



GIBAULT CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

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December 20, 2024

“Made for Greatness”

Dear Parent, Guardian, Student, Benefactor, Friend, and Alumni of Gibault Catholic High School,

A prayer for the last week of Advent

We marvel, Gracious God, at the mystery of your incarnation.

Why would you choose to be born into poverty, with a family far from home, and seemingly ill-prepared for your arrival?

Why would you choose a forgotten village in a forgotten corner of the world?

Why would you choose to be born in a cave full of cattle and take a manger for your crib?

Could it be that through this unlikely birth, you would reach out and choose even us to be your children?

Could it be that you would reach out and choose even me?

Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

The Holy One has done great things for us, and holy is his name. Thanks be to God!

Amen – *via the Moravian Church*

IN CASE YOU HAVEN'T HEARD...WE HAVE SOME VERY EXCITING NEWS!



DIOCESE OF BELLEVILLE
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF

Dr. Geoffrey Miller named Principal of Gibault Catholic High School



The Most Reverend Michael McGovern, Bishop of Belleville, has named Geoffrey Miller, Ph.D., Principal of Gibault Catholic High School in Waterloo. His appointment is effective January 1, 2025.

Dr. Miller has twenty years of experience in Catholic education and seven years of experience in administration. He was co-principal at St. Ignatius College Prep in Chicago, an adjunct instructor for Seminars in Ignatian Leadership, a Provincial Assistant at the Society of Jesus in St. Louis, an Associate Professor of Theology at St. Louis University, and a Theology teacher at Rockhurst High School in Kansas City, Missouri, Regis High School in New York, and Gonzaga College High School in Washington, DC. Dr. Miller is proficient in six languages, has created multiple Catholic websites and online courses, and has received numerous honors and awards, including the Helen I. Mandeville Award for Excellence in Teaching in the Humanities.

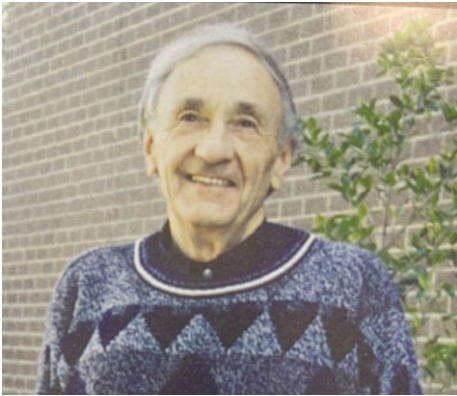
Dr. Miller received his Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy and Religious Studies at Indiana University, his Master of Arts in Historical Theology at St. Louis University and his Ph. D. in Theology and Religious Studies at The Catholic University of America.

“I am very pleased to welcome Dr. Geoff Miller to Gibault Catholic High School,” said Bishop McGovern. “Given his Catholic faith and background, I have every confidence that he will excel as principal for Gibault. I think he will collaborate well with the staff and parents and be a great educational leader for the students.”

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As we transition into additional new leadership at Gibault Catholic High School with Dr. Miller, it is a good time to review our roots and as Sr. Joan Chittister said, ***“Why we do what we do is more important than what we do?”*** Gibault is the legacy of the vision of Fr. Ed Hustedde. He founded a school like no other, based on the Gospels, on trust, on self-determination and on allowing students to seek more than a traditional classroom experience. Catholic identity, social justice, a preferential option for the poor, the humanities, a love of God’s creation, the modular schedule, the Gibault Senior Project, attention to the arts, academic excellence,

St. Louis University credits, and opportunities in athletics, academic and extracurricular competitions were his implementation that has been carried on by the Gibault Faculty and Staff since 1966. After his death in 2004, a 22-minute video was created honoring his life and vision. Grab a cup of coffee and view and help keep his vision alive here at Gibault. <https://youtu.be/JWdEpFYxXyY>

We will be sharing this with our students as well. Let’s not forget where we came from!

GIBAULT CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL PLACEMENT TEST *Well Begun is Half-Way, Half-Done.* We will hold a second Placement Test on January 10th at noon here at Gibault. Contact Mrs. Pam Kueker at pkueker@gibalthawks.com. Catholic identity, modular schedule and service-learning set us apart.

