

KENNEDY CATHOLIC

Family of Schools

2023-2024
ANNUAL MAGAZINE

Fall 2024

WHERE STUDENTS SOAR



VALUES & VISION

Dear Kennedy Family,

I hope this message finds you well! I am excited to share some wonderful updates and achievements that highlight the spirit and dedication of our school community. First and foremost, let's celebrate our amazing girls' basketball team, who have proudly claimed the title of 2024 State Champions! Their hard work, determination, and teamwork have brought immense pride to our school, and we look forward to supporting them as they continue to shine both on and off the court.

In addition to our athletic achievements, I am thrilled to announce the introduction of new classes in manufacturing, culinary arts, and robotics. These courses will provide our students with hands-on experiences and essential skills that are increasingly important in today's workforce. We believe these programs will inspire creativity and innovation among our students.

We are also excited about the revitalization of our spirit store, which has been rebuilt to better serve our school community. Stocked and operated by students, this initiative aims to foster school pride while providing valuable real-world experience in retail management.

A heartfelt thank you to the Class of 1984, whose generous contribution of \$20,000 will go toward remodeling our science lab. Their commitment to enhancing our educational facilities will benefit countless students for years to come.

I am pleased to report that our enrollment numbers are trending positively, with many new students touring and enrolling as we start the school year. This growth reflects our community's trust and belief in the quality education we provide.

Safety remains a top priority, and I am happy to announce that, thanks to a state security grant, we will be adding 30 new cameras and equipping all classroom doors with bolo sticks. These enhancements will help ensure a safe and secure learning environment for all our students and staff.

Thank you for your continued support and engagement in our school community. Together, we are creating an environment where every student can thrive.

Warm regards,

Joseph Kenneally
Kennedy Catholic Family of Schools, President

2023-2024 Board of Directors

Kennedy Catholic Family of Schools

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Mr. Lew Rosa, Class of 1994

Cover Photo: The KCHS Class of 2022 in an outdoor ceremony at Butala Stadium.



FEATURE **17** *The Pathway Programs*



Students in the Culinary Pathway prepare baked goods with their Instructor Chef Rob Simmers for the Pathway Partnership Breakfast.

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KENNEDY CATHOLIC
Family of Schools
FALL 2024

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Director of Facilities/IT

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Mr. Drew Magestro '17
Athletic Director

Mission:

We are committed to providing spiritual inspiration, quality academics, and extracurricular activities as all of us strive "to serve Christ" (Christo Servire).

Vision:

KCFS is a Christ-centered faith community that exists as a response to Jesus' mandate: "Go and teach all nations." In fulfillment of this, we open our doors to a population of diverse racial, ethnic, religious, and economic backgrounds.

KCFS Magazine is distributed for free to alumni, parents, and friends of the KCFS community. Comments or questions can be directed to Reganne O'Brien '16 at robrien@kennedycatholicschools.org. Please note, we make every effort to include all news and notes shared with the advancement office throughout the school year.

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ALUMNI JOURNAL

From the Principal *Mrs. Mary (Hopkins) Cricks '80*

It is surreal to think that the place that nurtured my formative years is now where I serve as principal. It is both a humbling and joyous experience to come full circle, from student to leader, at the school that helped shaped me into the person I am today. Almost daily when I sit at this desk, I am reminded of Fr. Andrew Karg and the tremendous impact he had not only on me but on so many of the students who were at Kennedy during his time as Headmaster.

Like many of you, my time at Kennedy laid a strong foundation, not just academically, but spiritually. I remember the dedicated teachers who challenged me to think critically, and the compassionate mentors who instilled in me the values of faith, service, and leadership. Kennedy wasn't just a place of learning, it was a community of faith and families that were present at athletic events, as cafeteria helpers, volunteers in the bookstore, planning and running the famous Kennedy Carnizar, the Letterman Concerts, and the list goes on.

Now, as principal, I am deeply committed to fostering an environment where traditions and values that I experienced as a student continue for many generations to come. In today's ever-changing world, it is more important than ever that our students receive an education rooted in Christian values that guide them to become compassionate, thoughtful leaders in their communities and in their professions.

Part of Kennedy's mission is about providing spiritual inspiration, exceptional academics and extracurricular activities. I see my role as principal not just as an educator, but as a guardian of this mission. Every decision we make—from curriculum updates to service opportunities—seeks to uphold the vision that our founders laid out. The heart of our mission remains unchanged. *Christo Servire*, "to serve Christ."

One of the greatest strengths of Kennedy is our alumni community. You, our graduates, are examples of what it means to live out the values of Catholic education. Whether you're leading in your profession, volunteering in your community, or raising families grounded in faith, you carry the spirit of Kennedy with you. We as a faith-based community have the responsibility to continue providing that same transformative experience for today's students. We are proud of the legacy you all have built, and we hope to continue that tradition for generations to come.

As we look ahead, I am excited about the future of Kennedy. We are making strides in technology, expanding our extracurricular programs, and deepening our spiritual and service-oriented initiatives. We have expanded our academics to include pathways such as manufacturing, business, culinary, the arts and are presently working to add a medical pathway in the fall of 2024. Our commitment to excellence in education and to fostering a vibrant Catholic community remains as strong as ever.

But we can't do it alone. I invite you, our alumni, to stay connected with us. Your insights, support, and involvement are crucial to our continued success! In closing, I want to thank you for the role you have played in making Kennedy the special place that it is. As an alumna myself, I know firsthand how transformative the experience here can be. It is an honor to serve as principal, and I am deeply committed to ensuring that the legacy of Kennedy continues to thrive. May God bless you and your families abundantly.



