



An Exemplary Recognition School ~ Mission, Community, and Climate

Proud to Be St. Monica School: We Celebrate Some of our Recent Alumni, Student, and Staff Successes!

SMS Alumni

Matt McDonough

Matt McDonough, St. Monica School Class of 2005, has been named the Valedictorian for the 2009 graduating class of Marquette University High School. At the MUHS Senior Convocation on May 11th, McDonough was also honored with a “Presidential Award for Outstanding Overall Academic Achievement;” acknowledged with a “Scholar Athlete” award for carrying a cumulative G.P.A. above 3.5 while excelling athletically; and was celebrated as a “Wisconsin Academic Excellence Scholar” and a “National Merit Scholar.”

This is the second time in three years that a SMS alum was named Valedictorian of their graduating high school class (Courtney Bohman, SMS class of 2003, was named the Valedictorian for the 2007 graduating class of Pius XI High School).

Other SMS alumni receiving awards for academic and extracurricular excellence at the MUHS Senior Convocation included:

- ❖ **Danny McDonough** was honored with a “Presidential Award for Outstanding Overall Academic Achievement;” acknowledged with a “Scholar Athlete” award for carrying a cumulative G.P.A. above 3.5 while excelling athletically; and was celebrated as a “National Merit Scholar.”
- ❖ **John Bennett** was honored with a “Presidential Award for Outstanding Overall Academic Achievement;” acknowledged with a “Scholar Athlete” award for carrying a cumulative G.P.A. above 3.5 while excelling athletically; and was celebrated as Student Body President and a Leader of the Freshman Retreat. He also was honored as a “National Merit Scholar.”
- ❖ **Michal Flejsierowicz** was honored with a “Presidential Award for Outstanding Overall Academic Achievement” and the recipient of a “Scholar Athlete” award for a cumulative G.P.A. above 3.5 while excelling athletically.
- ❖ **Kevin Tighe** was honored with a “Presidential Award for Outstanding Overall Academic Achievement” in the content area of Science and was celebrated as a Leader of the Freshman Retreat.
- ❖ **Conor Wildt** was honored with a “Presidential Award for Outstanding Overall Academic Achievement” in the content area of Theology and was celebrated as a Leader of the Freshman Retreat.

Kristen Wagner

Kristen Wagner, St. Monica School Class of 2005, was recently honored as one of the “2009 Class of Brady Academic All-Stars.” The Award, sponsored by Brady Corporation, is designed to celebrate high school seniors who have proven their excellence in the classroom, on the playing field, and in service to their schools and communities.

Wagner is a senior at St. Joan Antida High School and has consistently earned a place on the high school’s quarterly High Honor Roll (G.P.A. of 3.5 and above). She has been accepted into the University of Minnesota’s Engineering program.

Jamie Hoover

Jamie Hoover, St. Monica School Class of 2005, joined fellow SMS Alum Kristen Wagner in being honored as one of the “2009 Class of Brady Academic All-Stars.” The Award, sponsored by Brady Corporation, is designed to celebrate high school seniors who have proven their excellence in the classroom, on the playing field, and in service to their schools and communities.

Hoover, a senior at Whitefish Bay High School, will pursue a degree in Engineering at Northwestern University beginning this Fall. His younger brother **Charlie Hoover**, also an SMS alum (Class of 2006), recently received a scholarship to play soccer at Marquette University upon graduation from high school in June 2010.

Catherine Quirk

Catherine Quirk, SMS alum and current junior at Divine Savior Holy Angels High School, recently received two Gold Key Awards in the annual Wisconsin Regional Scholastic Art Competition. She was one of 350 students statewide to receive an award in this competition and one of only 253 to receive a prestigious Gold Key Award. Gold Key Award-winning artworks continue on to the national competition, along with those from over 65 other regional competitions held nationwide.

SMS Alumni at Dominican High School

On March 25th, seven St. Monica School alumni and current juniors at Dominican High School were presented as candidates for induction into the St. Dominic Chapter of the National Honor Society. These students – **Jessie Bazan, Sam Bazan, Emma Bradford, Elizabeth Devine, Stephen Fong, Dylan Mooney, and Meg Murphy** – were celebrated for their accomplishments and record of excellence in the areas of “Character, Scholarship, Leadership, and Service.”

SMS Students

Jr. High Students Earn Stock Market Game Honors

SMS Jr. High students, led by Jr. High math teacher Jeannie Cameron, ‘rocked’ the online Wisconsin Stock Market Game!

One of the SMS teams took 1st place in the Regional Ranking (Southeastern Wisconsin); 1st place in the State “Junior Top 50” (elementary and middle schools throughout the state); and 3rd place in State against all participating high schools! This team consisted of four current SMS 8th grade boys: **Quinn Mooney, Jack Duval, Pat Tighe, and team captain Charlie Swain.** In 10 weeks, this team of financial wizards made a profit of \$36,952.07!

