

Seasons of the Saints

Fall 2026



From the Principals

Dear All Saints Academy Community,

Welcome to a new school year at All Saints Academy! Whether you are returning to ASA or joining us for the first time, we are filled with joy and gratitude as we open our doors to another year of faith, learning, loving, and serving.

Our sacred mission remains at the heart of everything we do: to serve and partner with our families, parishes, and community to develop the whole child.

As we settle into the rhythm of the new school year, our core values continue to guide our actions and the direction of our school. The start of the fall season brings with it wonderful time-honored ASA traditions that bring us together—from our Ice Cream Social to the ASA Carnival to our Pack the Pews Masses.

The beginning of the school year also gives us a chance to update you on some of our staff news. Aubrey Clark has moved from 4th grade homeroom teacher to 5th grade. Sarah Ludovico has moved from preschool teacher to 4th grade teacher. We welcome Jackie Fliehman to the role of band director and music teacher. Alicia Sanchez-Harmon has returned to ASA to teach our second section of 3rd grade.

Thank you for your partnership and dedication to All Saints Academy as we work together to form saints to serve all. We pray that this school year brings your family abundant blessings, peace, and joy.

May God bless you and yours!

Mrs. Megan Schneider

Mr. Michael Debri



Building a Safer, Stronger Community

At All Saints Academy, the safety, security, and well-being of our students and staff remain our highest priorities. Over the years, All Saints Academy has made significant campus safety improvements across both the Lower Campus and Upper Campus, largely made possible through funding from the Michigan State Police 31aa Grant.

The latest initiative funded through this grant is a massive re-keying project touching both campuses. This comprehensive effort modernizes our physical security by upgrading and replacing lock hardware on all interior classroom and facility doors and installing an electronic access system that allows secure, key-fob entry for staff on all of the interior doors. This has been a long-awaited project since transitioning to keyless entry for all of the exterior doors.

This major door project builds on a strong foundation of security improvements completed in recent years through the MSP 31aa Grant, including:

- Comprehensive Camera Coverage: Installation of upgraded interior and exterior security cameras across both campuses.
- Window Security Film: Application of specialized protective security film to all exterior windows.
- Mental Health Services: Utilizing grant funds to support student mental health resources and services, caring for the emotional and psychological well-being of our children alongside their physical safety.

These essential upgrades provide an extra layer of protection and peace of mind for our parents, teachers, and students every day.



Saintly Survey

Hear from our favorite school experts: the students! Each trimester, we will be posing a big question to our students to see the world—and our faith—through their eyes.



"The playground"
CJ, Preschool



"Exploring Dojo Islands
on Class Dojo"
Ariella and Evelyn, 3rd Grade



"Playing with Spiderman!"
Grayson, Toddler

"Going to the gym"
Cohen, Preschool

Topic of the Trimester:
*What is your favorite part
of the school year so far?*



"Playing!"
Lilly, Toddler



"Going on computers"
Elise, Kindergarten

"P.E. Class"
*Charlotte,
Kindergarten*



"Playing football at
Saints & Eagles club"

*Alex, 5th Grade
Rowan, 7th Grade
Everett & Angelo, 1st Grade
Samuel, 6th Grade*

"Playing football at
recess"
6th Grade boys



Ring the Bell: A Milestone of Faith, Hope, and Healing

After the Upper Campus Mass on Thursday, September 17, St. Jude Church was filled with bright smiles, loud applause, and the ringing of a special bell. Beyond the excitement was something much deeper: the All Saints Academy community coming together to wrap Jacob Page in love as he celebrated being officially cancer-free.

Jacob finished his final round of chemotherapy on September 12, bringing a victorious close to a long and daunting two-and-a-half-year battle. To thank the school that walked alongside him, Jacob treated the entire Upper Campus to popsicles—a joyous moment of celebration after a long road.

Jacob's journey began on May 9, 2024, when he was diagnosed with T-cell non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. What followed were hard days filled with questions, endless appointments, sleepless nights, and tears. Yet through every obstacle, Jacob's perseverance shone through, sustained by a community that rallied around him—wearing hats, shaving heads, raising funds, and holding him up in prayer.

As Mr. and Mrs. Page shared, the ASA family's love and support meant everything to them, proving truly that the power of prayer is real.