Christo Servire Award

The Christo Servire Award is chosen annually by the faculty and presented at graduation for exemplifying the school motto, *Christo Servire* (to serve Christ). The award represents quality of character, honesty, cooperation, respect, and integrity. This award was initiated in 1979 by then Headmaster Monsignor Salvatore Mitchell. The 2024 recipients of this award were Kameron Gwin and Hannah Golub.



Class of 1984

Fund-a-Classroom Campaign

The Class of 1984 from KCHS raised over \$20,000 to renovate the school's biology labs, exceeding their initial goal through a collaborative effort led by alumni Keith Brooks, Deanna (Yarboro) Brown, Maureen (Donnelly) Dunn, Marianne (Kocis) Iyer and Reganne O'Brien. The campaign aimed to modernize the labs, equipping future students with state-of-the-art facilities for hands-on learning in science and technology. This initiative reflects the alumni's strong connection to their alma mater and a desire to inspire the next generation. This campaign created a model for other alumni classes to follow in an effort to give back to KCHS.



40th Year Reunion Celebration

A pivotal moment in the campaign occurred during the 40th reunion at Vey's Pub and Grille, where classmates gathered to celebrate and contribute to the cause. The event generated significant enthusiasm and donations, helping the campaign exceed its fundraising goal. Many classmates credited their time at Kennedy for shaping their love of learning and were eager to give back to the school that played such an important role in their lives. A heartfelt thank you to the Class of 1984, whose generous contribution of \$20,000 will go toward remodeling our science lab. Their commitment to enhancing our educational facilities will benefit countless students for years to come.

The Legacy of Vince Cardamon on the KC Family

The Kennedy Catholic community recently came together to honor the memory of Vince Cardamon, a beloved member of the KC family, by hosting the inaugural Vince Cardamon Memorial Golf Outing at Tam O'Shanter Golf Course. Vince, known for his unwavering dedication and spirit, made a lasting impact on students, staff, and alumni throughout his time at Kennedy Catholic. Vince's influence extended far beyond the classroom or athletic fields; he was a mentor, friend, and pillar of the Kennedy Catholic family. His legacy of kindness, leadership, and commitment to excellence lives on through the many lives he touched.



The golf outing, organized to celebrate his memory, was a resounding success, bringing together alumni, friends, and supporters of the school. Held at the beautiful Tam O'Shanter Golf Course, the event saw an impressive turnout, with participants honoring Vince's legacy while raising funds to benefit Kennedy Catholic's programs. The funds raised will contribute to scholarships and initiatives that reflect Vince's passion for supporting students and fostering their success.

ALUMNI JOURNAL

1960's

1966-Now- Sister Margaret Pellerite

We are grateful to Sister Margaret for 58 years of service to Kennedy and being the face of the school to all our generations of KC graduates.

1969- Ace Rossi

Ace has been a huge contributor to the success of our schools the past year through his family's foundation. Thank you Ace for your support of Catholic Education and for giving back to KC!



1970's

1972-1980- Msgr. Andrew Karg

Msgr. Karg celebrates his 60th year of service to the Diocese of Erie on the same year as our 60th anniversary. He served KC for 13 years as headmaster.



1977- Mark DeSantis

Mark is the CEO of Bloomfield Robotics which recently completed SVG Ventures' prestigious THRIVE accelerator program, where it won the Innovation Icon Award during the final demonstration day at the Forbes THRIVE Future of Food summit.



1980's

1983- Jacqui (Moroco) Maloney

Jacqui Moroco, a dental professional, will step out of her comfort zone to compete in Boca's Ballroom Battle on Sept. 14, an annual fundraiser supporting the George Snow Scholarship Fund. She and seven other community leaders will perform choreographed dance routines with professional partners, similar to Dancing with the Stars.



1984- Timothy Feeney

\$10,000 checks were handed out to Sharon Tube workers who already hit the 30-year mark at the company's annual Christmas luncheon at its Farrell plant by GM Tim Feeney.



1990's

1996- Talbot Reiber

Talbot is the owner of Talbot's Taproom & Terrace. He has been featured in various publications for his groundbreaking restaurant.

2000's

2000- John Jurko II

After five years of leading the project, John Jurko celebrated the private screening of RHINO MAN on June 13th, 2023, in London, with support from United for Wildlife and The Royal Foundation of the Prince and Princess of Wales. The film tells the stories of rangers, including Anton Mzimba, a close friend of the user and the film's lead, who tragically passed in 2022. Despite challenges, the project has reached a key milestone, and they now aim to secure a major platform for global viewing, while launching a social impact campaign to support rangers worldwide.



2006- Colynn O'Brien

Colynn was named in Orlando Style magazine as a featured Woman in Law.

2010's

2011- Caroline Collins

Caroline, a reporter, had the unforgettable opportunity to interview Olympic legend Simone Biles on FOX 26 Houston News.



2008- Tyler Hudson

2012- Jonathan Hudson

2015- Alex Hudson

Hudson Companies is named Pittsburgh Business Times Best Place to Work.



2017- Taylor Galaska

Taylor is the President of the Sharon Historical Society and has been an author of many historical books.

Cheers to 50 years to the Class of 1974!



The KCHS Class of 1974 celebrated their 50th reunion over the weekend of August 1-4, 2024, reconnecting with old friends and reflecting on five decades of shared memories. The festivities began on Thursday, August 1st, with an Italian Baking Day, led by pastry chef Dana States. Classmates were split into groups, armed with recipes, utensils, and baking supplies to create desserts which were later served at the reunion dinner. Friday continued with a golf outing at Tam O'Shanter Golf Course, followed by a mixer at Quaker Steak and Lube. On Saturday, the main celebration took place at Avalon Golf and Country Club with dinner, trivia, and a class photo, and the weekend concluded on Sunday with a Mass at Good Shepherd Church.

