



*Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston*

West Virginia Catholic Schools



# 2025 Aquinas and St. Sebastian Honorees



# *Congratulations*

TO ALL RECIPIENTS OF THE  
**AQUINAS**  
AND  
**ST. SEBASTIAN**  
**AWARDS**





## DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON

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POST OFFICE BOX 230  
WHEELING, WEST VIRGINIA 26003

February 21, 2025

Dear friends of Catholic education,

Once again, I have the pleasure of recognizing the recipients of the Aquinas and St. Sebastian awards for this year. Young people need to know that we adults appreciate their efforts to excel in their studies and to grow in their religious commitment. The Aquinas and St. Sebastian awards make tangible the praise these students have merited. I congratulate them on their achievements.

Catholic schools not only train young people in language skills, the sciences and math and provide them with athletic and cultural experiences but seek especially to instill in them a love for God and neighbor. Jesus Christ is our inspiration, our model for righteous living and the source of our strength. Catholic schools exist to foster growth in faith and service, so that our students may make significant contributions to their schools, communities, and Church.

Without the help and inspiration of good teachers, principals, coaches, parents, pastors and chaplains, this year's awardees would probably not have achieved what they have done. I am grateful, then, to all of you who have guided and encouraged these students. I hope you take pride in what your efforts have accomplished. The Lord will reward you for your selfless service to the young.

Our Catholic schools in West Virginia are growing and improving every year. The proof of our approach to education is seen in the young people who are receiving the Aquinas and St. Sebastian awards today. May the Lord Jesus, our Master Teacher, bless them and our entire Catholic school community.

Faithfully in Christ,

+Mark E. Brennan  
Bishop of Wheeling-Charleston



*Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston*

## **West Virginia Catholic Schools**

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*Jennifer Hornyak ~ Superintendent of Catholic Schools*

Dear Friends in Catholic Education,

It is my pleasure to introduce to you this year's Aquinas and Saint Sebastian Medal recipients. As you read through this program, you will see a group of dynamic, faith-filled students who are shining examples for all of us. The Catholic schools' students we celebrate are individuals who possess a strong sense of commitment and leadership in their local and global Catholic faith communities. These students understand their place and purpose in the world while serving others. We are so very proud of each one of these students! I congratulate the families, parishes and schools which are home to this year's honorees.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the many individuals and organizations who make our Catholic school education possible and of course, a great big thank you to our families for choosing our Catholic schools! Without your dedication, support, and prayers we would not be able to provide such a rich, Catholic educational experience for so many across the wonderful state of West Virginia.

Thank you for celebrating our students and Catholic school education in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston.

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jennifer Hornyak". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Jennifer Hornyak

Superintendent

Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston

# CELEBRATING CATHOLIC SCHOOLS *throughout West Virginia*

## SYSTEM AT A GLANCE

18 Elementary Schools | 6 High Schools | 487 Professional Staff

12 Counties served by Catholic Schools | 43% of Catholic School students are non-Catholic

### GROWING ENROLLMENT

Enrollment has increased across our WV Catholic schools over the last three academic years.

2022-2023



4,370 Students

2023-2024



4,452 Students

2024-2025



4,673 Students

The Class of 2024 had a 99% graduation rate.



Theology of the Body is implemented at all of our schools.

ALL Catholic schools in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston are accredited through COGNIA, which provides school accreditation at the national level.



13 of 18 of our Elementary and Middle Schools have a waiting list for one or more grade levels.

Seven schools implemented Opt-View, which is a new safety and security enhancement.

**11:1** Professional Staff to Student Ratio.

**100%** of students participate in various community service projects throughout the school year.

**1 MILLION DOLLARS** in Tuition Assistance is available to both Catholic and non-Catholic families in need.

# Shaping Futures through Faith, Tradition, and Excellence

From our youngest learners to our graduating seniors, we recognize the relationship between intellectual development and growth as a Christian. We provide a holistic education that is academically rigorous and infused with Catholic faith and traditions. We work collaboratively with each of our school communities across the state to make our schools the best they can be and our students the best versions of themselves.

Our Catholic school communities expand beyond the walls of our schools to envelop the family as integral partners in our mission. Our school communities continue to grow in academic achievement, spiritual formation, and enrollment. To learn more about our schools, please visit us at [WVCATHOLICSCHOOLS.ORG](http://WVCATHOLICSCHOOLS.ORG)! Thank you for being part of our school community!

*Jennifer Hornyak*

Superintendent of Catholic Schools

Strong Foundations



St. Joseph School in Martinsburg, WV will be expanding to include 9th and 10th grades.



Nurturing Environment

Gospel Values



13 of 18 Elementary and Middle Schools have a waiting list for at least one or more grades.

## Faith & Tradition

Our mission includes ensuring that students are educated in the basic truths of the Catholic faith and that Gospel values permeate all subjects and are practiced by the entire school community. We provide a holistic curriculum to assist our youth in seeing and understanding the role of faith in one's daily life and in the larger society.

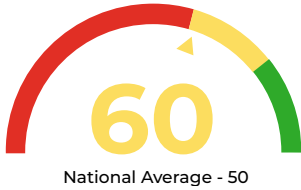
Combining our focus on faith along with Catholic traditions, we provide many opportunities for our students to grow academically and spiritually.



- ✚ Supporting the development of a genuine community of faith, steeped in a Catholic worldview, among students, faculty, and the whole school community
- ✚ Daily prayer, weekly and monthly masses, and retreats
- ✚ Participation in the annual Assessment of Religious Knowledge (ARK) to build on our strengths and provide direction in our teachings and programs
- ✚ Fostering awareness and missionary discipleship of peace and justice issues by encouraging Christian service
- ✚ Preparing students to receive sacraments including First Communion, Reconciliation, and Confirmation



DWC Average Student Score



# Excellence

**Excellence** is the hallmark of a Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston Catholic School, and the proof is in our faith formation and academic achievements. As part of our mission to integrate lessons and build students' knowledge of the Catholic faith, we have partnered with **ARK** to assess the religious knowledge and beliefs of students in grades 2-12. This assessment helps us focus on strengths as well as growth opportunities. Students respond to questions on the following domains: creed and salvation history, living discipleship, morality, prayer, sacraments and liturgy, and virtue. Based on the 2023-2024 assessments, our students scored above the national percentile ranges overall, with **PRAYER** as our strongest domain performance.

Faith



Tuition Assistance is available for both Catholic and non-Catholic families in need.

Success



Service



Our students participate in the NWEA MAP Growth assessments three times per year to help schools monitor student achievement and growth in reading, language, and mathematics. Performance data indicates performance scores in the high average range and show growth across all schools, grade levels, and subjects.

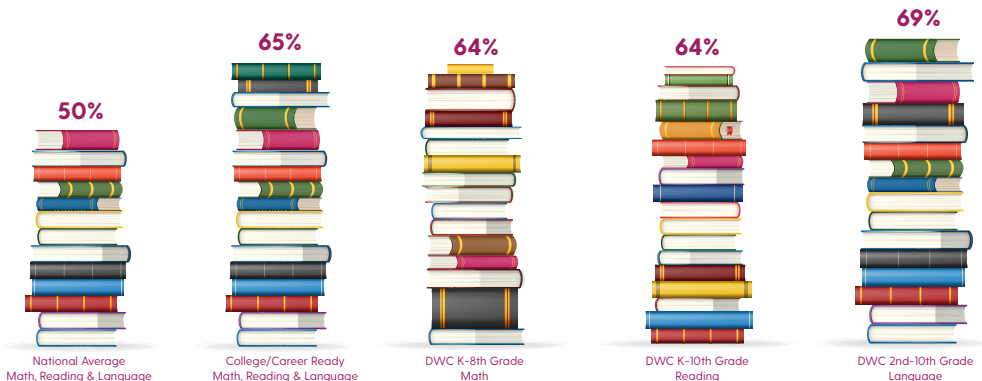
Secondary students also participate in college preparatory examinations including the SAT, ACT, and PSAT. Our average ACT and SAT scores exceed WV and national averages.

