

DON BOSCO CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
SEPTEMBER 2021 NEWSLETTER

Dates to remember

Monday, September 6 – NO School – Labor Day

Tuesday, September 7 – School Pictures –

Seniors will get pictures taken so that they have a school ID but there is no need to purchase a picture package for them

September 13-17 – Homecoming Week

From Mr. Redmond:

It has been great to see all the students and staff as we have embarked on our first week or so of school! The building is more lively that school is in session and the nice feeling of a fresh start. To cap off our first week with a K-12 all-school mass with music was great!

It is with pleasure to welcome our new staff members as well with Jenna Rohret in Theology/Campus Ministry, Brendan Sander teaching science, Nichole Knepper teaching choir, Pam Carolus teaching art, Abby Girsch supervising Spanish and monitoring study halls, and Vince Belt driving bus route before and after school.

The floors look amazing in the many classrooms that received new epoxy flooring over the summer. A big shout out to the custodial and maintenance staff on moving 14 classrooms or so over the summer!

A few changes academically that we are excited to see how they unfold for us this year.

- Online Spanish with two experienced teachers proctored by an onsite supervisor.
- Waterloo Columbus is teaching our pre-calculus students virtually and we are doing the same with Bellevue Marquette and our Introduction to Business class.
- New classes onsite at Don Bosco are AP Literature and Composition, AP Government, AP US History, and Horticulture.
- Our CAPS program received a STEM Best grant to assist in enhancing the program that is now going into its second semester with students this fall!

TUITION - Thank you to all that have made arrangement for payment for your family tuition. Those that were unable to attend the Back to Business Day will be getting a copy of your tuition statement sent home with a student. Please look the statement over carefully and let me know if you have any questions on your statement. Smart Tuition payment will no longer be available to families. If you would like to set up ACH withdrawal through the school, please contact me at the high school office.

Thank you Leigh Anne Schares

“Get to Know the STO”-- What is the STO?

A School Tuition Organization or STO is a not-for-profit organization that provides financial support to families seeking a non-public school education. The Our Faith STO supports 47 schools across the Archdiocese of Dubuque and helps over 3,000 students each year. The STO program started in Iowa in 2008 when the legislature provided an incentivized income tax credit for individuals or businesses who donate. The credit currently stands at 75%, making it the “Best Tax Credit in Iowa” For more information, visit www.ourfaithsto.org.

YEARBOOKS - If anyone would like to purchase a Don Bosco 2020-21 yearbook, we have a few available. Please contact Mrs. Rottink. Cost is \$50.

NURSE NOTES - Welcome back. As we get started, I would like to remind you that we have students and staff that have food allergies. Exposure may lead to life threatening reactions. Please try not to send snacks containing peanuts or tree nuts with your child. Remind your child not to share food. We know that many parents like to celebrate birthdays and other occasions with special treats. We encourage parents to celebrate with non-food items such as stickers, pencils, themed erasers, or other trinkets, rather than food. Any food sent in to share with students should be pre-packaged and contain an ingredient label. Please give these items to your child's teacher for distribution. Please read labels. It may say it contains peanuts or tree nuts or is manufactured in a plant that may have peanuts or tree nut exposure. We appreciate your cooperation and support. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns.
Marianne Hickey RN

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT - The Don Bosco English Department is focused on helping our students become better readers, writers, and communicators. We strive to help our students improve these skills so that no matter what their future path is, they have the means to communicate fluently with others.

The Freshmen are focused on a variety of different skills including reading, writing, and grammar and usage. They will work on shoring up skills they have previously learned and building on them.

Sophomore students are jumping right into their short story unit. They are working hard at mastering the elements of a short story by practicing plot diagrams with their own writing.

Juniors are focused on American literature and improving their writing skills. We are starting the year with a suspense short story unit, focusing on the use of suspense in writing and how story elements help to contribute to that.

This year, the seniors had the option of taking Literature and Composition or our new offering, AP (Advanced Placement) Literature and Composition. We are excited to add this class to our curriculum. Students in AP will focus on the big ideas and enduring understandings which include character, setting, structure, narration, figurative language, and literary argumentation. They will have opportunity to take the AP exam in May to receive college credit for the course. The students in Literature and Composition this year are focusing on a variety of literature types and writing types.