The reunion also emphasized the class's ongoing commitment to Kennedy Catholic. Many classmates

toured the school, expressing enthusiasm for staying engaged with current initiatives and supporting its future. The Class of 1974 plans to continue gathering regularly, ensuring their legacy and connection to the school remain strong for years to come. The weekend served not only as a celebration of the past but also as a testament to their enduring bonds and shared dedication to the Golden Eagle community.



Once a Golden Eagle, Always a Golden Eagle



In Loving Memory

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon them.
May the souls of all the faithful departed,
through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

Vince & James Cardamon

THE GOLDEN EAGLE EXPERIENCE

Created with a Purpose: Kennedy Catholic's Mental Health Program

Kennedy Catholic Family of Schools is enhancing its commitment to student mental health through the Created with a Purpose program. In partnership with the April Bocian Foundation and Angelus Therapeutic Services, the school is establishing a dedicated mental health room on the 7-12 campus. This safe space offers students access to licensed professionals for support and guidance as they navigate personal and academic challenges.

To further support these efforts, the April Bocian Foundation hosted a Butterfly Release fundraiser. The event symbolized hope and transformation, with all proceeds going toward mental health initiatives, including the maintenance of the new room.

With this program, Kennedy Catholic ensures that students have the resources they need to thrive, prioritizing mental well-being alongside academic success.



Kennedy Catholic Schools Awarded \$100,000 Safety Grant

Kennedy Catholic Family of Schools was recently awarded a \$100,000 grant from the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) to enhance campus safety and security. The funds have been used to hire a security guard implement key upgrades, including the installation of Bolo Sticks for each classroom, buzzer security systems, internal/external cameras, and the Navigate 360 Alert System for emergency communication. Additionally, the school has reinforced its crisis management plan and installed deadbolt locks to further secure the campus.

These improvements are part of Kennedy Catholic's ongoing commitment to ensuring the well-being of its students and staff. We are thrilled to welcome our Head Football Coach Julian Cox as our security guard. The school is also actively pursuing additional funding to continue enhancing safety measures, reflecting its dedication to creating a safe and secure learning environment for all.

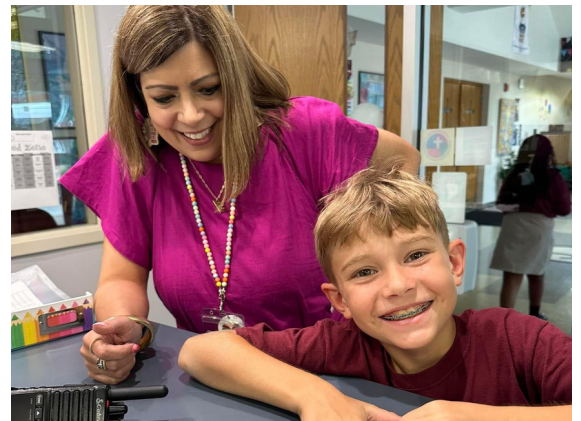


Eagle Etiquette

Saint John Paul II Elementary has developed a creative and engaging PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports) program with the Eagle Etiquette initiative. The focus on students being ready to learn, responsible, respectful, and safe aligns with the PBIS core principles, which promote a positive school climate and reinforce positive behavior through recognition.

Students demonstrating Eagle Etiquette earn golden tickets which include a scratch off section to reveal their reward. Rewards include golden eggs with mystery prizes inside, Lunch with the Principal and a classmate, free books, no homework passes, and an assortment of KC items.

SJPII Elementary is motivating students to follow desired expectations in the hallways, cafeteria, restrooms, specials, and classrooms. This approach has helped to foster a sense of community, belonging, and mutual respect within the school environment. Plans are underway to add a few more components to the program which will be rolled out to students during Catholic Schools Week.



Peace, Love and Service

This school year, Saint John Paul II Elementary is focusing on our school motto of, Christo Servire through our theme of Peace, Love and Service. Students across all grade levels will learn what it means to serve Christ through various service projects. Students will help to plan service projects that help to serve the need of our communities and school. Each grade level will learn about a Saint that is unique to their classroom. Students will work together to develop a service project that reflects the work of their classroom Saint. Students in 3rd-6th grade are able to join the SJPII Service Club. The club works in collaboration with system wide service projects and individual projects. For example, making holiday cards or seasonal crafts for local nursing homes within the Shenango Valley. Additionally, we are encouraging our students to get involved in their own parishes and communities.

THE GOLDEN EAGLE EXPERIENCE

The Class of 2024

Congratulations to the Class of 2024 who were offered over \$1.5 Million total and accepted \$350,000 in scholarship awards. 100% of the students in the class are attending a four-year college or entering a skilled trade pathway. Schools the seniors are attending include Penn State University, the University of Alabama, the University of Cincinnati, and Kent State University.



Valedictorian

Hannah Golub

Indiana University of
Pennsylvania



Salutatorian

James Brocklehurst

Penn State University

LEGACIES- 2nd Generation



Patricia Surano

Angela (Cardamon) Surano,
Class of 1988

Granddaughter of the beloved former President of KCFS, Vince Cardamon. The Cardamon family is a legacy family of Kennedy Catholic.



Dominic Haben

Alan Haben, Class of 1993

KENNEDY CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Legacy Family - The Perry Family



Matthew and Ellen (Montgomery) Perry are proud KC graduates. Their children Allison and Matthew are currently students at Kennedy Catholic Family of Schools.

Matt ('97) is a partner at Compliance Environmental Services.

Ellen ('98) graduated from Kent State and is a Licensed Nursing Home Administrator for UPMC at UPMC Avalon Springs Place.

