# <u>NewsLink</u>

spring 2021



## Because YOU care, COVID-19 didn't stop Gibault Catholic.

**IN PERSON LEARNING ALL YEAR • FOUNDATION OF FAITH AND SERVICE** ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE • ATHLETIC SUCCESS • EXCEPTIONAL VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS



# Thank you for making us better.

Spring 2021



# **Message from Principal Steve Kidd**

### Friends of Gibault,

Hello to you as we round the turn and head for the homestretch of possibly the most wildly unpredictable school year anyone could imagine. We have changed, adjusted, adapted, and reacted to every new challenge that has been presented and somehow made it through in remarkable fashion. I am happy to report that Gibault has been in session and in person since day one. We hosted a few days of remote learning after Thanksgiving, but even then, all classes were virtual and live with the teacher. The credit for this year goes to the incredible work of the teachers and staff. They have taken a difficult year and turned it into a success. Our students are the benefactors of a quality year of learning, and there are not many schools that can say that today.



Even with all the unpredictability, we are forging ahead with some new projects. We continue to look for ways to improve our campus and make the student experience better. My appreciation goes out to our Gibault Men's and Women's Clubs who tirelessly work for the betterment of our school.

This year of COVID-19 has been especially tough on our finances. The extra costs have far exceeded the minimal funding provided through federal and state measures. I am asking you all to consider making a donation to our annual fund to help us continue to fight this pandemic. Our incoming freshman class will be the biggest class in school next year, and we anticipate coming through the pandemic stronger than before.



In this extraordinary year, donations for our Annual Fund from the Gibault community are more important than ever. Your support allows us to continue to offer an exceptional educational experience while facing unique challenges and unprecedented needs. Thanks to your generosity, we have been able to purchase a new-to-us bus, upgrade some of our water fountains to include bottle fillers, replace diseased bushes with new sod, improve campus safety with security upgrades and additional cleaning measures, and so much more.

When you support the Annual Fund, you truly makes a difference.



# What is on the drawing board? Innovation Commons





This modern innovation and cooperative learning commons will replace the current library with collaborative spaces for student groups, a state of the art classroom, a robotics lab, a makers lab and a video recording studio, giving our students the updated learning environment they need to create and innovate.





## **Chemistry Lab Renovation**



Our Chemistry/Physics lab is over 50 years old and in need of restoration. The renovated lab room will fit the needs of our current and future students, with new lab tables, flooring, lighting, paint, a portable chemical hood, storage, and best of all - no asbestos!

## **Prayer & Reflection Garden**





www.fundraisingbrick.com/gibaultchs/ 8x8 brick \$100 4x8 brick \$50 Sophomore Jacob Durrer's Eagle Scout Project is a prayer garden with a cross shaped patio for quiet reflection on our campus. Personalized bricks can be ordered to be placed in the patio. Help create this space for our students

to enjoy for years to come!

Your donation to the Annual Fund fills the gap between tuition and what is needed to provide all of the extra opportunites that make Gibault stand out. These new projects need to be funded in addition to the Annual Fund. Can YOU be the hero that steps up to help us make these much needed improvements a reality?

Call Principal Steve Kidd or Andrea Biske at Gibault for more information.

# Tax credit for scholarships? Tell me more...

### **EMPOWER ILLINOIS IN THREE STEPS**

1. **Register** at mytax.illinois.gov **2. Reserve** your tax credit with the IL Department of Revenue

3. Donate within 60 days \*no minimum

## The basics...



**Students Apply** 

Families within 300% of the Federal Poverty Level can apply for a scholarship to Gibault Catholic High School.

Donors Like YOU Give

Individual donors make contributions through Empower Illinois and designate Gibault. In return, donors receive a 75% state tax credit.

### **Scholarship Awarded**

Lives are changed as scholarships are awarded to families based on need and the funds designated to Gibault.

## How do I see more details?

### Go online to **empowerillinois.org/donate** and click "How to Donate—Step by Step Instructions"



### www.catholicgiftannuity.org

A charitable gift annuity is a gift that gives back, providing the donor a fixed income stream for life in exchange for a legacy gift to Gibault Catholic.

Contact: Betty Assell Annuity Coordinator, BAssell@catholicextension.org 312-795-6089



On **May 6**, let's celebrate the good work going on in our community. Share your blessings with Gibault and other area organizations. www.givestlday.org/ gibault Did you know you can donate to Gibault online?

### www.gibaulthawks.com

Click DONATE in the upper right corner to give a gift to the Annual Fund or Scholarship Fund using PayPal or a credit card. You can even make it a treasured monthly gift!

# Thank you for investing in our students!







**Spencer Stumpf ('11)** is researching the coronavirus at Washington University School of Medicine, with emphasis on the SARS2 variants that are now spreading in the population. He is testing vaccinated patient sera and monoclonal antibody efficacy against these variants, helping to figure out how to protect us all.