While there will still be follow-up appointments in the months ahead, ringing that chemo bell marks the beginning of a bright new chapter. Congratulations, Jacob! Your All Saints family is so proud of your courage and strength!



Built on a Moment...Driven by a Love for Music

Brennan McKinney is a 2018 Graduate of All Saints Academy



Having first taken piano lessons from his grandmother at the age of 5, Brennan was introduced to

music very early in his life. "It stuck," he recalls.

Although Brennan continued to study the piano under his grandmother's tutelage through middle school, in fifth grade he added the trumpet to his repertoire. "I always loved going to Hastings Jazz Festival with the jazz band and getting to play in front of all kinds of people, from kids our age to the retired masters. Being surrounded by jazz all over the area was a blast for me. In hindsight, middle school is where my love of jazz began."

Heading to West Catholic, he knew he would be in band. Slowly, he began to realize something. For some reason, he began to lose a bit of the passion for music that he once had. "I was always in band, but music, especially piano, had somewhat been put on the back burner of my mind, especially as I was beginning to think about what I wanted to pursue as a career. Playing music was fun, but it was something that I just spaced from to a degree because I felt like I had better things to do with my time."

Then Senior year came. "I was asked by Darren LaPrise, the band director, to cover the piano part for the spring musical, as well as playing piano for the jazz band, and so I did it, even though I honestly wasn't very confident since I wasn't playing piano

very often anymore. Through that, however, I suddenly was launched into a musical gauntlet that completely rejuvenated my love for music in a new way. I fell back in love with piano and realized that it was something that I wanted to continue to get better at, and I wouldn't give it up for anything in the world. It was also through playing jazz again for the first time since middle school, and playing piano for my first and only musical ("All Shook Up"; an all Elvis Presley music production) that I really began to dive deeper into the jazz genre, and found a new passion for everything the genre was, represented, and was built upon."

In the end, Brennan feels his perceived problem of losing passion for music actually worked as part of a solution. "What I mean is that I wouldn't have fallen so deeply in love with music again if I had not experienced what it was like without music as a pillar in my life. Sometimes you never realize what you have until it's gone. When music became somewhat insignificant on my list of priorities, it was only after I decided to take a chance on it again with the musical and jazz band that I fully understood how important music is not just in my life, but also for us as human beings."

Before he knew it, he was enrolled at Aquinas College with a double major in business and music. It was there that

Brennan made what he considers one of his biggest achievements to date. During his final semesters in college, he was able to write and record his

own music as part of his capstone project. It is entitled "RAVENS" (which is available to stream on any platform), and he was able to finally see his work come to fruition. (If you search "RAVENS" by Brennan Michaels on Spotify, YouTube, Apple Music, etc., you will find it!)

"The music program was great! I was able to learn a lot from Dr. Tom Polett, the department head. He has given me nothing but strong support, guidance, and connections in the music community! I also had the privilege of studying under Lisa Sung, who has played jazz piano for years all over the world! "

Having just graduated from Aquinas and in the midst of the interview process for a new position, Brennan is currently employed at Roots Brew Shop as a barista and marketing manager. He began these positions while still in college. Brennan is also playing jazz piano on the side; he's playing gigs where he can—at weddings, restaurants, private events, coffee shops, and with professional big bands in the area. "I am always writing more and more music as ideas hit me, and as I find time in the day I even

make small changes or make note of very basic idea concepts that I can develop over time." And his dream? To play some gigs in New York and Japan.



When asked what advice he may have for others considering studying music, he did not hesitate:

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Renewal is Here

Father Christopher Epplert | From St. Alphonsus bulletin on September 13, 2026

As we reopen St. Alphonsus this weekend, I want to express so much gratitude for the many ways God has blessed us leading up to this point. I am incredibly grateful for these weeks where we have been united into one worship space. There is no doubt the people of Blessed Sacrament have shown true hospitality.