## NWEA MAP 2023-2024

\*Average Range (41-60th percentile)

\*High Average Range (61-80th percentile)

\*High Range (81-100th percentile)



# Aquinas Award Recipients



## 2025 AQUINAS MEDAL WINNERS CRITERIA

The Aquinas Medal is named for St. Thomas Aquinas, the patron saint of Catholic schools and students. St. Thomas combined his powerful intellect with an all-embracing love of God, dedicating himself to sharing an awareness of God with all his students, just as your teachers do. The Aquinas Medal commemorates St. Thomas's dedication to learning and his love of God. It is presented each year to the one student from each school who best embodies the qualities of Catholic school education: excellence in learning, faithful discipleship, leadership, and service to school, parish and community.



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# Elementary Schools

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## Isabella Alkhouri

St. Vincent de Paul Parish School, Wheeling

Eighth Grade



### **What is special about attending a Catholic School?**

Not only do I receive an exceptional education, I get to participate in multiple extracurricular activities, but I get to do it while in the presence of God.

### **Extracurricular Activities:**

- Volleyball
- Archery
- Choir
- Piano
- Guitar
- Forensics team

### **Achievements:**

- I had four poems published through the American Library of Poetry
- I placed 1st in our school's Spelling Bee twice
- I placed 1st in all five forensics competitions and a perfect score once

### **Interesting Qualities:**

- My favorite hobbies are baking, playing sports and painting
- I have two siblings
- I participate in my church's traditional dance troupe

### **Future Career Goals:**

- I am unsure what future education I will pursue, but I have considered going into medicine as a future job.

### **Bio:**

My name is Isabella Alkhouri. I was born in Wheeling, WV on May 27, 2011. My parents are Dr. Nabil and Nesrin Alkhouri and my siblings are Mariana and Christopher Alkhouri. I've attended St. Vincent School from preschool 4 - 8th grade. I was on our school's volleyball and basketball teams and am on our archery and forensics teams. In my free time, I enjoy going outside, listening to music, playing sports, and baking. I also like playing piano and learning guitar.

# Vaughn Barton

Our Lady of Fatima School, Huntington

Eighth Grade



## **What is special about attending a Catholic School?**

Being able to have a religious education and teachers who enrich me in my Faith more than I could ever imagine, not to mention having Catholic friends grow in Faith with me.

## **Extracurricular Activities:**

- Soccer
- Play the drums for my school band

## **Achievements:**

- Principal's List
- Honor Roll

## **Interesting Qualities:**

- I have four cats
- I enjoy playing the piano
- I like playing video games

## **Future Career Goals:**

I will be attending St. Joseph High School and then would like to attend Marshall University for college and live with my parents until I finish school.

## **Bio:**

My name is Vaughn Barton, I was born on January 7th, 2011, at Cabell Hospital. I used to be very hyper, practically bouncing off the walls, I was very creative and used to come up with interesting ideas and creations, I was especially fond of forts and good at building them. Throughout my life I've done a number of things. When I was little one of the things I started to do and get good at was baseball. Around kindergarten I believe, I started baseball and played that for around 4 years, while also doing soccer on and off in that time. I was decently smart, usually getting A's but sometimes a B if I was struggling in a certain subject. As I grew older and got to 6th grade, I had a really good year in soccer and won an award for "Most Versatile" which made me decide to dedicate myself to soccer instead of baseball. Ever since then I've been working on myself mentally, physically, and in faith. I've been told that I've grown and changed as a person, which I am very proud of. I got the Thomas Aquinas award just recently which I am incredibly happy to have received and now here we are.

# Vincent Cook

Fairmont Catholic School, Fairmont

Eighth Grade



## **What is special about attending a Catholic School?**

Attending Catholic School allows me to grow in my faith and encourages prayer. Our classes are small, our teachers are dedicated, and academics are priority.

## **Extracurricular Activities:**

- Member of the Immaculate Conception Church
- Varsity basketball team
- Three Rivers Travel Basketball Team

## **Achievements:**

- I have a 4.0 GPA
- I was selected to represent FCS in the county Spelling Bee and Math Field day multiple times
- I was the recipient of the “When I grow up essay contest” in 2019 sponsored by the WV State Treasurer winning \$500 for my SMART 529 college savings account

## **Interesting Qualities:**

- I have an older sister named Conchetta
- I’m a third-generation graduate of Fairmont Catholic
- My Grandmother was a teacher at Fairmont Catholic for 30 plus years before retiring

## **Future Career Goals:**

I plan to attend Fairmont Senior High School and then attend West Virginia University; however, I am unsure of my career path.

## **Bio:**

My name is Vincent Cook, and I attend Fairmont Catholic Grade School. I have attended Fairmont Catholic since kindergarten and will be a third-generation graduate of Fairmont Catholic. I love playing basketball and spending time with family and friends. I am a member of Immaculate Conception parish. I am thankful my parents have been able to send me to Fairmont Catholic. My time at Fairmont Catholic has given me memories to last a lifetime and helped me to become closer to God and I will continue with my faith journey.

# MADISON DORSEY

St. Francis de Sales School, Beckley

Eighth Grade



## **What is special about attending a Catholic School?**

My faith has deepened, it is Christ-Centered, and my character has been built. The teachers have high academic expectations, which prepares me for my future.

## **Extracurricular Activities:**

- Art Club
- Girl Scouts
- Volleyball
- Cheerleading

## **Achievements:**

- Principal's List and Honor Roll
- 2x middle school Spelling Bee winner
- Placed 1st in my school's Social Studies Fair
- 2nd place in Regional Social Studies Fair

## **Interesting Qualities:**

- I have a brother named Parker
- I have a dog named Macy and a Cat named Muffin
- I enjoy singing and have been featured as a soloist in several Christmas plays
- I am especially interested in Social Studies
- I am a voracious reader

## **Future Career Goals:**

In the future, I plan to study Law and complete my undergraduate studies locally before applying to West Virginia University's School of Law.

## **Bio:**

My name is Madison Grace Dorsey. I was born February 19, 2011, to my parents, Jonathan and Bethanie Dorsey. My parents have always emphasized faith and academics, which prompted them to enroll me at St. Francis in the 3rd grade. I'm fortunate to have many special memories and friendships here. In my spare time, I enjoy being at home, talking with my friends, and reading or shopping. With the solid spiritual and academic foundation that I've received at St. Francis, I can face my future with confidence.

# ALEXANDER J. FIELDS

Sacred Heart Grade School, Charleston

Fifth Grade



## **What is special about attending a Catholic School?**

Learning about Jesus and being able to attend church on Friday's.

## **Extracurricular Activities:**

- Hockey
- Soccer
- Choir
- Robotics

## **Achievements:**

- Honor Roll
- Recipient of the St. Thomas Aquinas Medal

## **Interesting Qualities:**

- I love to play ice hockey
- I have been playing hockey since I was eight years old
- I love to help younger players learn how to skate and shoot a puck

## **Future Career Goals:**

I plan to attend Charleston Catholic High School and then attend a college where I can play hockey. I want to play in the National Hockey League.

## **Bio:**

My name is Alexander John Fields. I'm 11 years old and a fifth-grader at Sacred Heart Grade School. I have enjoyed learning so much at Sacred Heart, and have made many friends. My favorite subjects are math, science and reading. I play hockey for the West Virginia Wild youth team and hope to continue to play in high school and college.

# MASON HOLMES

St. Paul School, Weirton

Sixth Grade



## **What is special about attending a Catholic School?**

Getting to learn about my faith, how helpful everyone is and the fun projects and trips.

## **Extracurricular Activities:**

- Basketball
- Soccer
- Golf Club at school
- Cub Scouts
- Rooted Youth Program

## **Achievements:**

- Honor Roll
- Helped organize a collection for hurricane victims
- Placed 2nd two times at the Pinewood Derby

## **Interesting Qualities:**

- Play the piano
- I have one brother
- I love to read, draw and play video games

## **Future Career Goals:**

I will be attending Madonna High School.

