

OLDENBURG ACADEMY

OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

SPRING 2022



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*"May you use those gifts that you have received
and pass on the love that has been given to you."*

~ Mother Teresa of Kolkata

FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear OA Friends and Family,

Many of you reading this magazine will recognize the above quote from a recent thank you note you may have received from me. When I am asked to describe what's going on at OA these days, these words from Saint Teresa keep coming to mind. They are both an admonition and a remembrance: a prescription of what we are called to do as well as a reflection of the grace and goodness we are witness to. Generosity of spirit. Unconditional love. Sacrifice for the common good. These are not only Lenten themes but experiences that abound at Oldenburg Academy in 2022.

As I reflect upon the events of the last few months that included another (please, God, may it be the last!) COVID surge, two affirming external team accreditation reviews (page 2), our hugely successful "Fastnacht in the Feldhaus" (page 6), the impending graduation of another class of OA scholars and saints while we simultaneously prepare to welcome the class of 2026, and a myriad of other conversations, activities and events, I am overwhelmed by the recognition that we are immersed in gifts given, love shared, and lives transformed. What was begun 170 years ago, boldly continues today with an ongoing commitment to our legacy and visionary focus on our future.

This issue also highlights how Academy graduates are "going beyond" in places and in roles that reveal just how far that OA spirit will take you. If you have a story to add to these examples, please share it with us so we can share it with others, especially our students, so they can continue to be inspired in their life goals.

Which reminds me – I hope you are following OA on our various social media sites. It's the best way to get the latest news from the 'Burg. And be on the lookout for our new website launching in early June! You still will not find me dancing on Tik-Tok though.

We are so grateful for your support and prayers. Wishing you continued peace and all good.

Diane Laake

Diane H. Laake
President

OA GOING BEYOND EXPECTATIONS

ACCREDITATION

Written by Angela Parmer, Principal

Accreditation is a very important priority to us at Oldenburg Academy. By going through this process, we are verifying that we prioritize using the best practices and procedures in all aspects of our school. This year, we completed two different accreditation processes. The first, an academic accreditation with Cognia, a nationwide leader in school accreditation. The second, a Catholic identity accreditation with the Archdiocese of Indianapolis. I would like to share with you the process we went through for each of these accreditations.

Our first step was to create a 3-year school improvement plan. We started with two resources: the Indiana State Comprehensive Needs Assessment and the National Standards and Benchmarks for Effective Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools (NSBECS). Using the benchmarks from these standards, I created a 28-question survey for our staff in which we reflected on and graded our practices and policies in regard to Curriculum, Assessment, Technology, School Safety, Religion, Cultural competency and Behavior and Attendance. Next, I reached out to our staff and asked for volunteers to create a leadership team. I would like to personally thank those staff members (pictured below) who volunteered: Eric Feller (not pictured), Mary Gehring, Laura Geis, Susan Gigrich, David Jensen, Marshall Kellenburger, and Jenny Schneider. Amazingly enough, I asked for volunteers from the staff and I could not have hand-picked a more differentiated representation! This team put in many hours of work. We met before school weekly to analyze the results of the staff survey and to determine our essential next steps in our School Improvement process.

We identified areas of strengths and areas in which we could improve to come up with 3 goals for our School Improvement Plan.

GOAL #1

Rewrite the expectations for our service hour program.

Goal #1: A goal based on our Catholic Identity – As with so many aspects of life, the COVID pandemic has drastically impacted our Service Hours Program. We have rewritten our expectations for this program and have included additional goals and expectations for our students.

GOAL #2

Implement a program which will both remediate and enrich student learning in every single content area.

Goal #2: An Academic Goal – We are implementing a program that will both remediate and enrich student learning in every single content area. Teachers are starting this process by identifying the specific learning targets in each course. This program follows a very strategic process in which the teacher identifies specific skills and students are able to track their progress on those skills. Both student and teacher know exactly what is expected and there is a plan in place for follow-up based on performance.

GOAL #3

Address student behavior and attendance.

Goal #3: A Goal targeting Behavior and Attendance – We have the highest expectations for our students, this carries over to reaching, at minimum, stated expectations for both behavior and attendance. We have a committee to review our handbook and be sure that it upholds our high expectations.

The leadership team used the wording from NSBECS to create our three goals. We then presented these goals to our whole staff during multiple professional development days. Every staff member was included in writing the timelines and checkpoints for each goal.



After creating our School Improvement Plan, **the leadership team's next undertaking was preparing for the Cognia review.** There are three domains that were being evaluated by Cognia:

1. Leadership Capacity – 10 indicators
2. Learning Capacity – 12 indicators
3. Resource Capacity – 8 indicator

During professional development time, the leadership team facilitated small groups through these indicators. The faculty and staff came up with evidence to show our strengths and areas of improvement in each of these indicators. We identified the documents that would be the most impactful at identifying the evidence needed for every indicator. On average, we came up with 10 documents for every indicator.