Additionally, there has been a unity that could not be accomplished in any other circumstance. For this, we should all be grateful. My hope is that we build off of this and continue to blend together as one family (even if we have two homes). Let us pray for unity and a continual openness to the Holy Spirit. Because of the movement of the Spirit, we were able to courageously trust his work to renew the worship space at St. Alphonsus. Not only is this a renewal of physical space, but it represents a great spiritual renewal of the parish, of the Northeast Side, and the diocese as a whole. When such a historical parish invests in this way, it shows the powerful message of the gospel working through a timeless and beautiful church space. We should recall that both Blessed Sacrament and St. Jude grew out of St. Alphonsus, so this is a monumental moment for us as a renewal of our “motherchurch.”

For those who enter the new space, let me explain a few small things. First of all, there will be some additional features added in the next few months. Secondly, we are anticipating some upgrades in the future, but some of these things will require more input from parishioners as well as various consulting bodies. I will share these things as we discern future steps. In the meantime, let me highlight a couple of important features/details. First, we made an intentional prayer space before Our Lady of Perpetual Help by refurbishing a kneeler found in storage. There is almost a fiberglass section revealing original mosaic tile flooring. Although we could not restore that flooring due to extensive damage, it is nice to see at least a portion of that history.

We are still placing other items, including a more prominent and purposeful spot for the Our Lady of Sorrows statue. We were intentional about giving a theme and purpose to each of our alcove spaces. One is dedicated to Our Lady of Guadalupe, while another is devoted to Divine Mercy with an etched quote from St. Faustina's Diary. The other side features a freshly framed original painting of St. Alphonsus with a quote from the patron saint on each side of it. Lastly, we wanted to give a space for prayer to the faithful departed and reintroduce devotional candles.

This cove has candles available to light, with a prayer on one side and a quote from the Eucharistic Prayer for funerals on the other side. In the center, the call to pray for our faithful departed has several crosses below with names on them. Each cross has the name of a parishioner from both parishes who have passed since November of 2025. Each year, we will give these crosses to the family at All Souls Day Mass on November 2. We will then begin filling the wall again and pray for the deceased by name (written on those crosses). This is a meaningful way for us to recall our role as intercessors for our deceased parishioners.

I am grateful for all the prayers to see this project to completion. There are no words to aptly express how much of a transformation has happened to the worship space. I usually don't single people out in offering gratitude, but this is one occasion where the level of effort and dedication stands out too much. A special thank you to Joe Nawrocki, who volunteered as the Project Manager from the early planning stages until the completion of this project. Thank you, Joe, for your tireless efforts and dedication in leading this effort!



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

2233 Diamond Avenue NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49505
616.447.2997

Upper Campus at Four Mile

1110 Four Mile Road NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49525
616.363.7725

Built on a Moment...Driven by a Love for Music

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“My best advice to anyone who wants to study music, or even just become a better musician, is to ALWAYS LISTEN. Not just to the music itself, or the great musicians through history and of our own time, but to yourself and to everything around you. I believe some of the greatest music comes from those who know how to listen first, and play second. Not just in music, but in our world right now, there is a lot of talking and making noise, and a lack of listening. As musicians, we should be

the exemplars and experts in the art of listening. Whether it seems like it or not, the art of listening will translate into the music you make.”



Academic Calendar

October

October 15 & 16
No School
Professional Development
Child Care Open

October 18
Pack the Pews at
Blessed Sacrament
10:45 a.m.

October 24
Trunk or Treat
UC Parking Lot
6:00 - 6:30 p.m.

October 28
ASA Feast Day Mass
St. Isidore, 8:30 a.m.

November

November 1
All Saints' Day Mass & Family
Celebration
St. Jude, 1:00 p.m.

November 7
Eaglefest
Brophy Center at St. Jude
5:15 p.m.

November 22
ASA Day at GR Gold
3:00 p.m.

November 25
No School
Child Care Open

November 26 -27
No School
No Child Care
Thanksgiving

December

December 7 - 11
Santa's Secret Shop
Both Campuses

December 14
K-8 Christmas Program
St. Jude, 6:30 p.m.

December 18
All Saints Academy
Closes at 4 p.m.

December 19 - January 3
No School
Christmas Break

December 23 - 25
December 31
January 1
Child Care Closed

Save the Dates

Eaglefest

Saturday, November 7,
2026

5:15 p.m.

Brophy Center

Trolls, Jr

Friday & Saturday,
January 22 & 23, 2027

6:30 p.m.

Kenowa Hills
Performing Arts Center