## **Bio:**

My name is Mason Holmes, and I am in sixth grade at St. Paul School. I have gone to St. Paul School since I was three years old. What I have liked best about going to Catholic school is being able to learn more about my faith and all the fun projects and trips. I also like that my brother, Turner, is at the school and we get to see each other during the day. I have played basketball for St. Paul's for three years and belong to the golf club. I am an Altar Server for school Masses and serve at weekend Masses at St. Paul Church. I have been on the honor roll every semester. This fall, I helped organize a collection at St. Paul's for hurricane victims. I am a member of Cub Scout Pack 151 and have placed second at the Pinewood Derby for the last two years. I am also a member of the St. Paul Church Rooted Youth Group and participate in their community activities. I play soccer and recently started to learn to play the piano. I also like to read, draw, and play video games. Next year, I plan to go to Madonna High School, and I am interested in doing something with video games or movies when I grow up.

# JORDAN KONDIK

St. Joseph the Worker School, Weirton

Sixth Grade



## **What is special about attending a Catholic School?**

Learning about faith and serving at Mass.

## **Extracurricular Activities:**

- STEM Club
- Basketball
- Baseball
- Serve at Mass
- Enjoy riding my electric scooter
- Enjoy going out to dinner
- Enjoy playing Xbox and PC games

## **Achievements:**

- 4.0 GPA-Distinguished Honor Roll
- 2021 received a Splash award in 3rd grade for cutting grass at Sacred Heart

## **Interesting Qualities:**

- I love to watch ESPN and YouTube for current sports news and stats
- I enjoy cutting grass and working outside
- Enjoy hanging out with friends and having a good time

## **Future Career Goals:**

I will be attending Madonna High School and then would like to attend Notre Dame or a major university in the area for college.

## **Bio:**

I was born on New Year's Eve in Weirton, WV in 2012. My first Holy Communion was in second grade. I currently enjoy playing basketball and baseball and watching football. My favorite XBOX games are MLB the show and College Football 25, which I like to play with my friends. I cut grass for my grandparents and some of my neighbors, look forward to playing high school basketball, and enjoy attending live sporting events and concerts.

# FRANKLIN ALAN KOONS

St. Joseph School, Martinsburg

Eighth Grade



## **What is special about attending a Catholic School?**

You feel a certain feeling of community and friendship and it has also influenced my faith and helped it grow.

## **Extracurricular Activities:**

- Piano
- Trumpet
- Guitar
- Ukulele
- Cross-country
- I'm in the process of being confirmed

## **Achievements:**

- Get to play in the Region IX Honor Band Festival in April
- Won an award for being fastest male runner on my cross-country team
- Participated in the Regional Science Fair in 7th grade, but only got to the county level this year.

## **Interesting Qualities:**

- I have a six-year-old brother
- I have one cat
- I live only about five minutes from the West Virginia/Maryland border

## **Future Career Goals:**

I will attend Saint James School in Hagerstown, Maryland, unsure on a college, but I know that I want to help people when I grow up.

## **Bio:**

My name is Franklin Koons. I go to Saint Joseph School in Martinsburg, West Virginia. I've been going to SJS since I was 2 years old, and I've met some of my best friends there. I also have a love for music. I play the piano, trumpet, ukulele, and guitar. When I'm not playing music, I love playing video games with my friends. Another big part of my life is faith. I am currently in the process of being confirmed and I am learning so much about my faith that I didn't know before. I am very grateful that I was awarded the Thomas Aquinas Medal, and I couldn't have done it without my family, my friends and God.



# KATIE O'HARA

St. Francis de Sales Central Catholic School, Morgantown

Eighth Grade



## **What is special about attending a Catholic School?**

I am able to learn even more about my faith, and over the years, it has helped me strengthen my relationship with Christ.

## **Extracurricular Activities:**

- Competitive dance at AW Dance Company
- Science Bowl
- History Bowl
- Cantor during school Mass
- Sing with choir at Mass

## **Achievements:**

- Principal's Honor Roll
- Won 2nd place in the Knights of Columbus essay contest
- My dance team won 1st place at three regional competitions and qualified for world dance championships

## **Interesting Qualities:**

- I have one younger sister
- I have been to 15 countries and four continents
- I love to stone dance costumes for competitions

## **Future Career Goals:**

I will be attending Morgantown High School and want to be a Child Psychiatrist when I grow up.

## **Bio:**

I was born in Morgantown and have lived here my whole life. I've attended St. Francis de Sales Central Catholic School since I was three years old. I am involved in dance at AW Dance Company. During my eighth-grade year, I participated in both the Science and History bowl teams for my school. I have a little sister named Addie, who I like to spend time with. I really like to travel, and I've actually been to fifteen countries and four continents with my family. A few things I like to do are stone dance costumes for competitions, hang out with friends, and watch TV. When I grow up, I hope to attend Johns Hopkins Medical School and become a child psychiatrist.

# BAILEY OLDAKER

St. Patrick School, Weston

Eighth Grade



## **What is special about attending a Catholic School?**

Being able to learn about God, having close friendships and everyone being a big family.

## **Extracurricular Activities:**

- Softball
- Cheerleading
- Weightlifting/training

## **Achievements:**

- USA All American softball player for my age division
- 4.0 GPA

## **Interesting Qualities:**

- I like being kind to people
- I have one dog
- My favorite sport is softball

## **Future Career Goals:**

My future career goals are to attend Louisiana State University or Glenville State University to play softball and become a Pediatric Doctor.

## **Bio:**

My name is Bailey Oldaker, and I am 14 years old. I currently attend St. Patrick Catholic School in Weston, WV. It is only my second year attending the school and it has been one of the best decisions I have made. We get to learn about God, partake in various community projects, and learn how to be virtuous individuals. I live with my mom, dad, and dog! I play softball in my spare time and recently became an All American in my age division. I have played over 5 sports in my lifetime. The one thing that is great about St. Pat's is that we get to learn about God and attend Mass weekly. A few of my interests include my family, music, and shopping. Although I'm very sporty, I enjoy dressing up and putting on makeup. My plans after high school are to attend college, play softball, and become a pediatric doctor.

# LILLIAN ELIZABETH PALMER

St. Francis of Assisi School, Saint Albans

Fifth Grade



## **What is special about attending a Catholic School?**

My class is small, so I am with my friends, I like learning cursive, learning about Jesus, and I like the special days celebrating Catholic Schools Week.

## **Extracurricular Activities:**

- Ballet
- Tap
- Jazz
- Hip-Hop
- Member of St. Francis Children's Choir
- Piano
- Gymnastics

## **Achievements:**

- Good Samaritan Award
- Straight A's

## **Interesting Qualities:**

- I have two sisters and one brother
- I enjoy reading, art and taking pictures
- I love traveling to the beach and Buffalo, New York

## **Future Career Goals:**

I plan to attend Charleston Catholic High School and then West Virginia University to pursue running track and possibly be a Flight Attendant.

## **Bio:**

My name is Lily Palmer, and I go to St. Francis of Assisi School. My favorite subjects are Religion and Reading. I can learn about so many different people. For example, we can learn about Moses and the Apostles. Outside of school I love to take pictures of nature and I also love to dance. My pictures can sometimes inspire my dances. That's a little bit about myself.

# MELAH PAULUS

Our Lady of Peace School, Wheeling

Eighth Grade



## **What is special about attending a Catholic School?**

The teachers are very supportive, and I can learn about my faith.

## **Extracurricular Activities:**

- Basketball
- Volleyball
- Softball
- Yearbook Committee
- Forensics

## **Achievements:**

- 4.0 GPA
- Honor Roll
- National Beta Club

## **Interesting Qualities:**

- I have one sister, Julia, who is in 6th grade at Our Lady of Peace
- I have one dog
- I play the guitar and piano
- I love going to Seneca Lake and hanging out with my friends

## **Future Career Goals:**

I will be attending Central Catholic High School and hope to attend West Virginia University or West Liberty University in the future. I am sure of what I want to do at this time.

