



THE ANTONIAN

June 2022



02

From Our Principal

03

PIE 2022: A Record Breaker

04

8th Grade—A Look Back

05

Look Out High School!

06

On To New Adventures

From Our Principal

Greetings all,

This will be my last letter to you as I will be leaving St. Anthony's School at the end of June, bringing my 45 years in education to a close. Reflecting back on these years, 17 years as principal at St. Anthony's, I can genuinely announce the classic saying, "Where did the time go!?"

Being both a teacher and principal has placed me in some of the most important places in modern history. By that I mean teaching, observing, participating, and celebrating in the formation of so many students. In my tenure, I have used the events of the times to teach my students about the world, including the Mount St. Helen's volcanic eruption, the fall of the Soviet Union, the dismantling of the Berlin Wall, the attack on the World Trade Center on 9-11, Desert Storm, the death of Pope John Paul II (now a saint), the election of Pope Francis, the solar eclipse, and so much more. What a privilege to be in a career where one has the opportunity to be a part of sharing in so many lives. With that, teaching a child to read is one of the most profound experiences, a person can have. The same goes for opening doors to inquiry and citizenship.

I've loved my teaching experience. I started my career teaching 1st graders at Southridge Elementary School. Watching the lightbulbs turn on as they learned was like being a part of a miracle. Anyone who has taught first grade knows what this feels like. I then transferred to Sagewood Elementary and taught 2nd grade under the best principal, Chuck Adelman. Teaching 2nd grade was like teaching college students as these little ones already knew how to read! I then had the opportunity to co-create a new school, Woods Learning Center, for Natrona County School District with four of the most innovative and superior teachers

and taught and co-administrated in that program for fourteen years, teaching Kindergarten through 6th grade. Being a part of the creation and implementation was such a profound experience and one very few teachers are afforded the privilege. Thank you to the late NCS D Superintendent, Chip Zullinger, for having the vision to initiate this unprecedented project. These experiences prepared me for the principalship at St. Anthony Tri-Parish Catholic School, the truly most amazing school in Natrona County.

What set St. Anthony's School apart from my other experiences was and is that we are wholly Catholic and God guides what we do. There is a spirit in our school that cannot be replicated in a public school. I am deeply indebted to all the folks that made that happen and chose me for this position. A special thank you to Bishop David Ricken, Father Mike Carr, Father Robert Fox, Father Kevin Koch, Father August Koeune, Father Gary Ruzicka, Father Lucas Simango, Father Kevin Barrett, Father Thomas George, and Father Ray Rodriguez for the privilege of working alongside them to make Catholic education a priority mission of the church. Along with them, Michelle Leyba, our staff and teachers (over the years), and parents make our school what it is. It was an awesome joy to help design and be a part of building the new St. Anthony's School and to work with John and Mari Ann Martin, Mick and Susie McMurry, Joe Scott, and Larry and Margo Bean raising the much needed and much appreciated funds to make all that happen. Most importantly for me, it has been all about the "kids."

After 45 years, I have taught hundreds of children. While not every experience was perfect, most were and in my case because of the "kids." One of my greatest joys has been when former students come up to me and know me, knowing I still know them and can call most by name.



Making a difference in the life of hundreds of students has been an honor. You too can make a difference and help deserving St. Anthony School students with tuition assistance. Please consider making a donation to our Monsignor O'Neill Scholarship Fund. This fund was established to honor Monsignor James O'Neill after his passing on March 18, 2019. Monsignor O'Neill was a great supporter of Catholic education and often times personally supported tuition assistance to students who desired a Catholic education. All funds collected go directly towards the tuition needs of students for the upcoming year. If you are interested in making a donation please send your donation to St. Anthony's School, 1145 West 20th Street, Casper, Wyoming, 82604.

Thank you and God bless you for your generosity.

Blessings,

Mrs. Cyndy Novotny
SAS Principal

PIE 2022: A record-breaking night in support of SAS



Saturday, March 19th marked our school's most successful Partners In Education (PIE) event to date, as we raised over \$524,000!

It was a wonderful evening in support of Catholic education in our community and we are so very grateful to all of our sponsors, donors, community partners, parents, teachers, alumni and supporters that made the incredible evening possible!



The Year In Review: 8th Grade Memories 2021-2022



The 8th Grade Class of 2022: Look out High School!



Jordan Best

Most likely to:

⇒ Have a reality show



Anthony Campbell

Most likely to:

⇒ Become President of the United States



Brezlyn Colling

Most likely to:

⇒ Become a stand-up comedian



Abigail Hansen

Most likely to:

⇒ Move to a different country after high school



Mallory Galles

Most likely to:

⇒ Have a million followers on social media



Paul Joubran

Most likely to:

⇒ Get a sports car for his 1st car



Sarah Klosterman

Most likely to:

⇒ Become famous
⇒ End up on Broadway



Katherine Louria

Most likely to:

⇒ Become a YouTuber



Ian McChristian

Most likely to:

⇒ Become Beyonce's back-up dancer



Jasmine Sharkey

Most likely to:

⇒ Become a millionaire



Elakay Sheets

Most likely to:

⇒ Get caught sneaking out in high school



Mark Skaf

Most likely to:

⇒ Become a priest



Jacob Studer

Most likely to:

⇒ Become a ninja



Ava Titus

Most likely to:

⇒ Write a best-selling novel
⇒ Become a teacher
⇒ Become a nun



Delaney True

Most likely to:

⇒ Set a world record
⇒ Bungee jump when she turns 18
⇒ Become a stunt woman

All Good Things Come To An End: On To New Adventures!