We are looking forward to a great year in English!

Mrs. Rottink and Mrs. Rahn

The I.C. Harvestfest is Sunday, October 17! We are looking for nice prizes for our raffle tickets. Please consider donating a cash prize or larger item to be listed on the raffle tickets. Please contact Sheri Jones at 319-240-8765 to donate an item for the raffle tickets by no later than August 31.

COUNSELOR NOTES - As Don Bosco HS's Guidance Counselor, August is always a busy time in the Guidance Office. We are off to a very good start as students are scheduled in their classes.

COLLEGE CLASS: With more students taking College Classes this year, it can be challenging to get all their required classes in, but this has been managed. There are 17 students attending the Career Center plus an additional four students attending the CAPS Program. 24 students are taking an online Hawkeye or UNI College Class. 13 students are taking Hawkeye College Western Civ II with Mr. Stewart.

AP CLASSES: This is our first year offering Advanced Placement (AP) Classes at Don Bosco. Four students are taking AP US History, four are taking AP US Government, and 2 are taking AP Comp and Literature. In May, these students will have the opportunity to take their Subject AP Test to qualify for college credit. In addition, we have five students taking the online AP Calculus class through the U. of Iowa Belin-Blank Department.

SENIORS-APPLY TO COLLEGE: Seniors should be thinking of applying to their college(s) of choice soon this Fall. The three Iowa Universities prefer that students apply soon, as the Universities assign dormitory assignments usually in order of acceptance date. Seniors that are applying to a Community College, such as Hawkeye or Kirkwood, should also be applying this Fall.

SENIORS & FINANCIAL AID: Colleges will be preparing Financial Award letters in February for students that might include their merit academic awards; therefore, Seniors with their Parents should plan on having their College Application and their Financial Aid form (FAFSA) completed by December. There is no deadline for the FAFSA, but most colleges want it done before February.

GUIDANCE LINK ON DON BOSCO WEBSITE: I have information on Scholarships, ACT Test dates, Financial Aid, Don Bosco Classes, College Classes, etc. on this link. I update this site.

<https://www.boscocatholic.org/vnews/display.v/SEC/Student%20Guidance>

Linda Bayliss - lbayliss@boscocatholic.org

Marching Band 2021

The marching band is busy working on their fall marching band show entitled "Songs From The Saddle". It is a good 'ole Western type of show featuring music from the famous western movie "The Cowboys" by John Williams and then moving into other well-known pieces such as "Blazing Saddles", "The Good, The Bad and The Ugly", The well-known oldie "The Horse" and then ending with "How The West Was Won". Before the closer the band will perform an entertaining percussion feature entitled "Billy Tell Rides Again" based on the famous classical piece "The William Tell Overture". The marching band had their weeklong marching band camp from August 8th - August 13th and accomplished a lot in learning the drill and music for their show. This will be a show you will not want to miss. A partial performance of their show will take place at Homecoming on September 17th and the complete show will be performed at Band Night on October 1st. The next day the band will enter its first competition for the season at the West Marshall Marching Invitational and then compete in the State Marching Band Contest and the Muscatine Marching Invitational on October 9th. The band will finish its marching season the next weekend by performing at the final home game on October 15th and then they will perform for the community on Sunday, October 17th at 3:00p.m. at the football field. A show of this magnitude is in need of a lot of assistance. Any band parents that are available to help with equipment on and off the field during the show are asked to contact Mr. Mikita and let him know of their interest.

Extra-Curriculars Particulars by Mr. Hogan

With school beginning last week, it can only mean that the activities are starting to ramp up in a hurry for students, staff, and families! The high school volleyball, cross country, swimming/diving, and football teams are in full swing. The marching band is working hard to get ready for football game halftime shows and their competitions throughout the state. The call has been put out for cast members and stage hands for the fall play. Our club activities are starting to build teams for archery, trap shooting, and FTC and the cheer squad is getting ready to cheer on our teams throughout the school year.

Our activities cannot be successful without the help of all our students and their families. Volunteering to help at activities throughout the year is the only way we are going to help assure that our students have a successful year. The Booster Club is a great way to get involved and it does some great things to support our students' activities. Booster Club meetings are open for anyone to attend. The meeting schedule is on our website. They just finished with a very successful Golf Outing and have the Gold Cards circulating for sale right now. If every high school student does their part we are capable of earning \$10,000 for school activities!