## **Bio:**

My name is Melah Paulus, and I am an 8th grader at Our Lady of Peace School. I come from a family of four and have one younger sister. I also have a pet dog, Duke, who is a mini goldendoodle. During my time at Our Lady of Peace, I have learned so much and have been a part of so many great experiences. I am a member of the Jr. Beta Club, a peer tutor, and I have been a member of the Middle School Honor Roll each quarter. This year, I was one of the Spelling Bee finalists for my class and advanced to the school Spelling Bee.

I have been an altar server for OLP parish since the 5th grade and enjoy helping my parish and school through service. This year, my 8th grade class collected cans for Catholic Charities and have been taking part in writing letters to the diocesan seminarians.

I enjoy playing basketball and volleyball for my school and with my teammates. I also play on the Jr. Knights softball and basketball teams where I have had the opportunity to meet girls from the other parochial schools and make new friends. I was one of the Knights of Columbus Hoop Shoot finalists, and I have the opportunity to move on to the district competition.

I am a member of the OLP Forensics Team, and I am on the yearbook committee this year. I play the guitar and piano. In the summertime, I enjoy water skiing and tubing with my family at a local lake.

# SOPHIE PLETCHER

Corpus Christi School, Wheeling

Eighth Grade



## **What is special about attending a Catholic School?**

The mix of faith and academics within a nurturing environment. Not only do I have the opportunity to cultivate meaningful friendships, build relationships and challenge myself academically, but I can grow closer to God and deepen my understanding of my faith.

## **Extracurricular Activities:**

- Girl Scouts
- Soccer
- Swimming
- Volleyball

## **Achievements:**

- 4.0 GPA
- Principal's Honor Roll
- Selected to represent my school at Math Field Day every year
- Advanced each year in both the Science and Social Studies Fair

## **Interesting Qualities:**

- I love drawing as a creative outlet
- I am passionate about animals and enjoy spending time outdoors
- I value social interactions, fostering connections and engaging with others

## **Future Career Goals:**

I will be attending Central Catholic High School and would love to attend Cornell University and pursue a degree in Zoology.

## **Bio:**

I was raised in Wheeling, West Virginia, and have been a student at Corpus Christi since preschool. During my time there, I have had the privilege of meeting many remarkable and trustworthy individuals, and I will always cherish the experiences and relationships I have built. My mother, Amanda Pletcher, is a teacher at Corpus Christi, and my father, Nathan Pletcher, is employed at Warren Distribution. I also have a brother, Myles Pletcher, who is currently attending Corpus Christi School.

# GRACE E. PRZYBYSZ

St. Michael Parish School, Wheeling

Eighth Grade



## **What is special about attending a Catholic School?**

Easy access to education relating to the church, the closeness of the classes and the family feeling and how it sets me up for the rest of my life.

## **Extracurricular Activities:**

- Basketball
- Volleyball
- School Musicals
- Piano
- Schola
- Cantor
- Vocalist at Sunday Mass

## **Achievements:**

- Honor Roll and Principal's list
- Geography Bee school winner
- Spelling Bee contestant
- Math Field Day participant

## **Interesting Qualities:**

- I love to play the piano, sing and act
- I have three siblings
- I play travel volleyball
- Volunteer for the school fish fry and parish festival

## **Future Career Goals:**

I will be attending Wheeling Central Catholic High School, and I would like to be a Psychologist when I grow up.

## **Bio:**

I was born in Huntington, West Virginia, and moved to Wheeling with my family when I was in preschool. I have been a student at St. Michael Parish School for the last ten years. I have been active in theater, singing, and sports throughout my school career. I am thankful for my Catholic education as it has set me on a path for future success, and I hope to someday serve my community as a psychologist.

# JOSEPHINE RAE QUEEN

St. Joseph Catholic School, Huntington

Eighth Grade



## **What is special about attending a Catholic School?**

Faith-based learning that develops a deep sense of service and community and teaches students to always strive to help others.

## **Extracurricular Activities:**

- Cheerleading
- All-Area band
- Competitive dancer with Ultimate Dance Legacy

## **Achievements:**

- Principal's Honor Roll
- 4.0 GPA
- Member of the National Junior Honor Society
- Citizenship Award three-times

## **Interesting Qualities:**

- I have one younger brother named Davis
- My family has their own business
- I enjoy volunteering at the Lavalette United Methodist Food Bank

## **Future Career Goals:**

I am interested in a business-focused education path and aspire to one day be involved in my family's business.

## **Bio:**

I am an 8th grader at SJMS and have attended since I was in kindergarten. I am a member of the National Junior Honor Society, and the Cheer Team. Outside of school, I enjoy being a competitive dancer for Ultimate Dance Legacy and spending time volunteering at the Lavalette United Methodist Food Bank.

# TREVOR SMITH

Parkersburg Catholic Elementary School, Parkersburg

Fifth Grade



## **What is special about attending a Catholic School?**

Get to learn about God and Jesus Christ. We have Mass every Wednesday with the Priest.

## **Extracurricular Activities:**

- I play tennis in the summer

## **Achievements:**

- Aquinas Winner
- Honor Roll

## **Interesting Qualities:**

- I like board games
- I have two brothers
- I have two dogs
- I like basketball and video games

## **Future Career Goals:**

When I grow up I want to own a restaurant.

## **Bio:**

My name is Trevor Smith. My mom's name is Tiffany and my dad's name is Isaac. I have an older brother Logan and a younger brother Tucker. I have two dogs named Bella and Harper and three cats named Kitty, Coroline and Mya. My favorite animal is a tiger. I like helping people and playing board games and sports. I like to get my school work done and then have fun. I want to own a restaurant when I am older. I want to do this because I want to give people food and make them happy.



# MILA MARIE VERNON

St. Mary's Grade School, Clarksburg

Sixth Grade



## **What is special about attending a Catholic School?**

Going to Mass every week with friends, praying together every day as a school family and having a small family atmosphere.

## **Extracurricular Activities:**

- Cross Country
- Cheerleading
- Competitive Swimming

## **Achievements:**

- Zaner-Blosser handwriting winner
- 2024 Catholic Daughter: 1st place winner (local and state)
- 2nd place winner (National)

## **Interesting Qualities:**

- I have one sister
- I enjoy singing, dancing and performing in school plays
- I enjoy swimming and running

## **Future Career Goals:**

I am not sure what I want to do yet, but I am excited to continue to grow and explore different things and figure it out.

## **Bio:**

My name is Mila Vernon, and I am currently a 6th grade student at St. Mary's Grade School. I strive to be kind to everyone I meet and always treat others with compassion and understanding. I care about the people around me and do my best to lift their spirits. I am a competitive swimmer; my favorite color is pink, and I enjoy hanging out with my friends. I have loved my time spent at St. Mary's and appreciate the role it has played in shaping me and deepening my faith. I am grateful for my teachers who have guided me, believed in me, and have encouraged me to grow.

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# High Schools

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## LUKE TIU

Central Catholic High School, Wheeling  
Senior



### **What is special about attending a Catholic School?**

It is a community where teachers and faculty not only support you intellectually, but also spiritually. To me, there is no other place where one can develop their academics, relationship with Christ and passion for service.

### **Extracurricular Activities:**

- G.U.T.S. Service Club President
- Golf Team Captain
- Baseball
- Math Field Day Team Captain
- Tutoring Program President

### **Achievements:**

- Mu Alpha Theta Math Honor Society President
- Science National Honor Society President
- Distinguished Honor Roll
- 3x Golf State Champion
- Elks Athlete of the month
- National Merit Commended Scholar
- Wheeling Symphony Orchestra Cotillion Member

### **Interesting Qualities:**

- I have a little brother named Issac
- I work as a caterer for Chef N Company
- I enjoy listening to music and collecting vinyl records
- American Legion Mountaineer Boys State Representative

### **Future Career Goals:**

I am undecided on a particular college, but plan to pursue a major in Biology or Biochemistry with a minor in Public Health then attend Law School to become an Attorney.