Allison is currently a Sophomore at KCHS. Matthew is a 6th grader at Saint John Paul II Elementary School. We are blessed to have the Perry family here as a legacy family representing KC education.

New Roof Renovation Project



We want to extend our heartfelt thanks for your generous contributions in 2022, which played a pivotal role in helping us put a new roof on the high school. Your support not only ensured the safety and comfort of our students and staff but also demonstrated your commitment to the future of Kennedy Catholic. We are deeply grateful for your continued dedication to our school and its mission. Thank you for being such an integral part of our community.

Legacy Family - The Lombardi Family



Joe and Nicole (Stabile) Lombardi and their daughters Leah and Sophia are all proud Kennedy Catholic graduates!

Joe ('86) currently owns his own business as a manufacturer's sales representative for steel companies throughout the United States. He holds a bachelor's degree from Youngstown State.

Nicole ('90) is currently in her 26th year of teaching in the Farrell Area School District. She holds a bachelor's degree from Youngstown State and a Masters in Education from Westminster College.

Leah ('19) is currently a first year student at Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine. Leah graduated cum laude from Gannon University this past spring with a bachelor's degree in Biology.

Sophia ('22) is currently a sophomore at Duquesne University enrolled in the Doctor of Pharmacy program.



THE GOLDEN EAGLE EXPERIENCE

Sister Margaret and the Action Club Serve the Community

The Action Club, led by the dedicated Sister Margaret, has been a driving force in serving our community through various charitable initiatives. This year, the club organized a successful Thanksgiving food drive, providing meals to 250 families in need, and brought holiday joy by delivering Christmas gifts to underprivileged children. In October, they also made Halloween goodie bags for the mentally disabled, spreading cheer to those who need it most. This year, the PTO joined in the efforts by stepping up with a new initiative—the Lucky Charms Cereal Drive during Saint Patrick’s Day, which collected much-needed donations for local food pantries, further expanding the reach of our community service.



KENNEDY CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Action Club - Embodying the school's motto, "Christo Servire"

The Action Club, started by Sister Margaret, exists to live out our school motto, Christo Servire—to serve Christ—by encouraging our students to give back to the community in meaningful ways. Through various service projects, our students embody Christ's love and compassion by helping those in need. Food drives, gift donations, or outreach to the underprivileged are just some of the ways Action Club serves our community. The club fosters a spirit of selflessness and dedication, allowing students to grow in faith while making a positive impact on the lives of others.



KC Spirit Store Opens for School Spirit

This year, the KC Spirit Store was established to be a driving force of school pride, inviting alumni and KC fans to show their support by getting their Kennedy gear. The store is entirely student-run, with many of the products crafted in the Valley Fab Lab, now located at Kennedy Catholic High School. It's a great way to promote school spirit while giving students hands-on experience in business and product creation.



Where Students Soar

COVER
FEATURE





Where Students Soar

At Kennedy Catholic High School, we are dedicated to ensuring our students are prepared for a future where they can truly soar. With the launch of our Pathway Programs, we're taking education beyond the classroom, offering students real-world, hands-on learning experiences that align with today's most in-demand careers. These programs integrate rigorous academics with practical training in fields like Business, Manufacturing, Technology, and more allows our students to gain the skills and knowledge necessary to excel in higher education or the workforce. By working on industry-specific projects, engaging in internships, and connecting with professionals in their chosen fields our students are set up for success from day one.

The Pathway Programs not only focus on developing technical expertise but also foster critical thinking, problem-solving, and strong ethical leadership—traits that will set our students apart in a rapidly evolving global economy. Whether they choose to pursue a college degree or enter the workforce directly, graduates of these programs will carry with them the confidence and competence to

thrive. At Kennedy Catholic, we are proud to offer a transformative educational experience where students are empowered to explore their passions, build real-world skills, and soar toward their future with purpose.

These programs have been developed in close collaboration with local businesses, industry leaders, and the community ensuring that our students are gaining the skills most relevant to the job market today. With a \$200,000 grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development, we have the resources to launch these programs successfully. By partnering with professionals and organizations, we are giving our students a competitive edge over their peers and preparing them to meet the demands of the modern workforce. These relationships provide invaluable mentorship opportunities and hands-on experiences that go beyond textbooks. This ensures our students at Kennedy to graduate not only with a diploma but with real-world skills and networks that will set them apart as they move forward in their careers.

Fall 2024 Programs | Business, Culinary, & Manufacturing



Business Pathway

In Kennedy Catholic's Business Pathway, students are gaining firsthand entrepreneurial experience through a unique collaboration with Gannon University's Small Business Development Center. This innovative program allows students to run their own enterprise through the KC Spirit Store. In the store, they take on roles similar to those in a real business. Tasks range from managing operations to marketing products. One of the program's standout projects is the creation of the KC Coffee Blend, a collaboration with Giavonna's Gourmet Coffee. Students are deeply involved in all aspects of marketing the product. This gives them real-world insight on how to create, launch, and sustain a product in the marketplace.

Beyond product development, students learn essential business skills like inventory management, stocking, and pricing, which are crucial for running a successful business. Through their work in the KC Spirit Store, they gain practical experience in supply chain management and customer service skills.

Additionally, students can earn dual enrollment business credits from Gannon University as they progress through the Business Pathway. This helps them to gain valuable college credits without ever leaving the building. With access to local entrepreneurs and industry mentors, students are not only learning how to start their own businesses, but are also developing confidence. This knowledge will bring their ideas to life in the real world. The hands-on approach prepares them to thrive in the competitive business landscape.



