



A Shamrock Legacy

Summer 2023 | A Development Newsletter for
Portland St. Patrick Catholic School



Graduating Class of 2023

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL YEAR IN THE BOOKS

We are excited to wrap up another very successful school year and to see the Class of 2023, our 70th high school class, graduate from St. Patrick High School. While they were the smallest class to graduate in school history, that did not hold them back from being successful.

Our advancement and development program continues to grow and evolve. We are grateful for all of the feedback from our alumni and benefactors. Recently, some concerns were raised about having two publications, *The Shamrock*, and *A Shamrock Legacy*, which is confusing. Therefore, we will combine our efforts into one publication that will be sent out quarterly. You can expect an edition in the following months: September, December, March, and June.

Secondly, many individuals have voiced concerns that they do not appreciate receiving a remittance envelope along with their Christmas cards. They feel it is tacky and disrespectful, and we do not want to be considered either one of these. Despite this being our most successful mailing regarding donations, we will honor your requests and will no longer include a remittance envelope in our Christmas Card mailing.



The Girls Varsity Track & Field Team with their State Runner-Up Trophy.

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CELEBRATING THE SUCCESS OF THE 2022-23 SCHOOL YEAR

Now that the 2022-23 school year has ended, we would like to take time to share our top accomplishments for the year. It would be impossible to rank them in order of importance, so we have placed them in random order:

1. In the summer of 2022, we had four bathrooms remodeled in the original portion of the school building. The remodel project included a new teachers' lounge and two staff bathrooms.

2. This summer, we continued with our classroom renovations. Rooms 100, 101, 102, 103, 113, 200, and 205 had carpeting, asbestos tiles, and the old chalkboards which contain asbestos removed. The old chalkboards were replaced with modern whiteboards, and the floors are now polished concrete.

3. We created the St. Patrick MEGA Rock Raffle. This new raffle replaced the weekly sports raffle, the Fall Festival raffle, the Parish Festival raffle, and the large Shamrock Auction raffle. Instead, we chose to have one annual raffle where the tickets are sold for \$500 each. The goal is to sell 1,000 tickets to help fund our parish, school, and athletic programs. While we have not reached our goal of selling 1,000 tickets, our net profit will exceed the combined sales of the previous year's raffles that the MEGA Rock Raffle replaced.

4. Our sports teams continued to have remarkable success. Cozette Brown, our school's first four-year state qualifier, led our cross-country team. Freshman TJ Chamberlain also qualified for the state meet. The varsity volleyball team won their regional for the second time in six seasons, and the trap team won their third consecutive league championship. Finally, the girls' track & field team are first-ever regional champions and sent a record number of athletes to compete at States. They also finished as State Runner Ups for the first time in school history.

5. Our school became a Capturing Kids Heart school, with our staff undergoing two days of intense professional development in August. Capturing Kids' Hearts equips professionals in K-12 education to implement transformational processes focused on social-emotional wellbeing, relationship-driven campus culture, and student connectedness.

6. Our school facility dog, Anna, graduated from Canines for Change on June 30, receiving her official facility certification.

7. We resurrected our Campus Ministry team, which had been idle for several years. This group has formerly been known by a few other names, including STIC and the Student Ambassador Team. The team will be led by our new Campus Minister, Mrs. Nikki Brown, our new school Counselor, Ms. Mary Wernet, and our high school Theology Teacher, Mr. Dan Rockey.

8. Our music program continues to grow under the leadership of our parish Music Director, Mr. James Tavadze. He teaches K-5 music and leads our middle and high school choirs. The high school choir had their first public performance outside of school Mass at our annual Veterans Day ceremony with a beautiful rendition of the Star-Spangled Banner. We also brought back our annual elementary Christmas program for the first time in three years.

9. The school's weight room received a significant number of donations for new and gently used equipment. Turf has been installed to make it a state-of-the-art facility.

10. Our advancement and development program continues to grow, as does the number of benefactors and donors who continue to give to St. Patrick School. All this support makes the accomplishments previously mentioned in this list possible.

Through the previous list of accomplishments, we demonstrate our commitment to 'We Achieve!' – the third and final part of our mission statement. Throughout the 2022-23 school year, many individuals dedicated numerous hours of hard work to bring these events to fruition. We are excited about these accomplishments and even more excited about the prospect of bigger and better things in 2023-24.

2023 SHAMROCK AUCTION A HUGE SUCCESS

St. Patrick School celebrated the 21st anniversary of the Shamrock Auction on April 21st. The event, held at the Knights Hall, had the theme "Come Celebrate the Auction's 21st Birthday." This year, the auction raised a record-breaking \$221,197.37, with proceeds split between the Athletic Association and the school general fund.

