



Scotus Central Catholic

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# The Scotus Way exemplifies excellence

By **Brea Lassek**  
Staff Reporter

From a seventh grader trying to sprint to class before the bell rings to a junior memorizing the periodic table, everyone at this school has one common identity: being an important part of the Scotus family. Scotus President Jeff Ohnoutka believes introducing this tradition from the moment of a student's arrival at Scotus is crucial. This year, Ohnoutka has tagged this as "The Scotus Way."

"As students come in as 7<sup>th</sup> graders from the three elementary schools, we teach them what is

considered to be the Scotus Way. It is that you work hard, have expectations for yourself, and that teachers have expectations for you," Ohnoutka explained.

The Scotus Way has been amplified this year more than ever with the addition of a sign outside Ohnoutka's office. In theory, it originated from the school's founding in 1884 with the key virtues such as grit, mental toughness, faith, community, and diversity. Last spring, each teacher was asked to contribute a word or phrase that represents Scotus. Among the words chosen, a few stood out to both faculty and students.

"Scotus strives for excellence in everything we do whether that is

through sports or academics," senior Konnor Kudron said.

Excellence has been a buzz word at Scotus that was made popular by former president Wayne Morfeld. Ohnoutka also agreed that excellence is shown by the success in academics, sports, and other activities.

The versatility and involvement of the students at Scotus make this excellence possible. Ninety-five percent of students participate in some kind of extracurricular activity according to the school profile.

"We have about 350 students. Everyone of them has some kind of gift or talent that adds to what we do. We would not be as complete or whole without every-

body trying to provide something to the mix," Ohnoutka said.

Because of its size, Scotus students are often involved in more than one activity unlike other schools. At Scotus, it is normal to be a multi-sport athlete and to also give time to the fine arts.

Besides activities, the Scotus Way involves students and staff constantly helping each other grow in a community of faith. As Scotus is the largest Catholic high school in Nebraska outside of Omaha or Lincoln, faith is an important aspect that is incorporated throughout the school day and at events.

"At Scotus, there is a genuine feeling of admiration and respect among the faculty, staff, and the stu-

dents. That respect leads to a deeper understanding that our mission is to get to heaven and to help each other achieve that as well," Ohnoutka explained. "So if you can buy into the Scotus Way and lay down those thoughts of 'What's in it for me?' you will find that your life is much more fulfilling because it's not just all about you."

This sense of community can be seen through the student section praying together after games, serving those in need as a group, and teachers supporting their students at their activities.

"The Scotus Way means that

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## Scotus spotlights service



HALLIE PARKER/YEARBOOK STAFF

Senior Caleb Kosch talks at the sophomore retreat about how to love themselves and others in a Christian way. The sophomore retreat was focused on a Theology of the Body.

By **Chloe Odbert**  
Staff Reporter

Over the past few years, the Scotus Central Catholic staff has been working to incorporate service more prominently into the Scotus regime. Service coordinator and Theology teacher Kelly Koranda has been working hard to shift the focus more onto service over the course of the last school year.

"We've kind of had a lot of conversations about it in the past with the Theology Department and Mr. Ohnoutka, but this year I had time in my schedule to help make it happen," Koranda said.

One of the new major advances was the change in the service hour process. Before the 2018-2019 school year, students had to physically hand in service hour papers to their Theology teacher. Now, they have the ability to enter all of the information online, which makes the process much easier on the staff and is beneficial to the students later in life. The program will allow the students access to a printable transcript of all their hours logged and the organizations that they did

them for.

"You don't have to worry about losing the papers, but it also puts a little bit more responsibility on the students to coordinate with their supervisors and them getting their hours turned in a timely manner," Koranda said. "From our end as teachers, it makes the process much quicker and easier. Before the change I had over 125 students this year which means that I would have easily had over 2000 papers to enter into the system throughout the year."

With the help of the new online system, Koranda can track the school wide hours, and she can continually get updates on the collective number of hours.

"So far, just the approved hours, the students have logged 1392 hours and 15 minutes. Even with that I had to not approve some kids' hours because they exceed their summer limit. As a school we've already done over 1300 hours of service just in this year," Koranda said.

Along with the alterations to the service hour system, the Theology department decided that 2018 was the year that the student retreats would have a clearer focus. Cam-

pus Ministry sponsor and school Chaplain, Father Matthew Capadano had a big part in making the changes to the student retreats

"I expressed to them how bored I get at the retreats, specifically the freshman, sophomore, and junior retreats. We have always talked about doing some form of a service project for one of the classes. We wanted to take them down to Omaha or Lincoln and have them experience really helping people in need." Father Capadano said.

This year, the junior class retreat's focal point was service. The junior class had the opportunity to head to Omaha, Nebraska for their retreat rather than going to Duncan, Nebraska. In Omaha, the students dispersed and did various service projects around the area. The students were spread across five locations: the Madonna School, St. Martin de Porres Center, Siena Francis House, Stephen Center, New Cassell Retirement Home, and Bethlehem House.

"At the beginning, some of the juniors were not very happy

## Sack lunches make their debut

By **Liza Zaruba**  
Staff Reporter

Sack lunches made their way into the Scotus lunch room this school year for the first time in Scotus' history.

"I like to bring a sack lunch because I can eat what I want and decide on the amount I get to eat," seventh-grader Frank Fehringer said.

Sack lunches were implemented after many new regulations and reforms were placed on the school lunch program last year. The idea originated from the Scotus student council members. It was not an overnight creation though. The process to create, approve, and implement the sack lunch program took months to finally complete. The Scotus student council members first brought the idea to Scotus president Jeff Ohnoutka. It was from there that Holly Bettenhausen, the food service director, and the school board were informed about the idea to give their input and recommendations. Then, research was conducted to figure out how other schools were running their school lunch programs with the inclusion of sack lunches.

"I probably looked at four or five other schools to see how it impacted their budget and how they set it up within the cafeteria. Then, as a school, we had to figure out how we were going to take atten-

dance for who was going to eat that day," Ohnoutka said.

Since the sack lunches have been incorporated into the lunch program, the cafeteria staff has been challenged with deciding on the correct number of portions to make that week for the lunches. Many people do not realize that the cafeteria staff must begin defrosting ingredients a few days in advance, which poses a problem when they do not yet know the amount of food they need to make. Nevertheless, Bettenhausen is pleased with her staff, and all of their hard work and dedication does not go unnoticed.

"Everybody's taking on a lot more work than they've done in the past," Bettenhausen said. "I know they go home a lot more tired than they used to, but everybody is taking it very well."

Students vary from bringing their sack lunch from about once a week to every day. The students that bring their sack lunch have many reasons for doing so. Some are due to physical allergies, while others simply enjoy the option to bring whatever they want to eat that day.

"I want to feel fresh and energized for my activities," senior Abe Perault said. "I don't want to be tired for the football game."

Ham sandwiches and carrot sticks are not the only foods you will find within the sack lunches of students. Instead, Scotus students

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LIZA ZARUBA/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Senior Maddie Suepper enjoys a salad that she brought in her sack lunch. The sack lunch program was added to the cafeteria this year for the first time in school history.

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SERVICE

about not having their retreat in Duncan. Then they went," Father Capadano said. "The majority of the responses and the feedback we as sponsors got were positive."

The Campus Ministry sponsors decided that perhaps the other two class retreats should also have a focus. They decided to have themes to the retreats.

"We decided to, in a way, theme the freshmen and sophomore retreats this year so that they had more of a purpose rather than simply being the same thing three years over and over and over again. We wanted to do something different that would be beneficial to the students," Father Capadano stated.

The sophomore retreat's focus was pointed towards student discovery. This year, the students heard talks and

broke into small groups to discover more about themselves and where they wanted to go in life.

The freshmen retreat is now aimed toward prayer and the importance of prayer life. Through the freshmen retreat, Campus Ministry is hoping to help the freshmen to better understand the essential aspects of prayer.

The Theology department is looking forward to seeing the students continue to grow in their faith while adapting to these changes. The staff looks to continue to shift the events and retreats to have a faith-filled focus that the students will have personal gain through.

"I think that the more we encourage the students to push their limits, I think that overall as a school we will also grow in our faith," Koranda concluded.

SCOTUS

our school is one community, because our way is always together," freshman Chloe Walker said.

The Scotus Way has grown through its tradition, and Ohnoutka does not anticipate anything less than the best in the future.

"We have traditions that we graduate people out and somebody comes right in and fills those positions," Ohnoutka concluded. "That's what we do and that's what we stand for. That's the Scotus Way."



BREA LASSEK/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Seventh graders Mary Faltys, Kensey Micek, Neve Pavlik, and Addison Schoenfelder sit on a bench in front of the new Scotus Way sign. The sign was created by Mr. Ohnoutka this year to display the Scotus Way, the school's core values.

LUNCHES

have been getting creative bringing all sorts of unexpected lunch options.

"I pack a spinach salad stuffed inside pita pouches and quinoa," junior Brea Lassek said.

About thirty students bring their sack lunch every day, which is around ten percent of the student body. Still, that leaves the remainder of the student body eating the hot lunch provided by the school every day.

"I do believe that it is a great addition to the lunch program, but I don't think that it's for me because I simply do not have the time or effort to create a meal for myself," junior Cole Demuth said.

No matter if the students are eating sack lunches or the lunches provided, Bettenhausen is always working in the students' best interests.

"As long as the kids are happy, that's what it's

all about," Bettenhausen said. "If they're happy, I'm happy."

The sack lunch program has opened students up to new options available at lunch for the first time ever in school history.

"I think our new sack lunch program is great," Ohnoutka said. "This is just another example of our student council coming up with a good idea that worked for our school."

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# Dating defined differently



By Brea Lassek  
Staff Reporter

A girl has been talking to her crush consistently for weeks. They are each other's best friends on Snapchat, and their streak finally reached one hundred. At the last volleyball game, he asked to take a picture with her, and he posted it! Her nosy classmate in Algebra asks if they are dating. Her face turns as red as the roses she wishes he would give her. Panicking, she re-

plies, "No, we're just talking."

From asking for someone's home phone number to adding them on Snapchat instead, the culture of dating has changed dramatically with the increase of technology. Couples today have strayed away from traditions set by past generations. This includes communicating through text, going on different kinds of dates, and not always defining a clear dating status.

However, I believe we should not be satisfied with the 21<sup>st</sup> Century version of dating. Too often, the use of technology to foster a relationship leads to those involved being confused about where they stand with the other person.

The biggest game changer for relationships has been the increase of texting instead of face to face contact. This allows someone to hide behind a screen and establish a false sense of connection. They talk in person and find

out they just are not meant to date. It can also be difficult to interpret exactly what a text means. Girls screenshot the texts and send them to their group chats for everyone's opinion on what his emoji means or what his tone is. Skip the misunderstanding and call each other instead.

When our grandparents met each other, there was a definite etiquette for both the man and woman to follow. The man would ask a girl on a date in person, pick her up, meet her parents, take her to a public setting, and pay for her. If he was feeling extra daring, he would give her a quick kiss at her doorstep. Now, "Netflix and Chill" is the most popular date. This type of date lacks the chivalry and respect needed in a healthy relationship.

The problem is we have lost the art of the real date as a generation. Simply hanging out with each other is often considered as a date. I have nothing against this after a couple has been

with each other for a decent amount of time, but for the first couple of dates, only "hanging out" can cause problems as it confuses both parties on whether the other is interested or just wanting to be friends.

This disrespectful lack of clarity is modeled even further with the popular terms of "talking" and "things."

"So are they dating?"

"No, they are just a thing." One of my friends pointed out the word "thing" is also given to something on the bottom of your shoe. It is also the word English teachers ask you to replace because of its lack of descriptiveness. By using this terminology to also describe a relationship, it suggests it is not important. However, this is not the case as relationships with others are our main motivation for living. Without them, we would have no reason to get up in the morning and work our hardest.

In no way am I imply-

ing technology is awful and that we should resort back to typewriters. Technology can be incredibly beneficial in connecting us with each other, but only if we use it the right way. It should not replace face to face interaction but can be useful to get to know each other more.

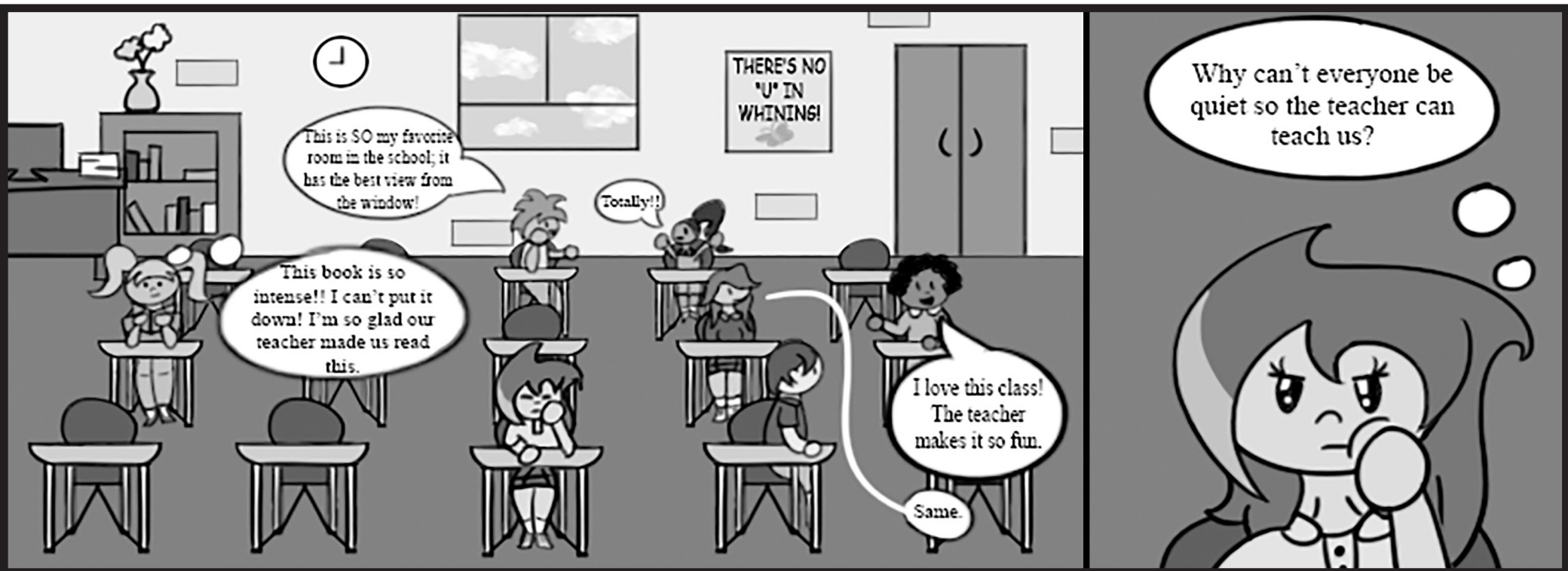
Although times are drastically different than generations past, our values dealing with relationships should remain the same. Being with your significant other in person should be the number one goal, and texting should be a nice alternative.

Mix up the cycle of hanging out and plan actual dates. Although high school students cannot afford to constantly do this, vary dates between "hanging out" and finding a unique activity to do. They can be as inexpensive as having a picnic in your backyard or cooking a new recipe together. With practice, it will be easier to define what your relationship status is.

Some of you may be thinking, no commitment equals no problems. In reality, this mindset creates a load of unnecessary confusion. People are led on and more heartbreak occurs. If you cannot handle the responsibility of being in a relationship and only want to be "things" with people, communicate your intentions and step aside.

On the other hand, do not settle for only being a "thing." If someone wants to be with you, they will not give you any doubts. Defining your status shows maturity and commitment. If you do not feel comfortable with doing so, you are not ready to date.

The culture of dating shifted dramatically into its nontraditional ways, but they can reverse just as easily. We need to make the conscious choice to reconstruct the dating culture our generation has broken for ourselves and our future children.



# Giving credit where it is due



By Callan Fuchser  
Staff Reporter

In this day and age, everyone likes to complain about school. You name it, we find a way to complain about it. For instance, the teachers. We all have that teacher at school who gave us a sense of PTSD after

leaving their class. The one who cared more about how we did on a test than we did, and the one with everything coming out of their mouth making perfect sense. Like in a crazy whirlwind way, it just clicked.

Teachers in general put in more hours than anyone would like to keep track of. At Scotus, several put in so much time and effort, it's under appreciated by most.

Connections with students are key. One teacher at Scotus who displays this with utter passion is chemistry teacher Jane Dusel-Misfeldt. Every morning, since the beginning of time it seems, she is there bright and early to assist students on lessons like titration and electron configurations. Mrs. Dusel rips chemistry problems apart to the bare bones to truly un-

derstand what is being taught. She modifies the problems to suit you, while still providing that one on one time to make you feel like learning this concept is the most important thing in the world to her. If ever in a bind, the excuse "Life Happens" works with her. She wants you to succeed just as much as you do. As far as I know, no other teacher in our school allows the excuse of "Life Happening" to be an excuse to not take a test or quiz. Mrs. Dusel is just awesome.

Teachers put in hundreds of hours each year helping students. The amount of time put in by teachers is never fully accounted for. Mrs. Blaser is a perfect example of this. She is here every morning to practice problems with the thirty or so students who come in begging for

help. She also takes time out of her plan period to assist any students in need. Her study hall seems to also be a place where quizzes and retakes are taken. However, Mrs. Blaser doesn't have to do any of this. Could she use her study hall or plan period to catch up on grading and lesson plans? Of course, but she doesn't. Although she can yell, it all comes from the heart. In the end, she just wants to see you succeed.

A solid 95% of our Scotus student population participates in multiple extracurricular activities. Along with students, teachers are often associated with these in some way or another. Mr. Linder is a flawless example of this. If you have ever taken one of his classes in the Fall, you know he lives, eats, and breathes football. If we

actually calculated how much time and effort he put into coaching our football team, it would easily top 40 hours a week. That is insane. In the spring, he continues to coach Jr. High Track all while being a part of the Catholicity committee. Through all of these activities, he puts being a teacher first. You can always count on him to drop everything he's doing to answer a student's question or explain how to do something. Mr. Linder is a huge component to the success of athletes in the weight room. His knowledge and expertise helps students feel stronger and more confident. Although he commits a huge portion of his time to Scotus, Coach Linder makes time for his growing family. He is a busy man who prioritizes and seems to carve out the right amount of time

for everything.

Like it or not, not all teachers are this awesome. Do we have enough teachers going above and beyond, rather than what seems like the bare minimum? In our school, yes. Of the twenty nine teachers, all of them want to see us succeed. If we actually take into account and appreciate how much time and effort teachers put in, imagine how that could inspire future students to become teachers in generations to come.

So next time, voice your appreciation. Thank that teacher for the extra mile they are going. They care about us a lot more than we give them credit.

# Make the lunch not about the sack



By Mariana Valedéz-Ortiz  
Staff Reporter

This past year members of the student council did a great job taking action so that all students could bring their own sack lunches. Now that it's done, it is our time to fight together for the well-being of our environment. Having the opportunity to bring sack lunches is great, but I have noticed that this has been causing more ways for students to make unnecessary waste. Most students are bringing their food in plastic bags instead of using reusable containers, and they are not realizing how that can negatively affect marine life and environment.

When I first heard that

students would be able to bring sack lunches, I got extremely excited. What I did not realize when I heard the news was how this would negatively affect the amount of waste that the school produces. I did not think that students would choose to use plastic bags instead of reusable plastic containers. For me the easiest thing to do has always been using reusable containers.

Plastic waste is harmful to marine life. Most of the plastic that is being used ends up in the ocean, and the marine animals are the ones paying for the consequences. Plastic debris has chemicals

in it that can poison wildlife if ingested. Plastic pollution is also affecting the habitats of those animals. Animals in the ocean can no longer enjoy the oceans because they are ending up trapped in all the plastic waste humans are producing.

Some people might say that using reusable containers might not be as practical as using plastic bags, but being practical might be the end of our environment. Yes, it is easy to get home and throw away the plastic bags and everything else we used to pack our lunch in, but reusable containers do not take a lot of time to clean. In the long run,

using reusable containers also saves money.

Currently there are various containers people can buy to pack their lunches. There are containers that people can put into the dishwasher. That way people do not even have to wash them. There are also cloth bags that people can use instead of plastic bags. You can buy something plain, or something that has color. There are many options you can choose from. Other ways people can reduce waste is by buying bigger sizes of the food they like. For example, if you like yogurt, do not buy the individual cups, buy the big

containers instead, and put it in your own reusable cup.

The decision is yours, to use reusable containers or not. But I do not see why you should not make the easy decision of just going to the store and buying a few containers. Another reason why you should take action is that you can make a difference in how many years we get to live in this beautiful planet. Lastly, the biggest benefit of doing these things is that you might help save the lives of marine animals, and I do not know anyone who would not like to save the lives of some animals.



# Rall boots up STEAM classes

By Tara Kamrath  
Staff Reporter

Technology plays a large part in today's world. People use it every day, from checking the time to communication. This year, Scotus had an opportunity to add a class regarding advanced technology. Those wanting to learn more when it comes to computers and robotics can now take STEAM courses.

Being welcomed alongside the new STEAM classes, Mrs. Betsy Rall has made a new home at Scotus. Rall has granted students the opportunity to work with more technical assignments as she takes up her position as the STEAM coordinator.

"I had a conversation with Mr. Ohnoutka and Mrs. Rusher about their need for some other classes that provided working robotics or something technical," Rall said. "Our conversation just led to me getting the idea of being the STEAM instructor here."

STEAM is an acronym

for Science Technology Engineering Arts and Mathematics. Though there is not a college major for this, there are still careers that incorporate STEAM. Rall had to "build a curriculum from the ground up" due to there not being set classes, but so far, the students seem able to keep up with it.

"The students are more capable than the lessons made them be," Rall said. "Next time I give this assignment I'm going to make it the more complicated version... I was really impressed by that. To me it's a signal that I can assign really difficult projects, and I think that they will get done, no problem."

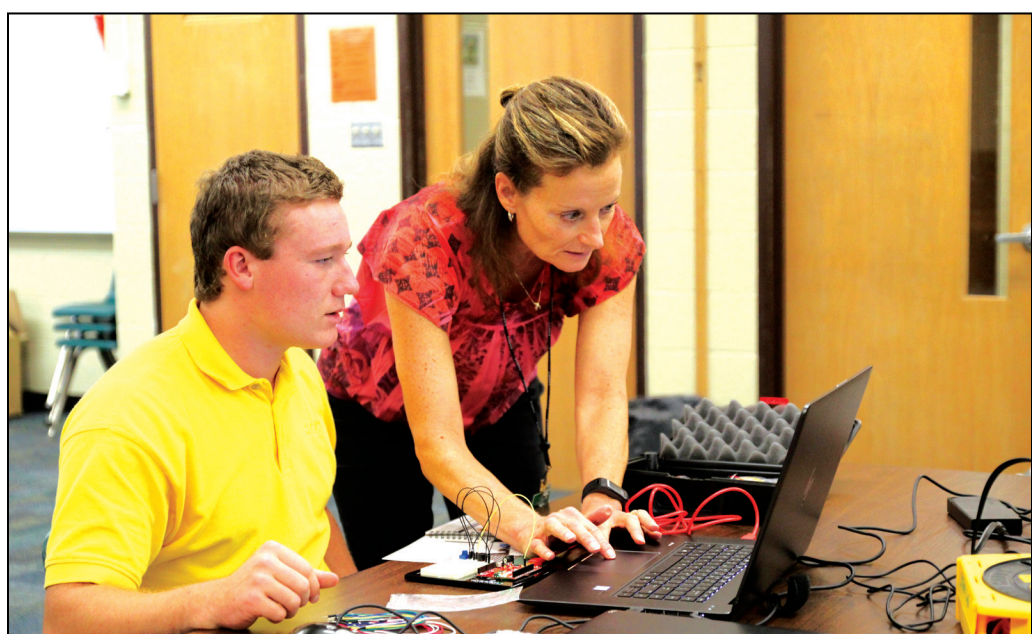
This year, Rall has two classes regarding the STEAM program: STEAM I and STEAM Coordination. She has high hopes for their futures.

"My vision for the classes here would be for most of the work that we do every day to be hands on, so we're doing something and not just reading out of a book or reading something

online, but actually doing, creating, working, and have all those lessons be affiliated with some sort of business or industry in town so that they have meaning," Rall said. "I also hope that the STEAM program lends itself for job shadowing opportunities so that students here can spend half a day out of class and go visit an industry. I think that is on the horizon."

Before acquiring a job at Scotus, Rall worked at Central Community College, teaching Calculus III, Differential Equations, and Intermediate Algebra. However, Rall now finds herself teaching a subject involving more than mathematics.

"I have a background where I have done some summer camps with students that have involved industries here [in Columbus]," Rall said. "In the STEAM position here, I feel confident that I can have industry help or get industries' input into helping the students in the STEAM class get to know Columbus a little bit and kind of get an idea of what kind of occu-



ANGIE RUSHER/JOURNALISM ADVISOR

**New teacher Betsy Rall helps senior Braden Labenz with his circuit board in STEAM. Rall previously taught Calculus III, Differential Equations, and Intermediate Algebra at Central Community College.**

pations are out there for any STEAM careers."

Rall has been to college three times – South Dakota School of Mines and Technology, Metropolitan State University of Denver, and University of Nebraska-Lincoln – and has lived in several places in her lifetime,

including Kearney, Nebraska, and near Johannesburg, South Africa, until she settled in Columbus, Nebraska, in 1995. She admires Columbus' abundance in industry and how "those businesses and industries are so willing to help in education". Finding herself working as a teacher

at Scotus only lengthens her list of experiences.

"I am grateful for this position at Scotus," Rall concluded. "I've really enjoyed getting to know the students a little bit and watching how everyone interacts. This is a special place with good people."

# Discernment leads Ackermann to teaching



ABE PERAULT/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

**New English teacher Bree Ackermann helps junior Tyler Palmer as he writes in his journal for English 11 class. Ackermann is also an assistant coach for the girls volleyball team.**

By Abe Perault  
Staff Reporter

In today's world deciding on a job or vocation can be difficult considering there are so many choices.

For Scotus' new English teacher Bree Ackermann, she took her decision to prayer. "My sophomore year of high school, I was praying about being a Sunday school teacher, and I just received a lot of grace through that and

discerned that yes I do want to teach," explained Ackermann. "It was an overwhelming sense of peace and joy that came out of it." From that point, Ackerman thought she wanted to teach at the elementary level,

but after her first class it was apparent that that was not for her.

"I got to college and the very first lesson that they taught in intro to elementary 101 was how to teach kids to blow their noses... and that is when I decided I didn't want to teach elementary," Ackermann said.

It was difficult for her to come to a decision what to do next considering she has a great love for both history and science as well, but with a little help from her teammates, she figured out that English would be the subject for her.

"I was reading *The Count of Monte Cristo* on the volleyball bus and so I had a couple teammates that were like, you should be an English teacher because you love to read," Ackermann explained. "It's kind of a lame story, but that's how I became an English teacher."

Ackermann grew up in Lincoln and graduated from Pius X High School in 2014.

Never intending to leave Lincoln, Ackermann was told about the job opening from one of her good friends who just happens to be the Scotus President Jeff Ohnoutka's own daughter, Kristen.

"I said I'd apply, I'll be courteous, and I got here, and I loved it. I loved everything, the traditions, just everything. I fell in love at first sight," Ackermann said.

Ackermann, who attended Wayne State college, has joined the Scotus family. Not only to teach English though, an assistant volleyball coach under head coach Janet Tooley.

"I always wanted to coach. I coached in college over the summer with the club team. It's my dream job," Ackermann commented.

At both Wayne State and Pius, Ackermann played the libero position in volleyball.

As for how teaching is going for her, she loves it! She has few problems, but the ones she does have she is

grateful for.

"My worst problem is trying to contain my eight graders because they are so energized, and that's the best problem to have. They just love to learn! I just love the Catholic school environment," Ackermann said.

Ackermann is enthusiastic about her time at Scotus and is looking forward to her classes and the many events that the student body participates in.

"I'm just super excited to see what this year brings. Right off the bat, I'm super excited for homecoming! I love seeing your school spirit, and your student section is amazing. I'm excited to see what we get out of American Literature Class. We are going to have some really hard conversations, but I know that there is going to be a lot of take-aways there, so I'm excited for that too," Ackermann concluded.

# Sheridan stretches Shamrocks

By Julia Salerno  
Staff Reporter

From taping ankles to carrying cramping boys off the football field, athletic trainers are always busy helping with the needs of all the athletes at Scotus. Andrew Sheridan is the new athletic trainer for all activities at Scotus. He was employed through the Columbus Community Hospital and was directed towards the position of athletic trainer here at Scotus.

Sheridan grew up in the small town of Sutton, Nebraska. He graduated from Sutton Public High School in 2011 and then continued his education at the University of Nebraska-Omaha. Sheridan earned his Bachelor of Science in Athletic Training in 2015.

Sheridan moved from Lincoln to Columbus this past summer to take his new job.

"Columbus Community Hospital has a great reputation, and, being involved in

athletic training, I knew the athletic training staff consisted of very highly-regarded professionals who are very involved within the profession, as well as the community and each of their schools. That is something that I was very drawn to, and I wanted to be part of their team because I share those same values," Sheridan said.

Sheridan was previously employed by an orthopedics practice in Lincoln, which gave him the opportunity to be the athletic trainer for Norris High School. He was employed by them for the 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 years.

The transition from such a large school like Norris to a small school creates lots of differences and more learning experiences.

"In my previous job, I would work in the clinic in the mornings with the physicians during their clinics when they saw patients, and then in the afternoon I would go to the school for the rest of the day to provide services

for practices and games," Sheridan said. "Whereas here in Columbus, I am fortunate to have the ability to put my focus towards Scotus and provide excellent health care to the student-athletes

**"Whereas here in Columbus, I am fortunate to have the ability to put my focus towards Scotus and provide excellent health care to the student-athletes here."**

~Andrew Sheridan

here." Only being here for about five months, Sheridan has already had a memorable time as a part of the Scotus family. "The very first football game versus Aquinas was talked about all summer long, how it is a rivalry game and



BLANEY DREIFURST/YEARBOOK STAFF

**New athletic trainer Andrew Sheridan irrigates sophomore football player Simon Schumacher's eye during the football game on Friday, September 14th. Sheridan is employed by the Columbus Community Hospital and previously worked for Norris High School.**

both programs have a history of being very successful, and that no matter what, it seemed like each year the game was close and came down to the final minutes of the fourth quarter." Sheridan added, "It was a hard-fought game by both teams, and between the two teams, they

probably could have set a state record for the number of times players cramped in a game."

Sheridan does not only help the football team, but he also helps at volleyball games. He will also attend to all other Scotus athletics following the fall sports

throughout the spring.

Sheridan concluded, "I have enjoyed getting to know the staff and listening to all of the stories they have about the history of the town and their great teams and individuals who have come and gone over the years."



# Exchange students find homes in Scotus community

By Liza Zaruba  
Staff Reporter

The arrival of new foreign exchange students is one of the most looked forward to events of the year for Scotus students.

Over the years, exchange students have been known to bring not only entertainment to Scotus students but also a new perspective of the world. Students have learned from them, but more than that, foreign exchange students have become some of their greatest friends. This year is no exception with Scotus' two new foreign exchange students: Prim Suchanya and Jurarut Lin.

Both girls are from Thailand but have come to Scotus this year as two new members of the junior class. Despite being from nearly halfway around the world, they have managed to find their home away from home here in Columbus. Suchanya is staying with Beth and Kent Carstens, whose children include 2018 graduate, Emily, junior Molly, and eighth

grader Isaac. Suchanya has thoroughly enjoyed her host family so far, and she is appreciative of everything they have done for her.

"They have cared for me as well as my family," Suchanya said.

Lin has also loved her host family so far, which is Emily Mach and her family.

"They were caring, warm, and like being with my real family," Lin said.

The process of becoming a foreign exchange student is no easy feat, but the chance at the opportunities it provides makes the entire process worth it.

"When I had the opportunity to exchange, I'm happy to find new experiences, learn new things, and bring the knowledge that I have to learn and develop myself," Lin said.

The girls are looking to make the most of this opportunity by not allowing a single moment to pass them by without learning and absorbing all the new information around them.

"I want to improve my English skill and learn the culture of America," Suchan-

ya said.

America is unlike any other country on earth, and the girls have definitely experienced this culture shock from the people, food, and even the school systems.

"The most that has impacted me is school," Lin says. "It was very difficult for me the first time because Scotus is very different from Thailand school."

Despite the challenge of getting acclimated to a whole new life in America, both girls have said they have enjoyed their time greatly so far in the Scotus community and are excited about the new prospects ahead.

"I'm most looking forward this year to the experience of life," Suchanya said.

Lin also has many hopes for this year.

"[I hope for] new friends, a new society, new experiences, new knowledge, and a new culture." Lin added, "I want to have a lot of fun and some exciting times."

Lin and Suchanya join returning foreign exchange students Gary He, Tommy Yu, and Hanna Doan.



LIZA ZARUBA/ ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Junior foreign exchange students Prim Suchanya and Jurarut Lin pose in elephant-print pants, which are a popular fashion trend in Thailand. Both girls arrived in America at the beginning of the school year and are excited for what this year has in store.

# Classes bring new opportunities

By Cameron Johnston  
Staff Reporter

As the end of the 2017-2018 school year came to a close, new courses appeared for the sophomores, juniors,

and seniors to choose from. When the current 2018-2019 school year began the new classes came into effect along

with new instructors to teach them. Tyler Swanson is one of the instructors for multiple of the new classes available.

"The new technology in my classes include new, very powerful computers, a 3-D printer, and all new cameras with lights, backdrops, and sound equipment," Mr. Swanson said.

Along with these classes new technology has accompanied them to maximize the knowledge gained. Due to the new technology classes, the sophomores now have more than one option to fulfill their required computer technology course. The new options are Computer Aided Design and Computer Science. These new classes help to create a more diverse choice for students.

"I think it's a really good idea because some students are not interested in creating a business, like how I did in [Computer Business Applications] last year," Swanson said.

Other new classes of-

ferred this year are STEAM, Graphic Design, Video Production, and Theology and Art.

The struggles of teaching a new class with a new curriculum is already challenging, but it's increased if the person is also a new teacher. Mrs. Betsy Rall is the instructor for the STEAM class.

An interesting fact about STEAM is that it does not, at this time, have a curriculum. What this means is that Rall has complete control over what she teaches and what the students want to learn.

