

Seasons of the Saints

Fall 2025



From the Principals

Dear All Saints Academy Community,

Welcome to the 2025-2026 school year at All Saints Academy! This fall brought with it time honored traditions like ice cream social, school picture day, ASA Carnival, and Pack the Pews. One of the most anticipated traditions is the 8th grade retreat held at Camp Manitou-Lin which is featured on the front cover. The new school year also ushered in a few new experiences that assist in our efforts to form our students into saints.

This September All Saints Academy hosted an inaugural parent involvement fair. This was an opportunity for parents/guardians to gather and explore ways in which they can share their time and talents to support the mission of Catholic education here at ASA. There are so many ways to get involved! Eaglefest, Trunk or Treat, and Santa's Secret Shop only happen with the help of our dedicated parents and community.

Many of our school families attended the Seek and Find event hosted by St. Jude Parish in October. Seek and Find was fun for the entire family as the faith-filled treasure hunt ventured across the entire Upper Campus. Inspired by Matthew 7:7, "Seek and you will find," each family followed clues and collected keepsakes along the way. Inside at the Brophy Center, families created craft and enjoyed delicious fall treats. The event ended with guessing the weight of a giant pumpkin and getting to take a smaller pumpkin home.

Another time honored tradition was celebrated, albeit with a little different spin. Due to All Saints Day falling on a Saturday, as well as anticipated construction at St. Alphonsus this winter, our school feast day was celebrated mid week at St. Al's on October 29th. ASA's version of "the shirt" was unveiled to students and our Eagle Award was presented to an outstanding member of the ASA community while both campuses were together for Mass. Congratulations to Mrs. Angela Mitchell! Angela is the administrative assistant at the Upper Campus and mother of three ASA graduates with another graduating in June. She is involved in just about everything outside of the school office as well, a true example of how a school shines when people give of their time, talent, and treasure.

If you are interested in increasing your involvement at ASA through volunteer opportunities, please reach out to either campus office!

Many Blessings,
Mrs. Megan Schneider & Mr. Michael Debri

ASA Endowment

Endowments provide long-term financial stability for Catholic schools by preserving the principal of a gift and using the investment income for annual support, such as tuition assistance, scholarships, facility upkeep, and program enhancements. This perpetual source of funding is critical to the future of All Saints Academy.

ASA has endowments held within two organizations: The Catholic Foundation of West Michigan and The Grand Rapids Community Foundation.

\$2.45 MILLION

HELD IN ALL SAINTS ACADEMY ENDOWMENTS

Catholic Foundation of West Michigan

- All Saints Academy Fund
- Barbara Hernes Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Paul and Helen Walsh Education Fund



The Catholic Foundation of West Michigan is a charitable organization established to serve the Catholic community by promoting Christian philanthropy. As a community foundation serving West Michigan Catholics, the Foundation offers donors highly effective investment vehicles for their charitable resources, the finest professional stewardship of those funds, optimal tax benefits, and a program of generous and responsible giving to the community that creates meaningful and lasting legacies. Visit catholicfoundationwmi.org for more information.

Grand Rapids Community Foundation

- Lois A. Birch Kalman Fund



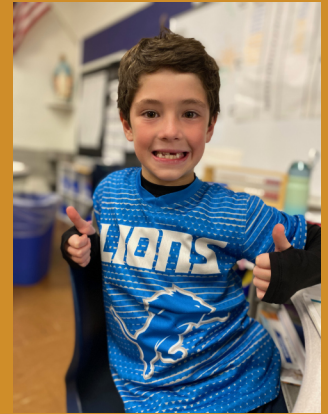
The Grand Rapids Community Foundation is a nonprofit organization that connects people, passion and resources. The Community Foundation uses the tools of philanthropy to find solutions to pressing issues and provide grants to support the work of nonprofits, scholarships to local students and other forms of support to communities working to eliminate barriers to opportunity, prosperity and belonging. Visit grfoundation.org for more information.

For more information about the endowments at All Saints Academy or to learn how your family might establish their legacy at ASA, please contact Mr. Debri.

New This Year: Pop Up Community Color Days!



This school year All Saints Academy community color days have been popping up! Throughout the school year we will live out our belief that we are one and join together in support of our community. In September ASA students wore black, blue, and silver on a pop up community color day in recognition of Michigan's own Detroit Lions. The school was then colored shades of pink for a Pink Out in October to show our support for those who are impacted by cancer. ASA is waiting in eager anticipation to see what community color day will pop up next!



Welcome New Staff!

You may have noticed some new staff throughout both the Lower and Upper Campuses this year, make sure to take a moment to get to know each of them and welcome them to the ASA community.