Our official Cognia Accreditation Review occurred February 7 - 9. On those days a review team from Cognia met with some of our Board members, our administrative team, every teacher, most of our staff, groups of parents, and our Student Council Members. The review team had hour long interviews with these groups and asked questions regarding our Learning, Leading, and Resource management. **On March 11, we received our review findings and can officially announce that we have met and exceeded the national accreditation standards and are officially accredited for the next 5 years!**

The Cognia review team identified several themes that support the continuous improvement journey Oldenburg Academy is already exhibiting. These themes present both strengths and opportunities to guide the improvement journey the school is actively pursuing. They include:

- Oldenburg Academy provides learners with equitable opportunities to develop attitudes, beliefs, and skills needed for future educational opportunities and careers.
- The school has implemented processes and procedures to support teaching and learning.
- A strong culture of positive relationships among staff and students promotes the goals of high achievement, support for all students, and future success.
- Strategic resource management, planning, and effective use of human, material, and fiscal resources contribute to improved student performance, organizational effectiveness, and support for the school's purpose and direction.
- Continued focus in establishing processes for gathering, analyzing, applying, and communicating organizational, program, and instructional data is encouraged.

The third step to our accreditation processes this year was accreditation through the Archdiocese of Indianapolis based on their model of Continuous Improvement Journey (CIJ). To prepare for this visit, we again used the NSBECS. On February 17, a review team from the Archdiocese visited our campus. This team met with the administrative team, students, Campus Ministry team, Theology teachers, and parents. Because we had just completed the documentation for the Cognia review, this team reviewed our School Improvement Plan, was updated on our Cognia Documentation, and focused on our Catholic Identity and our mission effectiveness. The review team expressed strong support for the many clear and consistent examples of how OA is following the mandate to "teach as Jesus did". They especially noted how articulate our students are in expressing their support for the various opportunities they have to share and deepen their faith at OA.

Overall, these three steps were a huge undertaking. This process has affirmed the strength, excellence, and vibrancy of our faculty and staff! I would like to personally thank every person that was involved. The faculty, staff, parents, students, and Board members that took their time to help in this very impactful and important process. Reflection and Growth are key to progress. We want to be the absolute best school around, and this process helps us identify our strengths and weaknesses. It helps us focus our priorities and goals. It requires us to spend the time and resources needed to evaluate all aspects of who we are and what we do. It allows us to Go Beyond our daily norms and push to be the best we can be!

STEP 1

Create a 3-year school improvement plan.

STEP 2

Prepare for the Cognia Review.

STEP 3

Accreditation through the Archdiocese of Indianapolis based on their model of Continuous Improvement Journey (CIJ).

STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

Written by Keith Moenter, Chairperson, Board of Trustees



When the strategic plan was introduced last fall, we said teachers and their passion for the classroom represent Oldenburg Academy of the Immaculate Conception's (OA's) greatest and most significant asset. While continuously developing the skills of any faculty is essential, strengthening and re-envisioning professional development is critical for ongoing excellence. The development of faculty cannot be episodic; rather, it needs to be lifelong and sustained. We have asked our teachers to take full advantage of additional pay and professional development offered through the newly established Educator Empowerment Fund (EEF). This strategic initiative was established in the last few months to reward and recognize all teachers for their excellence in teaching and professional development. If you were not aware, EEF was the school's fundraising project at the dinner auction on February 26. Many thanks to everyone who contributed to this endowed fund before, during, and since the event. We expect to reach our EEF goal of \$100,000 in collective contributions early this spring.

Balancing the budget is challenging for a small private school like OA where income is derived from enrollment (tuition dollars), grants, scholarships and fundraising. Please know that OA's administration and Board of Trustees are committed to paying teachers the best we can. According to the current recommended Indianapolis Archdiocesan Salary Schedule, our teachers are competitively paid compared to teachers across the Archdiocese. There is a compensation gap in comparison to public schools, however. An overwhelming majority of teachers said in a recent opinion survey that it was important to work in a school with small class sizes and where a family-like atmosphere exists. This echoes the many responses received from all stakeholders during the inception phase of the strategic plan. These two strengths set us apart from most schools and are hallmarks of our success. We believe our teachers view these attributes as "intrinsic benefits" of their employment.

Several other Board of Trustees subcommittees are actively meeting on: Academic Goals, Student Enrollment and Retention, Advancement, and Student/Alumni Engagement that fosters lifelong commitment to Oldenburg Academy. As we work through the strategies related to our academic goals, close attention is on recent partner grade school and current parent surveys. Feedback from those surveys is being utilized as decisions are considered about curricular priorities and operational school goals.

“The development of faculty cannot be episodic; rather, it needs to be lifelong and sustained.”

While education is ever-changing the school's mission has not changed. Please know that our students, faculty, administration and Board of Trustees are all focused on the mission below as we navigate the challenges of our time. The world in which our students will walk will demand an understanding of multiple perspectives and where plurality will be the norm.

Mission Statement:

Oldenburg Academy of the Immaculate Conception is a Franciscan Catholic co-educational college preparatory high school committed to academic excellence, social responsibility, leadership, and personal and spiritual growth for our students who will excel in our ever-changing world.

Please contact me or President Diane Laake if you have questions or comments about the ongoing strategic plan.