Joani (Schoenhoff) Akers ('70), who co-founded the charity Oasis International, won the "Remarkable Women St. Louis" 2021 Award. Oasis International helps refugees starting anew in St. Louis meet their basic needs with furniture, household items, and clothes. English, citizenship, and computer classes are also made available; but most importantly, friendship as they acclimate to their new life. Find out more at www.oasis4refugees.org





Sister Sarah Harbaugh, ASC ('07) professed her First Vows with the Adorers of the Blood of Christ in August, joining the community she was first introduced to when a few ASC nuns were her

teachers at Gibault. She was drawn to the Adorers because of their mission of courage, compassion and committment while working in education, senior care, and social services, including the poor and marginalized, who are the people she connects with.



Sr. Elaine with her most recent state team (2019-20)

Sister Elaine Freund, ASC ('61) was elected into the Illinois High School Scholastic Bowl Coaches Hall of Fame! She has been



coaching Scholar Bowl at Gibault for 34 years, taking multiple teams to the state level. Thank you to all who wrote letters in support of this much deserved award!

**300 for Gibault:** Former Gibault religion teacher Mike Schaefer rode 302 miles from Southhaven, Mississippi, to Gibault in 19 hours and 10 minutes and raised over \$7,000 to support scholarships for Gibault students. Thank you, Mike! You can read about his journey here: 300forgibault.org/

Thanks to the Republic-Times for their help with information and photos!



# Once a Hawk, Always a Hawk!





Natalie (Loless `12) married Chris Link on October 9, 2020



**Carla (Steibel `10)** & Aaron Grah welcomed Grayson Thomas in December 2020.



**Taylor (Lintker `12)** married Garret Story on October 10, 2020



Lexie (Purcell '10) & Ben Loewnau welcomed Callaway Anderson in January 2020



Logan (McBride `12) married Daniel McGraw on November 7, 2020



Emily (Morris '10) & Jared Ferguson welcomed Anthony Lee on September 14, 2020

Share your joy with your Gibault family! gibaulthawks.com/

hawks-alumni



Zachary Posey ('11) married Kaitlyn Reichert on October 10, 2020



Jeremy Nagle ('99) & wife Dacia welcomed Everleigh Ruth on October 27, 2020



Rose (McDonough '12) & Alex Perrotta welcomed Lukas James on October 27, 2020



Molly (Diehl '13) married Ryan Spitz on November 21, 2020



**Lauren (Smith '09)** & Ben Ettling married on December 19, 2020 and welcomed son Griffin Lee on October 6, 2020





Bailey (Amann '10) & Kendall Foster welcomed Liam Christopher on January 14, 2021



Ana Shields (`10) & Saul Capilla are engaged to be married May 29, 2021



Joe Bohn ('03) & wife Lisa welcomed Brendan Philip on January 15, 2021



Morgan Ladyman ('17) & Caleb Gussner are engaged to be married summer 2022



Kerri Hummel ('12) & Justin Andracsek are engaged to be married September 25, 2021



Matthew Schreder ('13) & Allie Wielansky are engaged to be married October 2022



Kristin Kreher ('12) & Matthew Jones are engaged to be married July 10, 2021



Wes Degener (`14) & Carley Swisher are engaged to be married May 22, 2021



Robyn Lindsey (`16) & Kyle Hannon (`15) are engaged to be married in October 2022



Haley (Riebeling '10) (Gibault Catholic SLU English teacher) & Marty Kovarik ('09) welcomed Patrick Anthony on November 9, 2020



**David Briesacher ('01)** & wife Katya welcomed Layne Jennifer & Lexi Hope on January 11, 2021





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Gibault Catholic High School 501 Columbia Avenue Waterloo, IL 62298 Phone (618) 939-3883 www.gibaulthawks.com

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# SAVE THE DATE AND JOIN THE FUN!

We need golfers and sponsors! Take a Friday off to golf and support Gibault!



Gibault Summer Classic Annbriar Golf Course June 11, 2021 www.gchsgolfclassic.givesmart.com



Our 50th Oktoberfest! The *Hawk*-toberfest October 23, 2021 Pray we can all get together for this reunion!

**Parents:** If your son or daughter has established a permanent address, help us by updating their contact information: https://gibaulthawks.com/hawks-alumni/

NewsLink: This publication is produced to provide information about the school to alumni, friends, faculty, staff and parents of current students. Find our more or contact us at www.gibaulthawks.com.

Principal Steve Kidd

Dean of Students & Athletics Director Jim Montgomery Director of Development Andrea (Kish) Biske '91

Director of College Planning & Placement Susan Mackin Director of Enrollment Kelly (Knefelkamp) Day '13

Director of Marketing Elizabeth (Renner) Hess '02 Director of Finance Aubrie (Miskell) Swafford '04 Campus Minister Scott Ruppel