For information on when activities are happening, please go to our Bosco Catholic School System website and find the Athletic Calendar near the bottom of the home page.

PTO News

Welcome back Bosco families! The PTO would like to thank all who stopped by our table at Back to Business Day to sign up for volunteer opportunities. If you did not have a chance to sign up, please visit our electronic sign up at <https://flow.page/boscopto> to view availability. We still have plenty of slots needing filled!

We would also like to extend a formal invitation to all parents to join us this year! Our PTO meets just four times a year and is a great way to get involved with minimal commitment. To kick off the year, we will be gathering Tues Sept 7th at 6pm in the IC Teacher's Lounge. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend.

We are looking forward to a great year!

PTO Parent Representatives

Jessica Steils, Co-Chair, Jess.steils@gmail.com

Leah Reiter, Co-Chair, lschmit2000@yahoo.com

Heather Marvin, Secretary, hmarvin@boscocatholic.org

Michelle Damme, Treasurer, michelle_meg00@yahoo.com

Crystal Frost, PreK-1st, crystaleven@hotmail.com

Beth Hallett, 2nd-5th, beth.hallett@distek.com

Kindra Christensen, 6th-8th, KindraC@invisionarch.com

Karen Thoma, 9th-12th, karenthoma@ymail.com



Protecting and Improving the Health of Iowans

Kim Reynolds, Governor

Adam Gregg, Lt. Governor

Kelly Garcia, Interim Director

COVID-19 and K-12 School Update for Fall 2021

Vaccination

While not required, vaccination for everyone who is eligible continues to be the most effective way to prevent COVID-19 illness and stop the spread of COVID-19.

- For COVID-19 Vaccine information visit: <https://vaccinate.iowa.gov/>

Testing

Individuals (including students, teachers, and other staff) can seek testing through their normal healthcare channels or through other sites that provide testing services (i.e., local pharmacies).

- Information about free at-home testing through SHL is available at: <https://www.testiowa.com/>

School Illness Reporting

IDPH continues to ask K-12 schools to report when >10% of students are absent due to illness. When >10% absenteeism is reported, IDPH will contact the Local Public Health (LPH) department in the county where the school administrative offices are located. Public health will contact the school to provide best practices and support tailored to the specific types of illnesses being reported.

- Schools should report >10% absenteeism at: <https://redcap.idph.state.ia.us/surveys/?s=LEFK7E779R>

Masks and Cloth Face Coverings

HF 847, signed by Governor Reynolds on May 20, 2021, prohibits a school district from adopting or enforcing a policy that requires employees, students, or the public to wear a mask while on school property. As such, masks must be optional for students, teachers, and visitors.

Frequently Asked Questions

Is IDPH currently performing COVID-19 positive case investigations for all positive reports or conducting contact tracing for COVID-19 exposed persons?

No. IDPH has adjusted COVID-19 surveillance to follow the influenza model; state case investigation and tracing efforts for COVID-19 now focus on outbreaks and vulnerable populations. Just like with other public health activities, these efforts will be continuously evaluated and adjusted as needed.

Will IDPH issue isolation and quarantine orders for COVID-19 positive or COVID-19 exposed students, teachers, or other staff members?

No. IDPH is not currently issuing isolation and quarantine orders for COVID-19 positive or COVID-19 exposed individuals.

Can LPH departments require schools to perform case investigations or conduct contact tracing on their behalf?

No. While some LPH are continuing to pursue case investigations, LPH cannot require schools to perform case investigations or contact tracing. School nurses do have a legal duty to assist a local board of health in a disease investigation. See 641 IAC 1.7.

Can Iowa schools require that masks be worn by students, teachers, other staff members, and visitors?

No. HF 847, signed by Governor Reynolds on May 20, 2021, prohibits a school district from adopting or enforcing a policy that requires employees, students, or the public to wear a mask while on school property.

Iowa's STO credit the best tax break in the state

BY BRIAN ZEMAN

Our Faith School Tuition Organization



If you could receive a 75% rebate reducing what you owe in Iowa income taxes, would that sound too good to be true? Well, it is not; the best tax credit in Iowa is a 75% tax credit given for donations to an STO.