Culinary Pathway

Kennedy Catholic High School's Culinary Pathway provides students with hands-on training under the guidance of professional chef Rob Simmers, who brings over 25 years of culinary experience. Currently, students are focusing on baking, supported by a \$10,000 grant that has funded a mobile unit to become the KC Mobile Café. This café will allow students and staff to purchase fresh pastries and goods in the morning, along with specialty coffee drinks and lattes featuring the KC Coffee Blend. The students are not only gaining culinary skills but are also learning business management as they work in these student-run enterprises.

Looking ahead, the culinary students plan to give back to the community by cooking a meal for the homeless at the Prince of Peace Center in the spring. They will also host an exciting KC Iron Chef Challenge, with KC Alumni Chef Celebrity judges, bringing even more real-world experience to their training. This challenge will be turned into a production by the school's broadcasting students, allowing the entire student body to watch the event in the gymnasium during an assembly. These activities provide students with a comprehensive education, blending both culinary expertise and business acumen.



WHERE STUDENTS SOAR

Manufacturing Pathway

The Manufacturing Pathway at Kennedy Catholic High School is off to a strong start, offering students invaluable experiences through job shadows, tours, and internships, as well as a bridge into trades. To launch this program, we hosted a Pathway Partnership Breakfast in collaboration with the Lawrence Mercer Manufacturers Coalition and the Homegrown Initiative by PNDC, connecting students with prominent local manufacturers such as Ellwood, NLMK, and G.W. Becker Crane. In addition, our middle school students will participate in the “What’s So Cool About Manufacturing?” initiative, where they will create an engaging video with help from our broadcasting students.

Students interested in this pathway are already learning to operate advanced equipment, including the CNC machine in the Valley Fab Lab, and are gaining hands-on experience with cutting-edge technology. We also have exciting plans to reboot our robotics program, with the goal of competing in robotics competitions next year and expanding our STEAM offerings. This program is led by our dedicated teachers, Adam DeParasis (math/business) and Kayleigh (Trobeck) Hoagland ‘18 (science/robotics), who are working to ensure our students are prepared for the modern technological and industrial landscape.



Room Upgrades for Pathways

At Kennedy Catholic High School, we are committed to providing our students with an optimal learning environment, especially in our Pathway programs. To enhance the educational experience, we recently upgraded the floors and furniture in the Pathway classrooms, using \$50,000 in grant funds for both room and security improvements. These updates have modernized the spaces, creating a more engaging and dynamic environment where students can thrive as they explore their chosen career pathways. This investment ensures that our students have access to a cutting-edge learning atmosphere that supports both collaboration and focused study.



Broadcasting our Pathways

Kennedy Catholic High School has launched an exciting new Broadcasting Program, taught by Stephanie Chavara, which gives students the opportunity to promote our Pathway Programs and all the fun activities happening at KC, enhancing the overall student experience. Every day, students get to watch the KC News on newly installed smart boards in the classrooms, keeping them informed about school events, achievements, and upcoming activities. Stephanie is also revitalizing our theater program with an all-school production, further enriching the creative opportunities available to our students. This initiative not only keeps the student body connected but also encourages the next generation of leaders to embrace and share their KC Pride through storytelling, media production, and performance arts.

FEATURE

Kennedy Catholic Welcomes the Valley Fab Lab

At Kennedy Catholic High School in Hermitage, exciting new opportunities are on the horizon for both students and community members with the addition of the Valley Fab Lab. As part of a collaborative effort with Gannon University's Small Business Development Center and Whole Life Services, the Fab Lab will utilize several classrooms to provide hands-on learning experiences in both business and advanced manufacturing techniques. The goal is to empower students with the skills they need for the future, opening new career pathways in fields such as business, manufacturing, and entrepreneurship.

The Fab Lab features nearly a dozen high-tech devices, including laser printers, vinyl etching machines, sewing machines, fabric printers, and 3-D printers. These tools provide students and community members the opportunity to create custom items and learn the technology behind each machine. Zach Marriotti, the Fab Lab's assistant manager, is trained on all of the machines and helps teach others how to use them. Marriotti, who came to the Fab Lab through Whole Life Services, has become an expert in operating these devices, and he offers training for a \$35 fee to those interested in learning how to operate them. His expertise was on full display

during the Fab Lab's grand opening at Kennedy Catholic, where he demonstrated the capabilities of the lab's equipment alongside manager Jonathan Richardson.

"The machines can create almost anything that anyone could come up with," Marriotti said. "Pretty much seeing what we can come up with next is what excites me the most about the Fab Lab."

Marriotti's contributions are an example of the inclusive and empowering opportunities offered by the Fab Lab. Whole Life Services, which provides support for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, is a key partner in the project. The Fab Lab offers more than just technical training—it gives individuals like Marriotti the chance to showcase their talents, creativity, and leadership.

"This is a great opportunity for our students to get hands-on experience and learn how to use technology for real-world applications," said Karen Ionta, Interim President of Kennedy Catholic Schools. "It's going to give our students a whole new opportunity."

Students will have the chance to learn high-demand skills like sign-making, silkscreening, embroidery, woodworking,



2024 FEATURE

and even 3D printing. These creative and technical skills will be paired with business classes that allow students to earn college credit and gain practical experience by selling the products they create in the school's new store. The lab aims to help students realize that technology is more than just for entertainment—it's a tool for creativity and innovation, equipping them for successful careers in the modern world.

"This is really what the Fab Lab is all about—helping students and community members use technology to be creative and productive," said Maggie Horne, director of Gannon University's Small Business Development Center.

The Fab Lab also extends beyond the school's walls, offering services to the entire community. Local businesses can utilize its machines for tasks such as placing logos on materials and creating custom designs. The Fab Lab's new location within Kennedy Catholic provides greater visibility and accessibility for its services, making it a valuable resource for both the school and the surrounding area.