OLDENBURG ACADEMY'S
\$25,000
CAR/CASH RAFFLE

\$100 per ticket

ONLY 500 TICKETS SOLD

ONE: Vehicle or \$23,500 Cash

*Win a car through Batesville Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram (excludes all taxes and title fees) or \$23,500 cash (subject to all tax withholdings)

FIVE: \$200 WINNERS

FIVE: \$100 EARLY BIRD WINNERS
June 1, 2022

CONTACT OA FOR TICKET INFORMATION

Phone: 812.933.0737

Website: oldenburgacademy.org

Participants must be 18 years of age or older

Drawing will be held on
Saturday, July 16th at Freudenfest 2022

BATESVILLE
Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram 002071

*Must present ticket stub to claim prize
*subject to all tax withholdings



OLDENBURG ACADEMY'S
2022 OASIS
GOLF OUTING

24
JUNE

HILLCREST COUNTRY CLUB
BATESVILLE, IN



PARTICIPANT DETAILS

TEE TIME: 1:00 PM

\$100 PER GOLFER

\$400 PER FOURSOME

ONLY 20 TEAM SPOTS AVAILABLE

ADDITIONAL INFO:

Contact Patrick Kolks:

812-934-4440 ext. 232

Pkolks@oldenburgacademy.org

GOLF ENTRIES INCLUDE

- Cart and green fees
- Food on the course
- 1 three drink tickets
- Goodie bag

GAMES ON THE COURSE

- Longest Drive - for both male and females
- Closest to the Pin
- Putting Contest - on the putting green

All Proceeds Benefit: OASIS Athletic Boosters & our Student-Athletes!

Save the Date

OLDENBURG ACADEMY'S ANNUAL

One Day @ OA

DAY OF GIVING

May 6, 2022

Twisters together go beyond!

OLDENBURG ACADEMY'S *Fastnacht in the Feldhaus*

DINNER AUCTION

The Dinner Auction committee would like to thank everyone who supported the OA Auction by being a sponsor, gift donor, online auction purchaser, in person attendee, ticket buyer or volunteer. A special thank you to the faculty, staff, parents and student volunteers who assisted this year. Because of the support of all, we were able to meet and exceed our goal for this year's event. **We are excited to say we netted over \$107,000 for the students of OA!**

The Cash Raffle grand prize of \$2,000 was won by Eric Feller (OA teacher), 2nd prize of \$250 went to Joe Bamonte (OA parent) and 3rd prize of \$50 to Tim Wuestefeld (OA parent). The Live Auction Raffle Winner was Angie Parmer (OA principal) who chose the Handcrafted Mission Style Bench Coat Rack. The Spirits Raffle Winner was Scott Lamping (past parent), and the Pretzel Pull Winner was Susan Gigrich Dreyer '83.

Thank you and congratulations to all!












Scholastic Arts

Congratulations to the winners of the 2022 Regional Scholastic Art and Writing competition!

GOLD KEY WINNERS	SILVER KEY WINNERS	HONORABLE MENTION
Noah Bruce (#3), Grade 10	Kayla Cleary (#5), Grade 12	Kayla Cleary, Grade 12
Anna Hudepohl (#1), Grade 12	Marissa Eckstein (#2), Grade 11	Marissa Eckstein, Grade 11
Gracie Ripperger (#6), Grade 10		

The Gold Key award winners had their work advanced to the National Scholastic Competition and their work was hung in Carnegie Hall in New York, competing against other regional winners across the United States. We are so pleased to announce that, Senior, Anna Hudepohl received a Silver Medal at the National Level for her piece titled "Fine Foods" (#1)!



1



2



3



4



5



6



7

Thomas More University Art Exhibition

Each year, Thomas More University has a Juried High School Art Show. Congratulations to Taryn Rodgers, Erin Pottschmidt, Anna Hudepohl, Kayla Cleary, and Hannah Haverkos whose artwork was selected to be exhibited in the art show!

Mount Saint Joseph University Selections 2021 art exhibition

Mount St. Joseph University's Selections 2021 is the region's longest continuously running exhibition of art works created by regional high school students as selected by their art teachers. Senior, Taryn Rodgers (art piece #7) and Junior, Madelyn Henry (art piece #4) had their artwork selected to the exhibit and their work hung in the Mount's gallery, Studio San Giuseppe (SSG) this past November and December.

ACADEMIC TEAM

With a season spanning September to February, OAs Twisted Minds successfully competed against big Cincinnati schools this school year in the Greater Cincinnati Catholic Academic League. OA's team had an impressive season, beating 10 of the 12 Catholic high schools from Greater Cincinnati. They also competed in 3 tournaments with a 50/50 won/lost record.

The league is hosted by Cincinnati State and is held there on Tuesday evenings. The team usually competes against two different schools at each meet. Tournaments are held on Saturdays in an elimination format.

Participants this year included: Maria Voegele, Ainsley Sipples, Lauren Richards, Emily Schebler, Amelia Crawford, Jacob Voegele, Carson Wolber, Kate Voegele, Ava Hornbach, Clare VanMeter, Jaylen Stenger, Eric Williamson, Emerald Simmonds, Josh Newman (co-captain), and Amelia Austin (co-captain). The students were coached by John Kellerman and assisted by OA parents Cindy Newman and Carla Austin.