### **Bio:**

My name is Luke Tiu, and I am the 2025 Aquinas Medal recipient at Wheeling Central Catholic High School. My parents are Dr. Jeremy and Mrs. Melissa Tiu, who both graduated from CCHS. I have one sibling, my younger brother Isaac, who will be attending CCHS next year. I am a lifelong member of St. Michael Parish. At school, I enjoy writing and studying the sciences. I am the President of the Science National Honor Society and the Mu Alpha Theta Math Honor Society and also lead the Tutoring Program. I have been a consistent member of the Distinguished Honor Roll at CCHS and am a National Merit Commended Scholar. Over my four years, I have been a varsity member of the golf and baseball teams and have won three golf state championships. In 2024, I was recognized as Elks Athlete of the Month. I am the President of the G.U.T.S. Service Club at CCHS, where members and I attend regular service projects at organizations like Catholic Charities WV. I have also enjoyed volunteering for the St. Michael Parish Festival for the last several years. Outside of school, I work as a caterer with Chef N Company and enjoy cooking as a hobby. I also work as the landscaping manager at TIU ENT. After high school, I am undecided on a specific college but plan to major in Biology with a minor in Public Health and go on to attend law school.

# WILLIAM SALUTILLO

Charleston Catholic High School, Charleston  
Senior



## **What is special about attending a Catholic School?**

It has helped me develop and challenge my intellectual, ethical, and spiritual life, shaping me into the person I am today. Also, my teachers and friends have given me opportunities to nurture my sense of self and compassion for others.

## **Extracurricular Activities:**

- Student Ambassador/Irish Leadership Ministry
- Vice President of Student Council
- President of Mu Alpha Theta
- Science Olympiad
- Treasure of the Science National Honor Society

## **Achievements:**

- National Merit Semi-Finalist
- AP Scholar with Distinction
- National French Exam Medalist

## **Interesting Qualities:**

- I love music and singing
- I enjoy playing Minecraft and fishing
- I have a pet turtle named Bubbles
- I have a brother named Harry

## **Future Career Goals:**

I am undecided on a college, but possibly attend St. John's University in New York or Notre Dame and would like to be in the medical profession and possibly be a Nurse.

## **Bio:**

Hi! My name is William Robert Baniel Salutillo, and I am a student at Charleston Catholic High School. I am a proud Filipino Catholic born in Queens, New York. When I'm not at school, I can probably be found making boba at Rice Bowl, playing video games such as Minecraft, listening or singing to music, fishing, or sleeping. I've sadly never had a dog or cat, but I do have a cool little turtle named Bubbles.

# MOLLY RANEE KORN

Notre Dame High School, Clarksburg  
Senior



## **What is special about attending a Catholic School?**

An engaging and faith-based environment, which has allowed me to reach my full potential academically and in my Catholic beliefs.

## **Extracurricular Activities:**

- Key Club President
- Volleyball
- Youth and Ministry Group Founder
- Student Body Officer
- Performing Arts Conservatory

## **Achievements:**

- National Honor Society
- 1st Vice President school select
- Hugh O’Brian Youth Leadership
- Rotary Youth Leadership Award

## **Interesting Qualities:**

- I am the middle child of three
- I love to paint and even had the chance to paint for a local business in the area
- I went to Zimbabwe with Sister Maria, who is a Nun from my Parish

## **Future Career Goals:**

I plan to attend Shephard University and major in Nursing.

## **Bio:**

My name is Molly Ranee Korn. I have attended Catholic School since Kindergarten. I am the President of the Notre Dame Key Club, and I am the founder of the Youth and Ministry Group. I am a member of the National Honor Society where I serve as 1st Vice President. I am currently serving as Student Body Treasurer and served as Student Body Vice – President for three years. I have represented the school at RYLA and HOBY and was selected to come back and serve as staff for both organizations. I was one of two students awarded a scholarship to attend the HOBY World Leadership Conference. I am a six-year member of the Performing Arts Conservatory and received the 2024 award for all festival cast. I was cast as the role of Dorothy in the 2024 Notre Dame production of the *Wizard of Oz*. I am an active member of the Immaculate Conception Church where I am an Alter Server and a Eucharistic Minister. I had the opportunity to attend a mission trip with Sister Maria to Zimbabwe where I worked with the Sisters of The Order of S.J.I. I plan to attend Shephard University and major in Nursing.

# JOSIE AUGENSTEIN

Parkersburg Catholic High School, Parkersburg  
Senior



## **What is special about attending a Catholic School?**

I have had the privilege of having teachers and mentors that aided me in my education and my growing as a person. Through my Catholic education, I learned to actively show leadership in public situations.

## **Extracurricular Activities:**

- Tennis
- Cheerleading
- Appalachian clogging dancer
- Student Council
- Lifeguard
- Swim lessons instructor
- Swim Team Coach

## **Achievements:**

- Student Council President
- National Honor Society

## **Interesting Qualities:**

- I am a certified lifeguard
- I have been an Appalachian clogger for 8+ years
- I enjoy learning new skills

## **Future Career Goals:**

I will be attending Bucknell University for Chemical Engineering. My career goals include wanting to work as a Chemical Engineer at a larger company in cosmetics or esters. Some companies I aspire to work at are Proctor and Gamble or Bath and Body Works to create scents or flavors for products.

## **Bio:**

My name is Josie Augenstein, and I have attended Parkersburg Catholic Schools since preschool. I have participated in tennis and cheerleading and have also served in leadership positions for Student Council and National Honor Society. Outside of school, I am a lifeguard, swim lessons instructor, and swim team coach at North Hills Pool in Parkersburg. I enjoy creating things like paintings, greeting cards, and decorations in spaces for events. I am a member of St. Margaret Mary Parish in Parkersburg.

# ANTOINETTE SMITH

St. Joseph Central Catholic High School, Huntington  
Senior



## **What is special about attending a Catholic School?**

Enjoy the close-knit community that other schools do not have.

## **Extracurricular Activities:**

- Mu Alpha Theta
- Key Club
- Student Council

## **Achievements:**

- Sociedad Hispanica Honoraria
- Honor Roll
- Science National Honor Society
- National Merit Semifinalist
- National English Honor Society
- Multiple Science Olympiad medals

## **Interesting Qualities:**

- I enjoy listening to music
- I enjoy reading
- I enjoy embroidering

## **Future Career Goals:**

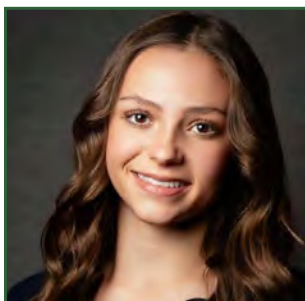
I have not decided on a school yet, but depending on where I go, I will either major in Computer Science or Fashion Design. In the future, I'd like to use my talents to develop a more sustainable and conscious world.

## **Bio:**

My name is Annie Smith, and I go to St. Joseph Catholic Central High School. I've been part of the St. Joseph family since Pre-K 4. I live with my parents and cat. I'm involved in several clubs at my school because I enjoy serving others. In the future, I hope to give back to my community and continue to spread kindness.

# CHLOE ELIZABETH ORECCHIO

Madonna High School, Weirton  
Senior



## **What is special about attending a Catholic School?**

My Catholic education has enabled me to grow in my faith as I grow in knowledge.

## **Extracurricular Activities:**

- Softball
- Volleyball
- Cheering
- Interact Club
- Pep Club

## **Achievements:**

- 4.00 GPA
- Presidential Honor Roll
- Prudential Spirit of Community Award recipient
- Vice President of National Honors Society
- Vice President of Science Club
- Vice President of Pro-Life Club

## **Interesting Qualities:**

- I have one dog
- I have one older sister

## **Future Career Goals:**

I am still undecided on where I will attend college, but plan to study Chemical Engineering and possibly play softball.