Opportunity has been one of the Fab Lab's main objectives since it was established in 2021. The collaboration between Kennedy Catholic and Whole

Life Services is already proving to be a mutually beneficial partnership. The Fab Lab will not only enhance the school's science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) curriculum but will also bring new life to the school's industrial arts facilities, which include a woodshop equipped with saws and hand tools to complement the high-tech equipment in the Fab Lab.

Kennedy Catholic students will also have the chance to engage in other forward-thinking programs, such as the school's cybersecurity certificate program, which could offer graduates the potential to earn high-paying salaries directly out of college. These programs reflect the school's commitment to preparing students for success in a rapidly evolving job market.

As Kennedy Catholic continues to expand its offerings, the Valley Fab Lab is a major step forward in providing students and the community with diverse, hands-on learning experiences. By integrating technology, creativity, and business education, the Fab Lab ensures that students are well-prepared for the future, whether they choose to pursue higher education or enter directly into the workforce. The lab's official opening marks the beginning of a new chapter of opportunity and innovation at Kennedy Catholic High School.



Thank You



KENNEDY CATHOLIC
Family of Schools

2023-2024
ANNUAL REPORT



ANNUAL REPORT

These recognition levels for Christo Servire Fund Gifts have been established to honor the proud legacy of the Kennedy Catholic Family of Schools. The President's Leadership Council is composed of leading benefactors who, through their generosity, demonstrate a strong commitment to the ideals and mission of Catholic Education. Membership in this society is permanent and open to all individuals, companies, and foundations who have made cumulative gifts of \$10,000 or more to the Christo Servire Commitment. All President's Leadership Society and Gift Club donors are recognized in the Annual Report.

We are grateful to all who support our mission by making KCFS a charitable priority. Your support in the form of a Christo Servire Commitment gift is evidence of your commitment to Catholic Education and a vote of confidence in our efforts to provide an exceptional educational experience for our students. Each and every gift has a meaningful impact on every aspect of this school and on all those who work and study here.

Please note, this is our first year categorizing our annual gifts in this manner. Through consultation with many educational and philanthropic organizations, we will move toward a more traditional listing with special recognition for those who have generously achieved lifetime giving society status.

Your time, talent, and treasures help to advance the KCFS mission and allow us to provide our young scholars with a quality college preparatory Catholic education. Please know that every effort is made to present the Annual Report accurately and inclusively with gifts received between 7/1/22 and 6/30/24. We apologize for any omissions.

Matching Gifts

Pursuing a company-matching gift from your employer may be the most dynamic way to help our school and increase the impact of your gift.

KCFS has been very fortunate to benefit from the generosity of wonderful national, regional, and local groups who willingly match their employees' philanthropic efforts.

We are very grateful to the donors who pursue these gift matching opportunities. Ask your Human Resource department about gift matching at your company.

Key:

2022-24 Donor +
Faculty/Staff Donor*
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Deceased++

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Steven Jubelirer +
William Kiefer
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Joseph '86 and Nicole '90 Lombardi +
Philip Moroco, II '86
Michael Pratt '82 +
Jessica Stachecki '03 +

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Brian Foltz '92+
Paul Fritz '87+
Janelle Fumerola +
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 Kate and Mark Cianci+
 Amy Clontz '84+
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 Archie Donofrio +*
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 Shalia Koehl +^
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 Joyce Kurpe +
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 Helen Lescisin-Dye +
 Vicki Lingner +
 Leanna Litrenta +
 David Mancino +
 Susan Manes +
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 Barbara Meinen '82+
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 Christina Nicastro '02+^
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 Shelly Patton +
 Cathay Puleo*
 Jeanne Pursel '84+
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 Ann Rundorff+
 Megan Russo+
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 Rebecca St. John '69+
 Dennis Staul +*
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 Mary Szobota '01+
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ANNUAL REPORT

The Vince Cardamon Memorial Golf Outing

The first annual Vince Cardamon Golf Outing at Tam O'Shanter Golf Course was a fantastic success, bringing together the Kennedy Catholic community for a day of golf and support. Congratulations to Team Hudson Construction for winning the tournament, and to KC alum **Jonathan Loomis '11** for his impressive hole-in-one! Special thanks to the winning company for generously donating their \$500 prize back to our school. We were able to raise nearly \$25,000 our first year and are excited for next year's event!

Corporate Sponsors

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Hudson Construction
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Jeffrey Sipe '94
The Brazilian Jujitsu and Self Defense Academy
Kelly and Rochelle Tobin '89
Jason Varsho '09
Anthony and Jamie Verone
Karen Zolnier '80



SAVE THE DATE!

2ND ANNUAL VINCE CARDAMON GOLF OUTING

MAY 17th, 2025

Tam O'Shanter Golf Course

We look forward to another great day
honoring Vince's legacy and supporting
Kennedy Catholic Schools!

The graphic features a green background with a white diamond pattern. On the left, a silhouette of a golfer is shown in mid-swing. On the right, a silhouette of a golferess is shown in mid-swing. The central text is contained within a white, stylized speech bubble shape.