"The main goal of STEAM students is to understand the meanings of STEAM, which is Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics, But also, Soft skills, Traditional academics, entrepreneurial, articulation, and meaning," Rall said.

The new Video Production class has plans in the future to take control of tasks that are done by faculty such as the daily announcements.

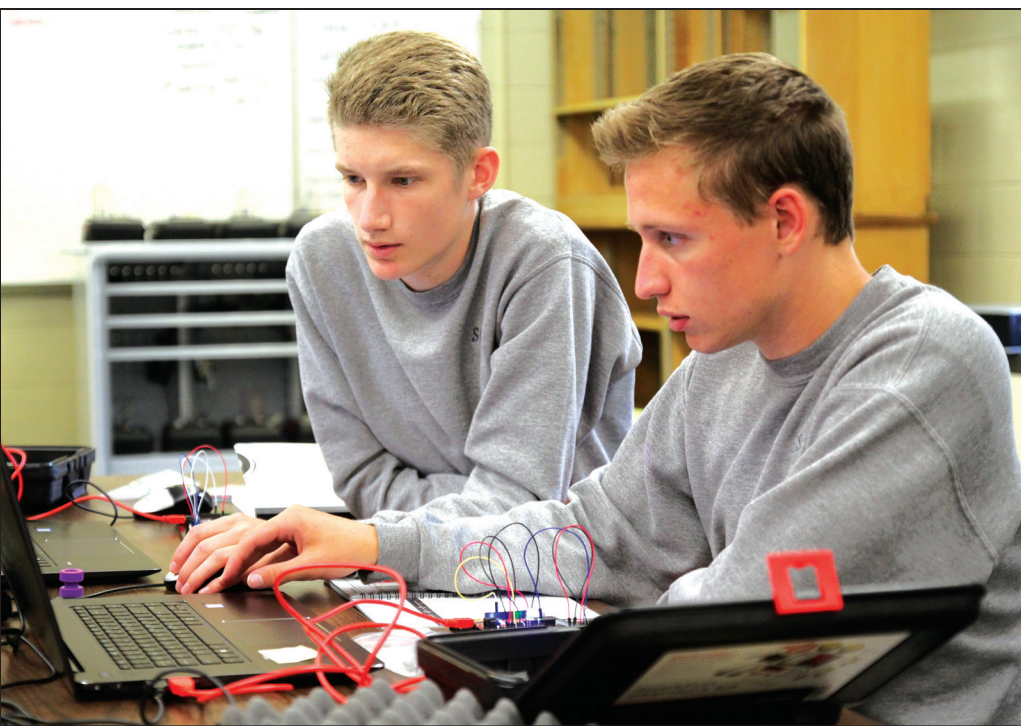
These classes bring new opportunities to students with an interest in technology and visual arts.

"Students in Video Production should learn how to work on a deadline and, at some point, come in every morning to work on the daily announcements," Swanson said.

Many students feel that these new classes better prepare them for college and possibly what they want to do after college. Statistics is a math class that also helps high school students to fulfill the required four years of math at Scotus and many colleges.

Sophomore Ben Merrill is a part of the Computer Aided Design class and is excited about the possibilities for this class affecting his future.

"[The new classes are a good addition] because if you want to go into something like architecture, for instance, then Computer Aided Design is a very good class to be in," Merrill said.



ANGIE RUSHER/ JOURNALISM ADVISOR

Seniors Sam Blaser and Lucas Schaecher work to complete their circuit in STEAM class. STEAM class, along with Computer Aided Design (CAD), Graphic Design, and Video Production, are new elective classes for the 2018-2019 school year.

# MC, Locker room receive updates

By Elliott Thomazin  
Editor

While students were busy enjoying their summer breaks, Scotus was busy getting ready for the new year. The school has undergone some noticeable changes since the last school year. Two of the most prominent changes to the Scotus facilities include the media center and boys locker room redesigns.

The media center has been turning heads due to the addition of a new glass room. Media center specialist Cathy Podliska thinks that the new area will allow new possibilities for Scotus students.

"We have a place that can be monitored for students or I can observe, or students can use to videotape or practice a skit. We've had Teammates in, and they can use that as well when it's not nice outside," Podliska said.

Thanks to the funds donated to the 2018 Gala, the metal floor to ceiling shelves in the back of the room were also removed. Without the hulking shelves, new tables

and chairs were able to fit into the media center as well as allowing the space to feel much more open.

The media center is also planning on going digital. Podliska is working on allowing students to rent books that can be read on their devices.

"One of the other things that you can't see but that's in progress is that we'll have access to Overdrive so we'll have electronic books as well. Similar to what you can get at the public library," Podliska said.

Although the redesign isn't quite finished, Podliska is confident in the new utility of the media center.

"Hopefully I can work with teachers. We now have more space to do that. It's not so cramped," Podliska said.

The media center isn't the only space to be redesigned. The boys locker room has a lot more than a fresh coat of paint this fall. Maintenance staff member Joe Schoenfelder has been hard at work making multiple improvements to the locker room.

"We put in new rubber

flooring and took out the carpet flooring. We added 96 new lockers. We took out the old football lockers that were all beaten up and falling apart to make a separate Jr. High locker room," Schoenfelder said.

The redesign has been in the works for the past year. The additional lockers were part of the plan from the start.

"We have enough girl lockers, but not exactly enough for the boys. If every boy wanted to do PE or sports, we will have a locker plus extras," Schoenfelder said.

The funds, which were raised in an alumni golf tournament, will also go toward new floorboards, ceiling fans, and an exhaust fan to improve circulation in the boys locker room.

Thousands of dollars go into improving the Scotus facilities each year to make sure that Scotus can promote excellence. Scotus will continue to improve their building as this year's Annual Appeal will be going to new lights, furniture, and paint in classrooms throughout the building.



ANGIE RUSHER/JOURNALISM ADVISOR

Seniors Colby Gilson, Carter Thorson, Cameron Johnston, and Jackson Neville enjoy the new high tables in the Media Center. The updates were purchased with the finds from the 2018 Scotus Gala.



# Cross country cruises to victories

By Cameron Johnston  
Staff Reporter

The boys and girls cross country teams are both coming off rather successful seasons. This year the girls are returning state team medalists with one individual medalist. Though the boys' team did not qualify, but junior Elliott Thomazin earned invaluable experience that he can apply to his final season of cross country. The Scotus cross country teams hold one of the best winning records in Scotus athletics history and will continue their historic seasons this year.

"I think all of us have been looking forward to another chance to prove ourselves at state," senior Kelsey Faust said.

The girls finished the season last year fourth at state with senior Kelsey Faust medaling 14<sup>th</sup> place.

"My favorite meet is the state meet. The atmosphere at the meet is indescribable, it's a meet that you have to attend in order to fully appreciate

cross country," Thomazin said.

The boys' and girls' teams have competed at five meets. The girls' team has only lost to one team, but have defeated 81. The teams have had an abundance of practice at the UNK Meet due to two prior meets there. This practice will help them to compete at state because they are at the same course. The girls' team brought home a championship from the UNK meet on Monday September 24<sup>th</sup>.

"I have looked forward to running at state with my bros. I am very confident that we will make it this year," junior Tyler Vaught said.

The boys' team will also be competing soon at the district meet and have high hopes for their chance on a state qualification. Last year the girls' team was slowed because frequent injuries that inhibited their ability to have the depth of athletes they needed to cap off their season with a state championship.

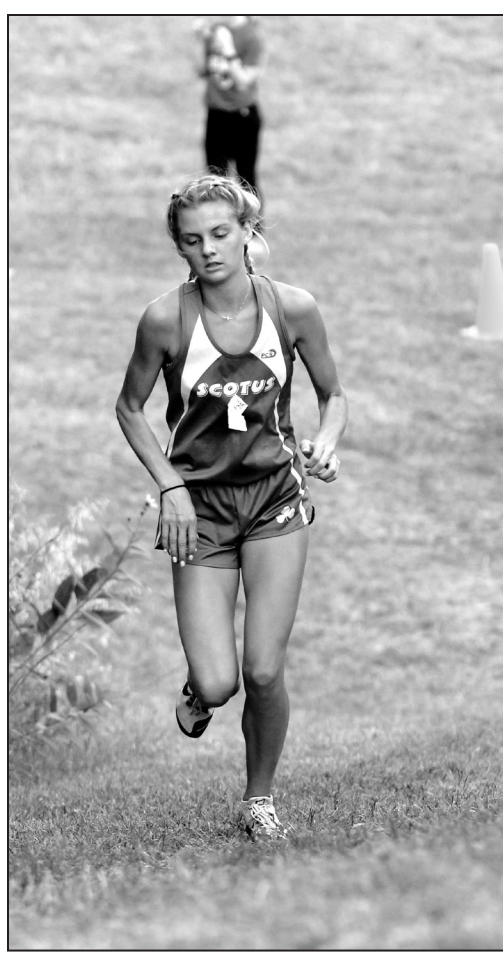
"Last year, my injury

limited me to only running at three meets, so my goal this year has been to enjoy running healthy with my second family. My teammates have pushed me to my recovery," junior Brea Lassek said.

The boys' team were victorious at the Boone Central Invite on September 24<sup>th</sup>, being led by senior Elliott Thomazin who won the meet. Thomazin has also won the Scotus Invite. Even after all the victories this season the girls are still working to improve their times.

"The girls' team simply needs to work on going faster. Our split between the top four girls is great, and in the words of Mr. Lahm 'We just need to get faster,'" junior Liza Zaruba said.

The cross country teams will be competing at the district meet on Thursday, October 11<sup>th</sup>. Districts will be held at the Boone Central course. The state meet will continue its tradition being held at the Kearney Country Club golf course on Friday, October 19<sup>th</sup>.



CAMERON JOHNSTON/ ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

(left) Senior Kelsey Faust charges "The Wall" at their home invite on September 13<sup>th</sup>. The girls' team finished second. (right) Sophomore Michael Gasper extends his lead in the season opener at the Schuyler dual.

# Shamrocks battle consistency



EMMA BRANDT/ YEARBOOK STAFF

Senior Bailey Lehr tips the ball over the net against Aquinas defender. The Shamrocks will play Bishop Neumann this Thursday in the Dowd Activity Center.

By Abe Perault  
Staff Reporter

The Scotus girls' volleyball team's season is in full swing, but a new season brings new challenges and excitement to the 10-5 Sham-

rock team.

"So far, it has been quite a journey already. We have had some really high highs and some very low lows,"

junior setter Chloe Odbert explained. "We are really working hard to end up back on top, so hopefully we can settle into the next couple of weeks and show off all our hard work we put in."

Scotus opened their season against Concordia where they lost to the Mustangs in 3 sets. Three days later the Shamrocks played in the Shamrock Invite. To start their day, the girls beat the Lakeview Vikings in two sets. The Shamrocks played Hartington Cedar Catholic next, with a 2-1 win over the Trojans which sent them into the championship against Bishop Neumann. The Shamrocks took the first set, while the Cavaliers took the second. Then in the final set Bishop Neumann won the game with a set score 27-25.

"I am looking forward to playing Bishop Neumann again," senior hitter Julia Salerno said. "I hope that we can redeem ourselves and beat them during the regular season and conference."

After the narrow loss to

Neumann, the Shamrocks rallied back the following week to sweep the Wayne Blue Devils. That same weekend, Scotus traveled to Omaha to compete in the Omaha Bryan Tournament. The team had three games on both Friday and Saturday. They did not lose a set, sweeping the likes of Lincoln High, Omaha North, Omaha Northwest, and Fremont.

"Playing in the Omaha Bryan Tournament has been the most memorable moment this season. We played well as a team and won the tournament. It's always fun playing in it," senior backrow specialist Abbie Zoucha said.

The Shamrocks lost their next three games, losing to both Aquinas and Lincoln Christian in 5 sets and getting swept in three sets by GICC.

After losing three straight, the general consensus among the team is that they need consistency. This led into the Shamrocks preparation for Lakeview. To the team, the atmosphere at Lakeview is great.

"I look forward to playing Lakeview because it's always a lot of fun. There is always a rivalry, which just makes the game more competitive and exciting," junior backrow specialist Lauren Ostdiek commented.

The Shamrocks swept their crosstown rivals in three sets at the Lady Vikes home court.

"The Lakeview game was a big stepping stone for us. We hope that those Shamrocks show up for the rest of the games this season," Odbert said.

Scotus placed second in the Columbus Classic tournament and went 1-2 in the Conference Tournament.

The Shamrocks will play this Thursday, October 11<sup>th</sup> in the Dowd Activity Center at 7:15 when they take on the Bishop Neumann Cavaliers.

"I know that it may not seem like it right now, but we have a lot of potential to be a great team. Hopefully we can work through this and show people what we can really do," Salerno concluded.

# Shamrocks upset top teams

By Julia Salerno  
Staff Reporter

Through rain, shine, heat, cold, and lots of cramping, the Shamrock football team continues to strive to improve their season record.

The Scotus football team started off their season with a huge win against longtime rivals the Aquinas Catholic Monarchs. The Monarchs were defeated 23-21 on August 24<sup>th</sup>.

Sophomore running back Tyler Palmer said, "We felt great because they were ranked preseason number two, and the Aquinas versus Scotus game is always one of the best of the year."

By starting off the season with the big win, the Shamrocks went into their next games with high hopes but fell short of those expectations. The Shamrocks competed through their next three games against Central City, West Point-Beemer, and Pierce, but fell short of victory. The Scotus football team lost to Central City 20-28.

After the loss to Central City, the Shamrocks traveled to Pierce to battle the Blue Jays.

They played but could not pull out a win losing 21-59.

Senior running back Braden Labenz said, "The Pierce game was my favorite game so far because nobody gave up, and I think that we came closer as a team after that."

After the game at Pierce, the Shamrock football team played West Point-Beemer on their home turf in hopes of scoring a victory. Despite scoring 21 points in the fourth quarter, the Shamrocks were unable to complete the comeback against West Point-Beemer in a 35-28 loss.

Senior lineman Abe Perault said, "Even though we lost, the West Point-Beemer game was my favorite game. We showed how well we could play, especially when our back was against the wall."

Even though they have a losing record, the Shamrocks refused to give up.

Junior wide receiver Dalton Borchers said, "I think we need to take some steps as a team to get things clicking."

The Shamrocks were back on the bus and traveled to Raymond Central next. They worked together and defeated the Raymond Central Mustangs 49-7. After

the recent win, the Shamrocks are looking forward to a better second half of their season.

Senior quarterback Caden Pelan said, "I want to see the real team we are. When late September and early October roll around, hopefully we'll be clicking and making a push for the district title."

For the Shamrock's homecoming game, they played the Bishop Neumann Cavaliers. The Cavaliers came into the game with a 5-0 winning streak, but the Shamrocks were not going to let that continue. The Cavaliers were defeated by the Shamrocks 21-19.

"I have learned, as well as the other upperclassmen, that we need to step up more and be better leaders for the younger guys playing. Once we get all on the same page, good things are going to happen because we have a lot of potential," Borchers said.

The Shamrock football team will continue their regular season games with their next game on October 12<sup>th</sup> against Logan View/Scribner-Snyder at their home field in hopes of extending their season into district play.



RYLIE OLSON/ YEARBOOK STAFF

Junior Eric Mustard breaks loose on a drive in the Shamrock's game against Pierce High on September 14<sup>th</sup>. The Shamrocks were defeated 59-21.



# Softball flies through season

By Tara Kamrath  
Staff Reporter

The famed, spooky month of October signifies the start of one season and the end of another. As autumn falls upon the United States, so too does the CHS softball season come in for its final run.

Scotus students who desire to play softball during the school year join CHS's varsity and junior varsity teams. This year, there are a total of four Scotus students on the two teams: senior Rylie Olson and juniors Kate Smith and Katie Stachura reside on the varsity team, while freshman Gwen Stachura plays on the junior varsity team. Because softball is a co-op sport for Scotus, these students play with other girls who are schooled at CHS.

"It's really fun playing with girls from CHS because you get to create friendships with people you otherwise wouldn't have met," Smith said. "It's also interesting to hear about what goes on at CHS, compared to Scotus."

Throughout the season, the varsity team played 31 games, excluding the tournaments played each Saturday, having a record of 11-20.

"The game that required the most teamwork was the game against Omaha Marian," Smith said. "They're ranked #3 and we went into extra innings with them but we ended up losing by one run. That was easily the best game we've ever played."

Katie Stachura agreed with her teammate, "The most challenging game so far has to be the Marian game. It was a really close game; we just couldn't get another run in in the last inning."

While still acknowledging the Omaha Marian game played on September 22 required a lot of teamwork, ending in a final score of 6-7, Olson also believes the Wayne game was challenging.

"The score was 9-0. We got killed," Olson admitted. "The Wayne pitcher struck out 15 of the 18 girls that game."

In the perspective of

junior varsity, the team has played \_\_ games, ending with a record of \_\_, and has had different challenges compared to their sister team.

"The most challenging game was the game we lost our main catcher Erin Smith," Gwen Stachura said. "A ball took a bad hop and ended up giving her a concussion. The entire team was extremely worried, and we were all not in the right mindset to play. Needless to say, we lost extremely bad."

Gwen Stachura has words of advice to inspire those who are hesitant on joining a co-op sport.

"I know going into a sport filled with people from other schools doesn't exactly appeal to everyone's tastes," Stachura said, "but I highly suggest trying it out. You get to learn about people from other schools, and without knowing, creating those life-long friends you remember when you're old and gray."

The softball districts for the varsity team took place on October 4th and 5th. The team placed 3rd ending their season.



CALLAN FUCSHER/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Junior Katie Stachura readies a pitch for the Columbus softball team. Scotus is contributing three girls to play on the Columbus softball team this year.

# Girls' golf team persists

By Mariana Valdez-Ortiz  
Staff Reporter



HALLIE PARKER/YEARBOOK STAFF

Junior Makenzie Enderlin freezes after her swing to see where the ball landed during the Lakeview and Boone Central triangular. This is Enderlin's second year as a varsity player for the girls golf team.

The golf season is almost over, but that is not stopping the Scotus girls' golf team from trying to improve their scores. This season, the new varsity players have been struggling a bit with the new golf courses, but they are not letting that come between them and the state tournament.

The girls' golf team started their season on August 23rd by attending the Columbus High School and Lakeview triangular at the Elks Country Club. They also attended the Fullerton and Boone Central Invite. The team won first place in the Fullerton and Lakeview triangular in Pawnee Hills, which was their third meet.

"The biggest accomplishment so far for the team was getting first at Boone Central and Fullerton," junior Jaycee Ternus said.

This year the girls are focusing on their own scores, so the overall score gets

lower, and they can place at the meets they attend. Junior Jaycee Ternus achieved her best score during the Boone Central Invite.

"My best score this year was shooting a 97 at the 18 holes Boone Invite," Ternus said.

Senior Hannah Allen is part of the varsity girls' golf team. She is proud of how the team is doing, and really enjoys the time she gets to spend with the team.

"The Fullerton Invite has been my favorite because I enjoyed who I was playing with and my team did well," Allen said.

The new varsity players this year have faced a few obstacles in the new courses, but they have proved that they are more than capable to overcome those obstacles.

"The biggest obstacle for the team this year has been going to new courses for the new varsity players," Ternus said.

The Scotus Invite took place on September 26th. The girls ended up in second place with their overall score.

"Our biggest obstacle

is our lack of experience," Allen said.

The team is very pleased with how they are doing so far. Each girl has improved their own personal score as the season continues. Together and individually they've had many accomplishments this season. Those accomplishments have made the Shamrocks very excited to see the results of future tournaments.

"I hope we can all shoot our best scores individually and have a team score under 400," Allen said.

The team ended in second place at the District meet. Thanks to their score in the District meet, they will be going to the state tournament on October 8th and 9th. As the state tournament approaches, the team still has a few things they would like to improve.

"I hope that individually we can work on lowering our own scores. Then as a team, we can lower that overall score to make it to state," Ternus concluded.

# Boys' tennis looks to improve

By Kate Smith  
Staff Reporter

With the 2018 boys' tennis season coming to an end, the boys have seen major improvement throughout the season. The co-op sport, CHS Boys' Tennis, has three junior participants in it this year: Connor Wiehn, Adam Kamrath, and Drew VunCannon.

According to the boys, this season has been a tough but memorable one. Adam Kamrath has a 12-15 win/loss record in the singles division while Connor Wiehn, along with his partner, CHS player Cole Wilcox, have a record of 4-14 in the doubles division. Kamrath also placed first in singles at the Columbus Invite. Although this season has had a tough start for the team as a whole, Kamrath takes a positive outlook on his successful season this far.

"This season is definitely going better than last year. I have won one tournament and other than that I have never gotten last at one."

For newcomer Drew VunCannon learning the game and catching up has been tough, but getting to try everything has been a fun, new experience.

"My favorite meets were any of the home duals. I got to play in both doubles and singles for those meets," VunCannon added.

With the tennis season being so tight and compact into about a two-month season, there comes many struggles.

"The biggest struggle has been missing a lot of school, which leads to missing a lot of tests and quizzes," Kamrath said.

Even though there has not been much success as a team, the boys are working

hard to improve their game in any possible way they can. By playing and watching other players at big meets, it helps show the boys what they can most improve on.

"The Fremont Invite stood out to me the most because I was able to watch the two best players play against each other. I realized that I have a lot of catching up to do in the next year and a half," Kamrath added.

Even though the boys might not have the "advantage" in most their games, the boys are keeping a positive outlook on the rest of the season.

Wiehn concluded, "We have lost a lot of games, but we are getting better every day."

The boys will conclude their season at state tennis on October 12.



MARIANA VALDEZ-ORTIZ/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Junior Adam Kamrath prepares to hit the tennis ball. Kamrath placed first in the signles at the Columbus Invite.



# Shepherds provide guidance

By Callan Fuchser  
Staff Reporter

Starting junior high can be a hard transition for most up and coming seventh graders: new school, new friends, and new schedule. Change is a common theme that year. Coming into a new school can be nerve racking, but with the right tools, the year will be full of success. Scotus has put a program in place to help with this.

The Shepherd Program provides new seventh grade students with an older Scotus student to become friends with. Fifty-four new seventh graders walked the halls knowing a familiar face. Senior coordinators Hallie Parker and Elliott Thomazin have the whole year planned out.

“We have multiple events planned, including a Halloween party, semester test distress, and we will be

running the Dodgeball Tournament this year,” Parker said.

Before school orientation included a breakfast for both Shepherds and students. Following breakfast, shepherds helped students set up lockers and showed them around school until a final meeting in the Little Theater.

“The best part of the Shepherd Program was probably eating breakfast with our shepherd and some other seventh graders/shepherds because all the seventh graders were really awkward while eating breakfast,” seventh grader Isabel Zaruba said.

Recently, the Shepherd Program sponsored their first event of the school year. Thirty seventh graders and twenty shepherds showed up and participated in outside games.

“I’ve done the ultimate football game. It was fun to hang out with my friends out

of school,” seventh grader Mason Gonka said.

Parker, who has been a member for the past two years, sees the importance through this program.

“I am so passionate about the Shepherd Program because I love seeing the interactions between our upperclassmen and the 7<sup>th</sup> graders. The 7<sup>th</sup> graders are in such awe of our upperclassmen and look up to them. It is amazing to be the connector of these two groups of people,” Parker said.

The Shepherd Program originally started five years ago. Thomazin wished this program started earlier than it did.

“We all need someone to watch out for us. When I was a seventh grader, I would have loved the Shepherd Program,” Thomazin said.

The Shepherd Program is becoming more and more popular. Parker believes the program has lasting potential.



HALLIE PARKER/YEARBOOK STAFF

Senior Shepherd Program Coordinator Elliott Thomazin plays Ultimate Football with several seventh graders. The Ultimate Football game is one of many activities sponsored by The Shepherd Program this year.

“With the right leadership and funding, I believe that the Shepherd Program has excellent potential for

growth and continuing the program in the future,” Parker said.

The next event includes

a Halloween party at Scotus with pumpkin carving and a movie.

# Band marches through the season strong

By Jaycee Ternus  
Staff Reporter

Marching down a street in either rain or shine, the Scotus marching band can

march through anything. From marching in the pouring rain to sweating in the hot sun the Scotus band can do anything.

From practice in the morning for the upcoming parades the band puts in the

work. This year all three bands from Columbus played together to start of the school year in the Columbus Day Parade. All the high school bands came together to share their talents in making music

and perform their hard work to the community.

“We practiced three times all together. The best part was that the band was like 250 people, and it seemed like 50 of them were trumpets,” senior trumpet player Braden Labenz said.

All three bands practiced together on the weekends and practiced their music along with their marching skills. The Scotus flag and dance team and Columbus Color Guard came together to learn a routine that went along with the music that the band played. The theme of Columbus Days this year was Nebraska.

“It was an extremely unique and cool experience. The sound we were able to produce was awesome,” senior percussionist Caden Pelan said.

All together the band practiced and performed “Dear Old Nebraska U” which went along with the

theme of the parade. Along with the song, each school drumline played its own cadence. The flag and color guard performed with their school’s cadence.

“Marching in the rain with the other bands in Columbus was a once in a lifetime experience,” senior Elliott Thomazin who is also a trombone player said.

This year it rained throughout the whole parade. The band marched through all the puddles downtown. Everyone showed up with their matching tee shirts and ponchos to shield themselves from the rain. From last year’s scorching hot temperature to the drizzling rain, the Columbus Day parade just cannot catch a break.

“I look forward to the whole experience the bus ride up, parade line-up, marching, the whole thing is a fun experience to have,” junior flute player Katie Stachura said

Because of the unfortu-

nate weather of the band’s first parade and cancellation of their second parade, they cannot wait to perform in their upcoming parade. On October 6th, the band will perform in the Harvest of Harmony parade in Grand Island.

“My favorite part about performing in parades has not changed since I first started marching in 9<sup>th</sup> grade; hearing the spectating people cheer for us as we pass by playing the songs,” senior flute player Tara Kamrath said.

Performing in many parades every year creates memories. This year there are four seniors in high school band.

“Yes, it’s going to be my last one, so kind of sad about that,” Labenz said. “I like the Harvest of Harmony parade. There are so many bands, and we get to be on TV.”



ANGIE RUSHER/JOURNALISM ADVISOR

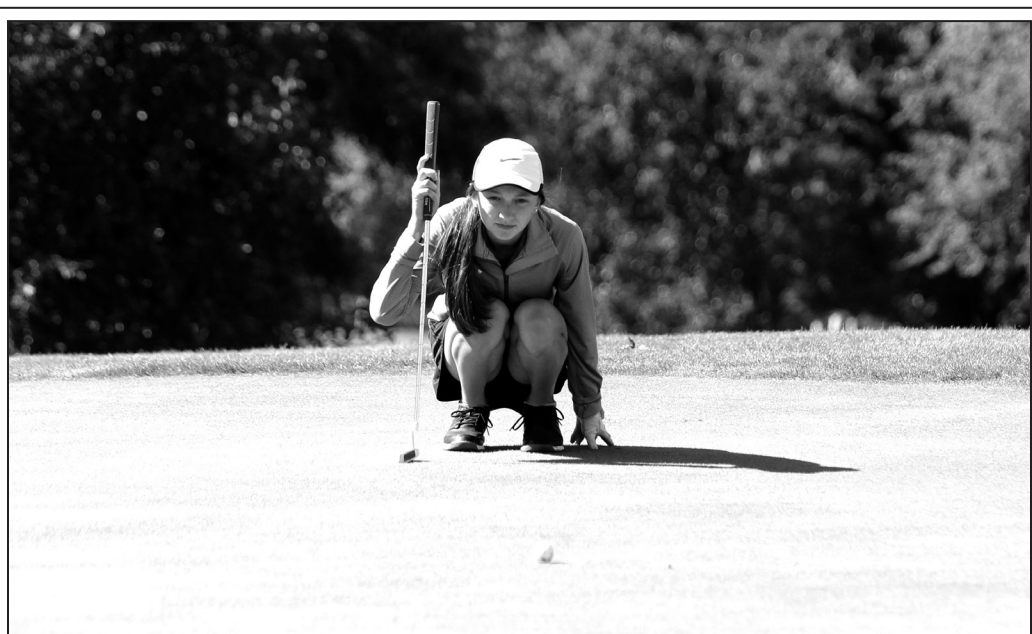
Freshmen Carson Czarnick, Avery Dierman, and Nate Wemhoff practice marching for the Harvest of Harmony parade October 6th. The band marched in the Harvest of Harmony parade this past Saturday in Grand Island.

# Memorable moments



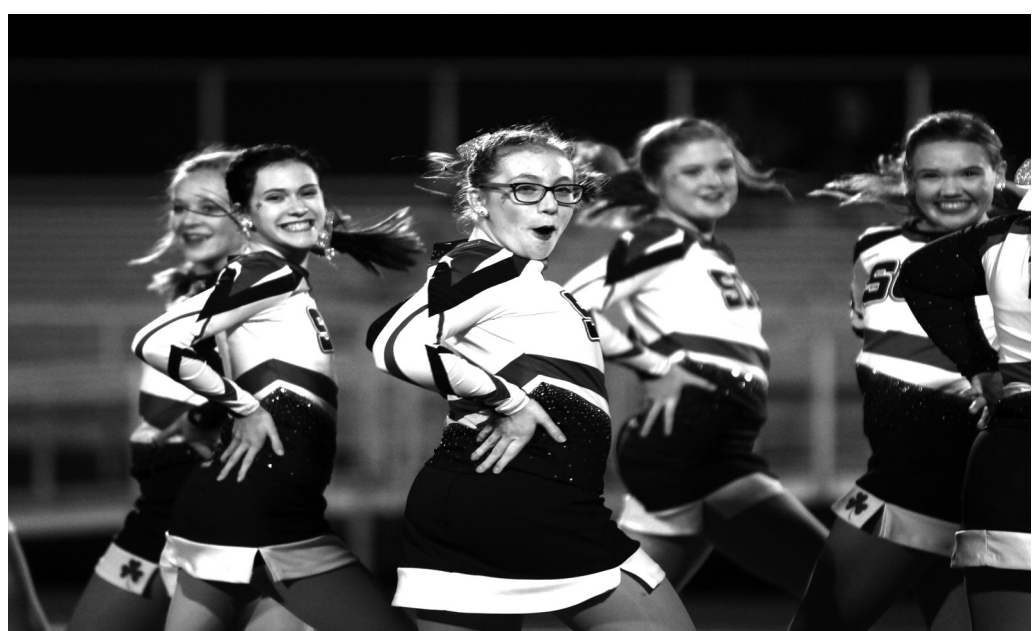
BREA LASSEK/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Junior setter Chloe Odbert jump sets the volleyball in their first game of the season. Unlike other fall sports that are wrapping up, the volleyball team still has two weeks of regular season play.



LIZA ZARUBA/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Junior Jaycee Ternus examines the correct angle needed to putt the ball during a home golf meet. Ternus and the golf team compete at the state meet today.



AMBER BUHMAN/YEARBOOK STAFF

Sophomore flag corps member Cassie Kouma strikes a pose at the beginning of their dance during halftime of the homecoming football game. The flag corps also performed this dance at the pep rally earlier that afternoon.



# Scotus glows during homecoming

By Elliott Thomazin  
Editor

Homecoming is one of the most anticipated events of the first semester. It offers high school students an opportunity to let loose for a night and have a great time with great people. The week leading up to homecoming is filled with fun as well. Students can dress up according to themes chosen by the student council. The themes this year included time travel, teacher, neon, character, and school spirit days.

Students in junior high were given the privilege to dress up this year for the first time. Joan Lahm, the student council sponsor, has organized 14 homecomings throughout her years at Scotus.

“[Including Jr. High in homecoming week] has been a discussion for many years. A lot of the junior high teachers and the administration said, ‘Why not get them all involved?’ We’d always bring it to a vote to student council, and it got shot down. This year the administration asked student council to allow junior high students, and we agreed,” Lahm said.

Being able to dress up for character day was sev-

enth grader Max Lancaster’s favorite part of homecoming week.

“It was fun dressing up in something besides school uniforms. I also liked when we had to think outside the box to dress up.” Lancaster said.

When school ended on September 28<sup>th</sup>, all attention was focused on the football game. Scotus played against Wahoo Bishop Neumann. Bishop Neumann was undefeated going into the night, but after a hard-fought battle, Scotus emerged victorious.

The atmosphere was electric after the game as

students ran onto the field to get a good seat for the coronation. The candidates for homecoming king were Caleb Kosch, Grant Shanle, Elliott Thomazin, Caden Pelan, Nathan Schumacher, and Drew Zaruba. The candidates for homecoming queen include Courtney Kosch, Kelsey Faust, Bailey Lehr, Kendra Korger, Julia Salerno, and Emily Stutzman. The night air was cool and crisp as everyone waited to hear who had been chosen. After the votes from the student body were counted, Courtney Kosch and Caden Pelan were announced as queen and king.

The homecoming festivities concluded with the dance on Saturday night. The doors opened at 7:45 p.m. with the dance concluding at 11:30 p.m. Everyone in attendance put on their best formal wear and danced the night away. The time spent on the dance floor was filled with line dances, freestyle dances, and the occasional slow dance. The music was provided by a familiar face.

“We have the same DJ we had from last year. He requests a song list, and he has his own playlist,” Lahm said.

The dance floor wasn’t only illuminated by the

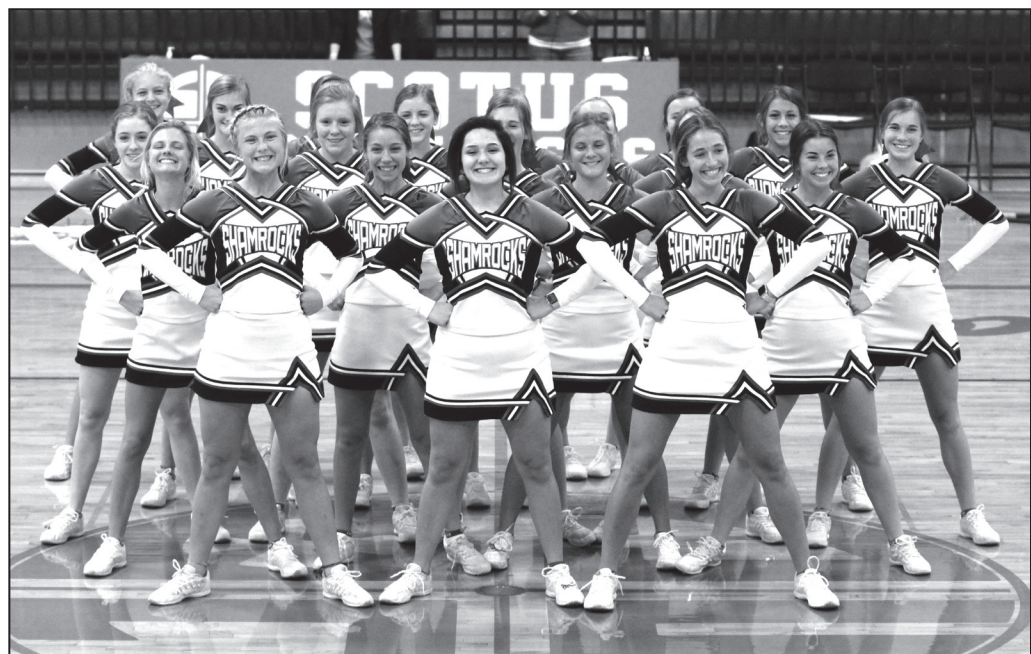
flashing lights of the DJ this year. Students were provided with glow sticks from student council upon entering the dance. The cafeteria was also decorated with light up balloons and neon colors to match the glow fest theme. With this year’s homecoming in the books, all that students can do now is cherish the memories they made during the week.