Gibault Catholic High School

MISSION TRIP ‘25



FUNDRAISER

Benefiting Gibault’s Senior Class Mission Trip

- 11 seniors at Gibault are raising money for an international mission trip.
- We are going to the Dominican Republic to install latrines and clean, running water to homes in the community.
- To help fund our trip, we are placing flamingoes in yards as a fundraiser
- This is a fun event where you can pay to remove the flock early, relocate the flock to a friend, or buy flock insurance.
- All proceeds go towards the trip! Thank you for your generous donations!

\$20

\$25

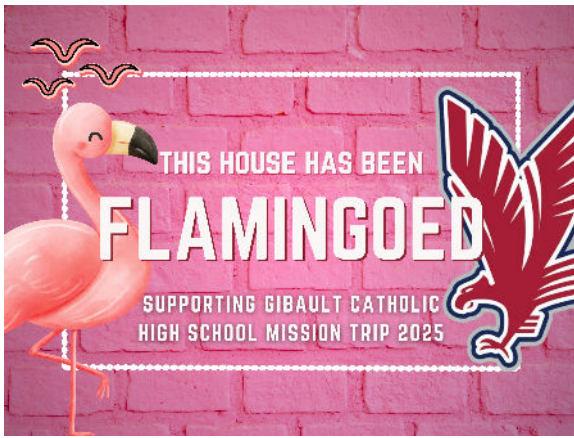
\$30

A TRAINED FLOCK KEEPER WILL REMOVE THE FLOCK EARLY

A FLOCK KEEPER WILL RELOCATE THE FLOCK TO A FRIEND OF YOUR CHOICE

FLOCK INSURANCE WILL PROTECT YOU FROM FUTURE FLOCKINGS

Contact Andrew Donius at 618-340-3704 for next steps



FLAMINGOED Support the Class of 2025's Senior Mission Trip! Surprise family and friends with a yard full of flamingoes!

ALUMNI ANNOUNCEMENTS Alumni, we want to hear from you! Any weddings, engagements, new babies, achievements and awards...please send to Klair Krebel – kkrebel@gibaulthawks.com.

HALL OF FAME Gibault is very excited and proud to announce our Athletic Hall of Fame for 2025. On January 11 between the JV and Varsity game we will be bringing

into the Hall of Fame the 2000 State Champions Bowling Team who includes Coach Larry Schaltenbrand, Matt Kaestner, Aaron Woodside, Tim Mitchell, Chris Monterusso, and Eric Frey. All five bowlers are from the Class of 2000.

This year is the 25th anniversary of their win. They are the first state champions of Gibault!

We will also be bringing in Hannah Wessel Sasser (Class of 2012.) Some of Hannah's highlights include 12 varsity letters (4 volleyball, 4 soccer, 3 cheer, 1 basketball), Soccer MVP, Vernie Moffit Award, and the St. Louis Post Dispatch Scholar Athlete. During Hannah's time on the volleyball team, she was a 4-year varsity letter winner and a 3-year varsity captain. Her senior year she led the Hawks with 281 kills (605 career kills) and ranked among area leaders as she helped Gibault to a fourth-place finish at the Illinois Class 1A state tournament. She garnered IHSA honorable mention All-State honors to go with first team All-Area accolades. Hannah went onto play volleyball for 4 years at McKendree College. While at McKendree College, she earned Academic All-GLVC honors twice and had over 600 kills including being second on the team her sophomore year with 234 kills.

ALUMNI BASKETBALL GAME Following our Hall of Fame Night, we have the Alumni Basketball Game at 7:45 p.m. in the Fr. Ed Hustedde Gymnasium. Make a night out of it. Hall of Fame, watch the varsity basketball game at 6:15, the Alumni game follows. A reception will be held afterwards in the gym lobby. Interested in participating? Contact Dennis Rueter to register by January 6, 2025 – drhawks@charter.net

Come and salute our Hall of Famers and Alumni basketball players on January 11!

BOOSTER CLUB Gibault's Booster Club is looking for a few more chairpersons or officers to join their group! If you've ever worn the jersey or cheered on a Hawk, they want you to join! Are you interested? Stop by for their next meeting on January 9th at 6:30pm in the Innovation Commons. Get off the couch and get involved and remember how much fun you had in High School!