Alongside the live auction, there were raffles, including an in-person and virtual 50/50 raffle, as well as a silent auction. The total amount raised, \$104,292.37, will be divided between the school and athletic programs.

The Fund the Excellence appeal, the last live auction item, focused on masonry work needed for the school's long-term sustainability. Any excess funds raised beyond the cost of the work will benefit the athletic association. This year, the Fund the Excellence appeal raised an additional \$116,905.00.

The Shamrock Auction fosters community spirit among school families, alumni, parishioners, and supporters. It requires significant effort from volunteers, parents, friends, alumni, and local businesses. The event's success is attributed to the dedicated Shamrock Auction committee and the generous contributions of various individuals and establishments.

Special thanks go to the committee members: Dave Chislea, Mike and Ann Kissane, Jason and Jennifer Chamberlain, Jason and Maddie McCormack, Kristen Smith, Michelle Trierweiler, Erin Martin, Amy Pung, Heather Davis, and Chelsey Pung. Gratitude is also extended to those who provided food for the event, including Michelle Trierweiler, Joan Tichvon, Jason and Maddie McCormack, Kevin Schrauben, Chris Teachout of Sweet Caroline's BBQ, and Farm Country Cheese House in Lakeview.

Once again, thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of this year's Shamrock Auction. We eagerly anticipate your presence, either in person or remotely, at next year's event on April 19, 2024.

MHSAA CLASS BREAKDOWN

Every spring, each Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) participating school receives an email from the MHSAA with the breakdown of each class size for the upcoming school year. The classification is based on the reported enrollment submitted to the MHSAA. Based on all high school enrollment figures submitted, here is the classification breakdown for the 2023-24 school year:

- CLASS A - 804 and above
- CLASS B - 803 - 380
- CLASS C - 379 - 177
- CLASS D - 176 and below

A school can play up in a higher division if they choose but cannot play down a division. On April 6, the MHSAA will post on its website (MHSAA.com) the lists of schools in each division for each MHSAA tournament sport. Those tournament sports are basketball, baseball, bowling, cross country, softball, competitive cheer, football, golf, ice hockey, lacrosse, skiing, swimming & diving, tennis, track & field, soccer, volleyball, and wrestling. A school must participate in a sport's last two MHSAA tournaments to appear on the division listing for that sport. A school in this situation would need to "opt-in" via correspondence on school letterhead to once again be included in the tournament assignments for that sport.



The high school choir at the African Refugee Mass at St. Andrews Cathedral in Grand Rapids.

IN HONOR AND MEMORY OF

On our remittance envelope, you can choose to donate in honor or in memory of individuals who have impacted your life. Here are those who have been honored or remembered in a donation to St. Patrick School over the last three years.

IN HONOR OF:

*The class of 1982 & 1983
Gary & Patty Bogard
Gary Hodge
Gayle Thelen, Diane Simon, & Erin Martin
Jacob and Kaylee Schrauben
Jan Supina
Joyce Curns
Mark Truman Woodman
Patricia Manning Platte
Sisters of St. Joseph
The Leik Family
Westin and Ada Schrauben*

IN HONOR/MEMORY:

Francis & Eleanor Vallier

IN MEMORY OF:

*Al & V.A. Goodrich
Anita Weller
Barbara Jean (Strong) Struble
Barbara Smith
Betty Spitzley
Beverly Fedewa
Bill & Joyce Dutcher
Bill Schrauben, Jr.
Brenda Pung - class of 86
Carleen and Doug Kissane
Cecilia R. Smith
Curtis Schmitt
Dale Stiffler
Daniel Spitzley
Deceased members of Marv & Mary Schafer
Dianne Russman
Dick & Marian Schneider
Dick Lawless
Dick Willemin
Dorothy Lenneman
Jerry Left
Jerry Schrauben*

IN MEMORY OF CONTINUED:

*Jim Burns
Joann Sandborn
Joanne Pohl
Joe A. Pung
John Scheurer
Joseph Michael Brown
Joyce Volk
Kathleen Russman
Ken C. Smith
Larry Blundy
Lyle Braley
Mae Lehman
Mark Strang
Mary Leonard
Mary Wieber
Mike and Jane Honsowitz
Mindy Pung
Mr. and Mrs. Burton Brown
Mr. and Mrs. Leo Russman
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Schneider
Msgr. Herman Zerfas
Nancy Schrauben
Norma Simon
Patricia Ann Klein
Perry and Kate Lawless
Richard Dornbos
Richard J. Fox
Rita Blundy
Robert & Beverly Dies
Stan Thelen
Steven Kahn
Therese Barry
Thomas and Rosemary Pung
Thomas Zimmerman
Tim M. Chamberlain
Tom Vanderstein
Tom, Sr. and Ruth Keusch
William (Bill) Trierweiler*

MEGA ROCK RAFFLE UPDATE

The 2022 MEGA Rock Raffle was a success this year, with approximately 500 tickets sold. We grossed roughly \$200,000 from this year's ticket sales. We look forward to a successful 2023 MEGA Rock Raffle and look forward to meeting our goal of selling 1,000 tickets.