“Homecoming builds camaraderie and spirit. It gets people excited for the week and the game. It’s a fun week,” Lahm concluded.



JULIA SALERNO/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Students dance to music provided by More Music. The doors opened at 7:45 and the dance ended at 11:30.



AMBER BUHMAN/YEARBOOK STAFF

The cheerleaders strike a pose to begin their routine at the homecoming pep rally. The performance was choreographed by the senior cheerleaders.



AMBER BUHMAN/YEARBOOK STAFF

Seniors Caleb Kosch, Julia Salerno, Elliott Thomazin, Kelsey Faust, Kendra Korger, Queen Courtney Kosch, King Caden Pelan, Drew Zaruba, Emily Stutzman, Grant Shanle, Bailey Lehr, and Nathan Schumacher pose for a picture after coronation.



KATE SMITH/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Brooklyn Brandt, Anna Lovell, Ashlee Leffers, Jack Faust, and Cameron Houfek show off their costumes on character day. This year was the first year that junior high could participate in homecoming week.

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# Netflix's new chickflick

By Kate Smith  
Staff Reporter

"Are you going to break my heart, Covey?" Peter Kavinsky asks Lara Jean while looking down at her. "Standing here in front of everyone, I'm telling you that I love you," Noah Flynn says to Elle at their high school prom.

Chick flicks. Girls live for them while boyfriends either sleep the whole time they're supposed to be watching them or they're tired of being compared to the super good-looking male actors. Netflix has upped its romantic comedy section with two new modern-day love stories that have the hearts of anyone who watches them.

*The Kissing Booth* and *To All the Boys I've Loved Before* were released this past summer and have gained incredible popularity since being aired because of their relatability to the younger generation.

*The Kissing Booth* was released on May 11<sup>th</sup> of 2018.

The story is loosely based off the book by Beth Reekles. In the movie, Elle Evans falls in love with her best friend's brother, Noah Flynn. Elle is then conflicted with herself because she loves her best friend Lee Flynn, but doesn't want to hurt him because she loves his brother. The whole movie goes on to show Noah and Elle's relationship until Lee eventually finds out about the two and is extremely hurt. Now Elle must find out what's best for her despite what others might believe.

*To All the Boys I've Loved Before* was released on August 17<sup>th</sup> of 2018. This movie was based off its book by Jenny Han. Lucky for all you readers, the Scotus Media Center has the whole series if you want to read it before you watch the movie. In the film, the story revolves around the life of Lara Jean Covey. She writes five love letters to all the boys she's ever liked, hence the title, but will never send them. Until one day, all the letters are suspiciously sent out. Lara Jean's life takes a dramatic turn of events that she and no one else would have ever

guessed. Now Lara Jean must decide if she wants to go back to her old ways and live with the "what if?" or embrace her feelings and take on this new adventure full of new relationships.

Both films are great for multiple reasons. *Kissing Booth* and *To All the Boys I've Loved Before* display realistic teenage relationships and depict the modern struggles of relationships such as displays of affection on social media, and the nature of cheating. They also discuss real life problems such as kids coming from single parent homes, and interracial relationships.

These modern day love stories still depict and reference classic love stories. *To All the Boys I've Loved Before* copies the opening image of the "hand in the back pocket" from the 1980's classic, *16 Candles*. The passing of love notes is brought back into style in the scenes of these two love stories.

From watching both these films, I have come to the conclusion that *The Kissing Booth's* message is that you have to do what is

best for yourself and listen to what your heart is telling you to do even though the people that are most important to you might not agree. *To All the Boys I've Loved Before's* advice, in my opinion, was that you have to put yourself out there if you ever want anything to happen, and that you have to tell people how you feel when you feel it. Both messages are great

rules to follow for young adults who are starting to find themselves, friendships, and relationships.

Even though these movies might not be the first choice to watch by the football boys on a Friday night, they can still help the guys find a few tips to woo that special girl.

If you haven't already, I strongly suggest that you go

and watch either if not both of these modern-day love films. And, if you happen to be dreaming about riding on the back of Noah Flynn's motorcycle or receiving a love note from Peter Kavinsky, then that's just a happy bonus. I hate to break it to you boys, but Peter Kavinsky and Noah Flynn just raised the bar.



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# Trends that strike society

By Jaycee Ternus  
Staff Reporter

Have you ever wondered why you buy the things that you do? Like why did I just buy this hundred-dollar pair of shoes, or why did I just buy this three-hundred-dollar

watch? I, like many others, am influenced by the popularity of an item to buy it. This is a perfect example of a trend. Many trends start from a random idea and others resurrect from the past. Depending on who wears it or how many times it shows up on my Instagram feed, I

feel pressured into buying it.

So many Trends come up through the year. Some trends die out fast and others stay for a while. Anything can become trendy, and that is why trends are such a big part of our lives. Some trends have changed my life for the better, and others are just plain obnoxious. There are so many trends that we can all relate to either disliking or liking.

Scrunchies are a blast from the past as they have become a popular hair accessory again. From TV shows like *Full House* and *Friends*, you have seen your favorite TV stars from the past wear them. Scrunchies were popular around the 1980's through the 1990's, and I think they came back fast after many fashion influences started wearing them. In any color or design, you can buy scrunchies for a reasonable price. The reasoning behind scrunchies is to hold your hair up without leaving an indent line in your hair. Scrunchies are

life savers for my hair. No awkward hairline no worries. Scrunchies have been popular for a while now. Girls everywhere benefit from using scrunchies. I think they are a fun way to spice up a casual outfit. They bring a fun twist to the boring old black hair ties. Overall scrunchies are a way for people to express their style and show their personality. I am glad to see scrunchies come back, and I hope they never leave.

I think we all can remember wearing those weird shoes with holes in them that gave you blisters on the sides of your feet. Well if you don't, I remember wearing Crocs as a child. Crocs were popular in 2007 and came back not too long ago. I see certain styles and in any color; you can buy your Crocs for a reasonable price. I think Crocs are the least comfortable shoe there is. Even though they may not be the best-looking shoe, they always lasted me till the end of the year. No matter what I

walked in or on they always stayed together. I can see why crocs were such a big hit because of their unique design and transformable back. This is one of the trends that I have never bought back into. I know many people may like them, but I cannot say that Crocs will last too long.

Ever had that moment when your heart drops because you dropped your phone and it is lying face down on the ground? You pick it up and a sigh of relief comes over you when you see it is not cracked. Thank goodness for the invention of pop sockets so that circumstances like that will never happen again. A pop socket is a round knob that sticks to the back of your phone that can change lengths. Around 2012 the first ideas of pop sockets were introduced. Before I knew it, everyone had a pop socket; they were the new thing. I think they are very useful; for example, you get an easier grip on your phone. Pop sockets can be helpful in

many ways like when you are taking a picture and want to get that perfect angle without dropping your phone. I also think they make the perfect stand to watch videos on when sitting at a table. With people being on their phones so much, problems occur like dropping your phone. So, in conclusion, I think pop sockets are the perfect invention to make life a little easier.

In conclusion all of these trends are way of life. Trends become so popular to society but then before you know it, they're gone. So is it worth buying into these trends? Depending on your style and liking, it is your choice to buy trends. I think that some trends, like the scrunchie, are good and very useful. But then I think the trend of Crocs came too fast and is something that I just would not buy. It doesn't matter if you like the trend or not, just do what you like if it is a trend great; if not make it a trend.



# Cyber shopping dodges stress

By Chloe Odbert  
Staff Reporter

Over the years, online shopping has become the more prominent and

preferred method of shopping among today's society. However, when it comes to finding the perfect dress for a school dance, this system can become more problematic than efficient.

Whether you know

exactly what you are looking for or not, online dress shopping can be stressful, especially when you are overloaded with activities and have no free weekends to take a day trip to Omaha. This is where the idea of online shop-

ping often comes into play. Although some people have luck when it comes to browsing the web for their desired gown, others do not. I hope to aid in making this technique easier and more successful so that you can rock your best look at the next school dance without having to leave the comfort of your home.

When shopping online, it is important to not only be cautious of the sight you are browsing, but also the vendor. If you are shopping on a website that sells second-hand clothing or dresses, it may be more difficult to ensure that you are getting the best bang for your buck.

After conversing with my fellow school dance goers, we compiled a list of our top four last minute online shops.

A common and very reliable shop is Dillard's. *Dillard's.com* offers a wide variety of both color and style. They have reasonable prices and a large selection on the online sale rack. Dillard's main perk, in my opinion, is

that if you are unsure about the dress you think you want, or you aren't certain how it will fit your body type, you can take a quick day trip to Omaha or Lincoln to try the dress on in person if need be. If you do not have the time like we often don't, you can also return and exchange all through mail.

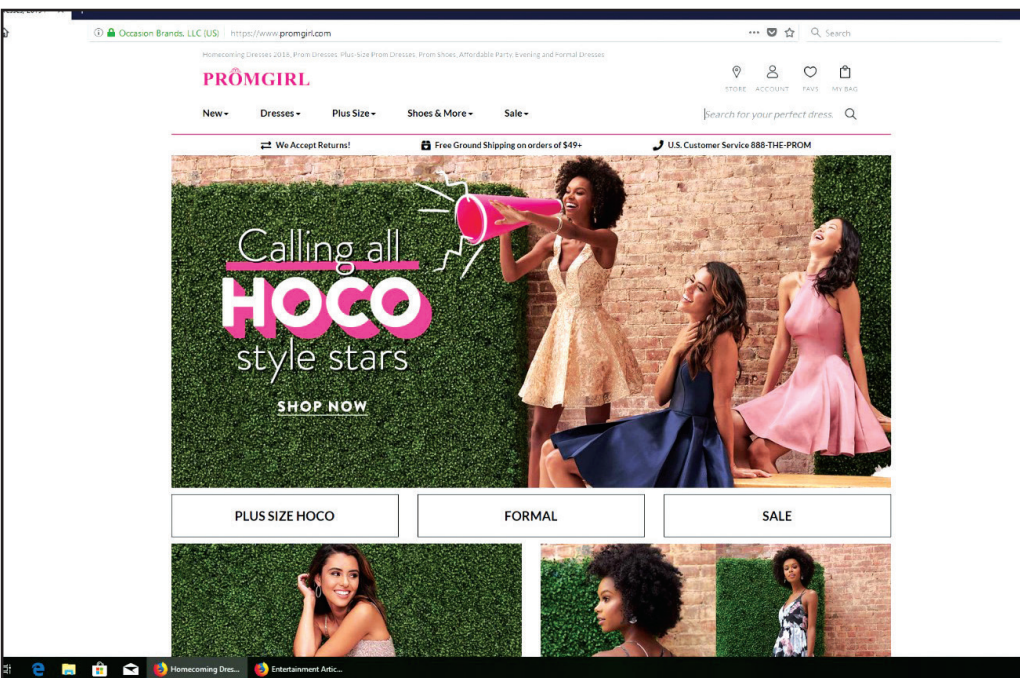
Another popular and worth-the-hype online dress shop is *Promgirl.com*. Promgirl has a wide variety of dress styles and sizes that instantly increase the probability that you will end your visit to their website with entering your parent's credit card information. Overall, from both personal opinions and online reviews, the majority of Promgirl's customers leave their site pleased and head to their dress-worthy event feeling beautiful and stylish.

*Lulus.com* is another reliable website for dress shopping. Though their products can be slightly more on the pricey side when not on sale, they are a customer friendly shop. When it comes

to other people's opinions, their online ratings seem to be superb, and they tend to please a lot of their customers who purchase from their site.

My final suggestion for online dress shopping is *Windsor.com*. Windsor offers both expensive and inexpensive options for their customers on their website. Windsor's online shop is not super reliable when it comes to sizes. Many people have found that they rarely restock certain sizes, but, other than that, there are lots of options for both color and styles.

Going to the store and physically trying on the dress is still my favorite form of school dance dress shopping, but when time gets crunched and you have no other option, cyber shopping is an efficient plan B. There are also other sites not mentioned that have been successful for my friends and me, but these are simply our preferred top four online shops to find our school dance dresses. Happy shopping!



[HTTPS://WWW.PROMGIRL.COM](https://www.promgirl.com)

Promgirl.com shows off their wide variety of dresses for the Homecoming season. Promgirl is a great website for cyber dress shopping.

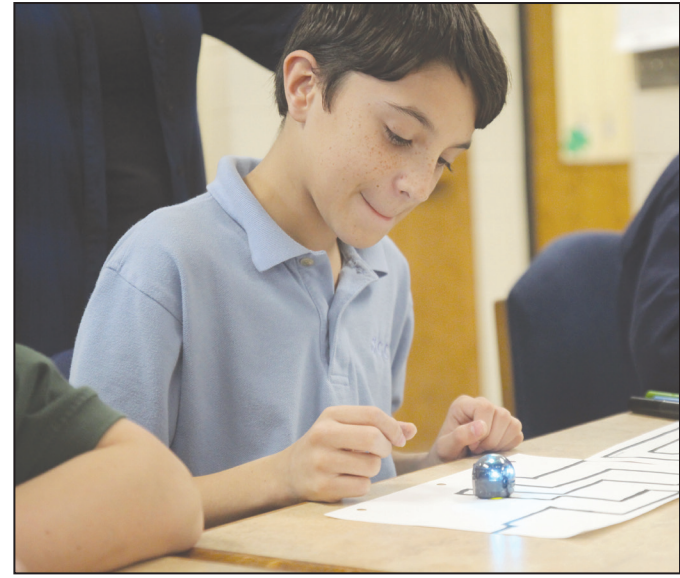




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# Rock Bottom

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## New bus surprises school

By Mariana Valediez-Ortiz  
Staff Reporter

Fire drill alarms start ringing, students start exiting the school, and while students wait outside in the chilly air, school president Jeff Ohnoutka takes out his phone to video tape everyone's reaction, which is a little strange for a fire drill. A big white bus that says Scotus Central Catholic Shamrocks in big green letters appears as it is driving around the curb, and everyone starts screaming in excitement.

On Tuesday, October 30th, Ohnoutka surprised everyone in Scotus with a new charter bus for the school. The whole school was outside for a fire drill when the surprise happened. Very few people knew about the bus, so it would be a complete surprise for the school.

"I thought, let's just do it, and I just kind of dreamed of this plan of let's do it during the fire drill while everyone is outside," Ohnoutka said.

The idea of a new bus has been a plan for a long time. The school finally got the rest of the money it needed, to make this plan into a reality.

"We have a bus fund, and we had some money come in, and we didn't need it for the general budget. We put that money aside for the new bus," Ohnoutka added.

Before Scotus got its own bus, the school had been renting out the yellow buses from Mid State buses.

"We have enough drivers to get a new bus of our own that made



ANGIE RUSHER/JOURNALISM ADVISOR

The yearbook and government classes cheer for the new charter bus. The whole school was outside for a fire drill when the bus arrived.

it easier for us to buy the bus," Ohnoutka said.

The new bus will be used for the transportation of the many different extracurricular activities Scotus participates in.

"Whatever we need transportation for, but we don't want to run it into the ground by going everywhere with it all the time. We definitely want to be using it," Ohnoutka commented.

The One Act team members were the first ones to use the bus to

go to a competition in Loup City on November 2<sup>nd</sup>.

"Riding the new bus for the first time was exciting! It was nice to have comfortable seats and more room," senior actress Kendra Korgger said.

Ohnoutka is not only excited about the bus, he is also excited for the students. While they were outside waiting, he made sure to have his phone out to video tape the students' reactions.

"I am just happy for the stu-

dents because I could tell from their reactions that it was an exciting thing; it's something new. It's something fun right now. It was neat to see," Ohnoutka said.

Everyone is excited for this new addition, and all the students cannot wait to get a chance to ride in it.

"I think it is a great addition to the school hopefully it can be a source of pride for our school as well," Ohnoutka concluded.

## Eights engage in Confirmation

By Tara Kamrath  
Staff Reporter

Confirmation is a special time during a Catholic's life, symbolizing his or her full entrance into the Catholic Church. In this Sacrament, Catholics receive the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit to help them further along their religious journey.

Scotus Central Catholic's eighth-grade class came together on Sunday, October 14 to participate in a retreat where they prepared themselves for their oncoming Confirmation in April.

Eighth-grader Lily Dohmen shared how her faith grew during the retreat.

"My faith grew more during the retreat by learning more about Confirmation and what it does for us, and how it helps us strengthen our relationship with God," Dohmen said.

The retreat was led by the National Evangelization Teams (NET) – groups of Catholics, from ages 18 to 28, who leave behind their jobs, school, family, and friends to devote nine months to travel across the United States and share the Gospel with young people and their families. Their website can be found at <http://www.netusa.org/>.

While the students had fun at the retreat, there were also sincere occasions and scenes.

"Serious moments that happened at the retreat were when the

See EIGHTS, Page 2

## Swanson satisfies void

By Callan Fuchser  
Staff Reporter

Breakfast is proven to be the most important meal of the day. This morning food source seems to make or break people's days. Some students can go without it, while others simply cannot.

In early October, the bottom of the stairwell across from the office became home to Mr. Tyler Swanson and his roaster, overflowing with hot breakfast items.

"I had been throwing ideas out there to students and classes about if I started a breakfast program in the mornings for a fundraiser, if they would be interested in it. So, I went ahead and started doing it," Swanson said.

Ever since hot breakfast came to an end in the Scotus Cafeteria, it has been missed by most students. Swanson offers quality breakfast foods that students have yearned for.

"I try to sell a wrap or sandwich of some sort: usually ham, egg and

cheese or sausage egg, and cheese. I've thrown out the idea of maybe doing pancakes, but that can be hard to do," Swanson said.

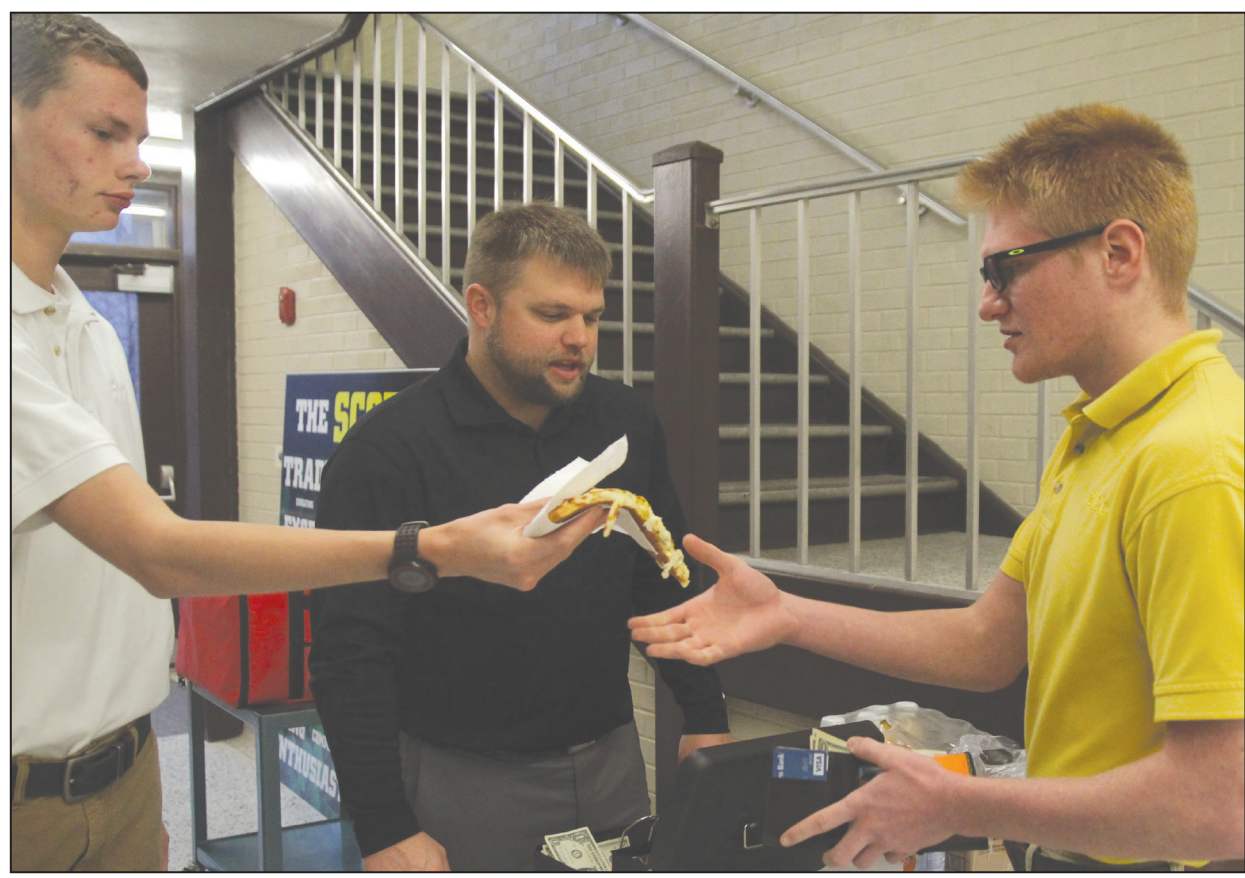
Swanson's arsenal of homemade breakfast items have been polished off by students almost every morning with a high demand for more.

"I think for the most part it has been really good feedback. I think there's always people who don't like certain things you make; it's always gonna be that way, but I've been selling out almost every day. So, the feedback is good. If you're selling all your stuff, the demand is there," Swanson said.

Thursday can't come soon enough for some students. Swanson races to Hy-Vee to pick up several breakfast pizzas to accompany his breakfast wraps.

"The most popular item is the pizza. I sell about 100 slices on Thursday mornings. I bring about 50 of the wraps and sandwiches as well. Those normally sell out too.

See SWANSON, Page 2



CALLAN FUCHSER/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Senior Nathan Schumacher and teacher Tyler Swanson sell junior Jacob Weyers a slice of Hy-Vee breakfast pizza. Swanson's breakfast fundraiser will support activities he sponsors.



SWANSON

The pizza usually sells out faster," Swanson said. Swanson's offered breakfast feast feeds students all while bringing them closer together. "My favorite part of the breakfast club is the comradery that the people who eat the breakfast share between each other, and the friendship that the breakfast club really

brings to Scotus," senior Bryce VunCannon said. Part of Swanson's business earnings will help support activities throughout the school that he helps sponsor. "It's going to help Close Up. About \$1000 will go to that, then the rest will go between basketball and golf. I'm hoping to maybe get some new indoor golfing

equipment this year," Swanson said. Semester tests shouldn't be as dreadful with what Swanson has in store for students come December. "I'm planning on doing pizza and stuff on mornings of semester tests to make sure kids have a good breakfast those mornings," Swanson said.

Being only a month in to his new venture, Swanson already has planned out the spring season. "We sell breakfast Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday most weeks. So if they're early starts, no school, or things like that, we won't serve. There are some weeks where I'll serve on a Wednesday because golf meets are usually

Tuesday-Thursday meets, so I'll serve on Wednesdays and Fridays," Swanson said. Swanson's small business is only in its beginning stages. Bigger and better things are on the horizon. "Make sure to check out this week's menus on Twitter- @scc\_breakfast and on Instagram- @scc\_breakfast\_club," Swanson said.

EIGHTS

leaders of the retreat told us their stories and how they came together with God," Dohmen said. Eighth-grader Alex Ferguson will be confirmed at Saint Isidore. "[The most memorable moment was during the play.] The actor was going to confession and the priest realized he was lying and told him to go look at the crucifix and say, 'You suffered for me and I don't care' five times," Ferguson said. "He couldn't do it." According to Family Faith Formation coordinator Cheryl Rambour, the students participated in large group talks by NET Ministries, skits, and small discussions. The students enjoyed the small discussions that built trust within the groups. Many

students went to Confession, which some thought was the best part about the day. The retreat concluded with a Mass. Father Matthew Capadano is the Scotus chaplain. He helps the eighth-graders prepare for their Confirmation. "In the past, a lot of the parishes had their own retreats, and so the kids at each parish got their own 'flavor' of thing," Capadano said. "The nice change for the students this year is that they all got the same retreat; they all got prepared the same way, which is really, really beneficial. The focus of this retreat was more 'Jesus' than 'hey, this is Confirmation'." The retreat had 143 students total anticipating their Confirmation in this upcoming April.



MARIANNA VALDEZ-ORTIZ/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF  
The eighth-grade class responds to the National Evangelization Teams (NET) speakers. There was a total of 143 students at the Confirmation retreat.

ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

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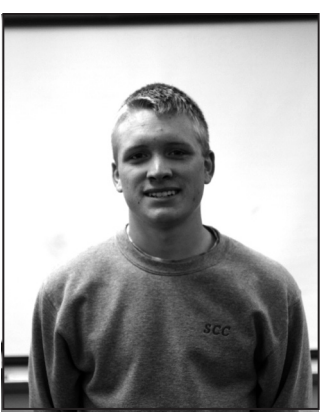
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# Perks of the works



By Cameron Johnston  
Staff Reporter

In my own life I have heard multiple times from both close friends and even my family that “today’s teens are so lazy” and “all you kids have to have an electronic screen in front of your face.” While I believe this is true for many teens, a few of us do work and see the importance of it for our future. When it comes to getting a job, I believe that teens need to hold at least a summer job because of the physical and psychological skills acquired. Students who work a job during their time in high school have a better chance at succeeding in life due to the things that they learn. Students learn and earn a newfound sense of responsibility, a better attitude, money, and a stronger work ethic. Attitude is everything when it comes to being successful in school because without a strong attitude of success, the odds of you completing your goals are slim. Parents of students will also reap benefits from their children working because the student will be happier to be at home due to the better

attitude. A better attitude will also correlate with the student receiving higher grades or at least trying their hardest. The student’s attitude will exponentially get better if they work a physically demanding job outdoors. This is because the conditions and work are so unbearable that school and other activities that were once considered not fun before are now not as bad as they once thought. One of the largest problems that plagues teens is the lack of money to do things with their friends. The result of this is students relying on their parents to provide for not only their well-being, but also the activities their friends corral them into. This problem is solved by the student working either during the school year or at least during summer break. While they would have to work and might be uncomfortable, this is something that all people will come to at some point in their lives. The sooner a teenager starts working, the more successful they will be in college or later in life. A strong work ethic can only be learned if the student works at a job that they either enjoy or are interested in. The work ethic learned can be applied at school because of the amount of homework and school work required in one day. This amount might be overwhelming for some students who don’t have experience to handle that situation. I know it is easy for me to say that students should work a job since I am in only one activity that doesn’t require me to practice in the offseason by my coach. Most

two and even three sports athletes have absolutely no time left after practice, homework, and other activities during the school year. One flaw with that though is that those practices and activities carry over into the summer and don’t allow a student to work because of the time constraints and therefore a lack of time available to work. Coaches shouldn’t be able to require attendance at practices and camps outside of their activities’ season, so students have the opportunity to experience more than just sports. While I do think sports are fun to compete in and important, I think they are over emphasized at Scotus. I believe this because the number of students who work and play at least one sport is a very small amount. While we learn some of the same traits from sports as we do working, I see them much more emphasized. I think this is true because our jobs test us more than sports ever will. While a sporting event may be challenging, I don’t think it will ever be as tough as working outside in the sweltering Nebraska summer’s heat and humidity every day. In conclusion I think that everyone should attempt to work a job during their high school career to learn or advance skills and personal traits they can use in their life. From this information I’m calling to students to get a job and learn the perks of working.

# The gift of appreciation

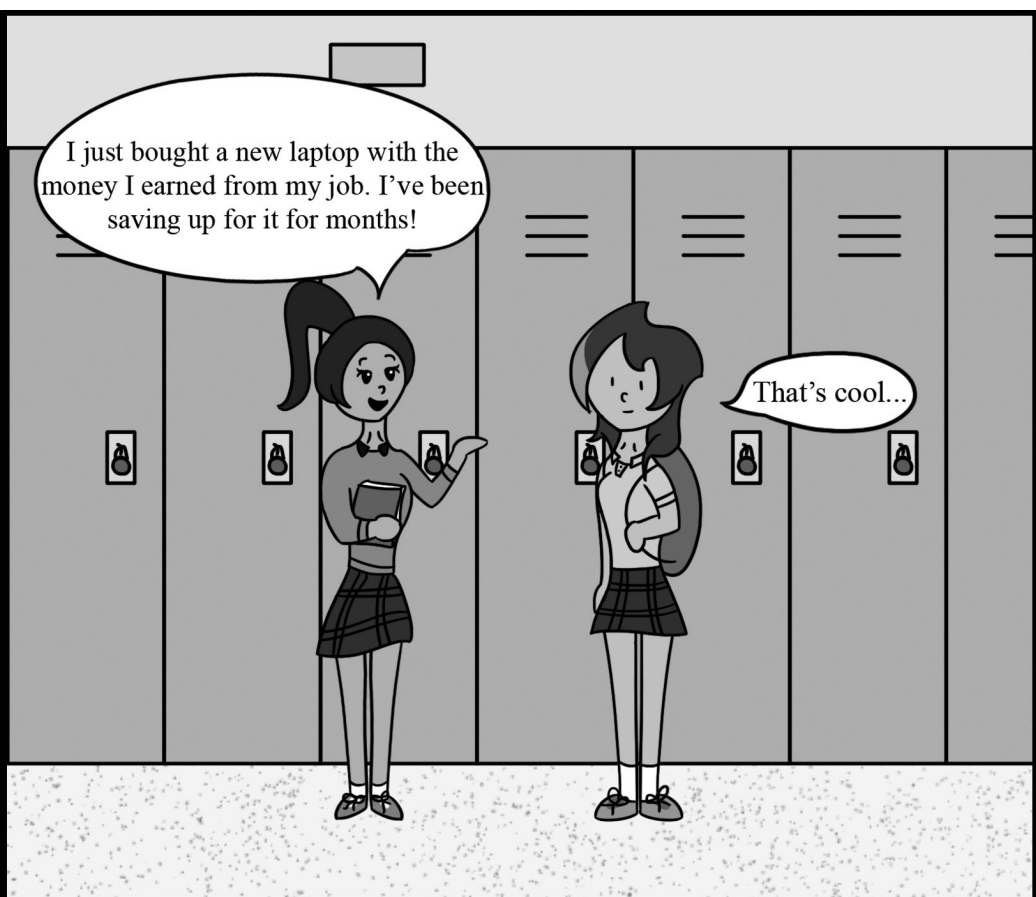


By Elliott Thomazin  
Editor

“I have so much work to do,” “He/She is really getting on my nerves,” or “I didn’t get a good enough night of sleep,” are all complaints that run through my mind far too often. If these types of thoughts are all that I have during a day, the day quickly turns sour. One deficient day can easily turn into multiple. The cycle continues into woeful weeks, miserable months, and, ultimately, a lousy lifestyle. Even though we have so many blessings to be thankful for, we often focus on the negatives of life. Showing appreciation is a crucial part of a healthy lifestyle, but so many of us fail to convey our gratitude enough. I know that I’m not alone in this struggle against negativity. Ingratitude is a trait that we all fight against daily. Thankfully, the remedy for this pessimistic mindset is profoundly simple: we must show appreciation. Showing gratitude positively impacts our relationships with others. Being thankful helps us realize that we aren’t going through life

by ourselves. Every day we rely on others to care for our wellbeing. The efforts of friends and family are often overlooked. From a loved one preparing a home cooked meal, to having a meaningful conversation with a close friend, we have so much to thank others for. Letting others know that we care about them can go a long way. Appreciation deepens relationships. Gratitude allows us to realize how much we depend on others. Thankfulness helps others know their value. Telling others that you appreciate them is one of the most crucial parts of a relationship. Not only are relationships affected by a thankful outlook on life, our whole mood shifts. Instead of noticing all the situations that weren’t ideal throughout the day, we start to recognize all the good that we experience. Acknowledging goodness is a beautiful process, a process that helps us realize that the source of goodness often comes from outside of ourselves. A beautiful sunset, a roof over our heads, and the love from another become sources of joy that can fuel a lifestyle of appreciation. Being a thankful person brings with it a multitude of benefits and relatively zero drawbacks, so why do so few of us show appreciation daily? The main crime against gratitude is pride. Pride tells us that we are entitled to the love of others. Pride tricks us into thinking that we are at the center of the world. Pride is a liar that leaves us feeling afraid, unsatisfied, and lonely. It takes humility to show appreciation.

Humility destroys ingratitude. Pride has no place in the heart of a humble person. Humility helps us recognize our dependence on others. Humility moves us to live for others instead of ourselves. Humility is a cultivated virtue that empowers us with self-confidence, satisfaction, and a sense of purpose. To become more appreciative of this world that we have been given, we must pursue humility with our lives. Expressing appreciation can be difficult, but it couldn’t be more worth it. Better moods, improved relationships, and the pursuit of virtue accompany the grateful. Gratitude is always the best attitude. To get us started on our journey to a more thankful life, I’ve included a short list of things that I have come to appreciate most: long phone calls, when someone says, “this made me think of you,” long, hot showers, a baby holding your fingers, laughing until your stomach hurts, stargazing, warm cookies, popping bubble wrap, people who smile at you, dad jokes, sleeping during a thunderstorm, a log fire on a cold day, puppies, old people dancing, and deep conversations. I want to end with a simple goal. In the next twenty-four hours, tell one person that you are thankful for them. It could be as simple as saying, “Hey, I appreciate you,” or as meaningful as a hand-written letter. Only you will know if you achieve this goal or not. If we put aside our pride, we can take the first step down the road of gratitude.



