

ALUMNI OUTREACH

2021-22

 St. Lawrence
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

JOIN US IN 2022:

— **January 31**
through **February 4**
for Catholic Schools Week

— **February 1**
for Soup Day

— **February 27**
for Mardi Gras

— **April 29**
for the St. Lawrence
School Gala

— **December 15**
for the St. Lawrence
School Christmas Program



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A Letter from Fr. Gary...

Dear Alumnus of Saint Lawrence Catholic School,

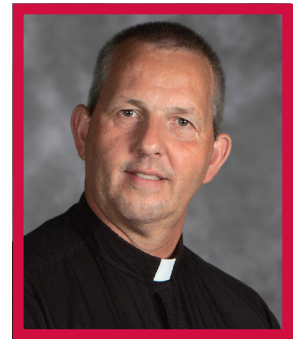
AS we enter this fall semester, we begin the 120th consecutive year of Saint Lawrence School. On September 9, 1901, Saint Lawrence resolved to admit non-Catholics to Saint Lawrence School. Ever since, we have opened our doors to both Catholics and non-Catholics for a faith-filled educational ministry. Over the years, Saint Lawrence has led in seeking out innovative teaching methods within our community to enhance the entire person as a student. As we move forward, we desire to continue to work in the advancements of technology in the classroom and distance learning as we build the spiritual, emotional, moral, and educational lives of our students.

I know many are thinking: "We want to get back to normal." Once again, we are in the normal. We are forever moving forward with changes and advancements. We cannot look back and yearn for what we did, but we must look towards the future and seek what we can obtain. As one of the disciples said to Jesus: "Lord, let me go first..." and Jesus responded: "Follow me..." (Matthew 8). The disciple wanted to return to the past but Jesus called him to the present as He prepared him for the future. We too cannot look to the past but use the past as the foundation of the things we will do today to affect the future of Saint Lawrence School.

"Life is a school of character. We are placed here to be formed for eternity" (Maturin). Our purpose at Saint Lawrence School is NOT to prepare our students to be successful in 7th grade but to be prepared for eternity with a solid foundation in Christ and His teachings as we assist our parents in raising their children.

Therefore, I invite you to pray on how YOU can assist Saint Lawrence School as we continue our ministry to our students and their future journeys. First, we need your prayers; not only for our students but for our faculty and staff as well so that we may be true witnesses for ALL who enter the corridors of Saint Lawrence School. Additionally, we are seeking funding to aid in the ever-advancing technology and needs of the School. Though our students are dual enrolled, Saint Lawrence School receives no State monies. The cost of Saint Lawrence School is covered by parish assistance, tuition, fund-raisers and generous donations from alumni and friends of Saint Lawrence School.

May the Lord guide us in our mission and may 2021-2022 school year be a celebration of our faith in God's Love and Mercy for us and for all the families entrusting their children into the loving and nurturing care of Saint Lawrence School.



Father Gary K. DeRouchev, Pastor
Superintendent



Bjordahl Family

MILBANK and St. Lawrence have always been home to us. Travis and I graduated from Milbank, Travis in 2003 and me in 2005-Go Dawgs! We got married at St. Lawrence in 2012. While in dental school, as we were deciding where to move our family and put down roots, it was on our minds that it would be nice to go where our roots already ran deep. We knew we wanted to come back to small town South Dakota, so when we got the opportunity for Travis to practice dentistry in Milbank, it was an easy choice! We moved back in 2016 and have loved being able to raise our family in our hometown.

Travis has his dental practice at Bjordahl Dental Care and I stay at home with our three children: Jonathan (5), William (3), and Thomas (3). Now with the boys in school, people are asking how I'm doing... I'm doing great! We had no trouble dropping them off at

St. Lawrence due to the familiarity of the school, the helpful/friendly staff and all of the families that fill it. Jonathan is in Kindergarten with Mrs. Loehrer and LOVES it! He has made many great friends in just the couple of years that he's been attending school here. They're a great group of kids and I think they have a lot of fun together. I get the privilege of being the volunteer librarian for Jonathan's class this year and Mrs. Anderson asked if I had read "Clifford the Big Red Dog" to the kids since that was one of my favorite books as a Kindergartner. The main girl's name in the story is Emily Elizabeth (good memory Mrs. Anderson!). Tom and Will are in three-year-old preschool with Mrs. Brehmer and love their mornings there, often stating that they'd like to go more. (Julie and Mrs. Brehmer carried them out under umbrellas in the pouring rain recently... I don't think that would happen in a big city school!). I drop them off knowing they are in

good hands and are being well cared for.

We chose St. Lawrence School because it was a part of that returning home for us. St. Lawrence provides a personable, welcoming, and home-like feeling every time I step foot in the building. It may not physically be the St. Lawrence that I attended, but many of the same teachers are still around. One of my fellow classmates, Mrs. Whipkey is even teaching here and creating memories with the future St. Lawrence Alumni! I was in the last graduating class of the old school and have many fond memories:

I loved attending school Mass and altar serving, Fall Fun day, basketball, cheerleading, Kindergarten/6th grade buddies, walks to the middle school for lunch, Christmas programs and all of the amazing teachers!

I am so grateful to be able to offer that same opportunity and education to our children. We hear often how lucky we are to be here with the team that St. Lawrence has to educate our kids while also instilling the love of Christ daily. We absolutely feel that blessing upon us. The communication is amazing between staff, parents, and students and we take so much comfort in knowing that our kids are receiving a superb education amongst a community of people who share many of our same values.

Emily Bjordahl





Fancy Hats, Horses, and Fellowship



IN April of 2021, we held the 14th annual St. Lawrence Gala themed "Kentucky Derby" at the Big Stone American Legion. We were overwhelmed with the support of our community, parish family, parents, and school staff.

A very special thank you to our generous donors, committee members, and everyone else who worked behind the scenes to ensure the night was a success. It truly takes a village, and we could not have done it without you!

We are looking forward to next year's event which will be held on April 29, 2022 at the same location. It is through your prayers and support that we are allowed the opportunity to place the legacy of St. Lawrence School into the hands of our future generations.

With sincere gratitude,

Susie Wendland

LIFE President and 2021 Gala Chair



OUR MISSION

We endeavor to educate the whole student: mind, body, and spirit!



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