## **Bio:**

My name is Chloe Elizabeth Orecchio. I am the daughter of Mike and Debi Orecchio and younger sister to Gigi Orecchio. I am a student at Madonna High School and a member of St Joseph the Worker Roman Catholic Church. I am a three-year letterman of the varsity volleyball team and was Captain for the last 3 years. I am a 4-year letterman and Captain of the varsity softball team where I have received multiple OVAC awards. I have been President of the Class of 2025 all 4 years. I am Vice President of the Monsignor Murphy Chapter of the National Honors Society and maintain a GPA of 4.4. I plan to study Chemical Engineering in college and possibly play softball. I am undecided where I will attend college, but I am excited to further my education.

# PETER SCHMITT

Wheeling University, Wheeling  
Senior



## What is special about attending a Catholic School?

Being able to deepen my faith throughout my college experience and there is also a greater sense of community since a lot of people know one another.

## Extracurricular Activities:

- Football
- Resident Assistant
- Secretary for Student Athletic Advisory Committee
- Sergeant-at-Arms for Student Senate

## Achievements:

- 2x All-MEC 2nd Team
- Black Belt in Muay Thai
- 4x Dean's List
- 3x President's List
- Commissioner's Honor Roll
- MEC All-Academics

## Interesting Qualities:

- I love to play the guitar and to workout.
- I am an avid reader
- I am a huge hockey fan

## Future Career Goals:

I will either pursue a career in Professional Football or go to Medical School and become a Sports Medicine Doctor.

## Bio:

My whole life I have attended Catholic schools. I went to St. Joseph in Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio and then attended St. Vincent-St. Mary High School in Akron, Ohio. I participated in a number of service programs during high school, most notably being a local food bank in Akron Ohio. I've met a lot of great people through my education, and it helped set me up to get through college without struggling. I played football since 6th grade, and I was awarded a Scholarship to play at Wheeling University where I would end up playing in over 40 career games. I learned so much during my time at Wheeling and even had the opportunity to do some amazing activities. I was given the chance to do shadowing opportunities with Kent State School of Podiatry and WVU Medicine at Wheeling Hospital. Through football, I was invited to play in the FCS Bowl and the Dream Bowl. I am truly grateful to have had the opportunity to attend Catholic school and show how my faith has helped me to grow as a person.



# ST. SEBASTIAN AWARD RECIPIENTS



## 2025 ST. SEBASTIAN MEDAL RECIPIENTS CRITERIA

The St. Sebastian Award is intended to recognize our high-achieving student athletes in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston. The student athletes selected will have demonstrated throughout their high school careers the qualities necessary to be a well-rounded athlete such as sportsmanship, teamwork, academics (maintaining a 3.0 or higher GPA) and a high degree of respect for school, classmates, teammates, opponents, Parish and the community at large. The student ought to be the best example of a student athlete in his/her respective sport in the school.

# DOMINIC GIANANGELI

Central Catholic High School, Wheeling  
Senior



## What is special about attending a Catholic School?

Develop a relationship with God by attending religion class and going to Mass. Catholic schools have always felt like a family to me. You learn respect and compassion.

## Extracurricular Activities:

- Soccer • Basketball • Track • Homecoming Court
- President of the Student Enrollment Board
- Member of Drug Free Club

## Achievements:

- 1st team All-State in soccer • Attended the American Legion Mountaineer Boys State
- Class AA Region 1 player of the year in soccer • Distinguished Honor Roll
- OVAC First team and OVAC 1A-3A player of the year in soccer • National Honors Society
- Mu Alpha Theta Mathematics Honor Society • Science National Honor Society
- Rho Kapps National Social Studies Honor Society

## Interesting Qualities:

- I love running track • I enjoy being with family and friends
- I take pride in working out, lifting and eating healthy

## Future Career Goals:

I plan to run track at West Liberty University and study Biochemistry and then enter the Pre-Med program to hopefully go to medical school and study Anesthesiology.

## Bio:

My name is Dominic Gianangeli and I am a Senior at Wheeling Central Catholic High School. I have attended Catholic schools my whole life starting at Corpus Christi Elementary School here in Wheeling, West Virginia. I grew up in Wheeling or more specifically Warwood West Virginia. While I am not in school, some of my personal hobbies revolve around being active like basketball, weightlifting, or running. While in school, however, I have had both academic and athletic accomplishments while attending Wheeling Central Catholic High School. Some of those include: Distinguished Honor Roll, St. Sebastian Award Winner, WVSSAC Class 2A Soccer Region I Player of the Year, 1A-3A OVAC Soccer Player of the Year. After high school, I plan on attending West Liberty University to run track and to major in biochemistry and enter into the pre-med program to hopefully go to med school and study anesthesiology.

# AVA HANSON

Central Catholic High School, Wheeling  
Senior



## **What is special about attending a Catholic School?**

Being able to openly celebrate and share my faith with others in my school community and it also helped me get through the hardest of times, and celebrate every good thing that happens as well.

## **Extracurricular Activities:**

- Softball • Basketball • Volleyball • Big Sisters Club
- Math Counts • Drug Free Clubs of America • Spanish Club
- Guys and Girls United to Serve • Tutoring Program

## **Achievements:**

- Distinguished Honor Roll • Wheeling Elks Lodge 28 Student of the Month
- 1st place- Project on Racism video • Stella Maris National Honor Society
- President of Mu Alpha Theta National Honor Society
- Vice President of Rho Kappa National Honor Society
- Treasurer of Science National Honor Society

## **Interesting Qualities:**

- I have a 13-year-old sister named Claire • I love to read, shop and hang out with friends
- I enjoy listening to music, playing sports and traveling
- It is my goal to visit a country on all seven continents

## **Future Career Goals:**

I am undecided between West Virginia University and Ohio State University, but I plan to major in Exercise Physiology with the future goal of earning my Master's degree in Orthotics and Prosthetics.

## **Bio:**

My name is Ava Hanson and I am a senior at Wheeling Central Catholic. I am so thankful to have received this award and represent my school and classmates. I am involved in many clubs at school including Big Sisters Club, Math Counts, Guys and Girls United to Serve, and Drug Free Clubs of America. I also play basketball, volleyball, and softball, where I serve as a senior captain and have been a three-time Sectional champion, been named to the OVAC all conference 2nd team, and won the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Championship in 2024. I am eternally grateful to my parents and my sister who push me every day to be the best person I can be. After high school, I plan to attend either West Virginia University or The Ohio State University to major in Exercise Physiology and earn my Masters degree in orthotics and prosthetics.

# ISAAC COLLINS

Charleston Catholic High School, Charleston  
Senior



## **What is special about attending a Catholic School?**

The close, personal relationships with the teachers have allowed me to learn more effectively and to develop the interpersonal skills needed.

## **Extracurricular Activities:**

- Cross country
- Lacrosse
- Science Olympiad
- Knights of Columbus member
- Karate
- Track
- Student Body President
- Student council
- Senior Ambassador
- Science National Honor Society

## **Achievements:**

- Karate Sensei, Second Degree Black belt
- HOBY Leadership Camp
- U.S. Junior Karate Team, Alternate
- Cross Country team captain
- Created the 1st recycling club

## **Interesting Qualities:**

- I have two older sisters, Madeline and Camille
- I have two cats, Kora and Lola
- I enjoy playing video games, card and board games
- I love going to Walt Disney World with my sisters
- I enjoy a variety of music genres and have a large vinyl record collection

## **Future Career Goals:**

I will be attending Belmont Abbey College as a member of the BAC Division II Lacrosse team and majoring in Biology with a minor in Theology.