TARA KAMRATH/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

# Students lack action needed for difference



By Chloe Odbert  
Staff Reporter

On a Sunday morning you wake up to your mother blaring the news channel in the kitchen and you roll out of bed to see what all the commotion is about. As you enter the kitchen and turn your attention to the televi-

sion, you see the headline, “SCIENTISTS DISCOVER LIFE ON MARS.” Now, you’re intrigued. You pull up a stool and plant yourself right in front of the TV. Thirty minutes later, they show live video from a lab of scientists testing the specimen; they explain that only one single cell of life has been collected. You are so completely amazed with the fact that they have collected such a unique specimen, and then it hits you. How are they calling this single cell “life” on Mars when here in the United States, people argue that unborn children are just a “clump of cells.” How does that work? From 1973 to the present, abortion has been legal in the United States. Today,

people like myself hope to see the day that this law is overturned, but for that to happen, our generation needs to make a difference. Many people want to make a difference. They hope to have an impact on this situation in their life time, but they do nothing to help. It is important for teenagers and adults to get involved in local groups that support life. Scotus offers the group Teens for Life. In Teens for Life, students can be involved in the March for Life, the Life Chain, and many other communal events that support life and strive to see an end to abortion. Unfortunately, this year Scotus only had 40 of 360 students participate in the annual Life Chain held on October 7<sup>th</sup>. That is not a

large percentage of students involved in such an important event. As a Catholic school, Scotus students need to embrace the opportunities presented to them to support and love the right to life by getting involved in these events. Joining Teens for Life is not the only way for students to promote the love of life. I know very well that high school can be overwhelming. Some students are juggling up to twelve school activities this fall and can testify to the fact that it does get stressful. For students that have too much on their plate, there are many other ways to promote and support life other than joining teens for life. One way to support the right to life in a high school setting is by treating every-

one in the right way. Promoting life is not only about fighting to end abortion and saving the babies, it is about loving the people who are in your life. Treating fellow students and classmates as best you can is a way of promoting and supporting life. The right to life movement is not simply defending unborn babies, it is primarily focused around respecting life. Disrespecting life goes from the major topic of abortion and murder to the other forms of disrespect like bullying and poorly treating others. Within the walls of Scotus, students need to do their best to promote the respect of life by consistently treating each other as the important creatures they are. It is important to lead by example and constantly promote respecting

life. When you get too busy and your plate is too full to join another extracurricular or club, you can always pray to make a difference. Prayer for an end to abortion is a great way to help do your part in the fight to end abortion. Praying for those who are alive and those who need our prayers is also a way to promote life and support the right to life. As a school, we need to stand up for the right to life and stand up for the born and the unborn who are being mistreated. Be the voice for those who go unheard. Take advantage of the groups or the individual opportunities at hand to promote and support the right to life.



# Junior high dream jobs



"My dream job is to be a dermatologist. I think it'd be fun to, you know, just pop people's cysts and other gross things."  
7 Isabel Zaruba



"I have always wanted to become a surgeon. I think what inspired me was when my dad had surgery on his heart."  
7 Nicole Peterson



"My dream job would be a gamer because I like to play video games like Fortnite."  
7 Kamren Kudron



"My dream job is to be a sports agent."  
8 Carter Filipi



"My dream job is to become an actor and move to LA."  
8 Emma Lindhorst



"My dream job would be a marine biologist and work with sharks."  
8 Alex Zoucha

# Future jobs demand more

By Kate Smith  
Staff Reporter

"Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today," Malcolm X.

No one can predict the future, but with the world expanding and populations growing, certain needs must be met.

With technology advancing, jobs are dissipating while others are needed more than ever. *CNBC.com* and *U.S. News* tell us what skills and jobs we need to attain to be successful for the future.

According to *U.S. News*, "The top four best jobs to have are software developer, orthodontist, physician assistant, and nurse practitioner." All four of these jobs' median salary is six-figures.

Not only are these the best jobs to have in 2018, these occupations are predicted to be the most needed jobs in 2026. These jobs will increase in demand by rapid percentages creating more jobs that need to be filled for the future.

As reported by *U.S. News* regarding the occupation of a software developer, "employment opportunities in the field are skyrocketing; they're expected to increase by more than 30 percent by 2026. That means the creation of 235,400 jobs."

With technology advancing at an exponential rate, certain jobs are being replaced by machines. So the question comes up: how do we stay ahead of the machines? We

must gauge what we are learning and choose areas of study to equip us to fill what will be needed in the future.

As stated by *CNBC.com*, "the best areas to study are data analytics, science, engineering and economics, coding, and liberal arts."

Liberal arts may seem odd, but psychology and brain power are the only ways we come out ahead of machines. With these five areas of study, there are also certain skills in every area to attain that could help you be more successful in each unique field.

"Today, skills like mobile app development, software engineering and Java development are among the 10 most in-demand skills according to a 2017 LinkedIn survey that monitored recruiting activity on the platform," as reported by *CNBC.com*.

As we plan for the future, it is not only important to know what to do but what not to do. While there are jobs that will be in demand more than ever, there are certain occupations to avoid in the future.

According to *CNBC.com*, some of the worst jobs include those of handiwork and craftsmanship. These jobs, like floral designer, textile machine worker, and photo processor, are predicted to become automated in the near future. For the people in these fields, it is important to learn new skills that enhance your ability to do your job better than a machine could.

"For example, a textile machine worker can switch to a similar line of work if they have the qualifica-

tions to be a machinist as well," *CNBC.com* suggests.

There is obvious worry that with technological advances that certain services will go out of busi-

ness and people will lose their jobs but ultimately, with all the education and options to choose from, it is up to you to stay ahead of the machine.

## The 10 best jobs for the future:

1. App developer
2. Computer systems analyst
3. Nurse practitioner
4. Physical therapist
5. Health services manager
6. Physician assistant
7. Dental hygienist
8. Market research analyst
9. Personal financial adviser
10. Speech language pathologist

## The 10 worst jobs for the future:

1. Textile machine worker
2. Photo processor
3. Furniture finisher
4. Radio or TV announcer
5. Floral designer
6. Gaming cashier
7. Legislator
8. Metal and plastic machine operator
9. Door-to-door salesperson
10. Print binding and finishing worker

<https://www.cnb.com/2017/09/01/these-are-the-top-10-best-and-worst-jobs-for-the-future.html>

# Hy-Vee department showdown

When searching for jobs here in Columbus, high school students will often turn to working at their local grocery store, Hy-Vee store number 1078. It is a great place to work with friends, earn some extra money, and enjoy the social interactions the busy community of Hy-Vee brings. In the Scotus realm, seven students work in varying departments of Hy-Vee. These departments include online shopping, frozen, and the meat department. Among these departments, there is a friendly rivalry continuously trying to answer the age-old question: Which department is superior to the rest? Today, this question will be answered.

This is the Hy-Vee department showdown.

LIZA ZARUBA/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

## Frozen



Konner Kudron

"They are not as hard-working or dedicated to making HyVee the best grocer in the Midwest like the frozen foods department is."

~Konner

"It takes some guts to work in a -30-degree freezer and live to tell about it."

~Konner

"In my department you are always walking around and doing stuff to make HyVee money. We don't screw around; we get stuff done."

~Carter

## Online Shopping

"If you work in online shopping you legit know where everything is located. It gets to the point if someone asks where something is, you can recite almost its latitude and longitude in the store without skipping a beat."

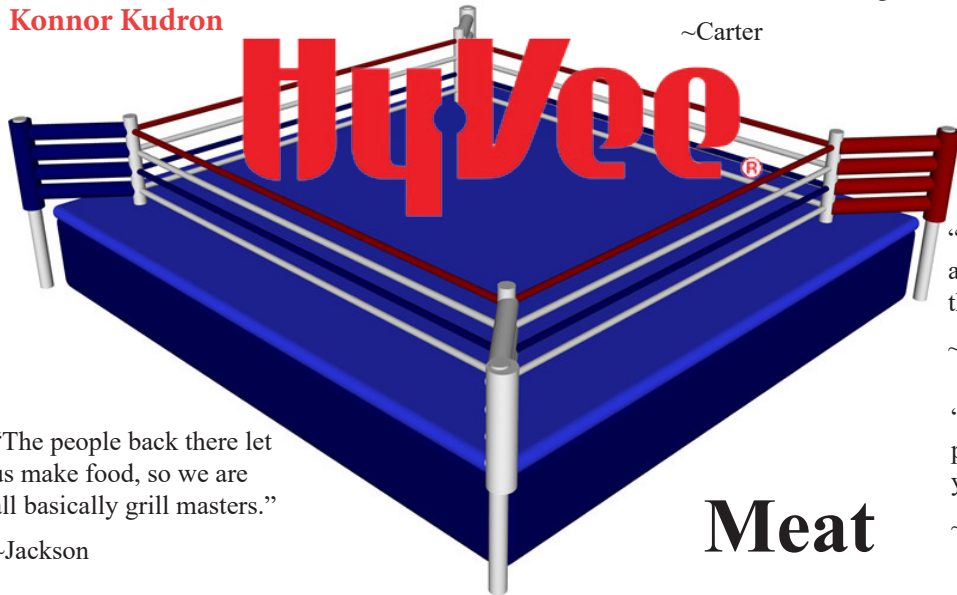
~Callan



Carter Thorson



Callan Fuchser



"In the other departments, you can always tell they are getting paid by the hour and not what they get done."

~Zack

"I would describe the HyVee co-workers as people who like to have fun, but also people you can rely on to get their work done."

~Zack



Zack Beiermann

## Meat



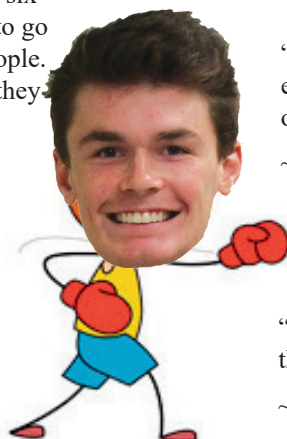
Jackson Neville

"Online shoppers work a total of six hours a week, and they get paid to go around the store and shop for people. Requires no skill, by the people they hire-that is quite obvious."

~Jackson



Drew Zaruba



Dalton Borchers

"If there was a plaque for best department every month, you best believe we'd be the only ones getting it."

~Dalton

"We are pretty much the backbone of the place."

~Dalton



Connor Wiehn

"There are two parts to the meat department: lunchmeat and service meat. I run the lunchmeat part, while all the other guys do service meat. Lunchmeat takes quite the toll, and it takes a lot to do it."

~Drew Zaruba

"All of us in the meat department are the best of friends and love each other, but every once in a while, Drew comes in and messes all that up. He makes weird noises and tries to boss everyone around."

~Connor Wiehn



# Girls make a career out of caring

By Mariana Valdez-Ortiz  
Staff Reporter

Teens have the opportunity to get various different jobs, some are easy, and others are hard. Some jobs might even require training. Teens get jobs to earn money or to get a jump-start in their future careers. Many girls in Scotus have decided to do just that and become a CNA

This job is not an easy one, but the girls who decided to go through the training and hard work knew that this was the perfect job for them. Most of the girls that have this job are seniors, but there is a junior who also works as a CNA. Senior Abbie Zoucha works as a CNA at Columbus Care and Rehab center.

"I became a CNA because I knew I wanted to do something in the medical field, and some college programs require students to become a CNA," Zoucha said.

To become a CNA, people first must go through training. Training is not very difficult; the most difficult part is that they have to learn various new things in a short amount of time.

"The process of becoming a CNA was not difficult just a short and time-consuming period, having

to complete 72 hours in two and a half weeks," junior Makenzie Enderlin said.

To become a CNA, they must have many different skills. Nurse assistants are not there only to care for the patients physically, they need to make sure that the patient knows that there is someone there for them.

"The most important thing I do is interact with the people at the nursing home," Zoucha added.

There are many reasons why teens choose to get jobs that are focused on what they think they might want to pursue in their future. One of the benefits of being in the medical field is that it will help them realize if that is what they really want to do as adults. Junior Makenzie Enderlin works every Thursday and on the weekends at the nursing home.

"Being a CNA has influenced me to decide that I truly want to help others, but specifically newborn babies, not the elderly," Enderlin said.

The medical field is a very broad field, so becoming a nurse assistant can help teens narrow down their options. Working as a nurse assistant has helped senior Emily Stutzman decide what she wants to do as an adult.

"Being a CNA has helped me decide the environment I want to

work in," Stutzman said.

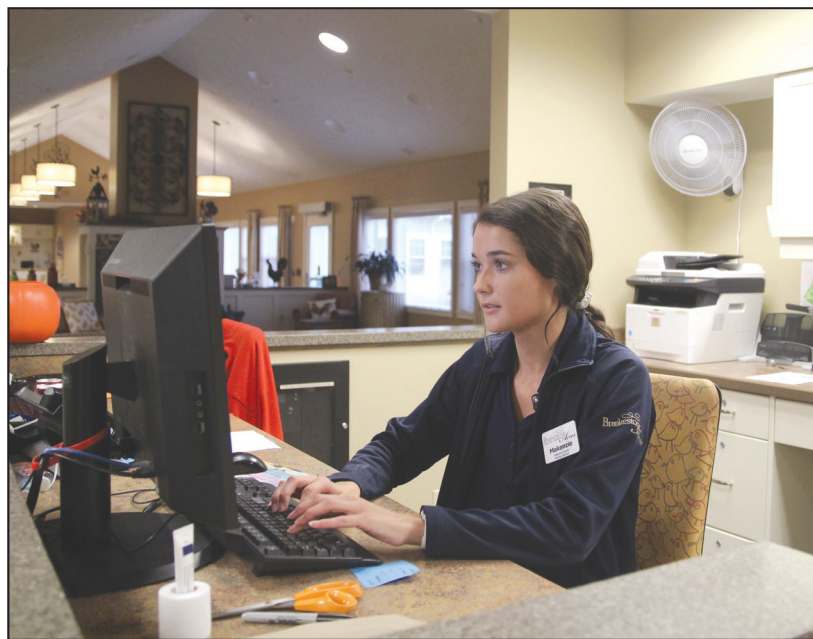
Being a CNA comes with a lot of responsibilities. The Scotus girls who work as a CNA normally work a shift between four and eight hours.

"The most difficult part of this job is transferring the people who are not able to move on their own," Zoucha said.

There are many careers teens can choose from, some are more complex than others, and they might require more training. If teens are

certain of what they want to study or do when they are older, there is no reason why they should not start working towards that career. Remember it is never too early to start pursuing a dream job.

"If you are considering going into the medical field, I recommend you become a CNA and get a job at a nursing home or assisted living home to get a feel of some of the things you may have to do," Zoucha concluded.

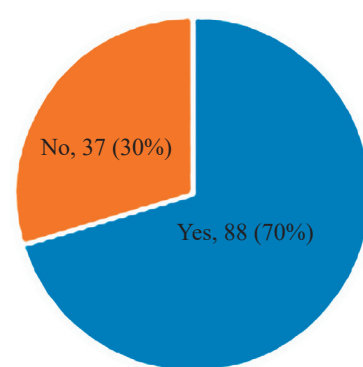


MARIANA VALDEZ-ORTIZ/ ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

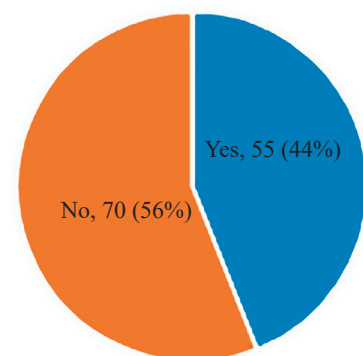
McKenzie Enderlin check the charts of residents during work. Enderlin works at Brookstone as a CNA.

## Scotus students job survey (129 total surveyed)

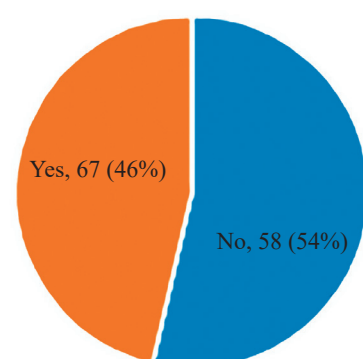
Did you have a job this summer?



Do you have a job during the school year?



Do you think it is important for high school students to have a job during the school year?



# Vet job leads to acquiring many skills

By Jaycee Ternus  
Staff Reporter

Every high school job is different. Where people work can make a difference in what they want to do when they grow up. Many people may babysit on the weekends or mow their neighbor's lawn, but others may get a job in the "real

world" like working in retail or at a fast food restaurant. Some jobs are harder than others, and some may require more skill.

One job that is unique is working at a vet clinic. Three students at Scotus work with animals to earn a little cash; Cole Demuth, Hannah Allen, and Emily Stutzman.

Senior Emily Stutzman worked at Twin Rivers Vet Clinic.

"I don't work at a vet clinic anymore. But I love animals and as a first job it was great. I learned a lot about animals and got to shadow an amazing veterinarian," Stutzman said.

Working at a vet clinic requires many tasks. Junior Cole Demuth works at Twin River Vet and has many tasks to do every day at his job.

"In the morning, I start the laundry, then I begin to let the dogs out, so I can feed and water them and let them back in. I do the same for the cats. In the afternoon I do the same as the morning, but I also sweep/mop the clinic and take out the trash," Demuth said.

Stutzman also had many tasks to do when she worked at the vet clinic.

"When I worked there my favorite part was getting to work with different kinds of animals. We got to work with animals from puppies and kittens to calves and foals and their mommas. We also got different kinds of birds, reptiles, and I even got to work with possums," Stutzman said.

There are many fun tasks to do when working at a vet clinic.

"I like being able to play with

the dogs, especially when there is a puppy. I also like the birds that they have in the clinic," Demuth said.

Senior Hannah Allen works at Pet Care Specialists and has been working there for 1 year.

"I like working with most of the animals. I also get to see a lot of cool stuff that you wouldn't see at a regular job," Allen said.

Where people work may spark interest in future jobs. Allen and Demuth state how their current job may spark future interest in what they want to do in the future.

"It may, I really want to work in a national park in Wyoming and hopefully track and study animals there. Studying Agriculture is also an interest of mine," Demuth said.

"Yes, I would like to be a vet so being in a clinic atmosphere is great," Allen said.

Depending on where people work may require many tasks, have unique experiences, and give them money to spend. Just like any job requires a lot of hard work and time to do your job right.

"I was asked to work at a vet clinic by a friend," Allen said, "I really enjoy animals, so it seemed like a good fit."



JAYCEE TERNUS/ ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Senior Hannah Allen stands by the Pet care specialist sign where she currently works. Many others including Allen also have had experience in working at a vet clinic.

Why or why not is it important for high school students to maintain a job during the school year?

*"It is nice to have your own money so you don't need to rely on your parents as much. However, you miss out on so many school events."*  
12 Jackson Neville

*"Having a high school job has helped me to be organized, learn to manage time well, and it also gave me money to spend on things that I know my parents won't get me!"*  
12 Hallie Parker

*"We are almost adults and eventually we will have to work anyway, so why not start now and have some money saved up already."*  
11 Nicholas Taylor

*"Most people are very busy during the school year with homework and sports and don't really have time for a job."*  
11 Haylee Cielocha

*"Students need to focus on school, but it is always nice to have a little extra cash during the school year too. Working during school isn't too bad either because it helps you manage your time for the future."*  
10 Ross Thorson

*"You will be ready when you go to college and get out in the real world."*  
10 Este Lesiak

# Teachers wonder, "What if?"

By Brea Lassek  
Staff Reporter

High school students constantly feel the pressure to figure out what they are supposed to do with the rest of their lives: filling out scholarships and financial aid, preparing for the ACT, and choosing a career path. However, they often forget that the teachers at Scotus were also faced with these tough decisions.

Many Scotus teachers never imagined themselves as teachers when they were younger and changed their minds numerous times.

"[My dream job was] to replace the great Brent Musburger, doing play-by-play for ABC or ESPN football, basketball, volleyball and/or baseball," history teacher Wade Coulter confessed.

Art teacher Clyde Erickson had especially unique aspirations.

"The first thing I wanted to do was an explorer who went around the world and discovered new animals," Erickson shared.

Although a fair amount majored in education first, several of the Scotus teachers headed into college

with other ideas in mind. Physical Science teacher Bridget McPhillips arrived at Wayne State planning to become a dental hygienist, but she soon concluded that it was not the right path for her.

"I quickly realized after continuing to shadow the profession I didn't want to spend the rest of my life with my hands in other people's mouths," McPhillips explained.

Although McPhillips promptly came to her decision, activities director and former math teacher Merlin Lahm did not declare his major until two and a half years into college. Although he spent time in doubt of what to pursue, he avoids wondering if he would have chosen differently.

"I don't let myself think like that. Our three children are studying medicine, engineering, and communications. Those all sound like fun enterprises to me, but I don't do the 'What would you do if...' very well," Lahm responded.

Jane Dusel-Misfeldt has been teaching at Scotus for 26 years and attended Wayne State College prior. Dusel was offered to oversee the Chemistry labs at Creighton University but was guided by the Holy Spirit to stay a teacher at Scotus.

"Honestly, I have thought about and even applied to do other jobs but have always felt the Holy Spirit pulling me back into teaching - particularly at a Catholic school," Dusel revealed. "I have never gotten bored being a teacher. I love doing labs and seeing the response of students when they do a lab and figure out the concepts that go with it. Students never cease to amaze me - in both positive and negative ways - but mostly positive, or I couldn't keep doing what I do."

Even though many would not change their career paths, most of the teachers have other jobs that occupy their time outside of school. Erickson spends his Saturdays in Lincoln cheering on the Huskers from a different viewpoint in Memorial Stadium.

"I currently make and sell popcorn at the Nebraska football games," Erickson said. "It's fun to go down there and be a part of the environment of Husker football, and I enjoy being with the people I work with. We pretty much pop, scoop, and then box the popcorn, over and over about 500 times."

Many teachers have less conventional jobs but are constantly on the go all the same. They identify

being parents as their part-time jobs.

"[My part-time job is] being a mom! Job description [includes]: reading books, sculpting Play-doh dinosaurs, changing diapers, soothing midnight screams, and making weird animal noises," religion instructor Kelly Koranda joked.

Regardless of their different out of school activities, all of the teachers can agree on why they come back to work everyday.

"The best thing [about teaching]? June, July, and August!" social science teacher Pat Brockhaus answered. "Just kidding! I really enjoy being around young people, teaching and coaching, which is actually teaching on a different level."

No matter how long it took them to decide or why they came to the choice of teaching, the consensus of Scotus teachers is clear.

Dusel concluded, "It is the students that I teach and the people who I work with at Scotus who motivate me to keep doing my job. Each new school year brings new joys and new challenges each day."



# Scotus digs deep to make state

By Kate Smith  
Staff Reporter

Making it to the state tournament is a dream of every volleyball team that only few can accomplish, but we made it!

The Shamrock volleyball team gained momentum going into their post season by winning their last three regular season games. The Lady Shamrocks faced a season of tough losses and energizing wins in their regular season and have grown in the game.

"I think that so far, the season is going very well. We have dropped a couple teams that we should have beaten which stinks, but as a team right now we are hitting our stride which is good because overall it doesn't matter where you start, it matters where you end up," junior setter Chloe Odibert said.

On October 11<sup>th</sup>, the Lady Shamrocks lost to the Bishop Neumann Cavaliers in four sets, winning only the third set. This loss was the fire that catapulted the team into the next three wins against Hastings Saint Cecelia (3-1), Pierce (3-0),

and Kearney Catholic (3-1). The girls took each game and managed to learn and improve from them.

"The best improvement we have made this season is our resilience and consistency," junior defensive specialist Lauren Ostdiek said.

The girls fell to Kearney Catholic earlier in the season but avenged this loss in the last regular season game. The volleyball girls agree that this win was a pivotal game in their season.

"Kearney Catholic was definitely one that stood out because we didn't fold to them. We took the first two sets, lost the third, and in the fourth, we started out 1-7. We came back and took that set from them. It felt good to finally finish and take the game back when it felt like we were going to lose it," outside hitter Emily Stutzman said.

On October 29<sup>th</sup>, the volleyball team played in the subdistrict tournament against Boone Central/Newman Grove and Lakeview. The Shamrocks beat the Lady Vikings in the fourth set to win the subdistrict championship. This win advanced the Shamrocks on to the sub-state match where they played

Chadron on November 3<sup>rd</sup>. They beat Chadron in four sets while only giving up the third. This win over Chadron advanced the girls to the state tournament. Since being on a winning streak, the girls hope to continue to play their best the rest of the season.

"I hope that we play our best volleyball at the end of the season, wherever we are playing," Lauren Ostdiek said.

It has taken the Shamrocks three seasons to come back and make an appearance at the state tournament.

"All of us girls share the same love for the game and love for each other which helps push each other to play our best always," right side hitter Julia Salerno said.

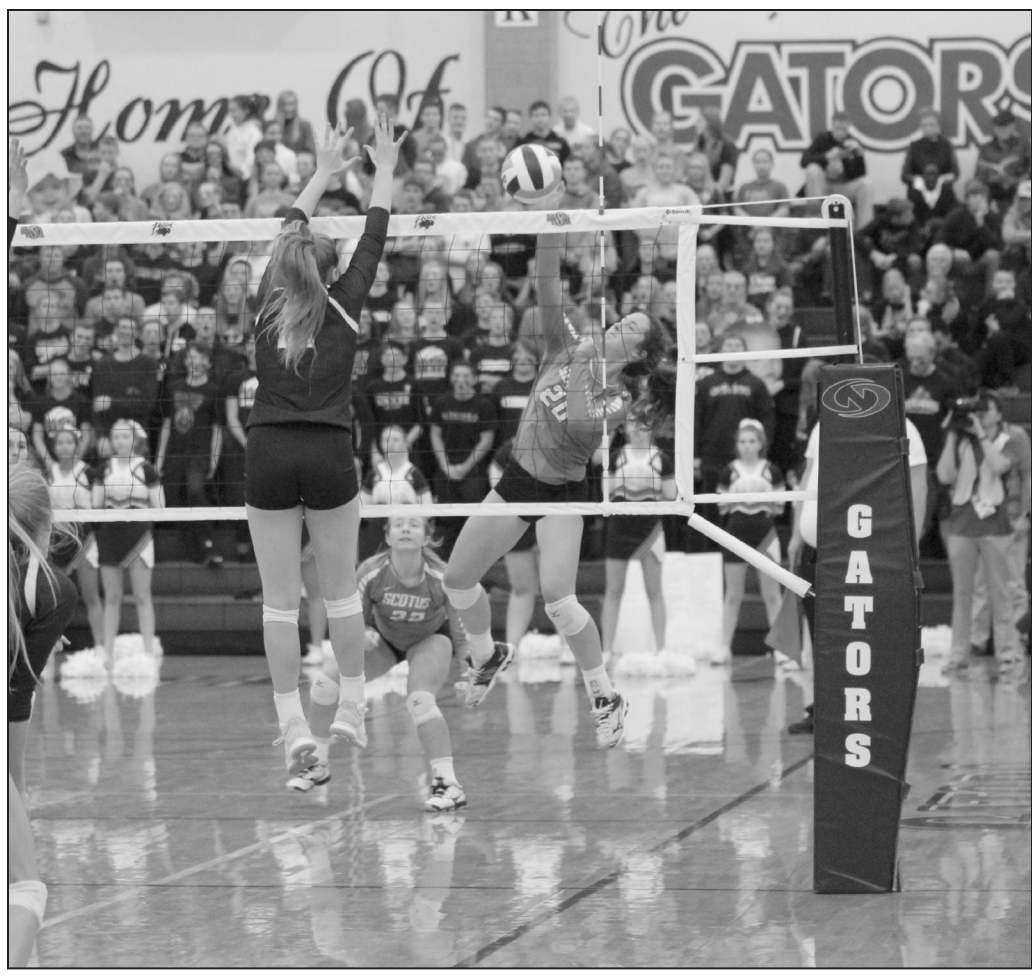
The team has also enjoyed the support of each other and family but of the whole Shamrock community on their way to state.

"I just want to thank the student section and everyone who believes in us. It has been a long journey to get to where we are and there is even more road ahead to get to where we are going," Odibert said. "The gym is always such a fun atmosphere to play in. Playing for the support-

ers and playing to glorify God makes this game even better. This team is special, so no matter where we end up, we have grown so strong

and connected as a team." The volleyball team played Lincoln Lutheran at 3:30 P.M. on Thursday, November 8<sup>th</sup> at Lincoln North

Star in the first round of the State Tournament.



RYLIE OLSEN/YEARBOOK STAFF

Senior Courtney Kosch goes up for a kill against Lincoln Lutheran in the first round of the state tournament. The Scotus volleyball season ended with a record of 21-10.

# Football falls short of post season

By Julia Salerno  
Staff Reporter

With season long injuries and a tough schedule, the Shamrock football team did not get anything handed to them this season.

The Shamrock football team ended their 2018 season with four wins and five losses. To conclude their season, the team fell to nearly undefeated Wahoo Public High School on October 19<sup>th</sup> at Memorial Stadium.

Junior running back Tyler Palmer said, "I don't think we ever got the chance to show off our full potential because we shot ourselves in the foot with injuries, penalties, or missed assignments."

Losing games in the middle of the season made it harder for the team to make it to the playoffs.

After winning two

previous games by dominating Raymond Central and upsetting Bishop Neumann and striving to keep their winning streak alive, the team approached rivals, the Columbus Lakeview Vikings, that next week. The Shamrocks lost to the Lakeview Vikings 14-24.

Senior running back Zack Beiermann said, "The loss against Lakeview was a hard one for the team. Many injuries came from that game, which affected the rest of the season."

The Shamrocks also had a positive viewpoint on the loss to Lakeview.

Senior lineman Abe Perault added, "I think it was a reality check for us. We came off the Neumann game feeling immortal, but that loss showed us we'd have to work to get to the playoffs."

With the loss to Lakeview

put behind them, the Shamrocks came back refueled for their next game. The Shamrocks then played Loganview/Scribner-Snyder on October 12<sup>th</sup>. They pulled out a win overpowering the Raiders 42-6. In this game, three senior football players scored their first touchdowns of their varsity careers.

Senior running back Tyler Wurtz said, "After we won that game, we knew if we beat Wahoo, we could make it to the playoffs."

The Shamrocks then had to face 8-1 team Wahoo Public High School. With only one loss under Wahoo's belt and knowing that making it to playoffs was on the line, the Shamrocks knew it would be a tough one, and they needed the win.

The Shamrocks fell to the Bluejays 14-40 finishing their 2018 season.

Junior Dalton Borchers has advice for upcoming underclassmen who are going to need to step up in place for the seniors that are leaving.

Borchers said, "Work hard in the off season and practice hard because your

time will come sooner than you may think, and we will need you."

With seven seniors hanging up their cleats for the season, there are big shoes to fill approaching the next year.

"Good things don't come

easily," senior running back Braden Labenz concluded. "We have fought and grinded every day these past four years, and I can truly say that it has been a blessing. I take away more than I can ever speak of."



ABBIE ZOUCHEA/YEARBOOK STAFF

Senior Abe Perault loses his helmet as he tackles a Loganview/Scribner-Sneider football player in their game on October 19th. Perault is one of seven seniors who played their final game that night.



KENDRA KORGER/YEARBOOK STAFF

Sophomore Benjamin Juarez strides out on the final stretch of the state course in Kearney, Nebraska. The Scotus boys finished sixth at the state meet.



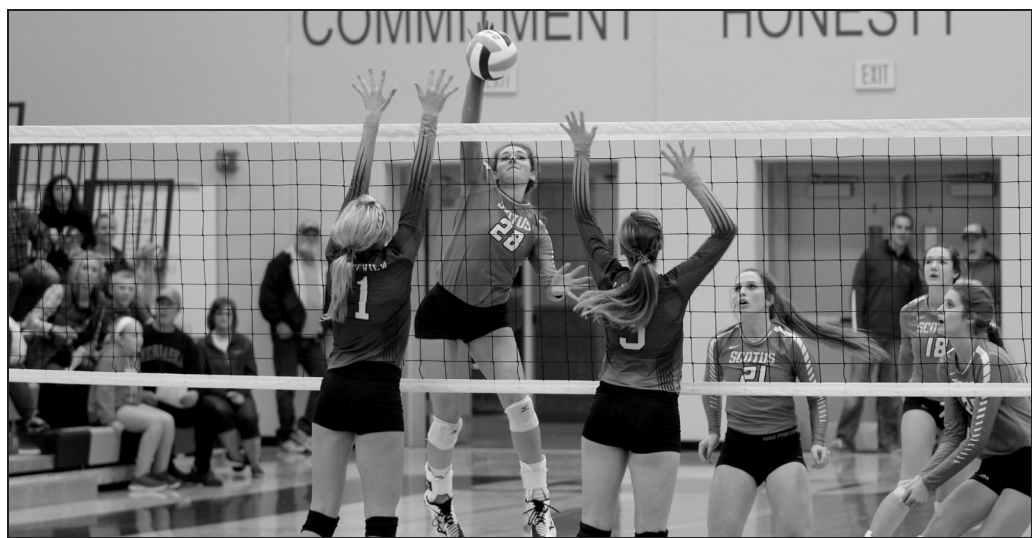
CALLAN FUCHSER/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Senior Evan Sliva stands ready to defend a field goal in the football game against Wahoo High on October 19th. The Shamrocks fell to the Bluejays 14-40 concluding their season.



JAYCEE TURNUS/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

The Scotus cheerleaders lead the student section in a cheer. The students cheered the volleyball girls on to district final wins against Boone Central and Lakeview.



JAYCEE TURNUS/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Senior Julia Salerno breaks through the Lakeview block on October 29th at Columbus High School. The Shamrocks beat the Lady Vikings in the District final in four sets.



# Runners sign off season at state meet



KENDRA KORGER/YEARBOOK STAFF

Junior Liza Zaruba looks to run by her competitors at the state meet. The team finished third at state.

By Chloe Odbert  
Staff Reporter

After wearing down the soles of their shoes throughout the fall season and counting their miles, Scotus cross country runners tied up their

shoelaces one last time.

The 2018 cross country season came to an end at the state meet held in Kearney, Nebraska on October 19<sup>th</sup>. Scotus runners proved that their hard work and dedication this season paid off as they sent both their boys and

girls teams to the state race.

The girls had high hopes going into the meet based off their successful season record of 123-3. They ended up in third place at the state meet.

“Going into the state meet, it was our goal to bring home a trophy,” senior runner Kelsey Faust said. “Obviously we did not meet this goal, but I believe we did everything we could, and I couldn’t be more proud of the girls.”

Freshman Liz Adamy was glad to persevere through the season and end up on varsity to run in the state meet after starting the season as a junior varsity runner.