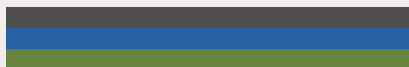
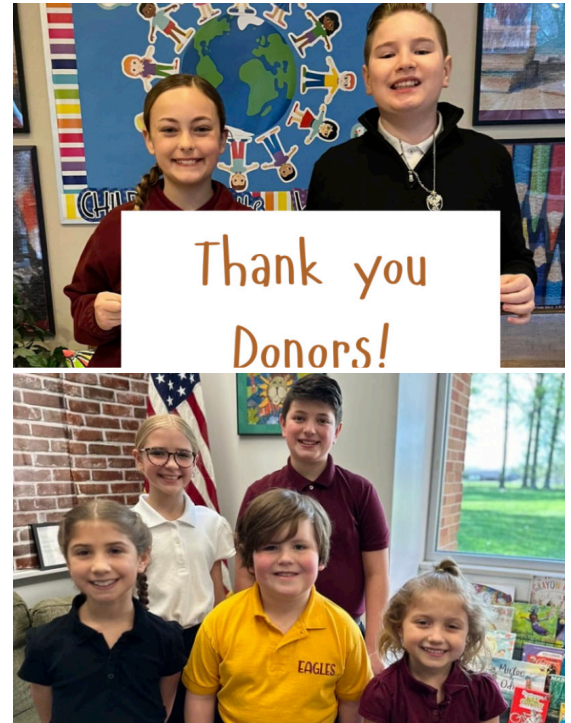
#iGIVECATHOLIC

Thank You

Cheryl and James
Kohlmeyer
Mark Ferrara
Judith Joseph
Joseph and Nicole Lombardi
Bryan Fritz
George Hannah
Rick Whalen
Angela Surano
Christopher St. John
Bryan Fritz
Keith and Michelle Brooks
Reganne O'Brien
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Archie Donofrio
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Caren Renz
Catherine Thomas
Justin Magestro
Karen Ionta
Elizabeth Zoccole

Anastacia Hanssen
Bryan Fritz
Ramona Chomor
Heather Brooks-Heintz
Ashlee Gaston
John Chiodo
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Rebecca St. John
Jamie Verone
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Mary and Ben Cricks
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Keith and Michelle Brooks
Ramona Chomor
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Sherry Swetz
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Thank You

We are grateful for the generosity from our neighboring priests and parishes. With their support, we celebrate the success of Catholic Education in the Shenango Valley. Thank you to our 2023-2024 supporting Parish Partners:

- Church of the Beloved Disciple
- Church of the Good Shepherd
- Holy Spirit Parish, Friends of Catholic Education
- Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish
- Notre Dame Parish
- Our Lady of Fatima Parish
- St. Anthony of Padua
- St. Bartholomew Parish
- St. Joseph Parish
- St. Michael Parish
- St. Columbkille Parish

Additional Gifts

Thank you to the following individuals and organizations for their contributions to important Kennedy Catholic programs:

Athletics

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| John Michael Hudson | Fox Bravo Holdings |
| Michael Pratt | Timothy Feeny |
| Gene Sheehan | Joseph Lombardi |
| Keith Brooks | James Liguori |
| Archie Donofrio | Frank and Judy Mindicino |
| Edward Furey | Philip Moroco |
| Frans Petrini | McGonigle's Funeral and Ambulance |
| Vince Cardamon | Penn Ohio Roofing and Siding |
| Joseph Construction | G. H. Hurl Construction |
| The Cafaro Foundation | Jeff Kollar |
| Joseph Magnu | Dr. John Clemenza |
| Amy and Clancy Atkinson | |

Pathway Programs

- Joshua Cotelesse
- Stephen and Lisa Hyde
- The Community Foundation of Western PA and Eastern OH
- Penn Northwest Development Corporation
- Mercy Health Oncology Department
- The Valley Fab Lab
- Gannon University's Small Business Development Center
- The Catholic Foundation of Northwest Pennsylvania



The Kennedy Catholic Color Run

On Saturday, October 15th, 2023, Kennedy Catholic hosted its first-ever Color Run during Homecoming Weekend, creating a vibrant and spirited event that brought together the entire school family and surrounding community. The Color Run welcomed over 200 participants, including students from local schools, who joined in the fun and celebrated unity and school pride.

Together, we raised nearly \$25,000 to support Kennedy Catholic, showcasing the power of community and school spirit. A special thanks goes to our top sponsors, Dr. Clemenza, The April Bocian Foundation, and Hermitage Agway, each contributing \$1,500 to help make this event a success. This colorful day marked a memorable addition to our Homecoming festivities, one we hope to continue in future celebrations!



\$1500 Diamond Sponsors

The April Bocian Foundation
Hermitage Agway
Keystone OMS

\$500 Silver Sponsors

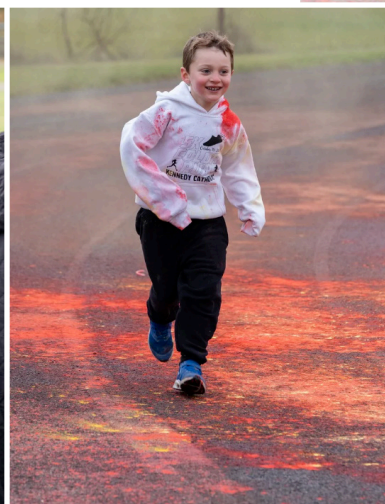
The Cafaro Foundation
The Shenango Valley Foundation

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Amerihealth Caritas Pennsylvania
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Benesque Wellness

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Tam O'Shanter Golf Course
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Jim's Automotive & Towing
Karen Ionta
Andrew Mudrinich
Baroni Productions
Howard Hanna- Colleen Joseph
Keith & Michelle Brooks



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Thank You EITC/OSTC/SPE Donors for Tuition Assistance

Christopher and Jennie Hagerty
Adam and Sierra Smith
John and Denise Stillely
Synergy Comp Insurance Company
Interstate Chemical Company
Wheatland Tube
First National Bank of Pennsylvania
Alicia & Daniel Chornencky
Steven & Lori Gasz
John Lindh
Jim & Sharon Rust



Memorial Donations

We thank the generous alumni and friends who designate Kennedy Catholic Family of Schools as the recipient of memorial gifts. The donors listed below made a significant difference in areas of capital improvement, tuition assistance, and so much more. We thank them for their thoughtful gifts.