MAVERICK CHALLENGE

Congratulations to seniors Spencer Mack, Emma Weberding, and Elizabeth Gigrich who took 1st place in the Maverick Challenge! They advanced and pitched their product at the regional level!

2nd Place: Elle Bruns

Tied for 3rd Place: Abe Streator, CJ Grote and Lucas Anderson; Ben Ruter and Lleyton Knecht

MOUNT SAINT JOSEPH UNIVERSITY WRITING CONTEST

Congratulations to Oldenburg Academy sophomore Kenlee Martin for her winning essay in the M.S.J. University writing contest. She has a true gift to express her ideas eloquently, which is evident in her writing style.

We applaud Kenlee on this accomplishment!



STUDENT TRIP TO GERMANY

During Spring Break, 10 OA students traveled with OA German IV teacher, Justin Hartman, Rahe Ann Bergman '75, and OA parent, Jim Walke to Deutschland. They had the chance to see such beautiful views and visit some amazing places, including a bell tower in Munich, Little Nymphenburg Palace, the Dachau Concentration Camp, and Schloss Hohenschwangau. They also explored Innsbruck, Austria and visited Lake Lucerne in Switzerland. From the look of the great photos, it seems like these students had a trip to remember!

Check out their instagram account to see other great photos and read about their adventures!

 @deuthereise



CAREER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TEACHER AWARD

Congratulations to OA teacher Eric Feller who recently received the Career Professional Development of the Year Teacher Award for the State of Indiana! In his role at Oldenburg Academy, Feller is cognizant and respectful of the experience each employer can offer an intern. By collaborating closely with employers, he allows organizations to further develop their efforts to engage younger Hoosiers at work. Thanks to Feller's clear and consistent communication with employers, they feel

more at ease taking on high school interns. Feller developed extensive contacts in southeast Indiana so he could place students in internships most closely related to their interests. While high school internships are increasingly common, having enough of a variety of opportunities to tailor to a student's interests speaks to the impressive level of his relationship-building. The commitment Feller has for facilitating high school internships pays off. Employers take notice of the quality of the Oldenburg Academy students they interact with. "Oldenburg Academy's internship program is one of the best high school programs with which I have worked", says Amy Streater, executive director of the Ripley County Community Foundation. "[Oldenburg Academy] students are eager and ready to learn and engage in hands-on activities that will give them the largest return on their time."

SERRA VOCATIONS ESSAY CONTEST

Lilly Schebler '24 (left) and Josie Wolfe '25 (right) were recently named the Archdiocesan winners for the Serra Vocations Essay contest! For this contest, there is only one essay for each grade selected from those submitted by the Archdiocesan schools in grades 7-12. Great job as OA has the 9th grade winner AND the 10th grade winner!

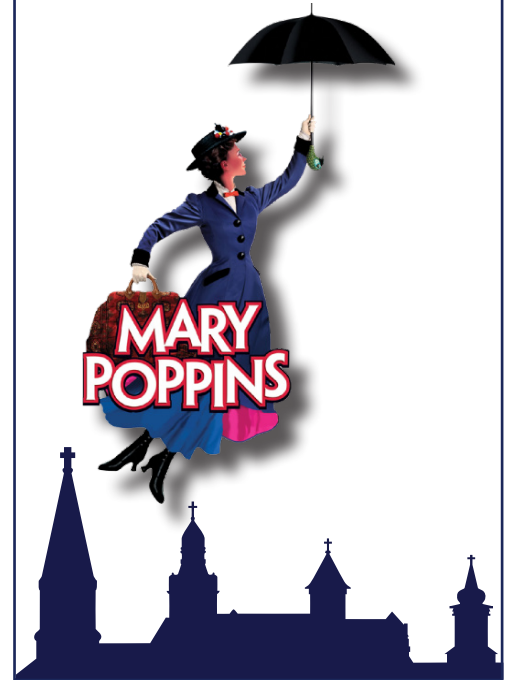


“Practically perfect in every way.”

~ MARY POPPINS



The OA drama department did a wonderful job performing Walt Disney’s Mary Poppins Junior. Led by Shannon Kramer Mullins ‘96, the show was indeed “practically perfect in every way!” Thank you to everyone involved and those who came out to support our student actors and actresses!



FAITH IN ACTION

BIBLE STUDY

Bible Study at OA is a small, student-led group during REACH every week. OA students talk about a range of Scripture passages including the upcoming Sunday readings for the weekend, stories from the saints' lives, and different meaningful quotes. They have many planned activities, including coloring and painting rocks with inspirational messages (currently displayed in front of the school), and making tie blankets to be donated to a children's hospital. The participation from the students is wonderful and we are excited to see all that they will accomplish, learn, and share!



MARCH FOR LIFE



This past January, OA students and the campus ministry team journeyed to Indianapolis to attend the Indianapolis Mass for Life and March for Life, speaking up for those without a voice! Check out Archbishop Charles Thompson and Anna Hudephl '22 sporting their OA gear!