SMS also had two 7th grade teams place 3rd and 4th in the Regional Ranking (Southeastern Wisconsin) and in the “Junior Top 50” (elementary and middle schools throughout the state). The 3rd place team consisted of: **Michael Hangsterfer, Eddie Pencak, Andy Chandler, and Ryan Devine.** They made a profit of \$18,966.70. The 4th place team, earning a profit of \$13,858.31 in 10 weeks, consisted of: **Aviah Stillman, Sara Coffey, and Kathryn Keough.**

Madeleine Long

Madeleine Long, current SMS 8th grade student, recently was nominated for and accepted into the “Sue Dunham Memorial Scholarship Program” at the Milwaukee Art Museum. As a participating scholar, she was invited to participate in an eight-week long class entitled “Portraits in the Gallery” and will display some of her art work, including a self-portrait, at the Museum this August.

In February, Madeleine participated in Dominican High School’s “Annual Academic Challenge” and earned second-place honors in the 8th grade art category. She received a \$500 renewable scholarship for the four years she will attend DHS.

SMS Celebrates Another Year of Standardized Testing Excellence!

The table below, representing the percentile rank of St. Monica School students compared to national school norms, is a summary of the results of the Iowa Test of Basic Skills administered to St. Monica School students in 3rd, 5th, and 7th grades this past March. The ITBS is the standardized test mandated by the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. While testing is only one measure of student achievement, we celebrate these results as further evidence of the excellence of our students, staff, and curriculum!

Grade	Reading	Language	Math	Social Studies	Science	Composite
3	99	99	98	99	99	99
5	94	99	96	93	92	98
7	95	99	94	95	99	99

In all three grades tested, SMS has more high achieving students and fewer average and low achieving students than do most other schools in the nation. **The average composite grade equivalent for St. Monica School in grade 3 is 5.8, grade 5 is 8.3, and grade 7 is 12.7** – meaning all three grades scored well above grade level! This success can be attributed to the diligence of our students, our strong parental involvement and support, and our dedicated and competent faculty.

SMS Staff

SMS Jr. High Teacher Earns Doctoral Degree

Anne Rice, SMS Jr. High teacher, has earned a Doctor of Education degree in Leadership for the Advancement of Learning and Service from the College of Education and Leadership at Cardinal Stritch University. Her dissertation was entitled “Naked in the Square: Four Lessons from Francis of Assisi for Modern Leaders.”

In 2005, Ms. Rice was selected as a Kohl Fellowship recipient, considered to be among the highest of honors for an educator in the state of Wisconsin. According to the letter she received from award sponsor (and U.S. Senator) Herb Kohl, Ms. Rice was selected for this honor because of her “skill as a leader and agent for positive change, as well as her superior ability to inspire love of learning.” Ms. Rice was the third SMS teacher to have been selected as a Kohl Fellowship recipient, following in the footsteps of Junior Kindergarten teacher Mrs. Linda Kihslinger and former principal and Jr. High math teacher Mrs. Karen Rambadt.

SMS Jr. High Science Teacher Honored by FDA and NSTA

Carmen Bond, SMS Jr. High teacher, has been selected to participate in the Summer 2009 FDA (Food and Drug Administration) and NSTA (National Science Teachers Association) Food Science Professional Development Program. The goal of this partnership program is to celebrate outstanding science educators and help prepare them to implement the FDA food science curriculum during the coming school year. As a selected participant, Mrs. Bond will attend a week-long workshop in Washington D.C. this July, during which she will visit the USDA Agricultural Farm, the FDA labs, a seafood processing plant, and perform food science experiments at the University of Maryland microbiology labs. She will then attend a follow-up conference in Phoenix, Arizona in December to share updates with her colleagues.

St. Monica School Math Curriculum Offers High School Credit

Beginning this Fall, SMS 8th grade students taking algebra were eligible to receive a full credit of math at Dominican High School. The partnership, championed by SMS Principal Maria Schram and DHS Principal Ed Kovoichich, reflects the high standards in place for SMS’s math curriculum. Schram is pursuing other such math partnerships with other Archdiocesan high schools.

“This will enable students who successfully meet the requirements of the DHS math department to be placed in geometry in their freshman, rather than sophomore, year,” said Kovoichich. “The completion of a full credit requirement even before starting high school puts them on the fast track for math and also opens doors for more elective courses.”

Congratulations to all of our alumni, students, and staff featured in this update! We are proud of you!

If you know of a student or alumni success we should be celebrating, please contact Tom Mlada, St. Monica School Development Director, at (414) 332-3660 ext. 123 or tmlada@st-monica.org.