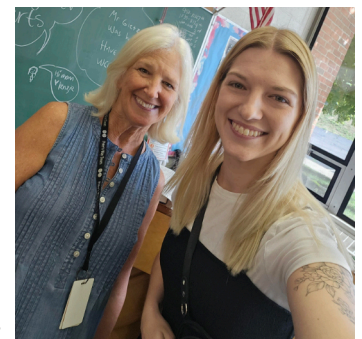
Mrs. Kelly Simpson (right) is our new Kindergarten teacher. Originally from the Detroit area, Mrs. Simpson moved to Grand Haven in middle school. She attended Michigan State University and Grand Valley State University. Mrs. Simpson has more than 16 years of teaching experience.



Mrs. Cindy Girodat (below) is our new Second Grade teacher. She is familiar with many of our students, as she was a sub for ASA throughout the 2024-2025 school year. Prior to joining ASA, Mrs. Girodat taught for 30 years. Mrs. Girodat is an avid horsewoman and is honored to join the All Saints Academy community.



Ms. Aubrey Clark (right with Mrs. Clark) is our new Fourth Grade teacher. Ms. Clark is an alumna of All Saints Academy and West Catholic High School. She is the daughter of Mrs. Vonnie Clark, and both look forward to working together! This is year Ms. Clark looks forward to creating a safe, cozy place for students to learn, ask questions, and express themselves.



New specials teachers include **Mr. Ben Wals** (Upper Campus P.E.), **Ms. Hannah St. Andre** (Lower Campus Music) and **Mr. Kevin Varner** (Lower Campus Technology).

Mrs. Pam Keller (right) is our new First Grade Teaching Assistant. Mrs. Keller is from Livonia and has four brothers. She taught at Kenowa Hills Middle School for 26 years. Prior to teaching at Kenowa, she taught for several years at Catholic schools. Mrs. Keller is married and has one son.



Mrs. Linda Kanoza (left) is working in our Saints and Eagles Clubs after school. Mrs. Kanoza completed the childcare program and Grand Rapids Community College and operated an in-home childcare while her children, Kyle and Kelsie, were young. She enjoys sailing on Lake Michigan and spending quality time with her family.



Miss Kelsie Kanoza (right) is an afternoon preschool aide - we welcome both mother and daughter!



Mrs. Lindsey Johnston (left, bottom) is the lead teacher in our Toddler 2 classroom - room 304. Mrs. Johnston attended Blessed Sacrament School and Catholic Central High School before going on to Ferris State University. She has four children, Aila (3rd grade) Sam, (2nd grade), Keira (Preschool 4) and Anna. Mrs. Johnston is glad to be "back at home" at All Saints Academy.



Miss Ana Batchelder (right) is an aide in our toddler program. She is a graduate of West Catholic High school and in her second year at Grand Rapids Community College studying to become a teacher.



Miss Alyson Jensen (right) is an aide in our toddler program. She is an ASA alumna and an MSU graduate with degrees in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. After work, she enjoys reading and playing basketball or with her cat.



Miss Maggie Hidalgo (left) started at ASA in the spring of 2025. She is an aide in our toddler program. Miss Maggie also works in the Saints Club some mornings each week. She assists Mrs. Zarzecki with the musical too. When not at work, Miss Maggie enjoys being creative and spending time with her friends and family.

Mr. Michael Debri (left) is a beloved returning staff member. Mr. Debri is the Upper Campus Principal. We welcome Mr. Debri back!

Our after school child care program also welcomed Miss Avery Tucker, Mr. Matthew Cusack, Miss Allesha Cooper, Miss Elyse Powell and Miss Norrah Shobe.

Strong Body, Strong Mind, Strong Faith

In the fall of 2014, Rachel Bilski, having recently graduated eighth grade at ASA, headed to West Catholic for the next leg of her academic journey. Throughout her four years there, she enjoyed art class and yearbook, played softball each spring, and joined the Pro Life group in time to participate in the March for Life movement in D.C.



All was well. Senior year was wrapping up. It was time to decide where to head next.

Knowing earning an Associate Degree in General Education was a flexible path with transferable skills, she decided on Grand Rapids Community College. As she tackled her classes, the fervor she experienced in high school for health and wellness began to grow. Staying active and eating well had changed Rachel's life for the better... mentally, physically, emotionally, and spiritually. Was it time to take that passion and do something new with it?

It was. Rachel recalled, "In high school, when I took my health more seriously, I experienced a clearer mind, my body felt stronger, and I noticed I was able to perform daily tasks with no complications. My confidence grew. Eating healthy and exercising was not only good for my physical body, but it also has a drastic, positive impact on my emotions and mental well-being. Knowing that I was taking care of God's temple, the one and only body I'm given, had even improved my relationship with Him."

Along with the Associate Degree,

Rachel became certified as a Personal Trainer and Nutrition Coach through National Academy of Sports Medicine.

"Encouraging individuals who may feel overwhelmed or stuck within their fitness journey and helping them create a healthy lifestyle that was sustainable long-term became a goal of mine."