What I will miss the most are the sweet children and their beautiful families that I have been blessed to know in my time at SAS.

Ms. Jennifer DeGaugh
Preschool Teacher



I will miss the kids and the community that is SAS.....what it is and all it stands for. I have loved my time at the old school and the new school. So many good memories .

Ms. Debbie Salazar
Preschool Assistant



I will definitely miss the students, their joy and enthusiasm have been wonderful to be around! I will also miss the questions I was asked by many an inquisitive mind.

Mr. Brandon Halvorsen
Middle School Religion/
Athletic Director

There will be so much to miss as I end my time at SAS. The kids of course!!! They are the source of all things energy. They bring a sweet sense of innocence and wonder to my day. It brings great joy to visit with them on a daily basis as I see them in the classes, out and about in the halls, eating lunch, and more! I will also miss the teachers and staff and the expertise and dedication they bring to learning. I love the creative atmosphere that teachers provide students and the unique approaches to teaching that make SAS a standout. The extra events and activities SAS provides, add to the fullness of a well-rounded education that also adds to the positive energy of the building. I will miss coming into this beautiful school each day. What a joy to come to work and walk through the door to be greeted by the art and architecture and be reminded that God is present and walks with us as we go through each day. Most of all I will miss being able to create and initiate innovative programs for the students that make learning fun and relevant and respectful of who they are as individuals.



Mrs. Cyndy Novotny
Principal

I will miss the students. Seeing the look of total engagement as they freely create, the look of wonder and joy as they discover how the materials behave and what they can do with the materials and the look of pride in their accomplishments. I will miss seeing their artwork, hearing their stories and receiving spontaneous and genuine hugs.



Mrs. Meg Sundell
Art Teacher



I am going to miss the students the most. The middle school students I've known for the past 17 years have been some of the most fun people in my life. Teaching at SAS I had the opportunity to see most of them come up through the ranks from pre-school to 8th grade. It's so fun to watch how they change and grow while they are here and after they move on. While there have been some challenges throughout the years, I wouldn't have changed any of it. Well, maybe that time I had to tell a student to stop licking his knee in class.....

Mrs. Dawn Easton
Middle School Social
Studies

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Thanks for the Memories: A look back

By Lynn Wallace Rogers
SAS Class of 1970



Memories of St. Anthony's School come back to me very easily. Of course I remember the classes, religious occasions, friends and sports, but the most significant memory is that of the mysterious nuns.

**Charlotte (Wallace) Byram,
Vickie (Wallace) Bates and
Lynn (Wallace) Rogers**
May 2021

My friends and I spent hours speculating about the nuns—why did

they become nuns? What were their life stories? Did they miss their families? But the most compelling question was “what was under those habits?”

The Casper wind provided ample opportunities for my friends and I to hang out closely by the nuns on playground duty, hoping that their long, black tunics which reached the ground would be blown by the wind to reveal what was underneath. Did they have “regular” legs? Did they wear neon pink socks with those fashionable black shoes? In addition, we would wait for the wind to lift the long veil under the wimple to reveal if the nuns had hair, and if so, what color? The persisting story among us was that the nuns had to shave their heads. My friends and I took turns on windy nun watch and reported back with various results we could never corroborate.

Some of the nuns were labeled “grouchy,” (Sister Mary Romanus) others were called “nice”, (Sister Mary Saint Luke). We knew that they meant what they said. Their authority was not questioned, we did not dare defy. On the occasions when a priest came into the classroom to visit, we all stood up and said, “Good morning Father!!!” in a decidedly sing-song manner. If Monsignor O'Reilly came in, there was extra drama in our greeting. The nun in charge of us gave us the look, we all knew it—do not mess this up!

During the junior high years, we were introduced to nuns who didn't wear the traditional habits. They had legs! They had hair! Sister Peggy was one of those first “breakthrough” nuns, in her blouse, vest, skirt and functional shoes. Her hair was dark brown in a simple cut of the day, no shaved head. It was downright revolutionary!

During these times we experienced the changes from Latin to English for Mass. After initial skepticism, I decided that it was pretty cool to understand what we had been saying during Mass. (But I can still remember some of the Latin.) Some grown-ups were not pleased with the changes, but I was happy to be a part of the “new.” It led me to another destiny, being involved in guitar Masses. I felt like we were such rebels with our guitars and Ray Repp songs and (gasp!) standing in front of the congregation. We sang and played our guitars and thought we were awesome!

Just the other day, I was trying to remember the words to a favorite Guitar Mass song, “To Be Alive,” and to my amazement, I remembered them. Well, just the chorus and the first verse, since we Catholics only sing the first verse.

Thanks for the memories.....

Memorial and Honorariums:

Memorial and Honorarium donations are beautiful tributes with a lasting legacy.

We are truly grateful for the donations that have been made in honor or in memory of someone. If accumulated donations reach \$2,500 for a tribute, an engraved leaf will be added to our Giving Tree in the school commons.

Since our last publication, the following individuals have been honored through memorial or honorarium gifts.

In Memory of:

- Cordell Anne Cullen-Goode (Class of 1944)
- Kathleen Burke Jarrard (Class of 1960)
- Monsignor James O'Neill
- Paul Stafford
- Stephen Stewart (Class of 1959)
- Bryan Westcott

In Honor of:

John & Mari Ann Martin

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We make every effort to ensure the accuracy of our lists and we apologize for any errors or omissions. Please contact the Foundation Office at 307-337-1362 with any correction or questions. Thank you.

St. Anthony Tri-Parish Catholic School

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