SENIOR RETREAT

Our seniors had their final OA class retreat at Higher Ground on March 10-11. The theme was "Do Not Fear" and "Fear not, for I am with you...I will strengthen you, I will help you" (-Isaiah 41:10). It was a wonderful time of faith and fun (and good food, of course). Fr. Mike Keucher, Fr. Lucio, and Fr. Bedel joined us for Mass each day, confessions, a Eucharistic Holy Hour, and praise and worship. There were several impactful witness talks given with opportunities for small group discussions. Large group and small group games and activities were enjoyed each day, along with some free time to bond with one another.



ADORATION IN THE SISTERS CHAPEL

To begin our fourth quarter, our student body took part in a Holy Hour led by Archdiocesan priest Fr. Jerry Byrd from St. Joseph, St. Ann, and St. Mary parishes in North Vernon. Angie Myers from St. Nicholas led us in praise and worship. We were excited to be in the Sisters chapel once again!

20 Years of Service

One of the events for Catholic Schools week was an all school Mass during which OA recognized faculty and staff for sharing their dedication to Catholic education with Oldenburg Academy for 20 years!

Geraldine Moster Kuntz '81

As the Director of Finance, Geraldine Moster Kuntz '81 works behind the scenes, day in and day out, paying the bills, organizing the budgets, responding to inquiries from other businesses and service providers, managing the payroll, health insurance and other benefits for faculty and staff, updating tuition accounts, helping to award scholarships and manage Choice award, etc., etc. All the things that are essential to the "behind the scenes" operation of a school. While most students have little opportunity to see Mrs. Kuntz, we all should be grateful that her faithful service over the past 2 decades has enabled OA to stay "in the black" financially and keep humming along day after day, year after year, bill after bill, check after check.

As a graduate of the Academy and mother of 5 OA grads, she is also passionate about giving back and living her Catholic faith. She regularly volunteers at many OA events and is found cheering in the bleachers at home games; she is infinitely patient and compassionate; she is humble, hard-working, and highly skilled; she celebrates life and readily gives thanks for all her blessings.

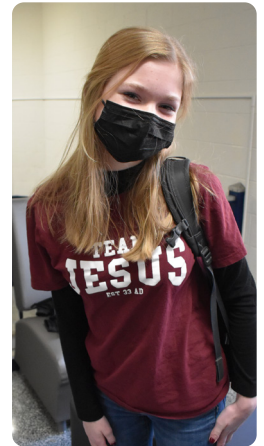


Kris Wampler

"Music is life itself." explains Louis Armstrong, jazz trumpeter extraordinaire. This motto applies to our next honoree— an accomplished trumpeter in her own right. After dedicating over 20 years to teaching music at several schools in Cincinnati, Kris Wampler accepted the call to head (north)west and began teaching music at Oldenburg Academy in 2002. Twenty years later there are hundreds of OA graduates who have been inspired, challenged, and have developed a deeper appreciation for the power and gift of instrumental music because of Miss Wampler.

Apparently, there is not an instrument Miss Wampler does not know how to play. Nor is anyone "too old" to begin to learn as she often tells her new students, some of whom are actually the parents of current OA students. Her capacity as an instrumental arranger is superb. Have an orchestra with 10 violins and no brass – no problem. She'll make the music work. Want to add some energy and new life to the classical repertoire? Let's get some harpsicles and steel drums! Her signature laser-lighted mirror ball, fog machine, and snow falling on the stage have become beloved parts of every Christmas concert.

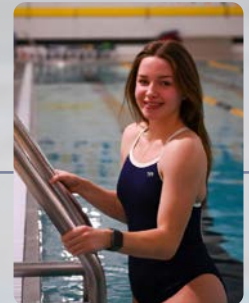
Oldenburg Academy joined the other 6000 Catholic schools across the country celebrating the extraordinary legacy and vibrant reality of Catholic education. One hundred and seventy years ago, Mother Theresa Hackelmeier stepped out in faith, responding to the local needs for education and evangelization. OA is honored and blessed to continue this ministry no less needed in today's world. To celebrate, each day had a specific theme and there were many activities and events the students/faculty took part in, including a super volleyball tournament, dressing in faith-themed shirts, using anything but a backpack to carry their books. The week concluded with school Mass which was a beautiful reminder of how special Catholic education is!



ATHLETICS



Our Girls and Boys Swim Team had a great season with the Boys breaking the school relay record with a 1:43.78 time and Elizabeth Gigrich '22 advancing in the 50 free!



The OA softball field is back in playing shape! Bases were reset to the proper distance, the field is leveled, and a fresh coat of paint was applied to the dugouts. We are so excited for our softball team to start their season back in the "Graveyard!"



Congratulations to senior, Kate Walke (pictured with Coaches Alig and Coppotelli, Claire Walke '24, and parents, Terra and Jim) who signed her National Letter of Intent to continue her academic and Track and Field career at the University of Evansville!



ACADEMIC ALL-STATE

Congratulations to five of our seniors who were recently named Academic All-State by the IBCA and IFCA in their respective sports!

"The quality of these student-athletes shows that success in academics and success in athletics are not separate entities...Rather, in many cases, a player's success in the classroom directly contributes to his or her success on the floor."