“I was proud that I made it this far and wanted to do the best I could have done; I wanted to run my heart out for the last meet of the season,” Adamy said.

Adamy’s teammates also saw and appreciated her improvement throughout the season.

“[Adamy] continued to improve at every meet and ended up competing as our 5<sup>th</sup> runner at state finishing right

behind our 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> runners. She had made me so proud this season, and I have loved watching her grow,” Faust said.

Not only did the Shamrock nation have the chance to send off their girls’ team, but they also sent the boys off to the state meet to conclude their season.

“Coach Lahm said that our goal at the state meet for the boys’ team was to place in the top half as a team,” senior runner Nathan Schumacher said.

The boys met this goal as they placed sixth out of the twelve teams in the race. The boys knew that as long as they pushed each other and all competed to the best of their ability, this goal could be reached.

They ended the year with a 114-17 record. The boys were grateful to hear that they had overcome adversity and beat Boone Central/Newman Grove by one point to advance to the state meet. The boys snagged the district championship by only one point to advance them to the

state meet which was good for their confidence.

After failing to qualify for the state meet as a team last year, the boys looked to get back on the course of winning this season.

“Our goal this season was to make it to the state, so I think that made everyone push a little harder,” junior Tyler Vaught explained.

Senior Elliott Thomazin had his sights set a little higher than state qualification, he wanted to end his career at the Kearney Country Club with a medal.

“I wanted to run my race. State is obviously a big meet which makes it really easy to get nervous. I wanted to focus on running the same way that I had all year. If I could do that, I knew I had a shot at a medal,” Thomazin said.

Thomazin accomplished the goal he set for himself. He left the Kearney Country Club for the last time wearing a tenth-place medal around his neck.

Although some of the goals were missed this season, the cross country runners

ended the year in a great place, the Kearney Country club. The seniors on the team were a great asset to the team and will be missed by the underclassmen in the 2019 season according to junior runner Brea Lassek.

“My four years in cross country would not be as special without these seniors. Each of them have made me laugh until my stomach hurts, jammed with me on the bus, and made me feel like I was a part of something much greater than myself,” Lassek stated. “This group is special, and it is going to be extremely difficult not hearing them cheer for me in the middle of a race. Our cross country team is so much more than a group that runs and competes together. We are a family.”

Vaught too expressed that he would be missing this year’s squad as he said, “I love the seniors who are graduating so much, and I don’t know what I will do without them next year. Cross country will never be the same.”

# New members bring record numbers

By Cameron Johnston  
Staff Reporter

For the first time in the John Dunn’s Scotus chapter of the National Honor Society the number of members is at a record high of 79.

On Thursday, October 25<sup>th</sup>, all current and newly accepted candidates met to induct the 29 students who exceeded all other in the categories of Scholarship, Leadership, Service, and Character. The qualified students have been working not only on keeping their grades at or above the minimum standard, but also writing a personal statement on why they deserve to be a part of the prestigious club.

Jane Dusel Misfeldt is the sponsor of the Scotus Central Catholic chapter of NHS and leader of its student’s members.

“According to national guidelines, every new National Honor Society

member must be officially inducted at a ceremony that meets national requirements,” Dusel said.

This 2018-2019 school year marks Dusel’s 20<sup>th</sup> year of service toward this organization. Because of the rigorous requirement put in place by NHS, students are expected to uphold a higher GPA and better behavior inside and outside the walls of Scotus.

“Inside the classroom I expect no difference between a National Honor Society student and another student. Outside of the classroom, NHS members are expected to do what is required of them and even a little more,” Dusel said.

In 1921, the National Honor Society was established by the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) to recognize outstanding high school students and their achievements.

“I signed up for NHS be-

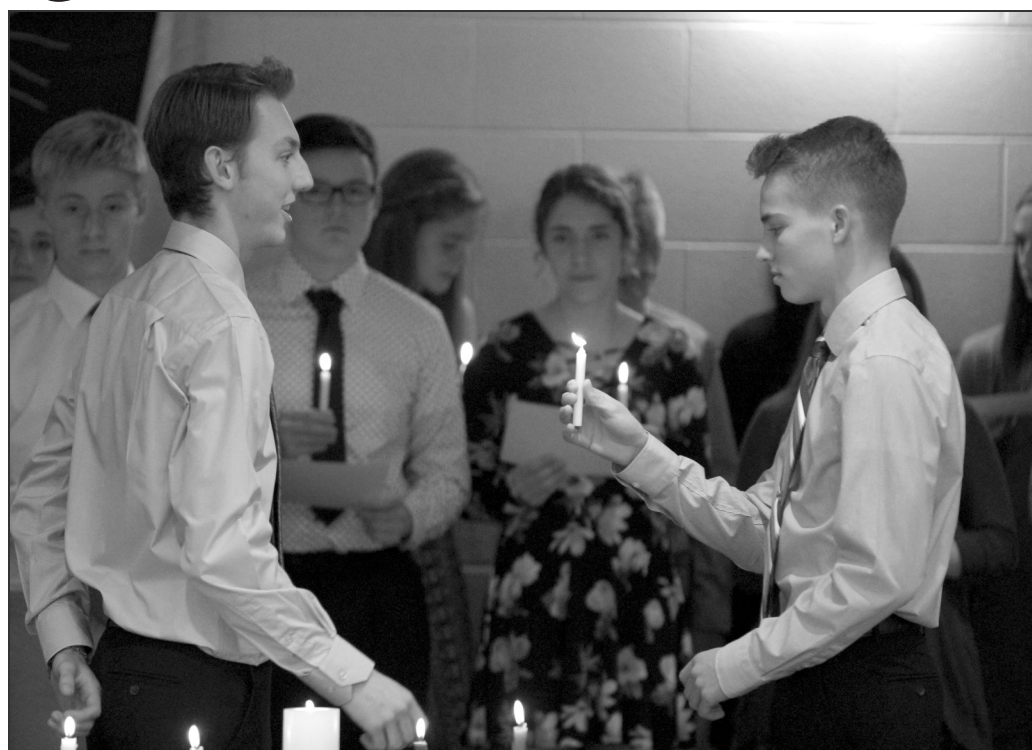
cause it is a prestigious organization at Scotus. I thought NHS would help build me as a better person, and it helped me build my leadership skills,” senior NHS member Nathan Schumacher said.

Members of NHS must keep a cumulative Grade Point Average of a 93% or above to avoid probation and eventual expulsion from the society.

“NHS will help my future by helping me become prepared for college. The skills I obtained will make me a better person and accomplish my goals in life,” Schumacher said.

NHS is a tool that students use to make themselves stand out from the crowd and the rest of the field of applicants when seniors are applying for scholarships and acceptance towards colleges of their choice.

“[I applied] to help me be motivated with school work, help others, and motivate them as well,” sopho-



AMBER BUHMAN/YEARBOOK STAFF

Senior National Honor Society President Elliott Thomazin inducts sophomore Ross Thorson. This year, 29 new inductees were accepted into the group.

more Este Lesiak stated.

National Honor Society members live their life based on four pillars of Scholarship, Leadership, Commu-

nity Service, and Character.

Members carry out these pillars throughout the year by putting on the annual blood drive and supporting children

in need with the purchase of presents through the Christmas candy sales among other things.

# HOSA exposes students to healthcare



LIZA ZARUBA/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Sophomores Kaira Dallman, Camille Pelan, Shelby Bridger, and Michaela Kresha watch intently as sophomore Olivia Fehringer receives an UltraSound on her wrist. HOSA visited the Columbus Community Hospital on October 25<sup>th</sup> to learn more about different departments the medical field has to offer.

By Liza Zaruba  
Staff Reporter

The science, the problem solving, the social interaction, the ability to make a difference in other people’s lives. These are just a few of the many reasons young students are looking to make a career for themselves in the

medical field.

HOSA is an organization meant to cultivate an interest in the medical field in the next generation. It provides opportunities for high school students to get a deeper look into what working in healthcare is truly like, and it broadens students’ perspectives to expose them to the endless paths one can take as

a healthcare professional.

“I don’t know yet [what part of the medical field I am interested in], but I am hoping HOSA will help me get a better idea,” junior Jacey Clarey said.

Throughout the year, HOSA students will take part in numerous hospital visits to tour the different departments within the hospital, speak to

healthcare professionals, and learn more about the variety of jobs available to them.

The HOSA organization also holds a state and national competition every year for students to test their medical knowledge, creativity, critical thinking capabilities, and communication skills, which are all necessary attributes for people looking to become a healthcare professional. HOSA is not intended for the sole benefit of only the students, though. It is also important that there be a focus on giving back to the community in some way.

“In addition to educating our group, we participate in many volunteer activities around the community. For us, it is important to give back to our town and to show our respect for the medical community around us,” HOSA president Maddie Sueper said.

At Scotus, the HOSA students recently took part in a tour at Columbus Community Hospital on October 25<sup>th</sup>.

“I thought it was interesting to see all the different departments in the hospital that I didn’t know were there,” freshman Gavin Brabec said.

Students were able to visit different departments including the pharmacy, the emergency department, and the cardiac rehabilitation center. They looked inside the simulation lab, where professionals will come to practice and learn the proper procedure, so they are prepared in any scenario.

“I enjoyed being able to see what the nurses do on a day to day basis during our Columbus tour,” junior McKenzie Enderlin said.

A Norfolk experience at their local hospital is next on the agenda for Scotus HOSA students, which will occur on November 29<sup>th</sup>. They will also be attending another tour at a couple CHI hospitals in Omaha on February 14<sup>th</sup>.

“[The hospital visits] help give the HOSA chapter an idea as to what different health career opportunities are available in a hospital and what the setting of their jobs looks like,” Sueper said.

After that, it will be time to buckle down in preparation for the tests they will be facing in March at the state leadership conference held at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. Every HOSA member is required to

compete in one event during the state leadership conference. This can range from competing in a debate to taking one of over 100 different tests based on the member’s interest. The tests are notoriously difficult, so this year, Scotus HOSA students are taking extra measures to be sure they are as ready as possible.

“Mrs. Lahm says she wants us to form study groups for each section of tests, so we will be able to help one another study,” junior Cole Demuth said.

Despite the hard work that goes into HOSA and joining the medical field in general, students always keep a steady motivation: helping others.

“Although I still don’t know exactly what I want to pursue in the medical field, I am leaning toward becoming a nurse anesthetist or an anesthesiologist. It would be a difficult job, but it would also be a rewarding job at the same time. I find it fun to be able to care for and show encouragement to patients while they undergo surgeries,” Sueper said.



# Zanardi returns to Book Club

By Abe Perault  
Staff Reporter

In high school, there are opportunities for students of all different interests. At Scotus, some kids choose to show off their athletic ability in sports, and others choose to perform in the arts. Students also participate in the various clubs around the school. Then there are some that also manage to do all of them! Hidden among the library of Scotus activities is the Book Club.

The club is only offered to seniors, who the original idea came from, and they meet every month with a new book.

“Back in 2002, I started it because Oprah’s book club was so awesome! We were sitting around in senior English and they said we should do a book club, and I said, ‘why don’t we do a book club?’,” Book Club advisor Becki Zanardi said.

Zanardi eventually took some time off from teaching, and the club was handed off to Scotus librarian Cathy Podliska. With Podliska’s hands being filled with the re-vamping of the media center this year, the reins of the club were handed back to Zanardi.

This year Zanardi is making a change to the book club. Instead of reading popular and classic literature, she is focusing more on humanities literature.

“I had wanted to do this last year. After I went to an Institute for Holocaust meeting in Omaha, I wanted to focus more on humanities,” Zanardi explained.

Along with being a literature teacher, Zanardi is also a member of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM for short) Teacher Fellowship. In the Fellowship, the members spread their knowledge on holocausts and genocides around the world and throughout history.

Zanardi does this

through teaching, giving presentations, and now through Book Club.

“I don’t know where my interest in holocaust education was piqued. Years ago, I used to teach *The Diary of Anne Frank*. Then when I came back, I taught sophomores *Night*, and I also had a chance to visit Germany and Dachau. That was the kindling, and it just grew from there,” Zanardi said.

As for the future, Zanardi hopes that Book Club could escalate into a semester elective where students would study humanities literature. With the school’s new one study hall rule, it looks like a possibility, but for now she is going to stick to Book Club.

Book Club had their first meeting on Friday the 26th of October and will continue to meet monthly. At the meetings they discuss the book and eat breakfast together.

For the month of October, Book Club members read *Left to Tell* by Immaculee Ili-



ABE PERAULT/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

**Book Club advisor Becki Zanardi discusses *Left to Tell* with the club members. Zanardi is a member of the USHMM teacher fellowship and will use the club to teach about holocausts and genocide.**

bagiza. The book is a non-fiction account of how her life was ripped apart and how she found God in the midst of the Rwandan Holocaust.

“I thought the first book was really good! It brought faith into it and moral issues that have occurred in our world. It kept me on my toes, and the book was hard to put

down,” senior Emma Brandt commented.

Senior Patrick Herchenbach also thought it was a phenomenal book and read it in a mere two days!

“It has lessons that all of us need. The book is about growing in your faith despite the horrors and terrible events around us. Many people

lose their faith in times of struggle. This book is a good reminder that instead of turning away from God, we can turn towards Him and all will be okay,” Herchenbach said.

If any seniors are still interested in Book Club, they can talk to Mrs. Zanardi to get the current or next book.

# Coding Club creates opportunity

By Elliott Thomazin  
Editor

Every Tuesday through Thursday, the media center is full of students who are hard at work writing, rewriting, and testing their coding creations. The students are members of Coding Club, one of Scotus’ newest clubs.

Coding Club is open to Jr. High students who are interested in learning more about computer science. While at coding club, students can expect to sit down and solve problems presented to them by the online pro-

gram Code.org. The program consists of 30 lessons that guide members through the basics of coding. Students work through the lessons over the course of a semester. The lessons will start over in the second semester. Seventh grader Addison Schoenfelder has enjoyed participating in the new club.

“[Coding Club] is a fun experience where we get to meet new people. We also get to grow and explore coding. We have fun with the puzzles, but they really make us think,” Schoenfelder said.

English teacher Deb Ohnoutka and media center

specialist Cathy Podliska, with help from Scotus parent Rocio Adame, have helped bring the club to fruition.

“When the idea for the STEAM lab came about, there was not a whole lot of opportunity for Jr. High Students to get in there and take any classes. This was a way for them to get involved in some computer science,” Ohnoutka said.

With 22 students who signed up for the free club, interest for Coding Club is apparent. Students not only sit at a computer while at coding club. Ohnoutka, Podliska, and Adame also

plan “unplugged activities.” For example, students have had to navigate each other through a grid on a table.

“It’s easy to sit there on the computer and just click things, but when they actually have to stand and think, ‘Where do I go?’ or ‘What do I do?’ It’s a different sort of thinking,” Ohnoutka said.

The benefits of Coding Club go beyond acquiring basic coding skills. Ohnoutka has noticed that the members have started to learn crucial soft skills.

“Another great thing that’s come about is how they help each other. Because I

am not super experienced in computer programming, I will sit there and try to help them, but there might be another kid who says ‘do this.’ It’s really great to see leadership skills come out in the kids,” Ohnoutka said.

Members have also learned what a nested loop is, how to communicate with code, and that making a website is very complicated. The club has already helped eighth grader Isaac Dreher take steps to achieve his dream of being a robotics engineer.

“I’ve learned to make pictures, challenges, and

tasks, many with limited space. Some are hard to do if you are not experienced. The most important thing that I’ve learned is that trial and error is the key to victory,” Dreher said.

Coding Club has provided an opportunity for Jr. High students to build interest in computer science, meet new friends, and prepare for the future.

“We hope to continue it,” Ohnoutka said, “Hopefully we will bring about some great challenges for them.”



ELLIOTT THOMAZIN/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

**After school, seventh graders Addison Schoenfelder and Olivia Ehlers work on perfecting their code in the Media Center. Coding Club is open to all Junior High students.**



ANGIE RUSHER/JOURNALISM ADVISOR

**Seventh graders Luke Thomazin, Caleb Schumacher, and Logan Erickson work on an “unplugged activity.” “Unplugged activities” occur once a week.**

# Careers Club focuses on the future

By Brea Lassek  
Staff Reporter

As the saying goes, “choose a job you love and you will never have to work a day in your life.” As their inevitable futures rapidly approach, a new group of Scotus students is discerning what passions they wish to turn into their careers. To fill that need, junior Lauren Ostdiek developed the new Careers Club at Scotus.

“I really wanted to start something like a Careers Club at Scotus because, obviously, we don’t have anything like it, and I know that there are students here who are interested in exploring different careers but have simply not had the exposure to them,” Ostdiek explained.

Ostdiek sought out STEAM instructor Betsy Rall for assistance in orga-

nizing meetings and plans for the club. The goal is to have new speakers every month describe their unique jobs and answer any questions the students may have.

“I think that we can all visualize what a teacher does, a policeman, what a doctor or nurse would do, but there are so many jobs out there that nobody knows anything about, so the idea of the Careers Club is to present other careers and job titles that no one has ever thought about before,” Rall emphasized.

At the start of the school year, Ostdiek sent out a survey to all grades to gather data about what careers the students were interested in. The results showed a variety of jobs, but the most popular was pursuing a career in the medical field. Along with utilizing the information collected from this survey, the Careers Club will focus on targeting Scotus graduates to

speak. At the inaugural meeting, Scotus alumni Sarah Pillen shared about her career as an attorney at Pillen Family Farms. There were approximately 25 students at this first meeting.

“Having a great turnout at the first meeting was encouraging to see my idea set into motion, and I am excited to see what this club will grow into,” Ostdiek remarked.

Besides listening to speakers, club members will also be treated to more helpful perks.

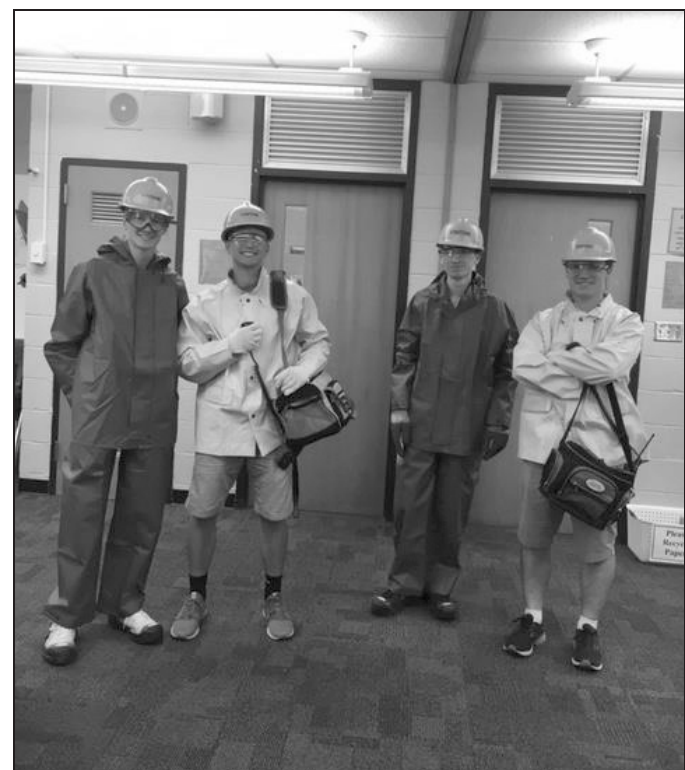
“If there is a place I can connect them to in Columbus, I will arrange a job shadowing opportunity, and I can also do some digging for available scholarships for people that know a certain university or a certain field. We also talked about ACT review opportunities. I’ve done some work in helping students review for the ACT so I

thought I can always arrange some sessions for club members,” Rall elaborated.

The Careers Club is open to all high-schoolers and is still encouraging members to join. The next task is to elect officers in which a president and vice president will be chosen along with an advisory committee. These leaders will help decide and contact the speakers for future meetings. They hope to eventually bring in widely-known large company representatives.

Rall concluded, “I am glad that Lauren is a junior because she can work with me this year and next year. Hopefully, we can use the advisory committee to help develop a really robust club that is beneficial to everybody who chooses to be a part of it.”

If interested in joining the Careers Club, see Lauren Ostdiek for more information.



BETSY RALL/STEAM COORDINATOR

**STEAM students Sam Blaser, Lucas Schaecher, Kyle Hiemer, and Braden Labenz show off their hazmat suits supplied by ADM. STEAM and the Careers Club target businesses to inform students on potential careers.**



# Cheerleaders inspire junior campers

By Jaycee Ternus  
Staff Reporter

Every year the cheerleaders put together a junior cheer camp for grade schoolers. The campers all learn the ins and outs of being a cheerleader. From performing a cheer routine to shouting out cheers to the crowd, the kids learned all of this from Scotus cheerleaders. After they learn their routine, cheers, and special tricks like jumps, they perform at a Friday night Scotus football game.

This year's cheer camp had 40 junior campers. Junior Kate Smith taught the kindergartners and first graders a routine to "Jesse's Girl".

"My favorite part is teaching the little girls cheers and getting to cheer with them on the sidelines of the football game," Smith said.

The cheerleaders had the camp Sunday October 7<sup>th</sup> where they taught the girls their routines. Junior Jayden Heng taught the junior campers a routine to "I Wanna Dance with Somebody."

"I enjoyed teaching the children. They had really no

clue what they were actually doing, but they had somewhat of an idea," Heng said.

This year's cheer camp theme was the Back to the Eighties. All different grades of girls danced to different songs from the eighties. Senior Julia Salerno taught the 4<sup>th</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> graders and danced to the song "Hit Me with Your Best Shot".

"My favorite part of cheer camp is seeing how all of the girls look up to the cheerleaders. It is so cute how after camp, we will always see some of the girls hanging around at the football game doing cheers," Salerno said.

The junior cheer camp is an annual event that the cheerleaders have done from basketball games now to football games. Senior Kelsey Faust helped with her fourth year of junior cheer camp.

"The performance went well! It was very cold, so we did everything we could to keep the girls warm before we performed- lots of jumping jacks and group huddles," Faust said.

Senior Kendra Korger

choreographed the routine "Dance with Somebody" and taught jumps and kicks to the campers.

"It's always hard to predict how the dance will go cheering; we only worked on it one day a week earlier, and there were definitely some mistakes, but all the cheerleaders and girls had fun, so it went great," Korger said.

The night of the performance it was cold, but the girls performed. Sophomore Tanley Miller taught K-1<sup>st</sup> grade the dance to "Jesse's Girl".

"It was messy, but we made it work," Miller said.

Every cheer camp the campers get to wear a shirt to remember that performance. Cheer coach Pat Engel is on her 10<sup>th</sup> season of coaching and has put on the camp every year.

"One of the other favorite parts of the junior cheer camp is designing the shirts. Once the theme is picked, I get hold of Columbus Screen Printing and everyone starts to brainstorm on the design. It really is such a fun camp to put on every year," Engel said.



ABBIE ZOUCHA/YEARBOOK STAFF

Sophomore Alli Demuth dances with the junior campers. The kindergarteners danced to "Jesse's Girl".



ABBIE ZOUCHA/YEARBOOK STAFF

Senior Rebekah Hergott poses with the junior campers at the half time performance. This year's junior cheer camp theme was Back to the Eighties.



ABBIE ZOUCHA/YEARBOOK STAFF

Sophomore Jaelyn Podolak spots a junior camper in a lift. The cheerleaders and junior campers performed at the October 10th football game.

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# Mineo pierces the heart with *The Arrow* and *The Sword*

By **Abe Perault**  
Staff Reporter

If I were to ask the question “What does rap make you think of?” I could assume that I would receive many answers. Some would say that the beat, rhymes, or the base drops are the first things they think of; others would say they think of explicit lyrics dealing with gangs, drugs and sex. The latter of the two is what I always thought about rap, and, honestly, most of what I hear other people listening to is exactly that. But what if rap could be more than the negative connotation that comes with it?

Earlier this year Andy Mineo released a new EP (a short album) titled *I: The Arrow*, and my opinion of rap has taken a complete 180-degree turn because of it. From the beginning title, “I’ve Been...”, to the final song, “...Lost”, Mineo grabbed my attention, and he didn’t stop there either! This September he released a sequel album called *II: The Sword*. In both records, I love the fact that instead of resorting to all the negative parts of rap that peo-

ple resent, Mineo raps about his downfalls, his struggles, and how he experiences life. His music is fun to listen to, but at the same time, it made me think and reflect about myself.

*The Arrow* has a total of six songs and is about 22 minutes long. Through the EP there is a solid theme of lost and found. One of my favorite songs, “Clarity”, stresses that the most. In the song Mineo writes about how he wants to know who he is because he realized he was a fraud like everyone else. The first verse also has clever, rhyming lyrics with references to *Rocky* and the Bible that I had a fun time sifting through. “Family Photo” is the most emotionally impactful song on the EP in which Mineo recounts his wedding day and the hurt he experienced from his father who did not show up. In the songs “Anxiety” and “I Ain’t Done,” he raps about his struggles with his mental health, and, in addition, there is a fantastic transition between the songs.

The EP ends with perhaps the best song on the record, “...Lost.” Through all

the songs, Mineo’s struggles are clearly evident, but this song has a more hopeful undertone. The track uses the image of a plane going through a cloud. When you’re in the cloud, you can’t see, and turbulence makes life a little rocky. It’s when you get above the clouds that you realize life will be alright because the sun is out. That image is the perfect explanation of the human life, and I found I could relate to it.

In Andy Mineo’s new album, *II: The Sword*, the tone is a bit brighter. Songs like “Friends” and “That’s None of My Business” have an upbeat tone that bring a more joyful mood. After listening to both albums, I do think *The Arrow*’s list of songs are more meaningful compared to *The Sword*’s. I’m not saying *The Sword* is worse though. I enjoyed the fact that the album had collaboration with smaller artists. Plus, the final song “Shame” is one of Mineo’s most honest songs. In it he talks about his struggles and the people who saw beyond them, but the most important part is that Mineo says regardless of all his problems, that’s not the end.

There is more to his story, as there is for all of us.

With all that said, I think everyone should give Mineo’s new music a listen. Sure, it is rap, but he takes

rap to a level that’s easy for everyone to listen and relate to. He does not need to use expletives to get his point across. Instead, Mineo hits the heart at what it means to

be human. He reminds us that even though we’re broken and bruised, that is not all we consist of. That’s music worth listening to.



Andy Mineo released his first EP, *I: The Arrow*, on April 27, 2018. The record includes tracks “Clarity” and “I Ain’t Done.”

# Finding Felicity

By **Tara Kamrath**  
Staff Reporter

Aria tightened her cloak around her as a strong gust of wind whipped back her dark hair and sliced across her exposed skin, drawing tears from her eyes due to the intense chill. Her lungs grew cold with each breath, which sighed out as an icy cloud, mingling with the gentle flakes falling from the clouded sky. Despite this cold, Aria was teeming with little specks of warm determination within her. With each labored, weary step up the mountain trail she climbed, the closer she came to finally finding what she’s spent hunting down for nearly three months.

“Felicity?” Several innkeepers and fellow travelers had spoken similarly when she’d asked for directions and rumors. “You must be crazy if you think you can find Felicity alone. People say few have ever done it before, and those who did have their lives change drastically. But if you insist... The legend tells to go north to where Mount Valadin stands. At the very top, there is where you should find Felicity. But beware: the mountain is rumored to have dark beasts living upon it. I grant you safe travels.”

And so, with the help of several kind strangers guiding her way, Aria began her journey and trekked across the vast land. She both climbed and fell down countless hills. Dangerous encounters with bloodthirsty beasts and barbarous bandits warred against her, daring her to turn back and return to her normal life.

But if that’s what the world wanted her to do – to retreat to her hometown, one filled with as many bad memories as good; to never grow in her life and taste the adventures it had to offer – then the world would have to put forth a better effort.

Aria did not know how long she’d been hiking since she had left the inn at the bottom of the mountain at daybreak, but at the sight of a dark opening in a hill ahead, she decided now was the perfect time to rest from

the day’s travel, regain her strength, and to get out of the wind for a moment.

The cave was small but – thankfully – empty of any current occupants. It offered little warmth, the surrounding stone bone-chilling, but with a meager fire, it warmed up nicely. With the makeshift camp set up and her body temperature now bearable, Aria slipped her quiver on and grabbed her bow. Taking a deep breath to refocus, she stepped back out into the wilderness. Her eyes scanned the tattered ground, searching for the tiniest movement as if she was a predator. But, of course, she *was* the predator, searching for her next meal, one that would give her the strength to climb the remainder of this mountain – however much that was.

Her breath caught as her eyes pinpointed a rabbit lazily grazing in the grass. Soundlessly, Aria crouched, knocked an arrow into her bow, and aimed at the little creature. All her attention narrowed in on her prey. The wind no longer bothered her; she no longer felt the cold slices, and she heard nothing. Her heart rate slowed, and she breathed in and out over the course of ten seconds. As the rabbit settled itself on a fresh patch of grass, Aria prepared to release her fingers.

Her focus collapsed as the rodent darted elsewhere, clearly spooked by something. Frustrated, Aria relaxed her stance, putting the arrow back in her quiver.

*What could have possibly startled it in this desolate place?* Aria wondered bitterly.

She was quickly answered as an egregious roar cut through the air, seeming to silence even the hissing wind that noticeably grew stronger. Instinct took over, and the traveler took out another arrow, knocking it in place. As she turned around to face the beast, she pulled back the bowstring.

But what she saw caused her to freeze right where she was in both horror and astonishment. Daring not to even breathe, Aria stared at the dragon that stood directly in front of her, its crystal blue eyes meeting her gaze.



*This isn’t real, Aria thought, her mind whirling. I... I must have a fever or something. I’m hallucinating. Dragons are not real.*

...Or so she thought. Aria jumped as the dragon began to growl and tightened her grip on her bow and arrow. However, as she listened closer, she realized that the dragon was *speaking*. “Do not fear, child,” the dragon spoke in a low grumble. The ground shook beneath Aria’s feet. “Sheathe your weapon. I have not come to harm you.”

Not knowing what else to do, and partially out of fear of what the legendary beast would do if she did not obey, Aria put her arrow back into her quiver and pulled her bow over her head. She watched the dragon carefully, running her eyes along its perfect, dark purple scales.

“What is your name, child?” the dragon asked gently. “Why have you come onto Mount Valadin?”

It took her a moment to find her voice.

“I’m... My name is Aria. I have come in search of Felicity.” Her eyes narrowed in thought, and she peered at the beast with new interest. “Are... are you Felicity?”

A low, methodical rumble came from deep inside the dragon. Aria took this as a laugh.

“I have been called Felicity many times in my life,” replied the dragon, “from questers seeking the same legend as you. No, I am not Felicity. But,” it added, “I can take you to him, if you’d like.”

Aria gaped. The offer was bizarre.

She was barely able to nod through her shock.

“Yes, please,” she replied with a small, shocked smile.

And so, the dragon did just that: flying over the land with Aria clinging to its back, daring to reach up to touch the clouds and looking down to the earth stretching as far as the eye could see. She didn’t know how long they had flown when they finally landed on the firm surface. As Aria hopped off the dragon’s scaled back, she scanned the area, searching for any sign of a person living there.

However, she saw nothing. No people, no buildings. Not even any sign that a human lived there.

“Where’s Felicity at?” Aria asked the dragon.

“Why, he is here now.” The girl spun to face

the beast, expecting to see a man beside it, but still there was no one else. Her brow creased in perplexity.

The dragon shifted, its tail slithering in the long grass.

“Aria,” came its low voice, “do you know what ‘felicity’ means?”

“I always thought it merely a name,” she answered honestly, looking up at the creature.

The dragon let out a heavy breath.

“While it is indeed a name, it can also be translated to ‘happiness’. While many things in this world can provide you human beings with happiness, there is only one way in which you can obtain true happiness. This true happiness is created by the same being who created me, who created you, and created everything that lives around us. The title in which humans have given him is the Creator.”

Aria gazed at the dragon intently, taking in each of its words.

“You said that this ‘Creator’ is here now,” she spoke cautiously. “What do you mean by that?”

The dragon stretched its dark purple wings out and

gestured to the area around them. For the first time, Aria saw the beauty of the land that encircled her:

The leaves of the trees reached up for the sun’s rays in the clear azure sky. The wildflowers’ sweet scent drifted through the fields with the caressing breeze. The long blades of grass twitched as little bugs crawled atop them. A waterfall poured down from the enclosing mountains. Its river flowed across the meadow. Birds flew to and fro, performing their songs for her to hear.

“He is here,” the dragon spoke softly, almost affectionately. “In the trees, in the wildflowers, in the birds’ songs, in the sun’s warmth. He is the one to create this beauty, to create this life. And through him is where you will find your felicity – your true happiness.”

At the dragon’s words, Aria felt like a fire sparked up inside of her, sourced at, she realized, her heart. Overwhelmed by this revelation, the girl sunk to her knees in the soft, tickling grass, and wept in joy – in love.

She’d truly found felicity.

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TARA KAMRATH/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Tara Kamrath





# Dance moves to December

By Kate Smith  
Staff Reporter

The weather outside might not have been frightful, but the mood at the Scotus' winter formal was delightful. On Saturday December 8, Scotus hosted their annual winter formal dance for all its high school students.

Because of Scotus' busy schedule in the months of January, February, and March, the dance this year was held in December, which is very early compared to recent years. Despite the early date, attendees still made the most of the night.

"My favorite part is having a break in the school year and being able to have fun with the whole school," winter formal candidate Rylie Olsen said.

When the day arrives, everyone looks their absolute best, and they get to have a great time with their friends and classmates.

Winter formal candidate Maddie Sueper said, "I love seeing everybody in their best get-ups and wearing their pretty dresses and makeup. Everyone looks so good!"

The sophomore class organizes winter formal and decorates the old gym and the cafeteria for the dance. Sophomore sponsor Alison Timoney helped organize and chaperone the dance.



ANGIE RUSHER/JOURNALISM ADVISOR

**Scotus freshmen boys Luke Przymus, Shayden Lundstrom, Trevor Schumacher, Seth VunCannon, and Zane Beiermann get down on the dance floor. Winter Formal was held on December 8.**

"The sophomores did a very good job decorating. Their decorations looked really good," added Timoney.

This year the dance started at eight and ended at eleven thirty. There were twelve candidates up for royalty. The students who introduced the royalty at coronation were

sophomore class officers Camille Pelan, Ava Kuhl, and Clarissa Kosch. Mattie Johnson and Zach Beiermann were crowned Winter Royalty.

"People must see me as a great leader because they vote for their leader," Beiermann said.