MS. KATIE ZIEDLER We want to say thank you to Ms. Katie Zeidler for her work as our Agricultural Science Teacher and FFA sponsor. Ms. Zeidler has been such a valued part of our team, and we're incredibly grateful for all she's done during her time with us. She is leaving for personal reasons. The position is posted, and we appreciate help in spreading the word. Contact Ms. Katie Robben at krobben@gibaulthawks.com. God be with you Katie!

CONGRATULATIONS AGAIN TO MR. DAVID SCHAUER on a great interview for the front cover of



The Messenger! We are proud of you for so much “value-added” to our Gibault community!

GIRLS VARSITY BASKETBALL Our Women’s Basketball team will play for the Candy Cane Classic Championship on Saturday at 1:00 pm. Come cheer on our Lady Hawks!

2024 GIBAULT CANDY CANE CLASSIC

December 21, 2024: 10:00am – New Athens vs Metro East Luthera for 5th place, **11:30am** – Red Bud vs Riverview Gardens for 3rd place, **1:00 pm** – Columbia vs Gibault for the Championship!
COME SUPPORT OUR GIRLS

BOYS VARSITY BASKETBALL Over the Christmas Break our Men’s Basketball team will be participating in the 63rd Christmas Mater Dei Tournament. Their first game will be against Mater Dei on Thursday, Dec. 26th at 7:00 pm.

TEDDY BEAR TOSS On December 20th you can throw new and tagged stuffed animals on the court for donation to St. Louis Children’s Hospital sponsored by our HOPE FOR TOMORROW Club. Thanks for the comfort for children in need. The Hawks play Mater Dei at 6:15pm.

BASEBALL WINTER CAMP The 5-8 grade baseball camp is December 26-28 from 9:00-11:30am in the Fr. Hustedde Gymnasium. Use the link: <https://igfn.us/form/A6ySXg> or text “gibaultbaseball” to 41444 to register today!

SOFTBALL WINTER CAMP The 5-8 grade softball winter camp will take place December 26-28 from 1:00-3:30pm in the Fr. Hustedde Gymnasium. Use the link: <https://igfn.us/form/SBiBWQ> or text “gibaultsoftball” to 41444 to register today!

FUTURE HAWKS NIGHT FUTURE HAWKS, cheer on the Gibault Hawks at the varsity basketball game on January 10th! Run out onto the court with the Hawks, then take a seat in the student section to cheer them on! Sign up today! <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0B44AAAC28A5FEC16-53275203-future>

GIBAULT WEAR Crafted in the Loo is selling Gibault wear...grab a new piece today! They also have Ugly Christmas Sweaters and they’re on SALE! <https://bit.ly/Loo-GCHS>

ICS NIGHT Future Hawks and families, join us January 15th from 6:30pm-8:30pm at ICS on the Garden Level. This informational meeting is for 6-8 graders and their families to come, mingle, and

learn more about Gibault and its amazing qualities! RSVP here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0A4CACAF2CA5F9C07-54115547-icsinformational>

RAFFLEMANIA



Gibault Catholic High School

2025 Raffle-Mania

Tickets \$25 each with 10 grand prizes

It's time for the best Christmas gifts of the year - Raffle-Mania tickets!

Raffle-Mania is the only fundraiser required for all students at Gibault Catholic High School, and **each student** must sell **10 tickets***. Our goal this year is to sell \$50,000 of tickets. The tickets are \$25 each and can be sold through January 31st. The holidays are a great time to ask your relatives and friends to take a chance to win great prizes AND help your school. All tickets turned in by December 1st will have a chance at an early bird bonus drawing of \$250!

Tickets are only available online! Tickets can be purchased at <https://givebutter.com/rafflemania2025> which can be shared on social media. Buyers will have a space to designate a student/parent name. Please make sure buyers are entering a student or parent name, so that each student's progress can be tracked. Buyers can use credit cards, Venmo, Paypal, Apple Pay, Google Pay, or even checks!



GRAND PRIZES of \$5000, \$1000, \$500, and \$250, and 6 @ \$100

Prizes will be drawn on February 3rd

STUDENT INCENTIVES:

1. Dress down days:

- 25% of our goal by December 2nd, dress down on December 6th.
- 50% of our goal by December 20th, dress down January 7th - 10th
- 75% of our goal January 13th, dress down on January 17th.
- Meet or exceed our goal by February 1st, a week of dress down days TBD.