Tickets for the 2023 MEGA Rock Raffle will officially be available online beginning on July 1, 2023, at <http://bidpal.net/megarockraffle2023>. All our parish and school benefactors will receive hard copies of three tickets in a mailing scheduled to be sent out in mid-August.

The final MEGA winners will be announced at the St. Patrick Parish Festival on Saturday, June 24. Listed below are the winners from our first three MEGA drawings as well as our monthly MEGA winners:

FALL FESTIVAL MEGA WINNERS:

Lindsey Bos - \$5,000
Dale & Carol Kramer - \$2,500
Chelsey Pung - \$1,000
Germaine Simon - \$750
Tom & Therese Jandernoa - \$500
Allen Pline - \$500
Bob & Rose Mosser - \$250
Brett Klein - \$250
Sandra Pearson - \$250
Cindy Brown - \$250

MARRIAGE GALA MEGA WINNERS:

Jeff & Dawn Fedewa - \$5,000
Noreen Logel - \$2,500
Brandi Bengel - \$1,000
Dave & Marianne Kerr - \$750
Roni Christmas - \$500
Stephanie Wambaugh - \$500
Nick & Jenny Sandborn - \$250
Kathleen Spitzley - \$250
John Schrauben - \$250
Mary Ann Thelen - \$250

SHAMROCK AUCTION MEGA WINNERS:

Ann Pelc - \$5000
Rita Klein & Colleen Gladding - \$2500
Karen Scheurer - \$1000
Melanie Schneider - \$750
Michael Hoppes - \$500
Natalie Spitzley - \$500
Monica Johnson - \$250
Lisa Lehnert - \$250
Kevin Schrauben - \$250
Wayne & Marlene Dick - \$250

MONTHLY \$500 WINNERS:

September: Keelie Honsowitz
October: Barb Austen/Kathleen Waldron
November: Ann Schneider
December: Karen Scheurer
January: Don Gross
February: Wayne & Marlene Dick
March: Brandi Bengel
April: Jane Gross
May: Tony & Liz Kolarik

2023-24 MEGA ROCK RAFFLE IMPORTANT DATES:

- JULY 1, 2023: MEGA ROCK RAFFLE TICKETS AVAILABLE
- OCTOBER 15, 2023: FALL FESTIVAL
- FEBRUARY 10, 2024: MARRIAGE GALA
- APRIL 19, 2024: SHAMROCK AUCTION
- JUNE 22, 2024: PARISH FESTIVAL



Tickets can be purchased here:
<http://bidpal.net/megarockraffle2023>

Using your phone camera, scan the
QR code above to purchase your
MEGA Rock Raffle ticket today.

A HISTORIC SEASON FOR THE GIRLS VARSITY TRACK & FIELD TEAM

The girls' varsity track & field team had an outstanding season this year, achieving remarkable milestones. They won trophies at five consecutive invitationals and secured the school's first-ever girls' track & field regional title. Dominating the meet with 154 points, they finished 68 points ahead of the closest team. The team earned 49 all-region medals, and eight athletes advanced to the State Finals, where they brought home the school's first-ever State Runner-Up trophy.

Individually, Rylee Scheurer became a state champion by finishing first in the 200 meters. The 4 x 400 team of Siena Schafer, Izzy Kissane, Sophie Schrauben, and Kenzie Fedewa secured second place. Notably, the team broke several track records during the 2023 season:

- The 4x100 relay team of Kyra Kinsman, Izzy Kissane, Kenzie Fedewa, and Rylee Scheurer ran 51.87, surpassing the 1993 record.
- The 4 x 200 relay team of Izzy Kissane, Sophie Schrauben, Kenzie Fedewa, and Rylee Scheurer achieved a time of 1:47.62, surpassing the record set in 2017.
- The 4 x 400 relay team of Siena Schafer, Izzy Kissane, Sophie Schrauben, and Kenzie Fedewa set a new school record at 4:09.32 during the state finals, breaking the previous record set in 2016.
- Junior Rylee Scheurer broke the school records in both the 100-meter and 200-meter dash at the state finals.
- Sophomore Kenzie Fedewa set a new school record in the 800-meter with a time of 2:23.25.
- Junior Sophie Schrauben broke the school records in both the 100-meter hurdles and 300-meter hurdles.

