrock for one week? Maybe one month or a year? Every donation to our Tuition Angels Fund helps.

For one day in elementary...	\$26.87
For one week in elementary...	\$134.34
For one month in elementary...	\$ 483.61
For one year in elementary...	\$4,836.13

For one day in high school...	\$32.56
For one week in high school...	\$162.82
For one month in high school...	\$586.14
For one year in high school...	\$5,861.36

St. Patrick
Catholic School
122 West. St.
Portland, MI 48875
Phone: 517-647-7551
portlandstpats.com/school

Non-Profit Org
US Postage
PAID
Grand Rapids
MI
Permit 1

Address Service Requested

JOIN US IN MAKING AN IMPACT

Located in Portland, Michigan, St. Patrick Catholic School has been educating the minds, bodies, and spirits of its students for over 110 years. Our school mission statement contains six powerful words that are a guide for life: We Pray! We Learn! We Achieve!

St. Patrick School is open to all families who are looking for a faith-based education for their children. For more information about our top-rated preschool through 12th grade academic, athletic, and extracurricular programs, please visit portlandstpats.com/school

Ensure that this holistic Catholic education can continue, establish a scholarship today!
100% of your contribution is tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law. Please consult your financial advisor to determine which method of giving is most beneficial to you.