The winners were crowned

by last year's winter formal royalty, Alaina Wallick and Matthew Bichlmeier. The crown bearers were Kenna Schoenfelder and Tucker Kuhl. Both the King and Queen were surprised they won. Neither felt that they would hear their names called.

See DANCE, Page 2

# School gathers to welcome Advent

By Tara Kamrath  
Staff Reporter

As the weather gets colder and the fallen leaves of autumn are covered with snow, so too does the Christmas season arise.

This year, Scotus Central Catholic started a new tradition of holding the Liturgy of the Word and the blessing of the Advent wreath to begin Christmas time together as a school.

Senior Hallie Parker read the intentions during the prayer service.

"I really loved how we all sang 'O Come O Come Emmanuel' together at the beginning," Parker said. "I think that it helped us to realize that we were coming together as a school to prepare for the coming of our Lord, Jesus Christ."

The song 'O Come O Come Emmanuel' was also meaningful to senior Bryce VunCannon.

"I loved the opening song because it has always been one of my favorites," VunCannon said, "and it sounded cool with the students singing."

VunCannon read the first reading during the prayer service.

"I think the Advent prayer service is a great idea because it helps us focus on what is actually important at this time of year: the birth of Jesus," VunCannon said.

Senior Isaac Ostdiek enjoyed seeing the entire school at the prayer service.

"We don't usually start things like Advent together," Ostdiek said. "It was nice to start it together since we don't finish it together."

Advent is a time of reflection and to prepare for the coming of Jesus. Senior Abe Perault is improving his prayer life this year.

"I'm not necessarily adding to what I do, but I'm trying to bring more intentionality to my prayer," Perault said. "For Christmas I am focused on Jesus and not parties and presents."

According to Scotus chaplain Father Matthew Capadano, the teachers were the ones to put forward the idea of having an Advent prayer service.

"The desire to do an Advent prayer service came up at the beginning of last year," Capadano said. "Mr. Ohnoutka gave us a questionnaire asking us [the teachers] if there's things we want to do here at Scotus to make it more Catholic, and one of the overwhelming requests was for an Advent prayer service."

Holding a prayer service was new to Capadano prior to when the service took place on Monday, but he figured out a procedure based off of experiences of a several types of prayer services that he has been to in the Church.

"[The Book of Blessings] had options," Capadano said. "So, I just chose options that I liked from it and kind of changed some of the words because some of the words in

# Concession keys handed over

By Julia Salerno  
Staff Reporter

As people exit the gym to get their mid-game snacks, there will now be new faces in the concession stand distributing their purchases.

With the beginning of the 2018-2019 school year, changes in the concessional area have come about with new management and appliances.

Cafeteria staff member Helen Zochell was previously head of

the Scotus concession stand. After fifteen years of working it, she decided it was time to hand the keys down to a new set of hands.

Zocholl said, "I had always loved seeing all of the students attending the games. That was one of the best parts of the job."

The school registrar, Kris Andresen, is the new face of the Scotus concession stand. With help from her husband, Bruce, they both worked all fall on restoring, painting, and putting new appliances in the concession room.

"I told Mr. Lahm that if nobody

else takes the position, then to let me know. Nobody ended up taking it, so I took over it," Andresen said.

Many changes have been made to the Scotus concession stand that are going to be in full swing for the winter season.

One main change in the concession stand is the many new appliances, and old, worn out items have been cleaned and restored.

Many items have been donated to the school. Jennifer and Aaron Rickert ('90) donated an 8-foot counter top with cabinets to be used in the concession room. Another

item that was donated to the school was a popcorn machine. It was donated by the owners of Strategic Legacy Advisors, Inc., Dwain and Tyson Owens. They had also donated supplies for the popcorn, so there will be plenty of popcorn to get through the season.

Andresen added, "The new popcorn machine is awesome. It is movie theater size, so it is very big. You can pop two things of popcorn in seconds compared to before. It is awesome because the volume will be better, so we hopefully will not have any lines waiting for popcorn like we have been."

The concession stand also added a hot dog machine to cook many hot dogs at one time.

Not only new appliances had been added to the concession stand, but there will be many new people working it.

The Scotus concession stand will now allow teams and other school groups to work to raise money for their group.

"I am excited because that is what our whole goal was, to help the groups make some money and so that all this money being raised can stay at Scotus," Andresen said.

The first group to work in the concession stand was National Honor Society. Other groups that will be working to raise funds for their groups are HOSA, cheerleading, girls' soccer, and campus ministry.

Groups that are interested in raising money by working in the concession stand should contact Kris Andresen.



EMMA BRANDT/YEARBOOK STAFF

Assistant girls soccer coach Bridget McPhillips helps a customer at the concession stand with the help of other team members. Girls soccer is one of many groups that work concessions to raise money for their team.

See ADVENT, Page 2



Advent Dance



Scotus Chaplain Father Matthew Capadano explains the history of the Advent wreath during the Advent prayer service. This is the first year the school has held an Advent prayer service.

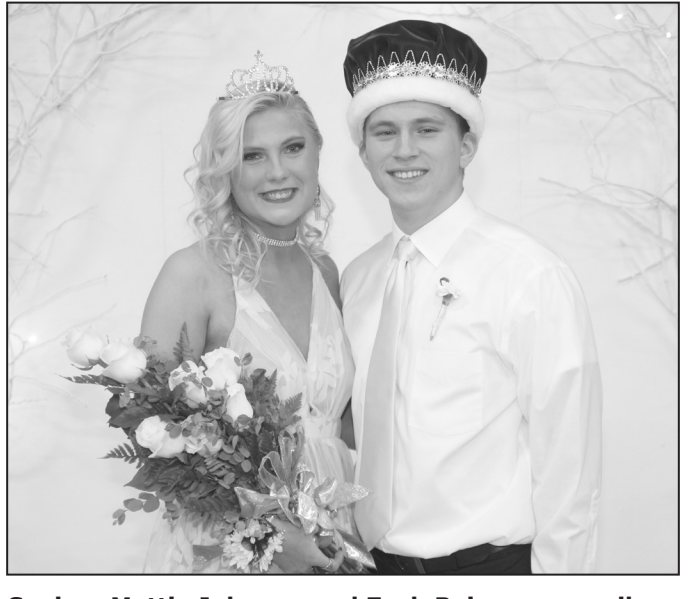
in it are really weird, and so I changed some stuff, which you're allowed to do with that type of thing." Capadano stated that he would like more music in the next year's Advent prayer service. "This first year we were like, just focus on 'O Come O Come Emmanuel', then hopefully next year we can get the singers to work on

something specifically for the Advent prayer service, like a five-minute polyphone of some kind that they can also use in a competition down the road," Capadano said. It is planned that each year of the Advent prayer service will be a little different than the previous. "This year was an Advent wreath, next year it

would be good if it was a nativity scene where we explain the history of the nativity scene and what it means, and then bless that," Capadano said. "Maybe the next year we go back to the Advent wreath, or something - we don't want it to be the same thing every year. Maybe one year we do a living rosary."

"I just thought being up for royalty was fun. I really like the group that was up. I was extremely happy when they called my name," Johnson added. As for the dance, students danced their feet off to classics, slow songs, and some new and fresh beats. Several students commented that they were pleasantly surprised to hear the DJ play some new and popular music. The DJ, who was from "More Music", started the night off strong with some classic songs that had everyone dancing. Later in the evening

he slowed down the pace of the dance which made it harder for people to want to stay on the dance floor. "It went well until the end when the songs became hard to dance to," junior Makenzie Enderlin added. The music was only one aspect of the great night. Overall the dance went smoothly, and many students stayed until the very end, dancing the night away. "I just want to say thank you to the school for making my last winter formal one to remember," Johnson concluded.



Seniors Mattie Johnson and Zach Beiermann smile after being crowned winter royalty. The students (freshman through senior) vote for their king and queen.

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# Choosing happiness despite challenges



By Liza Zaruba  
Staff Reporter

activities we do have turned us into burned out, despondent high school students. With that being said, I also believe that we have taken society's false guide to eternal happiness and twisted it into our own excuse to quit every activity that poses even the least bit of difficulty.

We must realize there is a major difference between happiness and satisfaction, and no, they are not interchangeable despite what Thesaurus.com might claim. Satisfaction is the feeling that comes from instant pleasure and self-gratification. Happiness, on the other hand, is not the all-encompassing term it is often used as. Happiness is an overall sense of joy despite the struggles, despite the hardships, despite the little voice in our heads trying to tell us to quit. It is the enjoyment of life no matter what is thrown at us. We tend to forget the last part of that sentence and typically only

focus on the things that are enjoyable in the moment.

In regard to our activities, I believe that we too frequently take the easy way out. We stop trying or caring because putting that much hard work into one aspect of our lives leaves us vulnerable to the chance of failure despite our efforts, and that chance is scary. As human beings, we have this constant desire instilled in us for nothing less than perfection. Because of this, we begin focusing more on the results than the actual journey we are on. We put these blinders on blocking out the beauty of our everyday lives and get tunnel vision staring only at the finish line, only at the trophies and recognition. This practice is a draining one that will leave us all miserable time and time again because it teaches us to only find happiness in perfection.

I'm not saying that anyone who doesn't enjoy their

activities is a selfish, narcissistic perfectionist. I realize that sometimes it is simply healthier for a person to get out of that activity, but it is important to quit an activity knowing the consequences of it. Sure, we might be a happier person, but our decisions do not only affect us. No matter how big or small our role seemed to us, I can guarantee that we leave behind a gap that will seriously impact the team. Whether it be through contributions we made during a game or simply the morale boost we brought to practice every day, our absence will be felt by many, and it is important to understand the way our actions and decisions will affect others.

Never neglect the power and strength difficulties and struggles give to us. It is impossible to know how driven and strong we truly are until we are put to our limits. We either crack under pressure or

rise to the occasion and come out better people for it. The results will almost always be dependent on the mindset that we faced the struggles with.

Our culture also tends to over-dramatize situations. In the moment when we're exhausted physically and mentally, it seems so rational to hate every second of it. It seems so rational to allow ourselves to get into a negative head space and curse the entire activity swearing never to go out again. Like I said, dramatic. When it is all over, though, and we finally get a chance to look back on the day, the season, even the year, we don't remember the excruciatingly painful moments. Instead, we remember the laughs, the joys, the successes. It makes every difficult moment worth it. People never regret sticking it out. It's quitting that people regret.

At the end of the day, it is important to do what makes

us happy, but happiness is not only found in the eases of life. With a change of perspective, we can learn to gain a sense of happiness and fulfillment while facing the difficulties in our lives. It is important to remember that we can't know and fully appreciate the joys of our blessings unless we've experienced the opposite, unless we've experienced pain. Nevertheless, through it all, we can be happy.

Don't be afraid to branch out to experience new things. It is through that where we learn more about ourselves, but we need to always understand what we are taking on. We need to understand the commitment we are making. Nothing is ever going to be perfect, so we should never go into an activity thinking it will be. Embrace the challenges that will arise and above all enjoy every moment.

# Technology changes education



By Jaycee Ternus  
Staff Reporter

Look around, everything you do has a connection with a phone or computer. Forgot the numbers for your algebra assignment? Just hop on the computer and email your teacher or look on PowerSchool. Technology helps us in so many ways. Now look at it this way: you are at home and have an essay due the next day, but the Wi-Fi shuts off, and you can't get it done in time. Technology can also hurt us and give us an excuse to not have things done. Is this connection with technology good for schools? Or should the schools just stick to the books?

I think that technology can be good in so many ways. I think that schools should keep up with the trends of applying technology to school work. Going home knowing that you have everything online and did not forget anything at school is nice.

Being able to see your grades and emailing your teachers at any time is helpful to students to keep track of school work. Also, we could be saving trees by reducing the usage of paper when printing out a paper or assignment. Technology is useful to me in many ways and improves schools in many ways too.

Technology keeps us connected. No matter how far away you can contact anyone at any time. I think technology is helpful to many people in different ways. In school, communicating with your teachers and other students is a must. My favorite way to use technology by connecting and working with others is being able to share a project with someone else. They can edit and look at the project whenever. This comes in handy when that project is due the next day and you don't have time to get togeth-

er. Using email is another way we communicate with others at school. Many school clubs and teams depend on email to send out information to the members. I use email most of the time to communicate with my teachers, which is helpful when I miss school. A new way of communication is the use of the school beacons. Whether it be a snow day or an early start the school beacons are helpful to remind students about important events. Last, when I write an essay for English class, I use Word online to type it, so you can then access it at home without worrying about putting it on a flash drive. This to me is very useful and is something I depend on all the time.

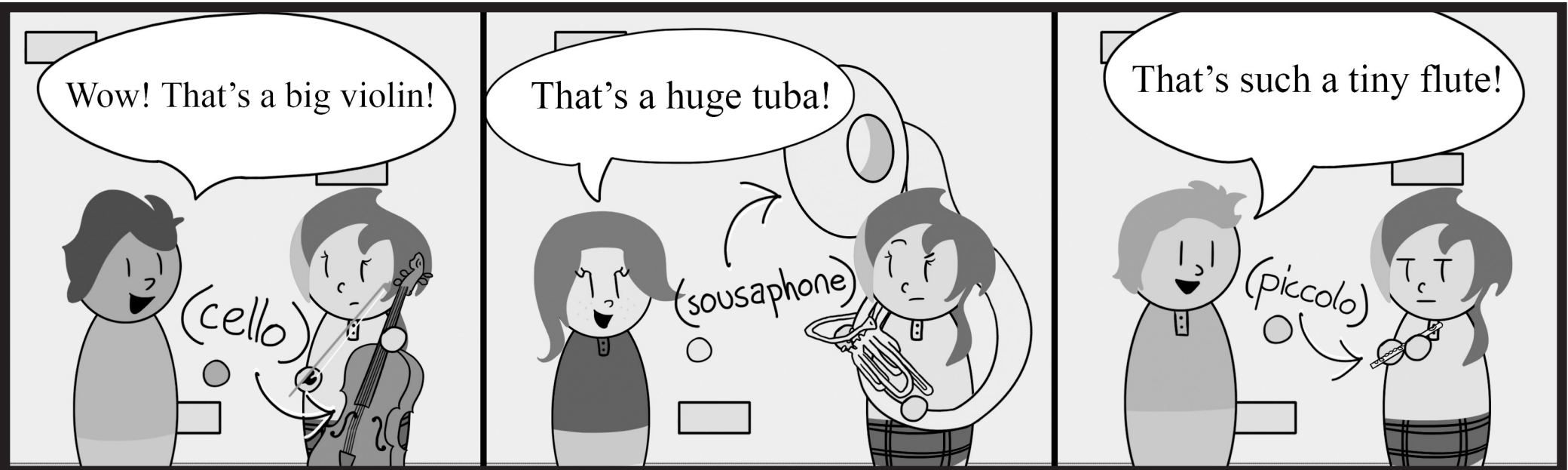
Technology is right at our fingertips from the phones we carry with us to the computers we use at school. At school we depend

on technology for most of our classes. Try to think of one time where you did not use your phone for school. The only example I can think of is when you were forced to use the dictionary or Encyclopedia to write an essay. Technology helps many do school work and many depend on it for everything. When you can't remember what lunch is that day, you can depend on the computer to tell you. No matter how hard you try, I bet you couldn't last a day without the help of technology. Technology is such a useful way to connect with people and to get work done efficiently.

Even though I think technology is important, the use of books is also important to. Most people are caught up in technology and know how to use it. However, others enjoy reading books and use books all the time. I also

think that reading books and using them can be important to schools and is the foundation of education. Books are used just as much as technology.

I think that the connection with technology in school should keep growing and is a good thing. There are so many ways that technology keeps us connected, which is important for schools. Even though books are still good they tend to get outdated but, with technology new information is always being updated. Therefore, I think some class should switch to online source. Doing this would improve the function of the class and make it easier for students to get their work done. Overall I think that schools should keep improving the use of technology. Seeing how useful it is today I can't imagine how amazing it will be in the future.



F e l i z N a v i D O N ' T



By Kate Smith  
Staff Reporter

wants for Christmas for the fifth time. In the past couple years, Christmas festivities have started happening way before it is even the Christmas season.

Call me a Scrooge, but I believe Christmas merrymaking should patiently wait for its appropriate time.

Too much of a good thing is never a good thing. While Christmas is the most wonderful time of the year, it should not be celebrated for a fourth of the year's time. People start celebrating Christmas at the turn of October 1st. By starting so early, special aspects like the fun and joyful Christmas music are old and annoying by the time it is actually Christmas time. For example, at my fam-

ily Thanksgiving there's a rule that no Christmas music can be played for the whole day because we are supposed to be celebrating only Thanksgiving. Christmas carols shouldn't be the Thanksgiving soundtrack. Also, the "Christmas Creep", which is the starting of Christmas festivities too soon, takes away the importance of other important dates at the end of the year like Thanksgiving. This holiday has become overlooked because of the crazy Black Friday shopping deals for Christmas that is over a month away still. There is a time for everything, and in the case of Christmas, it definitely has its time.

Although I do enjoy jamming to Michael Bubl's

Christmas album and sipping peppermint hot chocolate as much as the next person, I believe everything has its set time. For example, you wouldn't start celebrating your birthday two months in advance, would you? Why would you then anticipate Christmas, which is only celebrated on one day, for nearly two and a half months?

The "Christmas Creep" of recent years, I feel, has a direct correlation with media and pop culture. Now I understand that a lot of people have the same feelings towards Christmas, but you cannot tell me that when a whole group of high schoolers decorate their room for Christmas two months early that they all did that from

their own whims and ideas. We, as humans, like to follow one another and adapt similar and "popular" opinions because we fear standing out. Now with Christmas, one person can start decorating or celebrating Christmas too early and then it starts a domino effect. Also, the advertising for Black Friday hypes and starts the Christmas season and stirs Christmas feels for anyone who watches a TV or reads a newspaper.

Now, I know I sound like a grinch, but, trust me, I do love Christmas and all that goes into it. And if you love Christmas, please enjoy it! Afterall, it is a great holiday and the most wonderful time of the year. I see wanting to celebrate and making it lon-

ger by having a jumpstart on such a wonderful time of the year. Being ahead of the game is a smart move. Ultimately it is completely up to you when you start listening to your Christmas playlist and start building gingerbread houses. Christmas is more than the music and the festivities. Christmas should be full of family, friends, and love, and there is no reason to put a set time to celebrate those things.

So, while you're putting up your Christmas lights and you start playing your Christmas album right after Thanksgiving, remember the real reason to celebrate such a wonderful season.

You're strolling through the aisles in Walmart the day after Halloween, you already see the blow-up Santa and Rudolph and hear Mariah Carey's voice singing what she



# Music modifies mood

By Elliott Thomazin  
Editor

Archeologists believe that modern man originated around 200,000 years ago. The birth of language occurred around 100,000 years ago. Today, there are an estimated 6,500 languages spoken throughout the world. Even though humans have many different ways of communicating, every person can understand one language- the language of music. Rhythm, harmony, and melody ignite unique responses in every person.

According to *Psychology Today*, "Music and mood are inherently linked. Scientists continue to uncover how these influences occur at a neural level. Studies prove that the music we listen to engages a wide range of neurobiological systems that affect our psychology." Music directly influences how we interact with the world, but music is not one-size fits

all. One song can provoke different emotions in multiple people.

"Our emotional response to music is very individual. Not all 'happy' songs are universally perceived as being uplifting or are guaranteed to put you in a good mood all the time," *Psychology Today* also said. As music consumption increases, a person starts to recognize how they react to certain songs, artists, and genres. For example, classical music can help one person to focus and work hard, but it might put another person to sleep. Keeping track of musical experiences allows anyone to dial up a specific mood by selecting music that prompts a unique emotional response.

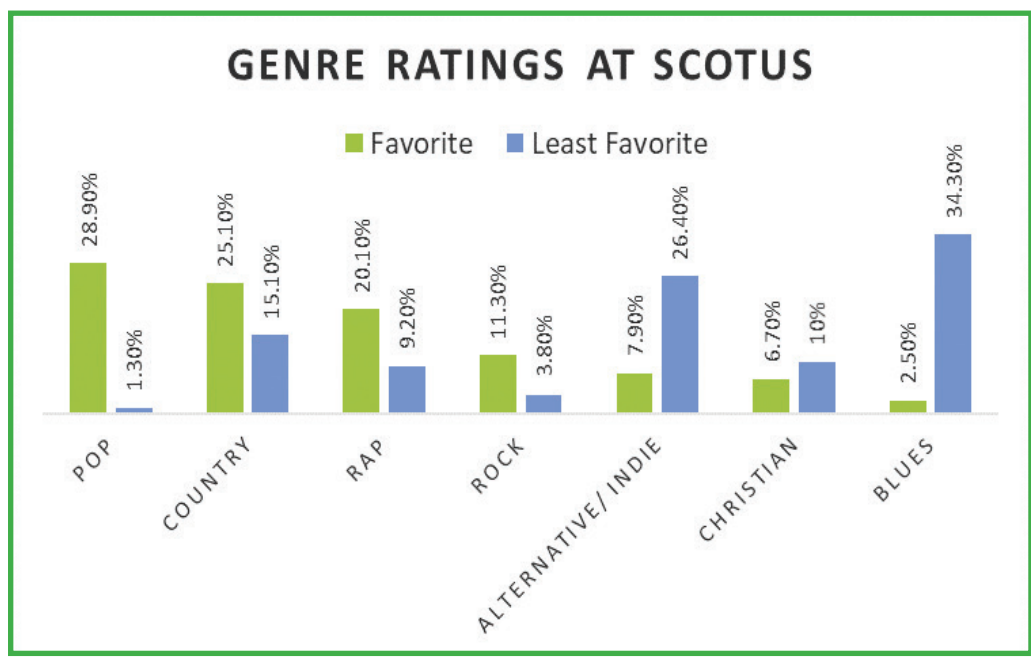
Even though music is understood to produce different moods, psychologists still haven't zeroed in on one reason why humans listen to music. Out of all the present theories, three stand out. According to *Frontiers in Psychology*, "People listen to music to achieve self-aware-

ness, social relatedness, and arousal and mood regulation."

Listening to music for self-awareness is a hidden power of music. "Music helps people think about who they are, who they would like to be, and how to cut their own path." Music beckons people to reach their inner self. Music can aid us in our journey to understand our place in the world. Christian music is a great example of striving toward self-awareness.

The social aspect of music is also crucial. "People can use music to feel close to their friends, to express their identity and values to others, and to gather information about their social environment." People in the same group often listen to the same type of music. Because of this, a person's taste in music can reveal a lot about them. Sharing music with friends and family can help strengthen relationships.

The third and final reason is regarded as the most important dimension



ELLIOTT THOMAZIN/ROCK BOTTOM EDITOR

Scotus recently sent out a survey asking music related questions, one being about their favorite and least favorite music. Two-hundred and forty-three students and faculty members submitted responses.

of music listening. "[Listening for mood regulation] includes statements about the use of music as background entertainment and diversion and as a means to get into a positive mood and regulate one's physiological arousal." Simply put, people listen to

music because they enjoy it. Songs can help brighten up a dreary day, provide entertainment, or get a person in the mood to compete.

The art of music has great power. It can bring people together, guide a journey of self-reflection, and provide

a necessary mood boost. Everyone can understand the language of music. Music communicates unique ideas to every person. Even though music is constantly evolving, it will always remain an important part of the human experience.

## What does music do for you?

"It makes me think I can sing well and makes me feel good about my life choices." Levi Robertson 11

"With music you can explore the world without taking a step." Laura Bettenhausen 10

"It speaks to my soul at any time of the day, it inspires me and helps me, and also makes me happy." Mattie Johnson 12

"It calms my emotions, or it speaks the words I can't say." Bailey Lehr 12

"Music encourages me to believe that I can do whatever I want to do in life. I can be whoever I want to be." Lily Dohmen 8

"Music helps me to really reflect on myself. It helps me to express myself for what I like and believe." Eden Broberg 9

"It uplifts me. It doesn't matter what mood I'm in, there is always a perfect song for how I am feeling." Kyanne Casperson 9

"Music is everything to me; it helps me calm down; it helps me love life. It's the source of all my comfort." Zoe Euteneuer 9

"It inspires me that even though they might have had a rough time, they kept doing it and now they are successful." Adriana Cieloha 9

"It takes my mind off things and just makes me a happier person." Tyler Vaught 11

## Best Music Streaming: Spotify vs. Apple Music

By Julia Salerno  
Staff Reporter

With the internet growing rapidly and everyone having access to almost anything at the click of their fingers, there are many ways people can listen to music. Between Apple Music, Pandora, Spotify, Amazon Music, iHeartRadio, Soundcloud, and many more, there are many options, but two are used more. Apple Music and Spotify are the two most popular and well-known music streaming apps.

According to *MediaKix*, Spotify was launched back in 2008 out of Sweden. Spotify has over 170 million subscribers, but only 75 million of those subscribers have a premium subscription. Apple Music was started back in 2015, and according to *Statista.com*, as of May 2018, Apple Music has over 50 million subscribers worldwide.

Apple Music and Spotify both feature massive libraries, but Apple claims more, with 45 million tracks against Spotify's more than 35 million songs. By downloading the

Spotify app, you are immediately able to listen to music without a subscription. Spotify has a free, ad supported tier that allows people to listen to music with few interrupting ads between songs. Also, on the free Spotify, songs can only be played and listened to in shuffle mode. With a limited number of skips, this feature is not a pro for this music provider.

The Apple Music app comes downloaded on all Apple devices such as iPhones and iPads. Even though it does not have a free, ad supported tier, the app provides a three-month free trial with full access to all features.

Upgrading to Spotify Premium only costs \$9.99 a month. The family subscription costs \$14.99 and can have up to six people connected on the subscription.

Most people are familiar with the iTunes store where people can buy single songs or albums and have those on a device, but that can add up after a while. With a single song costing from 99 cents to \$1.29, getting Apple Music seems like quite the bargain. Apple Music also costs \$9.99 per month for an individual subscription or \$14.99

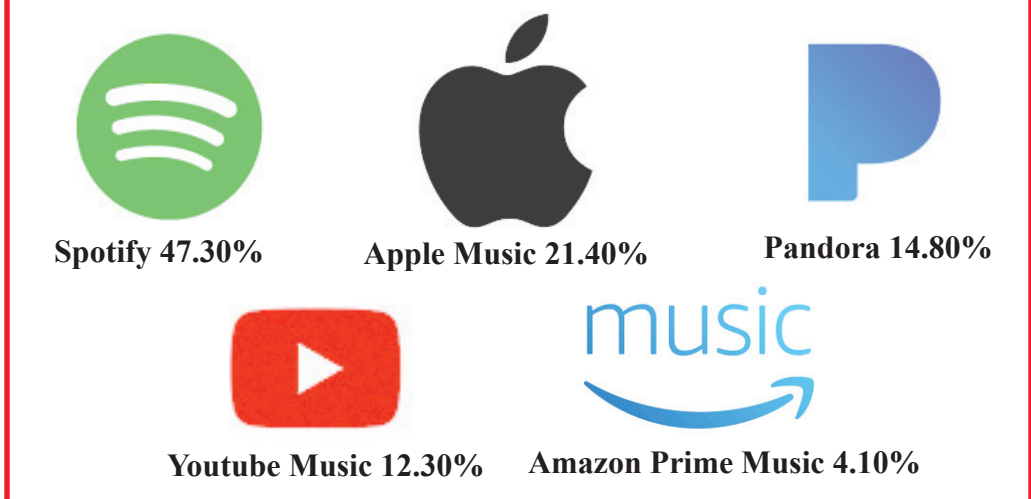
a month for a family subscription. Like Spotify, the family subscription allows six people to use the subscription under one account. Also, Apple Music only costs \$4.99 with proof of student identification.

Some features of Spotify Premium are that it has no ads and people can pick and play whatever song they want to keep from skipping through songs and ads waiting for the one song they want to play. The Premium subscription also allows for up to 10,000 songs to be downloaded to listen to without internet.

Apple Music users are also able to download songs and listen to them without internet. Apple had recently increased their download limit from 25,000 to 100,000. That is ten times as many songs as Spotify Premium allows.

Unlike Apple Music, Spotify Premium has access to newly released albums almost immediately. Spotify's deal with Universal Music Group allows artists to restrict the release of a new album to only Premium members for two weeks. Apple Music has a

## Students choose top music streaming



feature called Beats 1. Beats 1 is an exclusive, 24-7, human-run global radio station broadcasting to 100 countries, which helps those who don't know what to search for and listen to discover artists they can then stream at their leisure.

Another plus of Spotify Premium is the ability to bundle a subscription with a subscription to Hulu. Hulu is an entertainment company that provides instant streaming of television series, series that are no longer on the air, and movies. Hulu itself costs \$7.99. If you had both

Spotify Premium and Hulu individually, that would cost about \$18 a month. With this special bundle between these two, it would only cost \$12.99 or for students, only \$4.99.

Unlike Spotify, Apple Music includes a tab, named Connect, where artists can share lyrics, music, photos, videos, and text posts with their fans. It is designed to help develop the relationship between musicians and fans.

With many pros and cons to each of the apps, it is hard to decide which one people should use and unable to say

which is considerably better; it all comes down to personal preference.

In conclusion, if people are looking for a way to listen to music for free, yet still have some great features they can use, I would recommend using Spotify and maybe eventually subscribing to Spotify Premium if they like it that much. If people are willing to pay \$9.99 a month for unlimited music and lots of awesome features, then I would recommend subscribing to Apple Music, especially if you have an Apple device.



# Music seeps outside of school

By Tara Kamrath  
Staff Reporter

Whether people realize it or not, music is a large part in the world today. It is heard on the radio, during emotional or action-packed scenes in movies and television shows, or simply just playing on someone's phone. Music is the language that transverses all other languages, enabling the world to come together with this one thing.

Within Scotus Central Catholic, opportunities to learn and create music each day are offered through band class and Shamrock Singers. However, several students play instruments outside of their music classes out of pure desire and enjoyment.

Senior Elliott Thomazin is learning how to play the guitar through videos on YouTube.

"My favorite part [about playing guitar] is being able to make my own music," Thomazin said. "Every

strum, every chord, every song happens because I had a part in creating it. Playing the guitar is a very expressive and creative form of music. [However,] my fingers get destroyed when I play for extended periods of time."

Junior Liza Zaruba has been playing the piano for ten years.

"I took piano lessons for about seven years from Marilyn Nolan," Zaruba said. "I love how beautiful and intricate piano music is. There is always room to improve. My favorite part has to be how you can really feel the music when you play."

Music has been a large part in Zaruba's life thus far, and it is clear that it would be different without it.

"Music gives me a release and a way to decompress after a long day," Zaruba said. "Every emotion is expressed through music, so there is music available for any and every situation."

Along with learning how to play the piano, junior Katie

Stachura plays the ukulele.

"I recommend learning an instrument as a hobby," Stachura said. "It keeps you occupied, and it's fun to learn songs and perform on your own."

Stachura also plays the flute and the saxophone for Scotus' high school band. Music has become a major part in her life.

"To tell you how much I love music," Stachura stated, "I'm going to quote one of my favorite t-shirts: 'Without music, life would be flat.' To further expand on that, I'm asking for a clarinet for Christmas."

Seventh-grader David DeLeon has been playing the button accordion for eight years – since he was five years old.

"I took lessons the first year I got my accordion from Jhovany Garcia for about a year," DeLeon said. "[Now] I have been learning on my own using what I learned that year. My favorite part of playing the accordion

is the way it sounds. It brings me joy and takes me back to my culture."

Sophomore Josh Styskal has been playing the violin for three and a half years and started teaching himself piano in 2012.

"[My favorite part of playing instruments is] the fun of playing, and the 'escape'," Styskal said. "I find music unexplainably fun and it is nice to play (or even listen to) to find an escape from stress."

Music is an example of what people all over the world can create, either alone or with others. It is heard everywhere and is powerful enough to be able to stretch across the language barrier.

"Learning an instrument is something everyone should do," Thomazin encouraged. "If you have ever wanted to learn how to play an instrument, go for it! It's an incredibly rewarding process."



TARA KAMRATH/ ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Junior Katie Stachura shows off her musical instruments of flute, piano, ukulele, and saxophone. Stachura is asking for a clarinet for Christmas.

## What's your favorite band/artist/song?

"Bikini Bottom Marching Band." Logan Johnson 12

"Kane Brown, I've been in love with him since I first discovered him." Rylie Olson 12

"Twenty-One Pilots because they are just so different from a lot of other bands. They are their own genre." Katie Stachura 11

"Zac Efron. I mean, have you heard him in *The Greatest Showman*? Not only does he have some killer basketball and dance moves, but the man can sing!" Melanie Mimick

"Happier" by Marshmello. Ms. Mimick made us watch the music video in class because the dog dies. She thought we deserved it for annoying her, but it's actually a really good song." Grace Mustard 9

"Rain is a Good Thing" by Luke Bryan. It's a peppy song, and I wake up to that song every morning." Kaitlyn Fleming 7

"Freddie Mercury in Queen, he inspired me and my buddies to make a parody to Bohemian Rhapsody about Huckleberry Finn." Levi Robertson 11

"Pour Some Sugar on me", good college memories." Jane Dusel-Misfeldt

"If We Were a Movie" by Hannah Montana because I like a good ole love song." Dalton Borchers 11

"Whatever my dad puts on the radio." Mason Gonka 7

## Music meets technology

By Chloe Odbert  
Staff Reporter

As the 2018 school year began, the music department teachers, Kristen Cox and Laura Salyard, looked to extend their use of technology to more than just the musical production. After testing it last year through the musical, Cox and Salyard wanted to give it a try within the walls of their classroom.

Salyard and Cox were looking for an easier, more beneficial way for their students to log their practices. Before the program MuseScore was introduced, students had to have a signature by their parents ensuring that they practiced at home, or they schedule a time to practice with their teacher throughout the week.

Cox, the Scotus Central Catholic band instructor, chose to utilize MuseScore for her band students after it was first put to the test by the Shamrock Singers.

"When you think about band music, there is anywhere from 12 to about 15 parts and each score is around 100 measures long. Do the math, it takes forever

to input all of that music into MuseScore. We tested it on the march that we did for the parade. That was a shorter piece without as many parts," Cox said.

Sophomore Josh Styskal, who is involved in the band, musical, and Shamrock Singers, enjoys practicing using MuseScore as well.

"I do enjoy the new

system because it helps me refine my pitch and play the right rhythm. As long as the music is entered correctly into MuseScore, the system plays it back correctly. If I didn't have MuseScore, I could play the rhythm wrong, mainly because sometimes I simply find it hard to get into my head," Styskal said.