Additionally, Rylee Scheurer, Sophie Schrauben, Kenzie Fedewa, Kyra Kinsman, and Cozette Brown received Academic All-State honors for their impressive combination of grade point average and state finals performance.

OTHER SPRING SPORTS SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

The school's Trap Shooting team three-peated as conference champions, winning the league this spring, last fall, and in the spring of 2022. 8th-grade student Logan Howe had an outstanding season with a 23.2 average (out of 25). He was the top shooter for the team. He finished first in our conference out of 155 athletes and tied for 59th in the league out of 1797 athletes. Freshman Maizie Pelc tied for 10th place in the conference for female shooters.

The team finished the season with six of their athletes in the top 25 of the conference and, throughout the season, had seven to eight shooters in the top 25 most weeks. 11 team members participated in the State Finals on June 17, 2023.

The middle school boy's track & field team set a new school record in the boys' 4x200 relay. The team, consisting of Michael Cross, Ben White, James Miller, and Kaeden Brown, had a time of 1:45.52, good enough to beat the previous record of 1:47.40 set by Seth Frawley, Lucas Simon, Alex Fedewa, and Payton Russman back in 2019.

8th-grade student Sophia Bergsma set a new middle school record in the girls' 200-meter hurdles with a time of 32.20, good enough to beat the previous record of 33.06s by Cammi Schneider in 2012.

Sophomore Landon Simpson shot the lowest score of any CMAC golfer at a league jamboree. This is the first time a Shamrock golfer carded the lowest score at a CMAC jamboree since Ryan Wilcox in 2012.



The Class of 2023 on their senior trip to Frankenmuth.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



Our student spotlight is on incoming senior Isabelle (Izzy) Kissane. She is the daughter of Mike and Ann Kissane. She has four siblings, alumni Alex, Riley, and Leah (Class of 2020), and sister Cora who is currently in 3rd grade.

Izzy is in her fourth year serving as the class president for the Class of 2024 and will serve as the student council president for the 2023-24 school year. She is also a member of the National Honor Society. Izzy participates in cross country and is a Regional Champion and State Runner Up track and field team member. Izzy holds the school record with her teammates in the 4 x 100, 4 x 200, 4 x 400, and 4 x 800 track relay teams.

Izzy is excited and looking forward to the upcoming school year. The student council is already beginning to plan for the 2023 homecoming, scheduled for Saturday, October 7, at 7:00 PM.

NHS BLOOD DRIVE UPDATE

On May 22, the St. Patrick High School National Honor Society hosted a Red Cross blood drive. This drive brought in 29 units of blood. That brings our total for the school year to 159! Thank you to our blood donors for your generosity and support of this vital public health service. Thank you also to our fantastic and dedicated NHS members who run things so smoothly. Our next blood drive is tentatively scheduled for September 26 in the Parish Hall from 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM (please note this is a new time for our blood drives). Please remember you can visit redcrossblood.org to schedule an appointment to donate over the summer. The need is constant! The upcoming blood drive dates for the 2023-24 school year are: 9/26/23, 11/21/23, 1/23/24, 3/19/24, 5/21/24.

THE SHAMROCK PERSONAL FINANCE DIFFERENCE

Did you know that St. Patrick High School is one of the few high schools in the State of Michigan that requires a semester course in personal finance before graduation? St. Patrick High School students also take a semester course in personal finance in middle school. Recently, that knowledge paid off for a St. Patrick High School graduate and their spouse.

Colin Cook (2018) and his wife Olivia were recently featured on the Dave Ramsey Show for becoming debt free and purchasing their first home together. They paid off \$61,000 in debt in 13 months. To hear their story, forward the following video to 1:02:35: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O44tGlehmU4>

SAVE THE DATE

Please make sure to save these important upcoming dates. If you have any class reunion information, please feel free to share that with me at randyhodge@portlandstpats.org.

- **Saturday, July 1:** MEGA Rock raffle tickets are officially up for sale on the following website: <http://bidpal.net/megarockraffle2023>
- **Tuesday, August 22:** The first day of school for K-12 students
- **Monday, August 28:** The first day of school for preschool students
- **Tuesday, September 26:** NHS Blood drive from 8:00 AM – 2:00 PM
- **Saturday, September 30:** The Class Reunion for the Classes of 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990 at the home of Randy and Michelle Hodge. More details will be mailed to alumni of these four classes.
- **Saturday, October 7:** Homecoming at 7:00 PM
- **Sunday, October 8:** Our annual Fall Festival

If you have any alumni news, please feel free to email that information to Randy Hodge at randyhodge@portlandstpats.org.

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YOUR DONATION MAKES 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.

Establish a scholarship today! Your gift will ensure that a holistic Catholic education at St. Patrick School will be available to families for years to come. 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.