## **Bio:**

I was born in Princeton, West Virginia, my father's hometown, where I was a member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church and participated in soccer, baseball, dance, and rodeo riding. At age 8 my family moved to Charleston, my mother's hometown, and became a member of Sacred Heart Co-Cathedral and attended Sacred Heart Grade School. I immediately began participating in karate, ice hockey, and lacrosse and became an altar server after receiving my First Holy Eucharist. I have faithfully served our parish since then and am frequently requested to serve by our Bishop and Rector. After playing lacrosse for a local travel team for 7 years, through middle school, I found myself entering high school without a team. After petitioning the county board of education to honor the Tim Tebow Rule I became the first non-student member of the George Washington High School Lacrosse team, eventually becoming team captain. I studied and tested for my first-degree black belt at age 13 and obtained my second-degree black belt in 2024. In the summer of 2023 and 2024 I competed at the U.S. National Karate Team trials where I earned a position as alternate on the 2024-2025 team. This summer I was blessed to receive four offers to play college lacrosse and am proud to have a position with the Belmont Abbey College Men's Lacrosse team where I am also a Hintemeyer Scholar. Just this January I served for the first time as a Eucharistic Minister during Sunday Mass. I love my family and enjoy spending time with them, whether we are traveling, playing games, or eating dinner every evening. I love my running and lacrosse teammates and am proud to be a leader of a great group of young men. I love my friends and am so grateful that Charleston Catholic High School brought them to me.

# TELINA WILLIAMS

Charleston Catholic High School, Charleston  
Senior



## What is special about attending a Catholic School?

It's a small close-knit environment where everyone knows everyone. You have plenty of people supporting you and many people to be proud of.

## Extracurricular Activities:

- Basketball
- Volleyball
- Softball
- Mu Alpha Theta
- French Club
- Senior Ambassador/ILM
- Tutor
- Math Field Day
- Prom Committee
- Science Olympiad
- Science National Honors Society
- Camp counselor

## Achievements:

- AP Scholar with Distinction
- Charleston Youth Art Month Best of Show winner
- 1x volleyball regional winner with a state appearance
- Science Olympiad state winner-1st in Fermi questions and 3rd in Fossils
- 3x basketball regional winner with state appearances

## Interesting Qualities:

- I am great at ping pong
- I love to do art in my free time
- I have an addiction to Sudoku
- When I'm stressed, I like to bake chocolate chip cookies
- Go to church every week and work on the audio/video system with my father

## Future Career Goals:

I am undecided on college but intend to get a Masters in either Marketing or Parks and Recreation.

## Bio:

My name is Telina (Teh-lean-uh) Williams, and I have gone to Charleston Catholic since 6th grade. I am an only child, but my grandma lives with me. Growing up, I never played sports but loved art and nature. After middle school, I realized my capabilities and started my sports and academic journey. This led me to become an AP student while playing three varsity sports. I grew my leadership through being the co-president of Science Olympiad and Science National Honors Society, as well as Vice President of the Mu Alpha Theta math club. High school has never been easy, but making jokes and expressing my loud personality got me through it.

# DOMINICK BOMBARDIERE

Notre Dame High School, Clarksburg  
Senior



## What is special about attending a Catholic School?

They truly care about your education, you get to learn about Jesus and the Catholic faith, and everyone treats you like family.

## Extracurricular Activities:

- Varsity basketball, soccer and baseball
- Junior National Honor Society • Coach at Baseball Dojo
- Varsity baseball and soccer captain • Class president
- National Honor Society • Key club

## Achievements:

- St. Thomas Aquinas Award winner in 2020 • WV News fan voting pitcher of the year
- Athlete of the week nominee • Science and Social Studies Fair winner
- Baseball Factory Academic All-American

## Interesting Qualities:

- I enjoy fishing • I love every sport imaginable • I ran my own pressure washing business
- I love to be around family and friends

## Future Career Goals:

I plan to attend Bethany College where I will play baseball and major in Nursing with my ultimate goal to become a Nurse Anesthetist.

## Bio:

Hello. My name is Dominick Bombardiere. I'm a 17-year-old student athlete from Notre Dame High School in Clarksburg West Virginia. I pride myself in striving for excellence whether it is in academics or athletics. Throughout high school, I have excelled in soccer, basketball, and baseball, captaining all three teams my senior year, while maintaining a 4.05 grade point average. I am president of my senior class, a member of the National Honor Society and have been a class officer and involved in various clubs and organizations throughout middle school and high school. Winning the St. Thomas Aquinas Award in 6th grade and the St. Sebastian Medal in 12th grade are my 2 greatest honors. I plan on attending Bethany college where I will play baseball and pursue a career as a nurse anesthetist.

# AUSTYN FAYTH PAUGH

Notre Dame High School, Clarksburg  
Senior



## What is special about attending a Catholic School?

It makes you feel like you have a place, gives you more opportunities and makes you feel like you are actually wanted there.

## Extracurricular Activities:

- Volleyball • Basketball • Tennis • Key Club
- Sophomore Homecoming Princess • Senior Homecoming Queen
- Student Ambassador

## Achievements:

- National Honor Society • Valedictorian • Student Body President • Student Council
- Yearbook support staff • Math Field Day • HOBY Leadership Conference
- WV Rhododendron Girls State • 1st Place Halloween writing contest

## Interesting Qualities:

- I have one sister and two dogs • I love to draw, read and listen to music
- I love conspiracy theories

## Future Career Goals:

I plan to attend Washington and Jefferson College and major in Nursing with the goal of becoming a Pediatric Nurse and working in a children's hospital.

## Bio:

I have been attending Catholic School since Pre-K and have loved every second. It has helped me grow so much as a person. I am a very driven student and a multi-sport athlete. In my four years of high school, I played volleyball, cheer, basketball, and tennis. I have won several awards and honors in these sports, as well. I have participated, academically, in Key Club, National Honors Society, and Student Council holding positions in each. Over my four years I have attended Chick-Fil-A Leadership Conference, RYLA, HOBY, and WV Girls State. This year I have been named Valedictorian of my class and plan to attend Washington and Jefferson College and major in nursing. My future goals after college are to travel and work in a children's hospital as a pediatric nurse.

# LUC CHAZALET

Parkersburg Catholic High School, Parkersburg  
Senior



## **What is special about attending a Catholic School?**

You get to build a closer relationship with the teachers because there are less students.

## **Extracurricular Activities:**

- Soccer
- Tennis
- Football

## **Achievements:**

- Principal's list
- MVP of the varsity soccer team
- Captain of the varsity soccer team
- 1st team All-LKC

## **Interesting Qualities:**

- I play Clarinet
- I have two siblings
- I am bilingual

## **Future Career Goals:**

I hope to study business in Europe.

## **Bio:**

10 years ago, my family and I moved to the US. I was eight and didn't know a word of English. 10 years later, I am fluent in English and have made friendships that I hope last a lifetime.



# HELENA TELTSCHER

Parkersburg Catholic High School, Parkersburg  
Senior



## **What is special about attending a Catholic School?**

It means being part of a community that truly values a sound education and embodies the values of Jesus.

## **Extracurricular Activities:**

- Tennis • School Mascot • Robotics • Drama
- Tech Crew • National Honor Society • Senior Class President
- Homecoming Princess

## **Achievements:**

- Soccer 1st Team All-LKC • National Merit Finalist • First Robotics Dean's List Semi-Finalist
- Principals List • WVUP Dean's List • 2-month foreign exchange to Germany

## **Interesting Qualities:**

- I speak German • I visit my family in Germany every year
- I love animals and have two dogs • I also love to run

## **Future Career Goals:**

I plan to attend Georgia Institute of Technology to study Industrial Engineering.

## **Bio:**

My name is Helena Teltscher, and I am a senior at Parkersburg Catholic High School. I was born in Ravenswood, WV, and moved to Parkersburg in kindergarten to attend Parkersburg Catholic schools. My family is originally from Germany, and I am bilingual, frequently visiting my relatives there. Throughout high school, I have participated in various sports, including cross country and tennis, and I've also had fun representing my school as our mascot. However, soccer has always been my favorite sport, and I have served as captain of the PCHS Varsity team the past two years. In college, I plan to study industrial engineering and physics. I am incredibly grateful to the members of the Parkersburg Catholic community for their support in shaping me into the person I am today. Their guidance has helped me grow in both faith and character, leading me on the path of Jesus.

# COLIN WOELFEL

St. Joseph Central Catholic High School, Huntington  
Senior



## What is special about attending a Catholic School?

Allowed me to grow closer to God, learn more about my religion and become a responsible member of society.