-Steve Witty; IBCA Executive Director



FELDHAUS MEZZANINE UPDATE

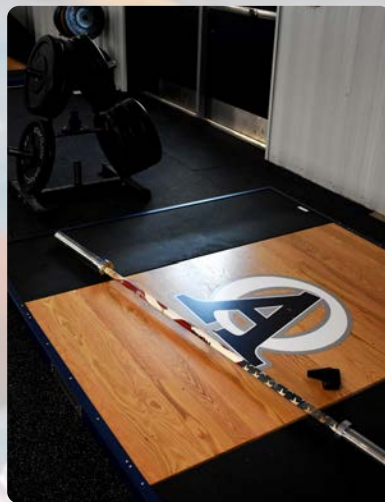
OA opened the Hillenbrand Family Feldhaus in the summer of 2021 although one area was still being finalized. We are now thrilled to announce that the mezzanine space in the rear of the building has now been transformed into an incredible strength and conditioning space for our student athletes. As has been true for this entire facility, it has come into existence because of the generosity of valued friends and partners.

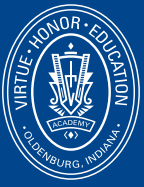
OA is very grateful to:

Gary Cox who donated over 20 pieces of fantastic equipment that now fills the space.

Paul and Molly Oesterling Freeland '94, Bill and Denise Hillenbrand, Chad and Jenny Miles who provided financial support for a special flooring, video equipment, and other ancillary items needed to finish the space.

Our student athletes, under the talented guidance and supervision of Coach Shane Coppotelli, are receiving expert strength and conditioning training at no additional cost.





OLDENBURG ACADEMY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



OA alum and current junior at Purdue University, Bella Monroe '19, will be competing in the Miss United States Agriculture pageant which takes place this June in Orlando, Florida.

Working toward her degree in Agricultural Communications and Farm Management, serving as president and a mentor of Purdue Agricultural Communicators of Tomorrow, and acting as a Purdue Agricultural Sciences Education and Communication Ambassador, Bella is in the perfect position to advocate for Indiana's agriculture.

Good luck, Bella!

IT'S NOT TOO EARLY... TO START WORKING ON NOMINATIONS FOR THESE ALUMNI AWARDS!

DISTINGUISHED
ALUM AWARD

VIRTUE, HONOR AND
EDUCATION AWARD

EXCEPTIONAL ALUMNI
OF THE ARTS AWARD

AMMANN-BRINKMOELLER
ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

Nomination forms are available on OA's website at oldenburgacademy.org or scan the QR code.

NOMINATIONS ARE DUE IN JULY!



OLDENBURG ACADEMY'S
Alumni Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday | 10:00 am
 April 16, 2022

Bring your own basket to collect your goodies – candy and prizes!
 Meet at the Academic Building – Park at the Feldhaus.

Arrive by 9:45am. Start time of the first group is 10am.



Age Groups
 0-3 YEARS
 4-6 YEARS
 7-10 YEARS



Questions? Contact the Alumni Association at 812.933.0737 or alumni@oldenburgacademy.org



IN-PERSON 5K
APRIL 30, 2022

Register by April 15, 2022
 (to guarantee a shirt)

Parking & Registration at
 The Feldhaus (OA Campus)

9am Registration | 10am 5k start



EVENT INFORMATION AND
 REGISTRATION FORMS CAN
 BE FOUND HERE:



Be sure to take picture(s) in your t-shirt
 & share them on Facebook, Instagram
 & Twitter (tag @hollyb5k)

Facebook Instagram Twitter @hollyb5k #HBSK2021

For further information or questions:
 email hollyb5k@gmail.com
 call Nita Mauer at 513.382.1922
 visit Oldenburgacademy.org/alumni

in loving memory...

- Qutia Kellerman Linville 1946
- Clarissa Jansing Rennie 1946
- Sr. Rose Marie McCann OSF 1951
- Sr. Norma Rocklage OSF 1951
- Martha Pictor Heazeltine 1952
- Rosalyn Bischoff Walke 1960
- Ann Moeller Wesseler 1961
- Sr. Judith Werner OSF 1961
- Rosina Nobbe Forthofer 1964
- Kathy Stahl Leising 1964
- Cecilia Effinger Schultz 1965
- Janet Grieshop Kirschner 1978
- Melissa Elsass 1986
- Marysue Luhring Knisley 1998



...until we meet again

All the Places our Alumni... **GO BEYOND**

Curt Eckstein '17

Curtis Eckstein '17 currently attends Purdue University in Lafayette, Indiana, where he is completing his Master of Science in Marketing following his undergraduate Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering. At Purdue, he has been given opportunities to work on a variety of interesting projects. One particularly innovative research project involved developing a way to harvest water from the atmosphere using water vapor selective membranes and radiative cooling technology.

In addition to his success in the classroom, Curt continues making and breaking track/cross country records, just as he did here at OA! Named a Cross Country All-American, he has qualified for NCAA National Cross-Country Championships four years in a row, and was named to the Cross Country All Big Ten First and Second Teams. Curt earned the second fastest time in the 10,000 m at Purdue University with a time of 28:54.93, just shy of the school record.

Go, Curt, go!