"It obviously helps to hear it,

and hearing it helps me keep the note in tune."

Patrick Herchenbach is a senior who takes part in both Shamrock Singers and the musical.

"Practicing singing in general isn't very exciting; however, this is probably the best way to practice," Herchenbach said.

Through MuseScore the

students can practice their parts and also take quizzes that their instructor posts. The music is all uploaded by the teacher, which is a timely task.

"It takes a lot of time to grade because when I give a quiz for high school there are 67 students and their quizzes are each anywhere from three to four minutes long. I listen to each student's quiz 3 or 4 times to find every wrong note and rhythm. Then I either email every student with their list of corrections or I make a master list of mistakes to go over them in class. I try to express to the students that it does take time for them to practice, but it also takes a lot of time on my end as well," Cox explained.

Using the program, Styskal has also experimented with creating MuseScores of his own, he too realized how time consuming the program can be.

"I have made a few MuseScores to help me in practicing piano. It can take hours to enter just one score into MuseScore. The music department teachers deserve a lot of credit for the hours they spend creating MuseScores," Styskal said.

Maddie Blaser, a sopho-

more involved in Shamrock Singers and the musical, explained another interesting aspect to the MuseScore program.

"MuseScore makes it easier to practice because you can either practice with just your part or with other parts as well," Blaser said.

This aspect of MuseScore can be beneficial to the students so they can hear themselves along with the other parts of the piece.

Music teacher and musical director, Laura Salyard, also is utilizing MuseScore for the school musical.

"Putting our music into MuseScore allows me the freedom to watch for choreography and watch for the kids' mistakes in other aspects. It also really helps them because, despite what they can find to practice with on YouTube, it is not necessarily going to match what we are doing for our production."

The music department plans on continuing the use of the MuseScore program as long as it is a free download, and they continue to see the improvements that they are seeing now.



ANGIE RUSHER/ JOURNALISM ADVISOR

The musical cast practices using musical director Laura Salyard's laptop. The MuseScore program helps the music students to practice playing and singing their parts correctly.



## Sports

## Shamrocks struggle to start season

By Abe Perault  
Staff Reporter

After their Cinderella-story season and state championship last year, expectations for the Scotus girls' basketball team are high. While the start to the girls' 2019 season has not lived up to those expectations, the Shamrocks are still planning to battle their way state to this year.

"So far, we have been playing alright, but not our best," senior Courtney Kosch explained. "We are still working hard in the gym and the weight room, so I know we're only going to get better."

The girls' basketball team opened their season against the Hastings St. Cecilia Bluehawks. Even though they trailed most of the game, the Shamrocks kept fighting going into the fourth quarter. It was then when the Bluehawks pulled away and won the game 46-33.

"We obviously aren't happy by any means with the loss, but we aren't disap-

pointed either. They are a great C-2 team, and after the game we knew we had a new goal, which was to continue to keep growing to our potential. We know we have more in us," junior Chloe Odbert said.

Less than a week later, the Shamrocks travelled to West Point to face the Guardian Angel Central Catholic Bluejays. The Rocks dominated the first half of the game with 27-17 lead at half-time. Going into the fourth quarter, the Shamrocks had a one-point lead over GACC and were unable to hold on, getting outscored 17-8 for the Bluejay victory of 50-42.

"I think we are a better team than we have shown in our first two games," junior Amber Buhman said. "We have had really great practices and some poor practices, but I hope that we can show what we can do in our next few games."

Compared to their opponents, the Shamrocks are highly inexperienced with only a couple of members on the team having minimal minutes of playing time on the court. What experience

the Shamrocks did have was lost when their all-state senior Bailey Lehr tore her ACL in the preseason jambo-ree game against Columbus High School.

"We have performed well by adjusting to the varsity speed and level. We are legitimately the JV team from last year and I think we are all stepping up and improving our game," Kosch said.

The Scotus girls found success during their third game of the season when they faced the Grand Island Central Catholic Crusaders in a hard-fought battle. The Shamrocks barely outscored the Crusaders with the game resulting in a score of 47-45.

"Winning our first game against GICC was an accomplishment. We struggled with rebounding, but that is something we have been focusing on at practice. Winning has also given us more confidence as a team. We know if we keep working, we will continue to grow as a team," senior Abbie Zoucha said.

Their success did not end there. The Shamrocks smacked Concordia in a 44-28 victory. Sophomore Ca-

mille Pelan had a stellar game scoring over twenty points, while also setting the school record for most three-pointers in a game. The record, previously held by Shauna Greiner, Sami Spenner, and

Monica Boeding, was five, but after the game Pelan had, it is now six.

The Scotus girls will play next at St. Paul on Friday, December 21st against the Wildcats.

"Overall, we have yet to really show what we have to offer. We are still working to hit our stride, which is good. We want to keep improving and getting better the whole season," Odbert said.



ABE PERAULT/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

**Sophomore Camille Pelan shoots a three point shot against Concordia. In that same game Pelan made six three-pointers setting the school record for most in a game.**

## Wrestling pins season openers



CAMERON JOHNSTON/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

**Senior wrestler Jackson Neville attempts to turn his opponent at the Nebraska Duals meet on Friday, December 7. The Shamrocks host Adam Central for a dual on Saturday, December 29 at 10:00 A.M.**

By Cameron Johnston  
Staff Reporter

With the change of seasons, familiar activities such as swim, girls and boys basketball, and wrestling have come back into view.

Scotus wrestling

began their season with their first competition on Friday, November 30<sup>th</sup> at the Lakeview Invitational.

"My favorite part about wrestling is being able to beat up your opponent legally and not get into trouble," senior captain Colby Gilson stated.

At the Shamrock's

first competition they started off their season with a fourth place team placement just ahead of their district rivals, the Wayne Blue Devils. The Shamrocks also left with eight individual medals

"The biggest thing our team needs to work on is our focus isn't where it should be. That is fixable,

but our team clicks and we have great unity," senior captain Jackson Neville said.

Senior Daniel Tworek won the 106 pound weight class, followed by senior Evan Sliva, who, at 170 pounds, pinned his opponent in the second period to lock in his third place finish.

"The biggest thing I need to work on this year is I need to focus more on the mental side of wrestling a match and prepare better before matches," junior Evan Hand said.

Junior Nick Taylor has come back from two incomplete seasons due to season ending injuries, including a broken ankle last year.

Junior Nick Taylor said, "I need to work on not getting hurt so I can actually finish a season."

Scotus created its own wrestling program during the 2012-2013 school year after previously co-oping with Columbus High School. Sophomore Ben Kamrath has begun his second season as a varsity wrestler.

"My biggest achievement is getting my first varsity win by a pin as a freshman," sophomore Ben Kamrath said.

Colby Gilson placed fourth in the 145 pound weight class, and senior Jackson Neville left with a fifth place medal to kick off his senior year in the 138 pound weight class.

"Our team goal this year is to win the conference tournament because we have gotten first every year except

last year, so we would like to keep up the tradition," Gilson said.

Sophomore Sebastian Fritz is the Shamrock's 195 pound weight class wrestler as he begins his second season.

"The biggest thing I need to improve on is being more aggressive," sophomore Sebastian Fritz stated.

December 8th and 9th marks the third competition of the 2018-2019 season and the Shamrocks finished fourth place out of 16 teams at the Nebraska Duals meet. These teams included one from Kansas and another Iowa.

Last year during the 2017-2018 season two wrestlers tested their talents at the state tournament. These wrestlers were seniors Wren Allen at 195 pounds and Landon Sokol in the 285 pound class.

The wrestling team hosts their first home dual on Saturday December 29th, at 10:00 A.M. in the Memorial Hall gym against the Adams Central Patriots, followed by another home dual on Thursday January 3rd at 7:00 P.M against the Schuyler Warriors.

## Swimmers stranded on dry land

By Elliott Thomazin  
Editor

"Just keep swimming!" Dory's famous words from Finding Nemo are proving difficult to follow for the Discoverer Swim Team. This year, the swimmers have washed up on dry land due to a broken heating element at the Aquatic Center.

The swim season kicked off on Monday November 12. Since then, the team has competed in Fremont, Elkhorn, and their home meet. Seven Scotus students are participating in the co-op swim team to bring the roster to 41 athletes.

Sophomore Kaira Dallman has had the opportunity to make new relationships through the program.

"I think its fun co-oping with Columbus High because you not only meet new people, but you also form

great friendships. Most of the time I don't even realize that I'm from a different school," Dallman said.

The inability to swim has definitely tugged on the fins of the swimmers. Senior captain Julia Salerno doesn't deny that it has affected the team.

"With being almost a month into the season and only having 5 regular practices in the pool, we definitely are struggling. We are trying to stay in shape by working out at Columbus High, but we really need to get in the pool if we want to drop time this season," Salerno said.

The Fremont meet proved to be an interesting season opener. Before the meet started, the swimmers were forced to go into a lockdown because of a BB gun brandishing student. The Fremont police swiftly handled the threat. Senior Konner Kudron was proud of

the team despite the unexpected difficulties.

"The meet went well, and I think that looking forward we are going to have an excellent year. I did about as well as I expected, but I am still hoping on getting faster as we get closer to conference and state. The atmosphere of the meet was amazing, and I think that we were all disappointed that we had to go into a lock down because we were ready to swim," Kudron said.

The Discoverers lost the dual against Fremont with a final score of 153 to 174. Even though the outcome was not what the team wanted, the Shamrock swimmers still performed well. Kudron placed first in the 100-breast stroke, Emily Miksch and Dallman finished 2nd and 3rd respectively in the 100 breast stroke, and Salerno snagged a secondary qualifying time in the 50 and 100 free.

After the Aquatic center



ELLIOTT THOMAZIN/ROCK BOTTOM EDITOR

**Senior Swimmer Konner Kudron gasps for air while competing in the 100m breaststroke. The Discoverers had their home meet at the Aquatic Center on December 8.**

pool was fixed, the temperature slowly climbed to an appropriate 75 degrees just in time for their home meet on the December 8. The Discoverers hosted Lincoln Southwest, Pius X, and Norfolk. With a second competition under their swim caps, the

Discoverers are still trying to find their stroke. Both the boys' and girls' team finished fourth. Even though the swim team has faced difficulties early in the season, there is still plenty of time before the state meet in Lincoln.

"I can't wait to see what

our team will do this year. We have a lot of people with lots of potential to make it down to Lincoln this year. Hopefully, when we get our pool back, everything will be back on track! Go Fishcoverers!" Salerno concluded.



# Shooting sets back shamrocks

By Break Lassek  
Staff Reporter

For the Scotus boys' basketball team, a lack of experience on the varsity level is not straying them away from the ultimate goal: a trip to Lincoln in March. As only 4 out of the 14 varsity members have prior varsity experience, coach Tyler Swanson shared several newcomers have stepped up to contribute major playing time in the first few games of the season.

"A top newcomer I would say would be Ross Thorson or Josh Faust. Josh is scoring a lot of points in the few minutes he plays. Ross is doing a great job of handling the basketball," Swanson stated.

Along with the sophomore duo, Swanson looked to senior Bryce Vuncannon as an emerging standout. Vuncannon played in few games last season but has asserted through an average of 9 points a game that he is fully prepared for his senior season.

"Our defense has been fantastic the first two games," Vuncannon remarked. "We held our opponents under 45 points both games which is our goal for every game."

To start the season, the

Shamrocks have fought to a 1-3 record. Before official play began, the boys faced Columbus High in a cross-town rivalry exhibition game. Although the result was in favor of the Discoverers, the Jamboree provided invaluable experience for a young Scotus team.

"The hardest thing to adjust to in playing varsity is the level of intensity that comes along with playing against older seniors. They're all bigger and faster than what we faced at the JV level," Thorson said.

Besides inexperience, capitalizing on offense has been a struggle. On November 29th, the boys opened regular season play at home against Class C-2 Hastings Saint Cecilia and shot only 23 percent from the floor. Despite a huge defensive effort including three blocks, the Shamrocks were not able to hold off the Blue Hawks in a 33-35 defeat.

"Against Saint Cecilia, our defense was great, but we need to work on making outside shots and finishing at the rim," junior Tyler Palmer shared.

The Shamrocks earned their first win of the season against Guardian Angels Central Catholic, again utilizing their defense in a 47-42 victory.

"We've struggled a little bit shooting the ball and putting up points early in the season, but in the GACC game, our defense was able to carry us to the win," Junior Eric Mustard commented.

On December 7th, the Shamrocks took to the road to face Grand Island Central Catholic. Senior Caden Pelan returned to the action after a knee injury, contributing four three-pointers to spark the boys' offense. However, the Shamrocks could not hold off the Crusaders in a 53-69 loss.

"(Pelan's return) has brought some more points for us and more confidence... when guys get in the paint and kick it out, he's open now," Swanson said.

The Rocks had their second home game of the season, facing Omaha Concordia in a tough matchup. The boys scored only five points in the first quarter and finished the half with 20 points, forcing them to adjust in the locker room.

"In the Omaha Concordia game, we came out really slow. In the second half, we started hitting our shots, and we got back in the game," Senior Grant Shanle explained. "If we would have started with the same intensity, there could have been a different result."

In the second half,

Scotus scored 30 points and held Concordia to only three field goals. Although there was a major turnaround in the second half, the Shamrocks fell to the Mustangs 50-55.

"(In the second half), we were more mentally locked in. Defensively, we got up and guarded a little harder. On offense, we scored. We got to the rim and ran our

sets really well," Swanson said. "At the end, we fouled too much and that is why we lost."

On Friday, December 14th, the Shamrocks took on their next opponent, the Pierce Bluejays. The boys then rounded off the three-game week with a Saturday trip to Crete.

As the season progress-

es and a chance at Lincoln looms, the Shamrocks' goal is to keep it simple.

"We just want to perform the best we are able while glorifying God with our talents," Vuncannon said.

The Scotus boys will next face St. Paul at home on Friday, December 21st.



BLANEY DREIFURST/YEARBOOK STAFF

Senior Grant Shanle looks to pass against GICC on December 10th. Shanle is one of the four varsity returners this year.

## More winter activity photos



KATE SMITH/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Senior Colby Gilson works to pin his opponent to the mat during the Lakeview wrestling invite. The Shamrock wrestlers finished fourth as a team on November 30th.



ELLIOT THOMAZIN/ROCK BOTTOM EDITOR

Junior Emily Miksch swims the breast stroke during the Columbus home invite. Miksch is a returning state competitor and has already qualified for state again this year.



BLANEY DREIFURST/YEARBOOK STAFF

Senior Caden Pelan shoots the ball during a basketball game against Grand Island Central Catholic. The boys basketball team lost the game on December 7, 53-69.



HALLIE PARKER/YEARBOOK STAFF

Freshman Chris Adame fishes for candy canes during the winter sports pep rally. The Scotus cheerleaders hosted a Christmas relay race between each class to celebrate the holidays.



HALLIE PARKER/YEARBOOK STAFF

Junior Jaycee Ternus dances with her flag during the winter pep rally. The flag team has debuted a brand new dance to Taylor Swift's "Look What You Made Me Do."



JAYCEE TERNUS/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Senior Courtney Kosch drives to the basket during a basketball game against Concordia. The Shamrocks beat Concordia at home on Tuesday, December 11.



# Junior mock trial rocks mock

By Jaycee Ternus  
Staff Reporter

Learning law, acting skills, and public speaking are some of the many qualities achieved in mock trial.

This year there were four mock trial teams, and they all competed at the Columbus Courthouse on November 17 for regionals. They competed against Howells-Dodge, Columbus High, and Lakeview teams for a chance to qualify at state mock trial.

Sophomore Noah Korth played the attorney and handled opening statements for both Plaintiff and Defense for the sophomore team.

“Mock Trial is such a fun activity. However, it’s much more difficult than it may sound (at least for attorneys, anyway). Not only do we have to put in effort during practices, but we had to work constantly outside of practice

in order to develop the case and move forward as a team,” Korth said.

Sophomore Maddie Blaser played the role of a lawyer and had the closing statement.

“My favorite part about Mock Trial is the practices because it’s fun to develop your argument and our coaches are awesome, so practice is always fun. The trials are fun too because it’s fun to finally compete,” Blaser said.

The junior and sophomore team made it through regionals and had to go up against each other to move on to state. The Juniors won regionals and went to compete at state on December 3 and 4, there they earned fourth overall.

Junior Chloe Odbert played the role of an attorney and had to direct and cross-examine witnesses.

“We won districts and went to state so that was an awesome experience. State

was so much fun. We went up against tough competitors which was a really good experience to get under our belt for next year,” Odbert said.

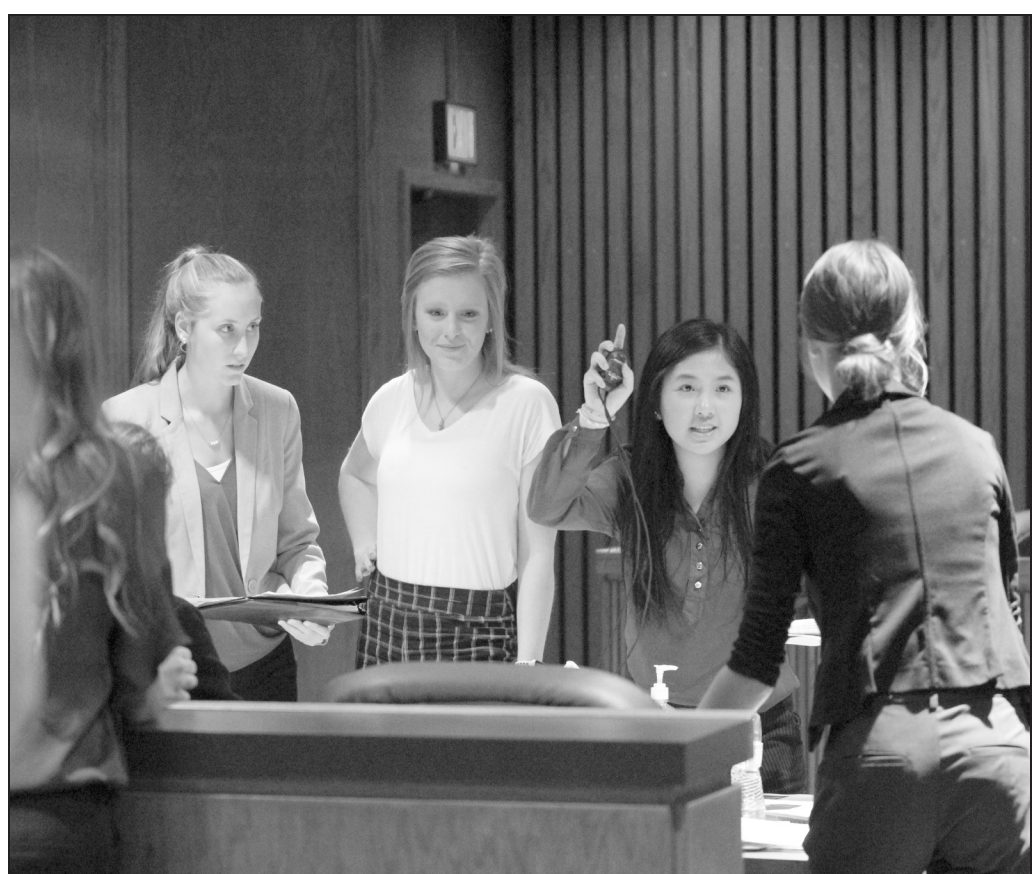
Junior Brea Lassek played the role of an attorney and gave the closing argument.

“State was an entirely separate experience in itself. Those two days were some of the best, challenging, and exhilarating of my high school career,” Lassek said.

Junior Kate Smith played the role of a defendant Ricki Glosser who was accused of selling drugs.

“My favorite part of mock trial is that we’re an all-girl team. We are a very tight group, and we push to make each other better. We work very hard to be as good as we are, and I’m proud of that,” Smith said.

All mock trial students will return since there wasn’t a senior team this year.



JAYCEE TERNUS/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Juniors Emily Miksch, Kate Smith, and Rachael Lam discuss the final outcome of the regional competition. The junior team advanced to state and earned 4th overall.

# Beards blossom through fundraiser

By Callan Fuchser  
Staff Reporter

Once November hits each year, Scotus hallways begin to appear hairier.

No, not hair growing on walls, but on faces of male students. Scotus students have found great pleasure participating in the now global phenomenon. No-Shave November came into

effect on Facebook in 2009 to grow awareness by embracing one’s hair, letting it grow wild and free.

Scotus’ own No Shave/No Sock Rule/Sandal No-

years ago ringing in hundreds of dollars each year. This year, over one hundred students participated, raising \$1025.

“We started the No Shave/No Sock November in 2016 when two seniors at the time didn’t want to shave. Mr. Ohnoutka told them they must go through a group, so student council picked it up,” student council sponsor Joan Lahm said.

Senior boys have found great perks with the month long of no shaving, modeling beards of all densities and colors.

“It is amazing not having to shave my face every other day! The extra five minutes of time it gives me is also nice. Plus, people tell me I look more handsome with a beard,” senior Abe Perault said.

Best facial hair competitions are heating up around school, but no one can top the fan favorite beard that grows all year long at Scotus.

“I don’t [have the best

beard], but Mr. Linder has a sweet one,” senior Jackson Neville said.

Socks were also a big hit this year. Students were able to wear socks of their choosing, leaving the creativeness up to them.

“I have some customized socks with Dwight Schrute from The Office on them,” sophomore Ross Thorson said.

This year, students have a wider range of how far their tiny contribution can get them.

“We added sandals with socks. If students pay \$10, they can participate in no shave, no sock rule, and sandals with no socks,” Lahm said.

More students were involved this year due to the added option.

“Alaina Dierman, a freshman, made a proposal to the student council after visiting with some of her classmates. She approached Mr. Ohnoutka, and he said, ‘Yes! Let’s go for it! We

could probably make more money,’ and we did!” Lahm said.

With sandals being another choice this year, more students were involved and are provided more classy colors with uniforms.

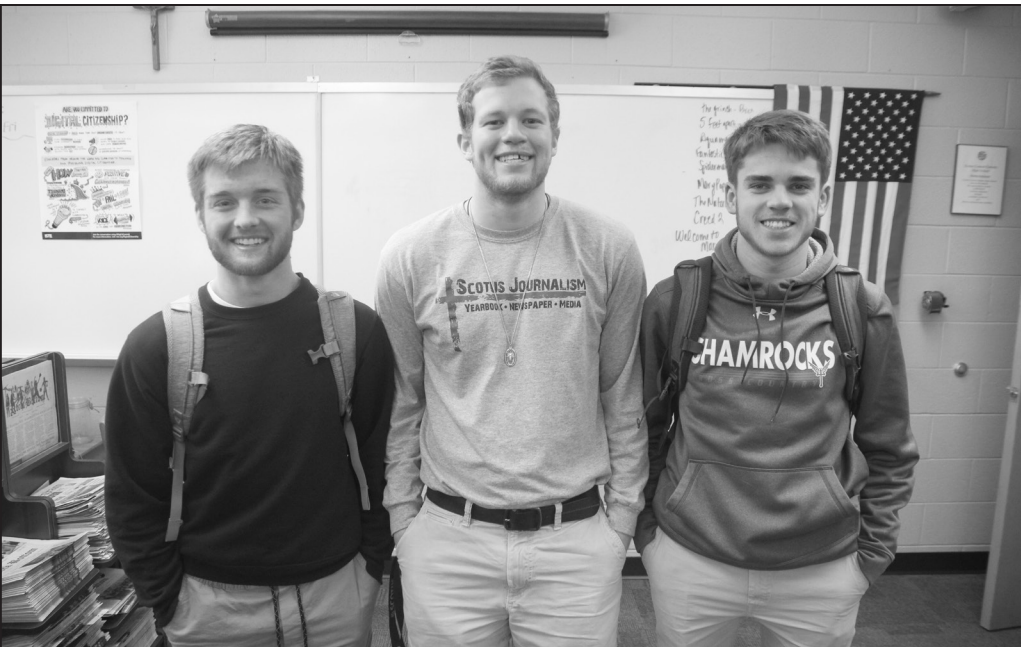
“I wore these neon pink striped socks with my blue Crocs. It was pretty stylish if I would say so myself,” sophomore Camille Pelan said.

One hundred percent of the proceeds of the fundraiser will go out into the community to help other families around the holidays.

“The money goes to the Simon House for their Christmas program to purchase Christmas gifts for those who are less fortunate,” Lahm said.

The annual No-Shave November continues to provide aid and support to fellow families in community.

“This is a great community service project, and it’s fun to see the students get involved,” Lahm concluded.



ANGIE RUSHER/JOURNALISM ADVISOR

Seniors Jackson Neville, Abe Perault, and Carter Thorson participated in Scotus’ 3rd Annual No Shave/No Sock/Sandal Rule November. The fundraiser raised \$1,025, all going toward the Simon House Christmas program.

# Students appeal to benefactors

By Chloe Odbert  
Staff Reporter

After the success of last fall’s Annual Appeal, the Shamrock nation was eager to begin fundraising for this year’s event.

Last fall Scotus received \$123,075.92 in donations which surpassed the goal of \$100,000 that was put toward air conditioning in the Dowd Activity Center and other various projects around school. This year Scotus decided to raise their goal to \$105,000 in hopes to raise enough money to replace 54-year old fluorescent light fixtures with efficient LED lighting, repaint some of the building’s walls, add storage furniture such as bookshelves or cabinets to classrooms, and much more.

John Schueth, Scotus’ Development Director, feels that when it comes to fundraising, whether someone’s role is big or small, it is important.

“I think it is really important to have everyone in the building involved in the fundraising for our school. Not everyone can always help with everything we do because truly we fundraise a lot. But if everyone can pick

one and do it that’s great, it shows the community that you believe in what you’re doing, and you’re proud to help our school.”

The fundraising for Scotus is much more than a staff-oriented process, in fact, students are a big help in bringing in donations. One way that the students do their part for the annual appeal is by calling potential donors for the Phonathon.

Sophomore Emily Ferguson volunteered her time to the Phonathon as a part of National Honors Society.

“I feel that it is important to help with fundraisers at our school, because we are members of the Scotus community. By doing these activities we represent our school by service and helping others through fundraising, and we get a chance to help our school grow,” Ferguson said.

When the students volunteer their time to making phone calls for the annual appeal, the rewards back to Scotus are great as they can see by the progress tracking thermometer outside the central office. Schueth keeps the thermometer updated as donations are sent in for the annual appeal.

“Even though we are not calling anymore, the

thermometer outside the central office will continue to gradually increase because donors are still sending in donations.” Schueth explained.

The students do more than they know to bring in donations for the school. Schueth feels that along with calling and personally asking for donations, the students’ behavior outside of the building also helps to encourage others in the community to donate.

“Students are really involved in so many ways, not only calling and asking for money. When you’re successful, that also helps to raise money as well. People like to support winners. Having a state championship journalism team two years in a row is such a nice compliment to also having all the other ones like girls’ basketball, volleyball, football, those things,” Schueth expressed. “Now you are spreading that message to even more people in our community because they are proud of you guys for your championships that you bring back to our community.”

Students doing small acts of kindness also reflect on the school that potentially bring in donations.

“Doing small things like



EMMA BRANDT/YEARBOOK STAFF

Sophomore Anna Ehlers calls a potential donor for the Phonathon. Students volunteered to help make calls for the Phonathon through school groups such as NHS, Student Council, and others.

holding the door for people when they enter our building and being a good sport on the field or the court, all that is being watched by potential donors,” Schueth said.

For this year’s annual appeal Scotus had brought

in \$57,244 of their \$105,000 goal, and donations are still being accepted and encouraged.

Junior Lauren Ostdiek volunteered for the annual appeal through her multiple activities.

“It is important to help with fundraising for our school because fundraising allows us to participate in the activities that we love through Scotus.” Ostdiek concluded.



# One Act season ends at districts

**By Mariana Valdez-Ortiz**  
Staff Reporter

After a season of highs and lows, the One Act season ended on November 30. The One Act cast had to say goodbye to their characters on the stage at Central Community College with a 4<sup>th</sup> place at districts.

"There is always a feeling of things that we could have done better, but I feel like we did the best we could with what we had and what we knew. The show we ended up putting together is one that I will continue to look back fondly on years to come from now," One Act director Clyde Ericson said.

Ericson has been the art teacher at Scotus for two years, but this was his first year as the director. At the beginning of everything, when Ericson announced that people could start signing up to be part of One Act, more than sixty people signed up. At the end forty-four people ended up being part of the crew and cast.

"I am very thankful for everyone who was a

part of this production. I hope we have a lot of participants next year as well," Ericson added.

This year was many students' first time working with Mr. Ericson, but everyone quickly got used to each other and how they work

"Mr. Ericson was a great director, and I think Scotus' One Act will go far in the years to come," senior Julia Pichler said.

In the beginning, people were skeptical of doing a comedy instead of a drama because the past few years the one act plays have been dramas.

"Comedies are hard to pull off, but our script was funny, and peoples' personalities matched their character personalities very well," senior actress Maddie Sueper added.

Practices were happening almost every day. There were even some practices during the weekends. Ericson wanted to make sure that the team was ready to perform to the best of their abilities every time they stepped on a stage.

"At the beginning of the season we were running out



MARIANA VALDEZ/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

**Senior Maddie Sueper runs away from the cast at the end of the first act. The first act was centered around a drama class; the second act was their interpretation of Romeo and Juliet.**

of time during practices. We had to throw a lot together, but in the end, it turned out well," senior actress Kendra Korger said.

The team's first performance was on November 2 in Loup City. The team tied for first place, and they received good critiques from

the judges.

"The most memorable moment was the night of our first competition when we got the news that we tied for first. It got everyone on the team excited, and I was so proud," senior actress Mattie Johnson said.

The team also performed

at conference on Monday, November 19, and at the public performance in Memorial Hall on Monday, November 26. The public performance was the same week as districts.

"My favorite performance was conference; the whole team performed with

so much energy and passion," Sueper said.

Even though districts was the last performance of the team, and they did not get the results they were hoping for, it is still the favorite performance of the cast.

"We didn't make it to state, but our main goal was to entertain, and I think that by districts we accomplished that goal," senior actor Isaac Ostdiek said.

The motto of the whole play was "always make the most of what you are given." The team kept that motto in their minds throughout the whole season, even as it was ending. The team did not accomplish the goal of going to state, but they made the most of that situation. The cast and crew forgot about that, and instead thought of their other accomplishments, and about the great moments they spent together as a cast.

"I am very proud of our team. We truly made the most out of what we were given. We performed extremely well at all of our performances," senior actor Patrick Herchenbach concluded.



MARIANA VALDEZ/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

**Senior Maddie Sueper shows her excitement as she smiles at the audience. Sueper had one of the main roles in the play as the drama class teacher.**



MARIANA VALDEZ/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

**Senior Mattie Johnson gets the cast pumped up for their performance at Loup City. Loup City was the first performance of the season.**

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# Life is better on the slopes

By Cameron Johnston  
Staff Reporter

With the recent temperatures dipping into the freezing cold, many students dream of warmer summer and spring weather. Students and athletes look forward the sports that go along with this warmer weather, but, for a select few students, winter brings about their favorite activities.

Snow sports have become more popular in the recent years due to the enjoyment that the landscape, challenge, and the competitions that snowboarding and skiing bring into the lives of those who try them.

Snowboarding in my life is the most important activity that I am involved in outside of school. I enjoy this activity because of the sheer challenge of traveling sixty miles per hour on a 1/4 inch piece of fiberglass and plywood. Also, the ability to go flying off a jump at an elevation of

12,000 feet above sea level in the Rocky Mountains of Colorado and attempting to land safely again brings an adrenaline factor nothing else can.

The most striking feature about snowboarding or skiing is the beauty of the landscape, which is arguably the most attractive thing about these sports. I believe that the views of the mountains are the main reason that recreational riders flock to the resorts every year. The view from the top of the back-country peaks of Copper Mountain Resort, which has become my favorite resort in recent years, is mesmerizing and astounding. This is because the near vertical walls of powder snow and jagged granite rocks lying in wait for only the most daring and highest skilled riders. The angle of some of the steepest ski trails can reach greater than 40 degrees. With this extreme terrain, avalanches become a deadly factor, so every morning and afternoon ski patrol detonates

dynamite to trigger any possible avalanches before they can cause tragedy.

While the landscape is intriguing, the reason I snowboard is because the challenge that it brings into my life. In the ten years that I and senior Drew Zaruba have been riding together, we have never been bored because of the ever-changing terrain and amenities that are offered. The trouble with snowboarding and skiing for most people is the balance and comfortability with heights and speed that not everyone possesses.

While snowboarding in my eyes is one of the most enjoyable things a person can do, there are drawbacks of this activity. One of these is very prevalent because of the athleticism that is required for this strenuous sport. This negative aspect is the chance of physical injury. I've seen countless people fall while riding and not get back up, and the ski patrol must take the injured person to the hospital on a stretcher. Even

though this is a draw back to the sport, I can look past it and still see the positives.

Yet another negative aspect of snow sports is the cost of the gear required, and it, for the most part, is not a local activity. This means that all enthusiasts must travel to the nearest mountain range. This driving is a minimum of an eight-hour drive or fly into Denver International Airport to reach the famous Rocky Mountain snow. The average day of skiing or snowboarding in Colorado is near \$150 excluding the cost of lodging accommodations.

It is my wish that everyone is given the opportunity to try these sports, but for some students this opportunity may never present itself. I urge everyone to whom the chance has come to them give these activities a try. For some people this isn't possible so every year in January, Colorado hosts one of the largest competitive snow sports tournaments and broadcasts it for all to enjoy. This event pays out 50,000



PHOTO COURTESY CAMERON JOHNSTON

Senior Cameron Johnston poses for a picture while snowboarding at Copper Mountain in Colorado. Cameron has been snowboarding and skiing since he was 10 years old.

dollars for a gold medal in snowboarding categories such as slopestyle, big air, and superpipe. The same categories are available for skiers and even some for snowmobiles. This event is

the winter X-games presented by ESPN; coverage of this event begins on January 24th through the 27th of 2019. Readers should give this a chance by watching at least one event.

# Last-minute Christmas gifts for professional procrastinators

By Brea Lassek  
Staff Reporter

During the most wonderful time of the year, Christmas festivities consume our lives from decking the halls to watching classic holiday movies. Finding gifts for the ones we love always seems to get held off until days before. Here are my top last-minute gift picks and tricks for the professional procrastinator:

1) Subscription boxes This is the gift that keeps on giving throughout the year and that you can buy in minutes online. Subscription boxes vary in their type of products, prices, and how often they are delivered. The top beauty-based box for women is FabFitFun which retails for \$49 quarterly. A less familiar box for women is Rocksbox. For \$19 a month, the customer receives three high quality jewelry pieces.