## Extracurricular Activities:

- Soccer
- Track and field
- Basketball
- Football
- Student Council
- Homecoming Court
- Mu Alpha Theta
- English National Honor Society
- Science National Honor Society
- Hispanic National Honor Society
- Pep, Key and SADD Club

## Achievements:

- Exemplary Honors
- First team All-State defender in soccer
- 2x sectional champion in A-AA Soccer

## Interesting Qualities:

- I have a dog named Oreo
- In my free time, I like to lift weights
- My grandfather is a State Senator

## Future Career Goals:

I am already committed to the University of Kentucky where I will major in Political Science and then attend Law school. I plan to come back to Huntington to practice law with my Father.

## Bio:

My name is Colin Woelfel, and I have lived in Huntington, West Virginia my whole life. I live with my parents, my brother, and my dog. I have attended St. Joseph since I was two years old. Throughout high school, I have played many sports, including soccer, football, basketball, and track and field. I also am involved in many of our school's clubs and honor societies, such as National Honor Society, Student Council, and Key Club. In my free time, some of my hobbies include weightlifting, watching sports, and going out with friends. After high school, I plan on attending the University of Kentucky where I will major in Political Science. After college, I want to further my studies by attending law school. Ultimately, I intend to practice law with my father.

# LACEE SMITH

St. Joseph Central Catholic High School, Huntington  
Senior



## What is special about attending a Catholic School?

School is small, so you really get the help you need from your teachers. It's a faith-based education, teaching students about beliefs, traditions and values.

## Extracurricular Activities:

- Basketball
- AAU basketball
- Homecoming Court
- Key Club
- Pep Club

## Achievements:

- Full-ride athletic scholarship to Concord University to play basketball
- Passed the AP Art Portfolio for three years with a score of three
- Won 3rd place 2x for the Art and Design scores at Marshall
- Won a state championship in basketball at Huntington High School
- Made it to the first round of states in basketball last year

## Interesting Qualities:

- I have a younger brother and an older sister
- I love to make art, including paintings, drawings, clothes designs and sculpting
- I enjoy thrifting and baking with my mom
- I enjoy watching college basketball with my dad
- I walk dogs from our local animal shelter

## Future Career Goals:

I plan to attend Concord University and play Division II basketball and major in Pre-Athletic Training and Physical Therapy.

## Bio:

My name is Lacey Smith, and I'm a senior at St. Joseph Central Catholic High School. I was born in Huntington, but I lived in different states when my dad was active in the military. I enjoy making art, including painting, drawing, designing, and making unique clothes. I've won 3rd place at Marshall's Scores Competition for Art & Design and passed the AP Art Portfolio with a score of 3 for three years now. I plan on making it four this year. I also love to play basketball, and I've been playing for 10-plus years now. I received a full athletic scholarship from Concord University to play Division II basketball, and I received another academic scholarship on top of that. I plan to study Pre-Athletic Training and Physical Therapy when I attend Concord and graduate with my Master's Degree and my Athletic Training License. After college, I really want to play basketball overseas. But if I don't do that, I will apply for an Athletic Training job at a University.

# DAVID CONNORS

Madonna High School, Weirton  
Senior



## **What is special about attending a Catholic School?**

The environment is second to none.

## **Extracurricular Activities:**

- Basketball
- Baseball
- Homecoming Court
- Class Vice President
- Pro-Life Club
- Interact Club
- Student Council

## **Achievements:**

- Honor Roll
- National Honors Society
- Baseball Captain

## **Interesting Qualities:**

- I enjoy weightlifting
- I enjoy traveling
- I like building Legos
- I have one dog

## **Future Career Goals:**

I plan to attend Wheeling University to play baseball.

## **Bio:**

My high school journey has been filled with athletic and academic accomplishments. I am a four-year starter and captain of the baseball team, as well as a letterman of the basketball team. I have served as our class Vice President and a member of the Student Council. As a member of the National Honors Society, I strive for academic success and community service, volunteering at numerous events and services. Going forward, I will be attending Wheeling University, where I will continue my baseball career and major in Exercise Science.

# CHRISTANY BARTLEY

Madonna High School, Weirton

Senior



## What is special about attending a Catholic School?

Being able to have a smaller group in a classroom allows more ability to understand and ask questions to your teacher. Catholic school reminds you everyday to try your best and to always have faith.

## Extracurricular Activities:

- Basketball
- Soccer
- Dance
- Homecoming Court
- Student Council
- Interact Club
- National Honor Society

## Achievements:

- High Honor Roll
- Basketball OVAC 1st team Honorable mention
- Basketball All-State Honorable mention

## Interesting Qualities:

- I love to play the guitar
- I have a younger sister
- I have three dogs

## Future Career Goals:

I plan to attend Washington and Jefferson College and major in Biomedical Science and play basketball. Future hopes are to become an Ear, Nose and Throat surgeon.

## Bio:

It is an honor to receive this award. Being a new transfer student was not easy though Madonna helped me have the opportunities I do today. I have always chosen to take the leader's road to push my limits on and off the court. Basketball isn't just a sport to me but a lifestyle, taking risks, learning to be disciplined, respecting others, and learning to adapt to anything in my daily life. Participating in various parts of the school's community and being recognized for all of the work means so much. I only hope my leadership helps others want to do the same.

# CADEN CANNING

Wheeling University, Wheeling  
Senior



## **What is special about attending a Catholic School?**

Being able to continue my education while growing in my faith and continuing to form my moral development.

## **Extracurricular Activities:**

- Wrestling
- NCAA Student Athlete Advisory Committee Representative

## **Achievements:**

- Dean's list
- MEC All-Academic
- Commissioner's Honor Roll
- Team Captain for Wrestling

## **Interesting Qualities:**

- I have two siblings
- I have five dogs
- I love to work out
- Enjoy hanging with friends

## **Future Career Goals:**

I would like to pursue a career in business, possibly in the world of banking.

## **Bio:**

My name is Caden Canning, and I am from Newark, Ohio. I am a graduate of Newark Catholic High School, where I was a dedicated student-athlete, competing in both football and wrestling. I am currently completing my bachelor's degree in business administration with a concentration in Finance at Wheeling University. Throughout my time at Wheeling, I have been an active member of the university's wrestling team, serving as team captain, and demonstrating leadership both on and off the mat. With a strong background in athletics, teamwork, and financial studies, I am eager to apply my skills and knowledge to the business world, pursuing opportunities in finance and strategic management.

# ELLA KEFFER

Wheeling University, Wheeling  
Senior



## What is special about attending a Catholic School?

I am able to continue to grow and express my faith in every aspect of my life with the support of the faculty and students.

## Extracurricular Activities:

- Women's Golf
- Bible study
- Campus Activities Board
- SGA Senate
- Kairos leader
- Altar server
- Student Athlete Advisory Committee
- Athletic Training Club

## Achievements:

- Dean's list
- MEC All-Academic
- Commissioners Honor Roll
- AAA Honor Society
- Top 10 and 1st flight winner in the 2024 WV women's state armature golf tournament

## Interesting Qualities:

- I have two cats
- Enjoy running in my free time as well as playing backyard volleyball with my neighbors
- I have worked at a country club for five summers

## Future Career Goals:

I plan to start my Master of Athletic Training this coming May at Wheeling University, where I will begin to work towards becoming an Athletic Trainer.

## Bio:

I am a student at Wheeling University and an active member of the women's golf team as well as several other extracurriculars around campus. I was born and raised in Marietta, OH to Tiffany and the late Eric Keffer where I attended Catholic school k-8th grade and participated in weekly mass. I graduated high school in 2022 from Fort Frye high school where I played golf and ran track but decided to pursue my golf career at the collegiate level. After completing my undergraduate, I plan to begin my Masters of Athletic Training this May here at Wheeling University.

# a dozen reasons to choose Catholic Schools







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## DEPARTMENT OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

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**MS. JENNIFER HORNYAK, MET**  
Superintendent of Catholic Schools

**DR. RHONDA COMBS**  
Director of Curriculum  
and Instruction

**MRS. JULIE LINK**  
Office Manager