Jude Leitten '96

"I work for the United States Agency of International Development which is the part of the executive branch of the U.S. government that leads international development and disaster assistance. I was a Foreign Service Officer for 11 years. In that role, I lived and worked alongside my U.S. Embassy colleagues in El Salvador, Afghanistan, and Peru, and also worked on Africa and women's economic empowerment projects, programming the funds and designing projects that reduce poverty, strengthen democratic governance, and help people emerge from humanitarian crises. I now work as a consultant for USAID on trade and investment projects in Africa. My love for living and learning other cultures started when I was at Oldenburg Academy, specifically in my French class and Mrs. Deardorff's World History class. Thanks to my amazing French teacher I had the opportunity to live in France on a study abroad program with Indiana University during the summer between my junior and senior years. That was my first experience living overseas and it was one of the most profound of my life."



Haleigh Reed '17

"After graduating from Indiana University's Kelley School of Business in May of 2021, I've been living and working in Anchorage, Alaska as a part of the Alaska Fellows Program. I work at the non-profit organization Launch Alaska that helps deploy climate technology from all over the world in Alaska to accelerate the resource transition from fossil fuels to renewable resources. I get to meet and collaborate with innovative startup founders that have developed electric autonomous planes, microgrid nuclear fission, remote electric grid monitoring, and many more technologies I didn't know existed before but are critical for Alaska's unique and remote landscape. This summer I'll be working with a company that has gone through Launch Alaska's startup accelerator program to help track their environmental impacts and communicate their work in destroying the toxic chemical PFAS in groundwater. I'm grateful for the small community that Oldenburg Academy created where I could learn how to build and maintain relationships as well as be encouraged to excel inside and outside the classroom. I'm also very grateful for the friendships from OA I still have going on almost 10 years!"



Anna Schulte Blanchard '10

"After graduating from Oldenburg Academy, I pursued my nursing degree from the College of Mount St. Joseph and graduated with my Bachelor of Science in Nursing in 2014. Shortly after graduating, I began my first nursing job working on the adult cancer unit at The Christ Hospital. In the summer of 2016, I moved to Colorado and began working on the respiratory and medical units at Children's Hospital Colorado. I loved caring for the "NICU grads" who had breathing tubes and were ventilator dependent. In the fall of 2019, I moved to Honolulu, Hawaii on the island of Oahu. I am currently working towards a Doctor of Nursing Practice, Family Nurse Practitioner degree from the University of Hawaii, Nancy Atmospera-Walch School of Nursing, and work part-time as a pediatric home care nurse.

One of the things I loved the most about OA, was that it always felt like a family. I am grateful for the lifelong friendships that I created at OA. It was amazing to have two of my friends and fellow classmates from OA, Georgia Smith '10 and Lauren Reed '10, travel to Oahu this past January to witness my husband Mac and I get married. When I graduated from OA back in 2010, I never would have imagined the place where my life and career would be now. The education I received from OA, whose mission is focused on academic excellence, leadership, social responsibility, personal and spiritual growth has prepared me to face the challenges of the world and work to make it a better place.

One nugget of life advice is to "do the thing that scares you" because it opens the door to many opportunities. Doing what scares you often can be hard, but I can assure you the lessons and principles that you learn at OA will more than prepare you to step up to these challenges and when you come out on the other side, you will be so thankful that you did."



Kendra Wessling Weisbrod '09 and Patrick Weisbrod '09

"In July 2021 we put our careers on hold, myself as a physical therapist and Pat as a nurse, and left on a 5 month adventure that took us to 25 different countries across Europe. We spent 11 weeks hiking and beaching through the Balkans and 9 weeks traveling across the Baltics, central and western Europe on city breaks. God made such a beautiful and diverse world and our goal was, and still is, to see as much of it as possible! For now, we have each returned to our previous positions with our employers and anxiously plan for our next trip!"



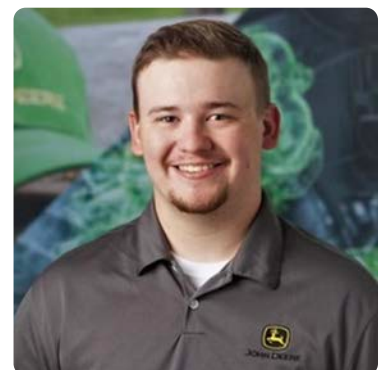
Chris Werner '05

Chris Werner is currently a product manager for a UK-based record label in Los Angeles called Ninja Tune. There he oversees marketing, retail, and promotion for several artists including Grammy-nominated and platinum-certified group ODESZA.



Clay Hunger '17

"After graduating in December 2020 from Purdue University with a BS in Agriculture Systems Management, I joined John Deere Corporate in Iowa. My first role was with their Harvest Works in Customer and Product Support where I worked with the new X9 combine and HD headers. I assisted in the introduction of these new products to dealers across the country providing support to early problem resolutions. Currently, I am working on the Agronomy Support Team supporting the new See and Spray TM Ultimate technology and providing field demonstrations throughout the Midwest and southern states."



WHAT DO YOU WANT YOUR *GO BEYOND* LEGACY TO BE?