William Rundorff
In memory of James Cardamon

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In memory of James Cardamon

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In memory of James Cardamon

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In memory of James Cardamon

Carl Sizer II
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Amy Perell
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In memory of Vince Cardamon

CHRISTO SERVIRE COMMITMENT

Roger Susi, a proud former student of Kennedy Catholic High School, began his journey in the Valley, where he was born and raised. Arriving as a freshman, Roger's potential and passion for innovation were quickly recognized by Monsignor Latimer, who entrusted him with the keys to Kennedy's brand-new photo room. This unique opportunity ignited his lifelong interest in technology and hands-on learning, fostering skills that would later lead to remarkable achievements in engineering and business. After high school, Roger pursued higher education at Case Western Reserve, where he would go on to make a lasting impact on the institution and its students.

Today, Roger Susi is a highly successful CEO of Iradimed, a leader in developing innovative MRI-compatible medical devices. Roger's legacy at Case Western Reserve is embodied in the Roger E. Susi First-Year Engineering Experience, an immersive program he established to provide hands-on projects and skill-building for new engineering students. Through modules designed by department professors, students experiment with areas like civil engineering by creating water filters and biomedical engineering by building heart rate monitors. The program takes place in the state-of-the-art Roger E. Susi Laboratory, which opened in 2020, providing a collaborative environment where students can actively engage in engineering challenges. Roger's contributions to both Kennedy Catholic High School and Case Western Reserve serve as a testament to his dedication to education, innovation, and giving back to his community.



Roger Susi

KC PRIDE



2023-2024 Kennedy Catholic Girl's Basketball Back-to-Back State Champions

We are incredibly proud of our Kennedy Catholic girls' basketball program and Head Coach Justin Magestro, a Class of '82 alum, for their outstanding accomplishment in capturing the 2024 PIAA Class 2A Girls' Basketball State Championship, marking their back-to-back state title. In a thrilling finish, Layke Fields completed a crucial 3-point play with just 5.1 seconds remaining, leading the Golden Eagles to a dramatic 42-40 comeback victory over Marion Center. Trailing by eight in the third quarter and still down by four late in the fourth, Fields, along with Bella Magestro, showcased determination and resilience to secure the win. This championship reflects the dedication and skill of our players and coaching staff, solidifying a legacy of excellence in our program. Congratulations to everyone who contributed to this unforgettable season!



Empowering Eagles: Inspiring Resilience and Confidence



During the fall sports season, Kennedy Catholic High School had the honor of welcoming David G. Kohout, founder of Talk Is Cheap, Inc., to speak with our student body and football team. Mr. Kohout's passion and energy filled the room as he shared powerful stories and messages about standing confidently in the power of one's own greatness. His dynamic approach captivated our Eagles, inspiring them to embrace a positive attitude and build resilience in all areas of life. Through weekly discussions with our football team, Mr. Kohout emphasized the importance of staying strong, determined, and optimistic, regardless of the outcome on the field. We are grateful to Mr. Kohout for his time and the invaluable lessons he imparted, reminding our students to strive for excellence and approach each challenge with confidence.



Karsten Baker

Kennedy Golf Team Highlights

Congratulations to our golf team on a successful season and to KCHS freshman golfer Karsten Baker. He finished second in the Northeast Under Armour Junior Golf Tour! Karsten then headed to the Under Armour Junior Golf Tour Summer National World Championship in Palm Beach Florida this past summer!

SPORTS & HIGHLIGHTS

The Eras of KC Athletics

Kennedy Catholic has a proud and storied history in athletics, producing champions and high-achieving teams across multiple sports over several decades. From the early days in the 1970s and 1980s, the school has been home to numerous district and state titleholders in individual sports and team competitions. Basketball, in particular, has been a pillar of Kennedy's athletic success, with a remarkable ten PIAA boys' basketball state championships spanning from 1986 to 2019. The girls' basketball team has also shone brightly, clinching state championships in 2001, 2023, and 2024. Alongside basketball, sports like baseball, football, wrestling, and track and field have celebrated successful seasons throughout the 80s, 90s, and early 2000s, with athletes winning District 10 titles and competing at the state level.

Beyond basketball, Kennedy Catholic's athletic accomplishments have extended to tennis, cross country, girls' track and field, wrestling, soccer, baseball, and football, with each team contributing league and district championships over the years. The legacy of success isn't limited to trophies; it's embodied in the spirit of the student body and the unforgettable atmosphere created by the Kennedy Catholic student section. Known as one of the most energetic and memorable fan groups in the Shenango Valley, our student section has played a vital role in cheering on our teams and elevating the game-day experience for everyone involved.



Tradition of Being the Best Student Section in Mercer County



KC PRIDE



Layke Fields

Senior Signings

Kennedy Catholic is proud to celebrate two outstanding senior athletes, Layke Fields and Monique Vincent, who have led our girls' basketball team to back-to-back state championships over the past two seasons. Layke Fields, recently named Girls Basketball Player of the Year, has committed to Robert Morris University on a full scholarship, while her teammate Monique Vincent has earned a full scholarship to Seton Hill University. Both players have exemplified skill, leadership, and dedication on and off the court, inspiring their teammates and our school community with each game. As they embark on their final season, we're hopeful for an exciting three-peat championship to cap their high school careers. Their commitment to excellence has set a remarkable standard for future Kennedy Catholic athletes, and we are thrilled to see them continue their journey at the collegiate level.



Monique Vincent



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