So what is an STO? An STO, or School Tuition Organization, is a charitable organization that distributes tuition grants to low- and middle-income families struggling with the expense of sending their children to non-public (aka parochial) schools. There are 12 highly regulated STOs in the state of Iowa. The Our Faith STO (www.ourfaithsto.org), of which I am the director, supports families within the boundaries of the Archdiocese of Dubuque. This large 30-county area of northeast Iowa has 47 parochial schools, which in the 2020-21 school year educated 8,780 students.

On May 20, the best tax credit in Iowa got better when education legislation passed, increasing the STO credit from 65 to 75%. Let's uncover how this 75% credit works and why donations to STOs deserve the best tax credit in Iowa.

The financial scenarios are simple. For example, if you're an Iowa business owner who pays state taxes, you could donate \$100,000 to our STO and reduce your taxes owed by \$75,000. On the other hand, if you're more like the average Iowa taxpayer, you could donate \$1,000 or even \$100 and receive a \$750 or \$75 credit. Donations made in cash, as IRA distributions, appreciated securities, or even gifts of grain all qualify. These monies then flow through the STOs, such as the Our Faith STO, which distributes them to income-qualifying families seeking a Catholic education.

So why is the STO Tax Credit the best in Iowa? First of all, it provides the most significant benefit back to the donor. There are numerous other highly recognizable tax credits in Iowa related to alternative energy, business development or

philanthropic areas, but none provides a higher percentage of credit. In 2021, the state's 12 STOs were collectively allocated \$15 million in tax credits incentivizing this charitable giving. The Our Faith STO receives \$4.2 million in credits. Unfortunately, these credits are limited, so when Iowa taxpayers claim them all, they are gone.

So why do STOs and their families deserve such a benefit? Simply put, non-public schools are good for the economy. They create jobs for teachers and support staff, who in turn pay taxes to support public schools. They lessen the burden on the public school system, which would have challenges with an influx of parochial school students, and the non-public schools save the Iowa taxpayer money.

Annually, Iowans pay an estimated \$9,862 to educate each K-12 student in the public school systems (according to National Center for Education Statistics from 2020). If all 8,780 students covered by the Our Faith STO schools flooded into the public school system, taxpayers would be paying an estimated \$86.2 million annually to educate them. Therefore, the \$4.2 million in tax credits afforded our STO is of great value to taxpayers.

Lastly, and most importantly, the faith-based traditional Christian values taught in parochial schools pay dividends on which no one can place a price. The health of our Catholic schools is vitally important. Whether you feel this way or not, maybe 2021 is the year you start taking advantage of this 75% tax credit. We encourage you to consult with your tax or financial adviser for more details. Help a family, help our Catholic schools, and help yourself by donating to your STO.

For more information, visit www.ourfaithsto.org. Zeman is the Our Faith School Tuition Organization director and a permanent deacon assigned to St. Anthony parish in Dubuque. He recently left a 30-year career in marketing and advertising to join the Archdiocese staff, helping promote the STO and Catholic education. He and his wife, Jennifer, have five children who have attended or are currently attending Catholic schools.

TELEGRAPH HERALD

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Class of 2022!
Senior Picture Deadline:
Wednesday, November 24, 2021

Parents- please be aware that 3 senior pictures need to be turned in by **Wednesday, November 24**. It is **VERY IMPORTANT** that we get their pictures by this date. In fact, the sooner, the better. **Three wallet sized color senior pictures will be needed by the school.** This may be (but does not have to be) three different poses. Please indicate on the back of each picture the student's name and whether the pose is for the:

1. Yearbook-vertical shot
2. Jesup Newspaper-vertical shot
3. Class composite (Display in hall)- vertical shot

Please turn in your pictures to Mrs. Rottink. Vertical Shots work much better than horizontal! Sometimes horizontal has to be cropped to fit. DIGITAL images are acceptable or you can turn in print copies.

They can be emailed to: hrottink@boscocatholic.org

Most studios already have these specifications but please make sure the picture turned in for the yearbook is:

- Photos must be vertical
- Color photo please

We cannot guarantee your senior's picture will be included in the yearbook or the class composite if you don't make this deadline. PLEASE make your photographer aware of the deadline. Don't assume they know it. **Often pictures that are taken in the fall have difficulty making this deadline. Please be aware of this.**