A PLANNED GIFT HELPS ENSURE OA'S FUTURE!

Throughout 2022, Oldenburg Academy will be celebrating 170 years of educating, evangelizing and empowering young women and for the last 22 years, young men. It is impossible to express our gratitude to the Sisters of St. Francis for their faithful commitment in establishing a strong and lasting Franciscan Catholic educational foundation. But it is now up to us to ensure the Academy's future.

An endowment is a permanent fund that provides annual support and a lasting revenue stream "in perpetuity" enabling the Academy to pursue our mission in operational and visionary ways. OA is blessed that such a fund was established several decades ago. It has been a valuable source of financial support, mainly through restricted gifts that provide tuition assistance. Currently, OA's endowment has 20 "Named scholarship funds" that support students' capacity to attend the Academy annually. This fund has also provided money for major capital projects such as replacing the HVAC in both the auditorium and the academic buildings, a new phone and security system, and other technology infrastructure upgrades, all in the past decade alone. Having an endowment available to cover these necessary improvements enables the Academy to not have to pass this cost on to our parents through tuition increases.

Many gifts to the endowment are made through planned gifts, with the most common being through a bequest – a donation noted in someone's will. A bequest can be set up without affecting the security of a surviving spouse or others. There are estate tax advantages that can benefit you and your family. Your tax or financial advisor can offer you numerous recommendations that fit your resources and goals. It is a simple way to leave your legacy at OA!

Please consider a planned gift to pay it forward so that "virtue, honor and education" will always be available for generations to come.

For more information on making a gift, please contact President Diane Laake.

Legacy Story

Don and Joan Hermesch Karbowski '55 have lived in Batesville their entire adult lives. They were blessed with 3 sons but alas, no daughters who could attend the Academy in those days.

They both worked for Hill-Rom - she in customer service - for many years. Once Hill-Rom was acquired by Baxter, all stockholdings were required to be divested. Earlier this year they generously determined that a gift to OA's endowment was the best use of these shares. Their \$40,000 gift has become a cornerstone of the corpus for the Educator Empowerment Fund and will be impactful for OA educators and students for years to come.

Thank you, Don and Joan!

Legacy Story: Ann Moeller Wesseler '61 Independent Spirit Scholarship
Established 2021

Ann Moeller Wesseler was born in Hamburg, IN, the second of 5 children of a farming family. Though her parents did not have the opportunity to finish high school, they recognized that Ann was bright, and that a Catholic education was extremely valuable. With help from them and additional support from the local Hamburg parish, St. Anne's, Ann was able to attend the Academy of the Immaculate Conception. She graduated in 1961 but going to college was not an option for many women at the time, let alone those with little financial means - so she took typing and shorthand classes, worked secretarial jobs, and eventually took on the traditional roles of wife and mother. But she never lost a desire to further her education, and she was finally able to enroll at Indiana University in her late 30's, receiving her bachelor's degree in 1984. Unfortunately, her marriage ended soon after, and she found herself as a single parent faced with providing for three young kids on her own. Remembering the value of her own Catholic education, she was determined to keep her kids in Catholic schools. To make that happen, she capitalized on her college degree to become a full time Human Resources manager. After retiring, she volunteered at her parish school, and continued to financially support Oldenburg Academy. Her children, by the way, took note - they also successfully completed Catholic schooling, received college degrees, and thanks to Ann - have strong careers and their own independence.



Through her own life experience, Ann knew that self-reliance - especially for a single mother - is a necessity - and she recognized that faith, education, and grit are keys to achieving that. Through this scholarship fund, her family honors others who demonstrate those same qualities, and seeks to lend encouragement to both parents and children as they travel together on their journeys toward growth and independence. Thank you!



EDUCATOR EMPOWERMENT FUND

RESPONSE

How to provide our dedicated teachers with additional avenues of support and encouragement to remain a vital part of the OA team and enhance their professional capacity?

CHALLENGE

Create an Educator Empowerment Fund. This fund will provide teachers with financial and material resources identified as strategic to their success in the classroom.

Raise \$100,000 (initial endowment goal) to support this program!

HOW?



SCAN ME!

Donate online by scanning the QR code or return the enclosed envelope.

Why not consider a multi-year pledge towards this project?

Contact President Diane Laake for more details and options to consider.



This is **your unique opportunity to affirm the service they've given** - some for decades - and keep the excellence that OA is known for thriving and expanding! Investing in our teachers will yield the greatest return on the investment from our families.

GO BEYOND



OLDENBURG ACADEMY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!



April 13 | Incoming Freshmen Scholarship Ceremony

April 16 | Alumni Easter Egg Hunt

April 19-22 | Care of Creation Week

April 22 | All School Mass and Service Day

April 30 | Holly Bruns 5K

April 30 | Prom

May 6 | The One Day @ OA

May 12 | Art Show/Recital

May 13 | Class of 2026 Freshmen Picnic

May 18 | Senior Awards Night

May 20 | Senior Mass

May 20 | Underclass Awards Ceremony

May 23-26 | Finals

May 29 | Graduation

June 24 | OASIS Golf Outing

July 16 | Car Raffle Drawing at Freudenfest