2. Top Seller: Sell the most raffle tickets and receive **\$100!**

Any questions? Contact Katie Robben at 618-939-3883 or

krobben@gibaulthawks.com

*unsold tickets will be invoiced to your account

LUNCH TRAY

PRICE INCREASE We wanted to inform you that starting January 6, 2025, there will be a slight increase in the cost of lunch trays in the cafeteria. This adjustment is necessary to cover the rising expenses and ensure the continued quality of our school's meal service. The cost will be increasing to \$4.00 a tray for students and \$4.50 a tray for adults. You will see this reflected on your lunch account beginning January 6, 2025.

CALENDAR School resumes on January 6. Bring your New Year resolutions with you and that new semester smile!

A PERSONAL NOTE FROM MIKE KISH, Assistant Principal:

My love for Gibault Catholic High School has continued to grow these past 5 months. I am grateful to Bishop McGovern for the opportunity to help until we could find “just the right Principal” for our amazing school. Fr. Ed Hustedde’s vision will continue through Students, Faculty, Staff, and Parents who never knew him. Few are left who knew him personally, but we can use his vision, and we are in good hands with Ms. Katie Robben, Dr. Geoff Miller, our Faculty, Staff, and the most active School Board we have ever had! Thanks to the students who are the real life of Gibault and all who carried me as I tried to “play my drum for Him” during this time! God bless you, especially our students who made me feel so at home! Traditions to pass forward Fr. Ed’s belief in the dignity of all in the Gibault community and God’s world. In the end, I got more than I gave.

CONGRATULATIONS Congratulations to our President, Ms. Katie Robben, who will be getting married to her fiancé, Tim Hankins, over the Christmas break! We wish Ms. Robben and Mr. Hankins a life together filled with abundant blessings, unwavering faith, and endless joy! Best wishes to both as they begin this exciting new chapter together!

PRAYER LIST:

Let us pray for world peace and the understanding that working together and getting along with each other at home can ripple out to the world...We pray to the Lord.

Let us pray for Jozie, Adam, Jacob and all who are suffering from major health issues of mind and body...We pray to the Lord.

And please keep in your prayers . . .

Ella Jackson has a lifelong friend, **Jack Higgins**, who passed away last week. Jack’s mother, Michelle, was also recently diagnosed with a Brain Tumor.

Nora Wirth's grandmother, Bonnie.

Izzy and Claire Schuchardt's grandfather, **George Demetrulias**.

Pam Kueker's grandmother.

The intentions of one another this holy season.

GOD ALWAYS SPEAKS TO US RIGHT WHERE WE ARE! Advent is an unbelievable story time of the year. Old people getting pregnant (Elizabeth), being struck dumb for not believing (Zachariah), angels, pregnancy out of wedlock, a Virgin birth – Our job is to get the point and believe. Faith is believing in the unbelievable! As St. Thomas Aquinas has stated so well “with faith, no explanation is necessary. Without faith, no explanation is possible.” It’s a time of year for Scripture fulfillment. A time to get right side up by turning the law upside down.

Gospel Lk 1:26-38

In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary.

And coming to her, he said, "Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you."

But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be.

Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.

Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his Kingdom there will be no end."

But Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?"

And the angel said to her in reply, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore, the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God.

And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren; for nothing will be impossible for God."

Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word."

Then the angel departed from her. The Gospel of the Lord!

And the first thing Mary does, though pregnant, is to leave to go help Elizabeth. Mary, our thread to the divine, the first Apostle, helps show us how to live!

A PERSONAL NOTE...It's been an honor and a privilege to return to Gibault for this past semester. I enjoyed serving, alongside Mr. Kish & Mr. Reuter, our students, staff, families, and friends. Even though my role will shift to supporting Gibault as the Associate Director of Education for the Diocese of Belleville and as a parent, I will remain committed to the success and growth of this special school! Thank you for all the support that you have shown me during my time at Gibault. I appreciate you all!

May this Christmas be your most blessed ever! Faith is the journey. May it last all our lives! Come Lord Jesus and be "God with us."

On behalf of the students and staff of Gibault Catholic High School, we wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Sarah Lanham

Principal

Gibault Catholic High School