She continued, "Fitness education is important. Not only can movement improve your physical

performance or even change your body composition, it also improves your mental health. What I like to tell people is movement, even something simple like waving your arms around, is a serotonin boost for your body — it's the happy hormone. Movement doesn't have to be in the gym, it can include doing chores around the house, stretching, or even going on a walk. Our bodies were created to move, and when we move, we become happy individuals."

When asked what she felt people needed to better understand about nutrition, the answer was easy. "Nutrition is what makes up 70% of your health. What you put into your body can influence the way we think, act, and feel. What I try to emphasize to people is, to focus on the quality of the food, rather than hyperfocusing on the quantity. Yes, knowing how many calories you're consuming is important when it comes to weight loss/gain, but there's always been a negative connotation on "calories." Calories are energy, and our bodies

need energy to complete daily tasks, or to even use our brains to think, that requires energy. What you choose as your energy source for the body is highly important. Consuming your vegetables and fruits daily can enhance brain function, performance levels, and can overall make you feel better. Eating high-quality foods that support your organs can improve your longevity and how you age. Don't underestimate the power of broccoli!"

The proudest moments Rachel experiences while working with patrons is simply motivating people to keep coming back. She will never forget an elderly client who was experiencing several health issues including a fractured shoulder, muscle imbalances, cognitive issues due to CO2 exposure, balance difficulties, and obesity. Rachel knew the lifestyle changes she was asking this client to make were anything but easy, yet this client continued to show up for herself to improve her overall well-being." Working with me, she not only lost weight, but she also gained strength and significantly improved her flexibility and balance. She expressed how she'd never had a trainer who



worked so in-depthly with her before, and she was able to witness such positive results for herself and accomplish the things she thought she could never do."

Rachel's advice for anyone who

chooses to make a change in their health for the better? "My advice? Simple. Just show up."

St. Isidore: Revamping the Ramp

Years of foot traffic, shoveling, salt and patches on patches have taken their toll. Construction began on August 4 to refurbish this portion of the St. Isidore Parish grounds. The old ramp will be replaced with a new ADA compliant ramp. It will be heated! This will remove the need for salt in the winter and help prolong the life of the ramp.

The Grotto itself will not be altered, but the driveway and concrete behind it will be removed and replaced with landscaping and sidewalks while allowing proper drainage.

Information taken from St. Isidore's website



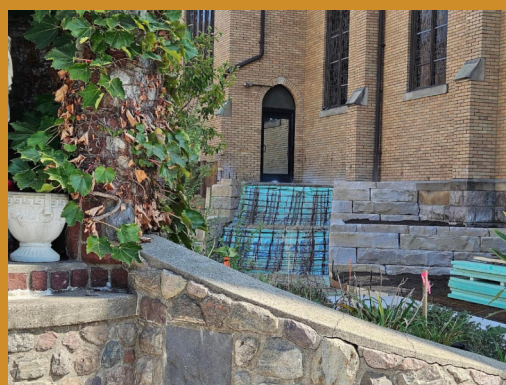
A Note of Caution:

A yellow painted line indicates where to step down when exiting out the north Diamond door. The new concrete blended in so well that it was difficult to see that there is, indeed, a step down there.



A New Staircase:

The forms for the new steps are taking shape. *(above left)* This view is looking out the north exit to the pedestrian ramp. The photos below were taken near the grotto.





Mission Statement

All Saints Academy is a Catholic School inspired by the Holy Spirit and dedicated to teaching and living as Jesus did. Our mission is to serve and partner with our families, parishes, and communities as we focus on the spiritual, intellectual, moral, social, and physical development of our children.

Lower Campus at Diamond

Upper Campus at Four Mile



2233 Diamond Avenue NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49505
616.447.2997

1110 Four Mile Road NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49525
616.363.7725

Academic Calendar

November

November 8

Eaglefest
5:15 p.m., Brophy Center

November 12 & 17

Parent Teacher Conferences
4:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Both Campuses

November 25

7:15 a.m. Pastries with Pals
Both Campuses

November 26

No School
Child Care Open

November 27 - 30

No School
Child Care closed
Thanksgiving Break

December

December 8 - 12

Santa's Secret Shop
See email for details

December 15

Christmas Concert
6:30 p.m., St. Jude

December 22 - January 4

No School
Child Care open unless noted
Christmas Break

December 24 - 28

Child Care closed
Christmas Break

December 31

Child Care closed
New Year's Eve

January

January 5

School Resumes

January 19

No School
Child Care Open
Martin Luther King Jr Day

January 25

Pack the Pews
10:30 a.m., St. Isidore

January 25 - 31

Catholic Schools Week

January 29

100th Day of School

Save the Dates

Eaglefest

Saturday,
November 8

5:15pm

Brophy Center

Finding Nemo, Jr.

Friday, January 23

Saturday, January
24

Kenowa Performing
Arts Center