There is also a large variety of boxes for men to enjoy.

The most famous is the Dollar Shave Club which sends razors, shower products, and other bathroom necessities.

For this subscription, there is a starting set of only \$15, a perfect gift for your dad. Other boxes for men include Birchbox Men, Gentleman's Box, and Society Socks.

A great box for both genders is Try the World. This sends six snacks from six different countries every month for only \$19 a month. Another great food subscription is Love with Food as they donate a portion of their proceeds to food banks. According to *UrbanTastebud.com*, there are several subscription companies that give back to charity such as Love Goodly, The Wordy Traveler, and Brothers Coffee Company.

No matter which box you give, it is sure to be a unique twist each time they receive a package at their doorstep. For giving this as a gift, you can buy the first month or three months to help them decide if they would like to continue the subscription. Boxes range

anywhere from \$10 to \$100 a month.

2) Personalized presents

Giving gifts with the first letter of someone's name can show the illusion that you gave extra thought into their present. Easy monogrammed items to find last minute consist of coffee cups, jewelry, pillows, and planners. Another personal present is giving a framed picture of the recipient and yourself. When ordering pictures through Walgreens, in store pickup is only an hour after.

3) Travel necessities

For the person always on the go, travelling essentials are the perfect gift. At Vera Bradley, their fleece travel blanket transforms from a pillow to a blanket for a two-in-one present. Smaller gifts could be sleeping masks, headphones, and their favorite snacks. Small backpacks are also helpful when travelling from place to place as it can be used as a carry-on bag or an easier alternative to a purse. Numerous brands produce these including

North Face, Kate Spade, Urban Outfitters, and Herschel. These can cost \$20 and up.

4) Themed gift baskets

Christmas shopping can become expensive when buying for friends and family. To cut down costs, a cheap option is to assemble homemade gift baskets. Mothers especially would appreciate a cookbook along with the ingredients of one its recipes.

A movie night bucket could be filled with popcorn, candy, and a classic family film. For someone who needs a day off, collect face masks, nail polish, and bath bombs for a spa night. These gift baskets are versatile and inexpensive.

If you have a specific gift in mind but time is running out, several websites offer holiday shipping discounts. Target recently announced

they are providing free two-day shipping this Christmas season. Other websites with shipping deals are Amazon Prime, Walmart, Nordstrom, and Macy's. However, if you take advantage of these opportunities, pay close attention to the ordering deadlines. Using all these helpful tips, your Christmas shopping experience is certain to be merry and bright.



HTTPS://WWW.MYSUBSCRIPTIONADDICTION.COM

FabFitFun is one option for a subscription box that can be a great last-minute holiday gift. Some subscription box companies give back to charity.

# I spy which Scotus eyes?



27. Mrs. Dusel-Mistfeldt 28. Sam Tomnitzes 29. Mrs. McPhillips 30. Ross Thornton 31. Mr. Coulter 32. Mrs. Erickson 33. Mr. Brockhaus 34. Mrs. Blaser 35. Mrs. Blaser 36. Mrs. Blaser 37. Mrs. Blaser 38. Mrs. Blaser 39. Mrs. Blaser 40. Mrs. Blaser 41. Mrs. Blaser 42. Mrs. Blaser 43. Mrs. Blaser 44. Mrs. Blaser 45. Mrs. Blaser 46. Mrs. Blaser 47. Mrs. Blaser 48. Mrs. Blaser 49. Mrs. Blaser 50. Mrs. Blaser 51. Mrs. Blaser 52. Mrs. Blaser 53. Mrs. Blaser 54. Mrs. Blaser 55. Mrs. Blaser 56. Mrs. Blaser 57. Mrs. Blaser 58. Mrs. Blaser 59. Mrs. Blaser 60. Mrs. Blaser 61. Mrs. Blaser 62. Mrs. Blaser 63. Mrs. Blaser 64. Mrs. Blaser 65. Mrs. Blaser 66. Mrs. Blaser 67. Mrs. Blaser 68. Mrs. Blaser 69. Mrs. Blaser 70. Mrs. Blaser 71. Mrs. Blaser 72. Mrs. Blaser 73. Mrs. Blaser 74. Mrs. Blaser 75. Mrs. Blaser 76. Mrs. Blaser 77. Mrs. Blaser 78. Mrs. Blaser 79. Mrs. Blaser 80. Mrs. Blaser 81. Mrs. Blaser 82. Mrs. Blaser 83. Mrs. Blaser 84. Mrs. Blaser 85. Mrs. Blaser 86. Mrs. Blaser 87. Mrs. Blaser 88. Mrs. Blaser 89. Mrs. Blaser 90. Mrs. Blaser 91. Mrs. Blaser 92. Mrs. Blaser 93. Mrs. Blaser 94. Mrs. Blaser 95. Mrs. Blaser 96. Mrs. Blaser 97. Mrs. Blaser 98. Mrs. Blaser 99. Mrs. Blaser 100. Mrs. Blaser



# Rock Bottom

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## Catholic Rally adds to CSW

By Abe Perault  
Staff Reporter

Catholic schools have always had a role in education in America. From the beginning as some of the only schools in the country, to becoming a place for students to practice and learn about their faith freely, Catholic schools have something to celebrate. To do so, the last week in January is dedicated to Catholic Schools.

“[The point of] Catholic Schools Week is to celebrate the fact that we get to have Catholic schools and live our faith every day and learn about our faith every day,” Scotus Chaplain Father Capadano explained.

This year, Monday began with a day off from school while the teachers went on a retreat to the Benedictine Center in Schuyler. On Tuesday, students and faculty wore Christian themed shirts and listened to Christian music over the speakers during passing periods. Students raced on Wednesday to fill out word searches to win yellow scarves they could wear around school. On Thursday, the fourth, fifth, and sixth graders from the Catholic grade schools came and joined the Scotus students for Mass in Memorial Hall. The seniors also went over to St. Bonaventure Grade School to read books to the grade-schoolers.

Friday this year was different. In the afternoon on Friday, the students usually were able to watch a movie, play advanced warfare or volleyball, or learn to swing dance. This year, The Catholicity Commit-



Senior Kelsey Faust reads *How Full is Your Bucket?* to the third grade class at St. Bonaventure Grade School. Every year the seniors pick their favorite childhood books to read to the kids.

tee decided it was for the best to do something a little more Catholic.

“Instead of using the afternoon on Friday to watch movies, we’re going to use the afternoon on Friday to hopefully strengthen the faith of the kids here at Scotus by doing a ‘Catholic Rally’: a speaker, some adoration, and praise and worship,” Capadano said. “Think really short Steubenville-esque-type-thing.”

Most of the pieces fell into place for the Catholicity Commit-

tee. Capadano and the committee had talked about doing a rally of this kind before, but it never worked out. That’s when Columbus Catholic Youth Ministry Coordinators Sarah Doerneman and Lynn Heinrich came to the committee with the same idea, and together they collaborated.

“Lynn and I saw an article in the Catholic Voice last year featuring a Lenten Faith Rally in Hartington that included 500 students from

6 different schools in the area. They had priest talks, Danny Leger for praise & worship, and Adoration. The event looked awesome and we thought, ‘We should do something like that at Scotus,’” Doerneman explained. “We met with Mr. Ohnoutka and Fr. Capadano, both were excited to do something like it here, so then we started the planning.”

The event was held in Scotus’ Memorial Hall and consisted of

See CSW, Page 2

## STEAM keeps surprising students

By Mariana Valdez-Ortiz  
Staff Reporter

This is the first year STEAM class has been offered in Scotus, and it keeps proving that it was a good decision to include in the curriculum. The latest addition to the Hagel STEAM lab is that it will be hosting equipment in partnership with University of Nebraska-Lincoln, so students can explore the different types of technology used in the real world.

STEAM teacher Betsy Rall has brought a lot of assets to the school since she started in August, and she is not stopping. She has been introducing new forms of technology to Scotus students in her classroom. Now she has made it possible for the school to have some of UNL’s equipment.

“The goal is for students to be more comfortable with the machines and mechanical tools, and not to be afraid because this time period is based in technology,” Rall said.

STEAM class not only teaches students how to work with technology, but with other students. Students form teams to accomplish projects, so they have learned how to be patient with each other.

“STEAM has made me expand my interests and learn how to work with others,” senior Eduardo Torres said.

The virtual reality machine is one of the machines that has grabbed the students’ attention completely. VR is a machine that is easy to use, and students can have fun while they learn. Students can go from shooting targets to making art using the VR machine.

“The virtual reality is a neat machine that takes you to a whole new world,” senior Kaity Lovell said.

Having the UNL equipment has been a good experience for the students. Scotus is also blessed to have this opportunity; not many schools have the privilege of having access to these machines.

“It’s hands on, so I enjoy being able to do something besides writing on paper or staring at a book all day,” senior Evan Sliva commented.

UNL also left behind a device that can connect the STEAM students to UNL personnel through teleconference. The robot has been an incredible benefit to the students, not only do they get to see how it works, but UNL personnel has been giving them advice by communicating through the robot.

“The biggest benefit is that UNL personnel have more experience with the machines than we do, so it will take our beginner projects to a higher level,” Rall said.

Throughout the course of the next few weeks, students will keep working on projects using the UNL machines. UNL also brought a laser cutter, and students will be using it in the future.

“It is very different, and it gives

See STEAM, Page 2

## YLC empowers the future

By Jaycee Ternus  
Staff Reporter

Learning from important people in the community can help others gain an understanding of leadership and an idea for what is to come for the future.

Youth Leadership Columbus is a program that gets juniors the opportunity to empower their leadership skills in their society. The program is put on by Columbus Nebraska Area of Chamber of Commerce. Students participating in Youth Leadership are eligible for a \$300 or more college scholarship. Once a month, students get to leave school, listen to speakers, go on tours, and much more.

“I applied for YLC to increase my knowledge of the Columbus community and to develop leadership experience colleges look for. We also explore different career options which has helped me decipher what I could possibly major in,” Junior Brea Lassek said.

When participating in Youth Leadership, students get the opportunity to learn new things meet many people who work in the community.

“My favorite day so far has definitely been the day we took a

self-defense class. During that day, we also learned to change a spare tire and a little about budgeting our money for the future. These are extremely applicable skills that we can and will use in the future, and the self-defense class was so much fun,” junior Liza Zaruba said.

Youth Leadership Columbus is open to sophomore students who will be a junior in High School.

“So far, I have been able to hear from and talk to a lot of different hard-working individuals in the community who help make our community what it is. It is awesome to be able to have one-on-one conversations with people who chose different career paths to help me choose what I want to do,” junior Chloe Odbert said.

Students participating have opportunities to become educated on various issues, exchange ideas, and enhance their leadership skills. To join YLC, students must fill out an application.

“I have gained a lot of knowledge about the background of Columbus and how much work is put into our town as well as new skills that I will be able to utilize in the future,” junior Rachel Lam said.

Overall students meet once a month on Wednesdays. There are

See YLC, Page 2



Junior Liza Zaruba is instructed by an police officer to prevent being choked by junior Brea Lassek. On December 7, 2018 the students learned self-defense from law enforcement during Youth Leadership Columbus.

CHLOE ODBERT/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF



YLC

nine days of learning, sharing, and meeting new business. There is also no cost to participate in Youth Leadership Columbus.

"YLC has been a great experience where I've met

some amazing friends and learned more about Columbus," Zaruba said. "I also feel better equipped in deciding my future career path. I would recommend the program to anyone."

STEAM

you an exposure to things you don't normally get in the classroom; it is very hands on," Rall said.

The machines from UNL will stay in Scotus for a minimum of six weeks; they can stay longer if Rall feels

the students need more time using them.

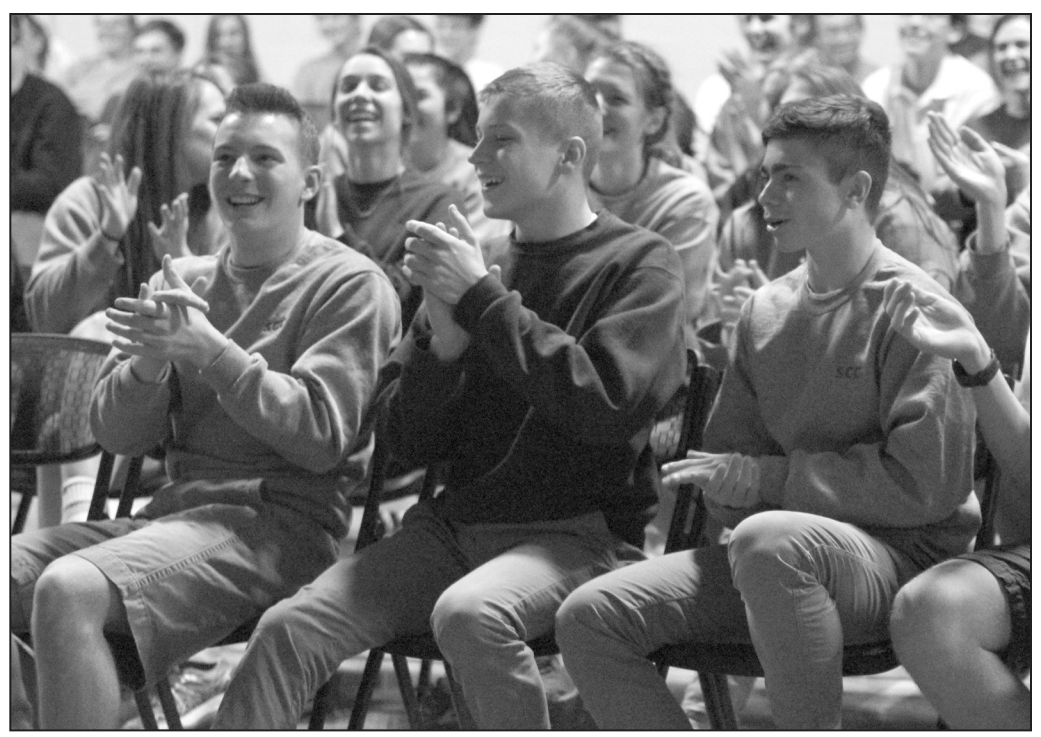
"STEAM classes will keep improving as we keep developing our connections with the industry and other institutions," Rall concluded.



MARIANA VALDEZ-ORTIZ/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

**Freshmen Hannah Pflum and Emiliano Rodriguez listen to the advice given by UNL's personnel who are using a telecommunication device. The students designed an object on the computer to print using the 3-D printer.**

CSW



ANGIE RUSHER/JOURNALISM ADVISOR

**Freshmen Luke Przymus, Zane Beiermann, and Chance Bailey cheer for the students and teachers participating in the Mad Gab game. The Mad Gab game was one of the new activities that happened during the Catholic Youth Rally.**

praise and worship lead by Toney Birkel, Eucharistic Adoration, and a talk by Father Jay Buhman.

"We were blessed to bring Tony Birkel aboard to help with the music and had spoken to him about possible speakers. Fr. Buhman happens to be a friend of Tony's, and he suggested asking him if he would be available to give a talk. Lynn actually

knew Fr. Buhman from the Newman Center and through FOCUS, as he was the National Chaplain for FOCUS. He's a great, dynamic speaker and when he said 'yes' to speaking, we were ecstatic!" Doerneman said.

Ultimately, Doerneman and Capadano wanted to give all of the students at Scotus a chance to encounter Jesus.

"If one person who

doesn't normally get involved in this type of thing, is touched than it's worth it. But we also provide these opportunities for our students who are already convinced that Jesus Christ is Lord, and they are trying to live their life accordingly, that they are strengthened, so the goal is ultimately to encourage and strengthen faith," Capadano Concluded.

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# English class without books?



By Tara Kamrath  
Staff Reporter

*The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* by Mark Twain. *Romeo and Juliet* by William Shakespeare. *Fallen An-*

gels by Walter Dean Myers.

These titles may have given you either good or bad flashbacks, or perhaps you don't remember them at all. Despite what you think of these novels and plays, you have read – or will read – them in your English classes throughout your years at Scotus. For those of you who read the books like you are supposed to, kudos. We would probably be good friends. But for those of you who didn't – I have some words to implore you to take the time to read, since you didn't for others' works.

Before I go on, just to get it out of the way, using *SparkNotes* or any of those other summary websites *does*

*not* count as “reading the book”. They can be used as review or to make sure you understand a chapter after you read *the whole chapter as assigned*, but reading a series of summaries is not the same as reading a book.

You may have wondered before, “Why do we read books in English class anyway? Is it a form of torture from teachers to bore us students?”

No. Many of the books read in English classes are considered a “classic”, defined by dictionary.com as “an author or literary work of the first rank, especially one of demonstrably enduring quality”. People over time, since the publishing of these

books, have come to recognize the greatness of these works of literary art. This greatness may arise years after the book is published, or even after the death of its author. An example of this is F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*, which merely published at a bad time and its true genius was recognized after he passed. And let's not forget about William Shakespeare. Some people think Shakespeare did not actually exist, but does that even matter? Someone still had to write those thousands of complex lines in iambic pentameter and create new sayings we still hear today, such as “good riddance” and “kill with kindness”. That

would be any authors' dream to have such an impact on the literary world.

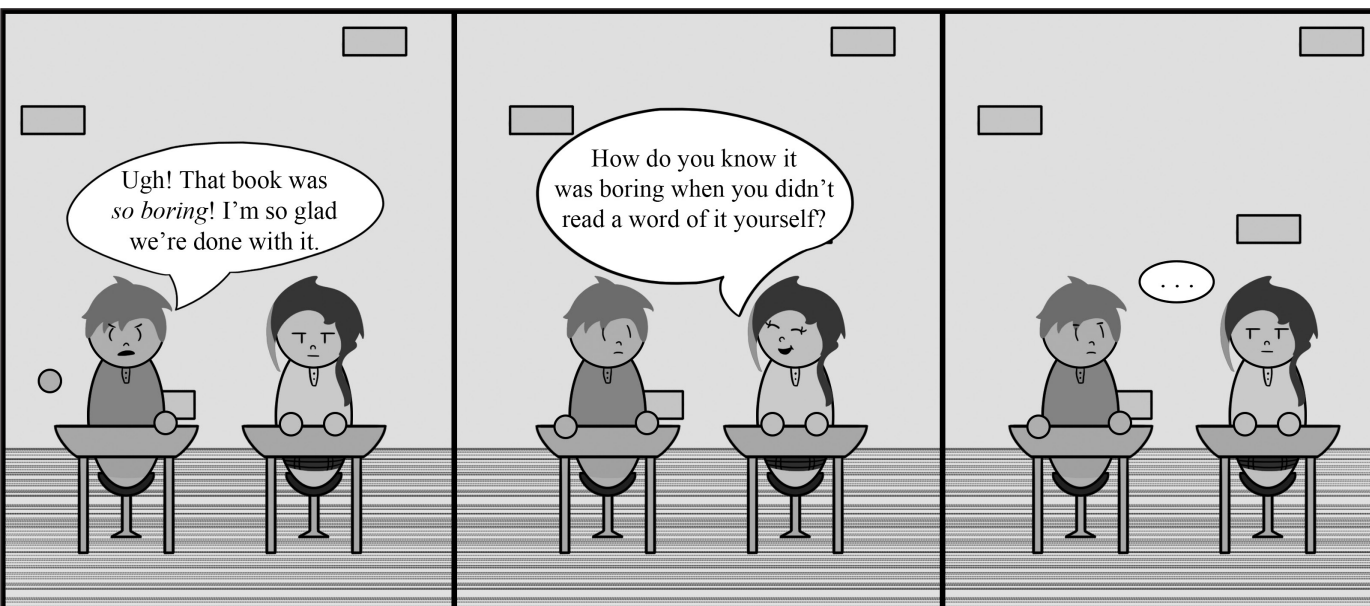
People wrote these books. Someone had a neat idea appear in his or her head one day and took the time to write it down, to spend hours on top of hours to expand on it more and more, creating new people, an entirely new world, and a whole new story that no one has ever heard of prior to the author's brave, time-consuming actions. I feel I can say this because I enjoy writing books and various short stories myself and have been during my entire time at Scotus. I can tell you, writing just a twenty-chaptered book (while spending most of the week in school, mind you) took me *five years* between coming up with ideas, actually doing the writing, finding *time* to write, and finding the *inspiration* to write.

Yes, writing takes countless hours out of one's lifetime, and after all that, all I would ask is for someone to at least give my book a chance before they click *SparkNotes* in his or her favorite bar.

I'm sure it has taken people even longer than I to write their works, and some of them even have writing as their fulltime job, not having to worry about school and

its other activities it brings. Truly, I just want you to take a moment to think about this, how these books you're “forced to read” in English class are some of the best of the best there can be, and that their authors could have quite literally put their blood, sweat, and tears into writing them and making them come to life, for them to see the light of the world. I'm sure people didn't write these books for high school students to immediately shove to the bottom of their bookbags when they receive them from the English teacher.

Perhaps you did read one of these books, but you still didn't like it. That's all right. Not everyone will like everything the same. You just need to realize how that book came to be and that some of these authors dedicated a large portion of their lives to complete these prolonged projects, pouring out their heart and soul into something they no doubt will be judged by, either positively or negatively. Writing like this makes the author vulnerable, as the words written reveal something about him- or herself. To write a book for thousands of people to read – the majority strangers, no doubt – requires great courage, and many have been rewarded for this very thing.



# Life too easy for teens



By Cameron Johnson  
Staff Reporter

At the end of every school year most seniors move on to a new point in their lives where they must become more independent. Knowing how to do tasks that parents may have done

for them in the past is an important part of life away from home.

Children of this generation, including myself, are undoubtedly less likely to know how to complete simple tasks that our parents and grandparents would believe are common knowledge by teenage years.

One of the most obvious examples of students not knowing how to complete common challenges is the amount of students who don't know how to change a tire or use jumper cables. With the ever increasing amount of people glued to their phones and video games that always work as expected, we forget that objects can malfunction and fail to learn how to fix them. To a few students, changing a tire or jump start-

ing a car is something that their parents or friends have shown them the basics of and they have realized that most likely they will need to use this knowledge in their lives. In just the last six months I have had to help two fellow students jump start their dead battery and even taught another how to change his oil. To myself this is something I have known all my life, but to others they would have trouble with opening their hood on their car, let alone finding their battery.

When students move out of their parents' houses and into an apartment or dorm for college, simple things that may have been done for them in past years become their responsibility. Challenges such as cooking, cleaning, getting up on time, and worst of all,

laundry. While some may do these on their own before departing for college, many students are in for a rude and abrupt awakening when those tasks aren't done for them because they are “too busy.” Many students are accustomed to getting home after a long day at school and practices or work and having supper already prepared for them to enjoy. As they will realize in college, unless on a meal plan, meals will be ready when you are done cooking them.

One of the most crucial skills students must know before turning a new page in their lives is how to properly manage money. While no teenager is likely to make the best decisions with their money, if they have any, hopefully parents have taught

them how to save money or have the responsibility to have access to a debit or even credit card. I think students should apply as soon as possible for a credit card to begin to build credit. Students will want to do this so future banks will not see them as a large risk when they inevitably apply for some type of car or home loan. To me it is common knowledge, but to others it may not be, but the income must always be greater than the spending of money to avoid losing everything that students have worked to attain in life. Students should also plan out a budget to see where and how much money is being spent, and where it could be saved.

Others may see learning about these topics as a waste of time or that they don't

have time to learn the skills required for the everyday tasks of life. While some students have work and practice after school hours, we all have twenty four hours in a day, and it is all about where we spend our time.

A possible solution to this epidemic is to spend part of the time we all spend on our phones and devices enriching our minds with something useful. I urge everyone to expand their knowledge or build a foundation on one of these topics. They can do this by asking their parents or a friend to teach them, watch a video, or simply try it themselves and solve problems along the way.

# Vulnerability strengthens self-identity



By Brea Lassek  
Staff Reporter

What if no one ends up reading it? Even worse, what if everyone does and they hate it? These were the thoughts racing through my head as my peers were about to be exposed to my first published newspaper article. My writing was not just a report on the volleyball team's success or a new feature at school, but my controversial opinion on dating.

In that moment, I felt vulnerable. As soon as I handed in my final draft to be printed, I gave up my control of the situation; the readers

would decide for themselves whether my work was decent or despicable.

Although I felt revealed and completely susceptible to criticism, allowing myself to be vulnerable felt freeing. This is not how society portrays vulnerability. It is defined as “the quality or state of being exposed to the possibility of being attacked or harmed, either physically or emotionally.”

However, I disagree. Vulnerability is rather understanding you have a chance of hurt, rejection, or judgment but still displaying your true self. By rewriting its very definition, vulnerability is a strength in your self-discovery.

Vulnerability is not popular because everyone associates it with weakness. However, it is completely necessary for growth. High school is meant to be a time in which you find yourself and what you will pursue in the future. Unfortunately, these four years can be consumed by searching for approval from our classmates. We strive to fit in, but even

more, we avoid standing out.

Seeking acceptance from our peers can be basic or as drastic as never exposing who you truly are. To be vulnerable with your friends is to trust them enough that they will like you for who you are. It is easy to put a wall up and pretend to have the same personality as everyone else or enjoy listening to the same music, but we will never be completely satisfied living someone else's life. Our purpose on earth is to make an impact on the people around us, but we cannot fulfill that if we do not display an honest front of who we are.

We live for approval even though we already have it from the One who matters the most. By strengthening our relationship with God, it is easier to decipher our real identity from who the world says we should be.

Openly practicing your faith is easier said than done, but it is more common in a supporting environment. For example, last year our archdiocese took three buses full of students and chaperones to the Steuben-

ville Youth Conference. Along with thousands of other teenagers, numerous students from our school attended. They had experiences more powerful than words can describe. However, when they returned, only a fraction of the students continued to live unapologetically in their faith.

Publicly displaying your faith is difficult and often avoided for many reasons including fear of judgment and not wanting to stand out in the crowd. Another common problem is that people do not want to explore their faith because God's plan and their own may not align.

In an environment like Steubenville or JC Camp, it is easy to feel free to display your faith because it is encouraged lovingly and is the primary focus. Returning home can be a shock as the

world is just how it was when you left it. This is the time when vulnerability can be used as a great asset.

There are people out there who are not vulnerable and claim to be completely satisfied with their lives. They think they do not need

to make any changes or take more risks in their faith because they are happy. Others believe they have their whole life to change.

No matter how cliché it sounds, there is always more room to improve. A comfort place is a fine place to be, but nothing grows there. By playing it safe, you are cheating yourself out of what could be.

For those who assume they have their whole lives ahead of them to improve, you never know. Our time on earth is limited and can be ended at any moment. What comes after, either heaven or hell, is forever. Vulnerability allows

us to accept this reality by being open to change for the long term happiness.

Do not be afraid to be vulnerable in all aspects of your life. Instead of praying in your head before meals at a public setting, make the sign of the cross as well. Ask what song is playing on the aux cord even if everyone else knows it. Share personal experiences to help other people. These little changes will lead to an overall shift in your life.

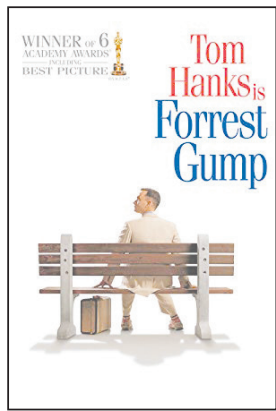
Most importantly, force yourself to be in awkward situations. Hanging out with your best friends is comfortable but make a conscious effort to branch out. Talking or hanging out with someone new may be awkward at first, but it could ultimately improve your skills of connecting with different personalities.

As I publish my second opinion article, the anxiety has washed away, and I no longer am dreading to find out if others agree or not. The more you practice vulnerability, the easier it is to have the confidence to be who you are.

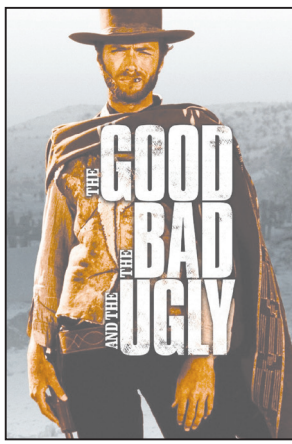
**“No matter how cliché it sounds, there is always more room to improve.”**  
~Brea Lassek



# What's your favorite movie?



"Forrest Gump, because it has action, drama, football, tragedy, and comedy all in one movie." Simon Schumacher 10



"My favorite movie is *The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly*, because when I was younger it was a movie that me and my dad would always stay up late to watch, and it is a memory I will cherish forever." Zackary Beiermann 12



"*The Greatest Showman*, because watching it makes you feel like you are escaping from reality, not to mention the songs and acting are amazing." Josh Styskal 10

# Who's your favorite actor?



"Alex O'Loughlin, *Hawaii Five-O*, he is an absolute savage in every sort of way. He is a Navy Seal, who puts others' lives before his with no second thought, and he saves Hawaii and the USA from multiple country ending crises." Joseph Tyler Palmer 11



"Bradley Cooper. He can play so many different types of characters. I loved him in *A Star is Born*." Gail Bomar



"I have no idea. Does Kim Kardashian count?" Hannah Allen 12

# To read or watch: that is the question

By Mariana Valdez-Ortiz  
Staff Reporter

Which one is better, the book or the movie? The answer to this question is what people argue the most about when a book-to-movie adaptation is released. This is the one thing my older sister and I argue the most when a new movie is released. My answer to that question will always be, the book is better, but that does not mean that the movie is bad.

There are many reasons why I will always prefer the book over the movie. One of the perks of reading the book first is that you will know more about the characters and the background story. For me the best part is that you get to be in the main character's mind. You get more knowledge of who they are as a person because you can read what they think. You feel what the character is feeling. Movies only allow people to see their actions, you don't feel the same connection to characters when all you are doing is observing. In books you feel everything; in movies you observe everything.

The number one complaint of book to movie adaptations is all the changes they might make. I understand, the changes in the movie can be disappointing especially when

they completely erase one of your favorite characters or cut off one of the most important events in the book, but changes are needed so it can be on the big screen. It is not realistic for people to expect directors to be able to make a movie last only two hours when reading the book might take five or more hours.

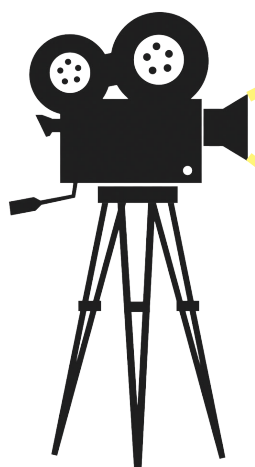
When I go see a movie that was inspired by a book, I never expect to see exactly the book. My policy is, go see the movie not the book. If I wanted the exact same story, I would just read the book again. I judge the movie the way I would judge any other movie. I try to forget about the book because I know that I will be disappointed if I think about all the things they changed in the movie.

Books becoming movies also have many pros. They let you see your favorite characters alive, and more people get exposed to new stories. People can encounter the stories and characters you might love from a book. There is a higher chance of people going to the movie theater and watching the movie rather than going to the bookstore and buying the book. I understand why people would choose to sit and watch a two-hour movie rather than sit and read a book. It is scarier to start reading a big book than hitting play on the remote control.

Book-to-movie adaptations have become

more popular in the last couple of years. I feel like they have become more popular because Hollywood is running out of inspiration. I think it is easier to find an original story in a book than in a movie. Turning books into movies is beneficial to the film industry in many ways. Book-to-movie adaptations will already have an audience because of the people who love that book. Another benefit is that they will be putting out an original story, so more people will want to see it. Books tend to talk more about taboo topics, so I think it is beneficial for society when those issues reach the big screen.

The question, "which one is better?" is not the best question to ask when comparing the book and the movie. Both give you a different experience and point of view of the story. The book will always be better for someone who is a book lover. Book lovers can connect to the characters through the descriptions, and they can imagine the whole book in their heads. People who don't like to read will probably choose the movie because it keeps them hooked and they do not have to imagine it. I do not mind which one you prefer, reading the book or watching the movie just make sure that you appreciate both. The movie would not exist without the book, and the story would not reach as many people without the movie.



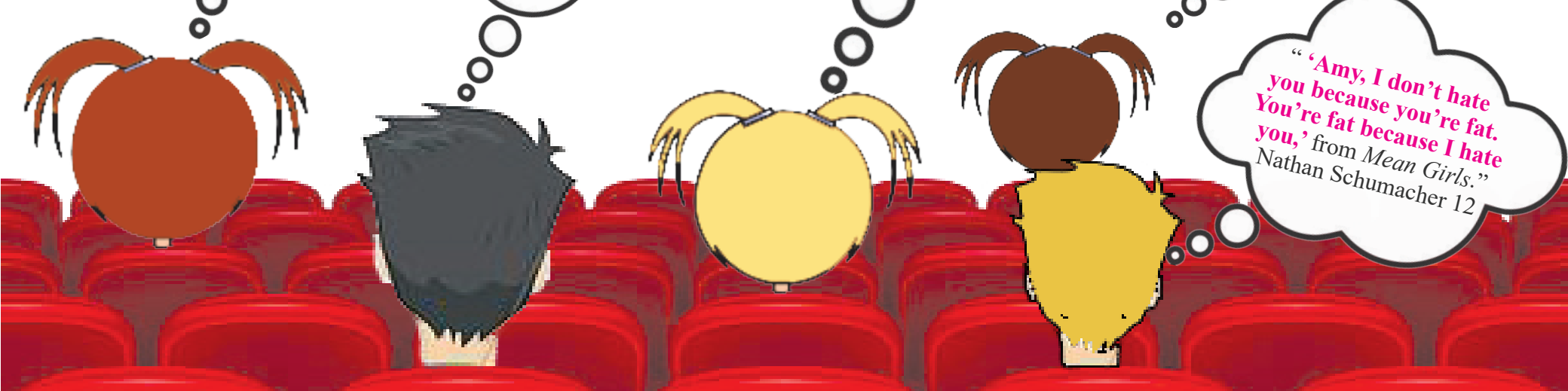
"So uh do you like cheese?" - Duke 'Oh why yes my favorite's Gouda' - Viola from *She's the Man*. Courtney Kosch 12

"Jenny" from *Forrest Gump*. Forrest Gump says so much with that one word." Clyde Ericson

"Dory: [speaking whale] 'Wwww-weeeee neeeeeeeed toooooo fiiiiind hiiiiis soooooon. Caaaaa youuuuuu pleeeeeease give us direeeeeections? Come Baaaaaaack,' from *Finding Nemo*. I can relate because I also speak whale." Grace Mustard 9

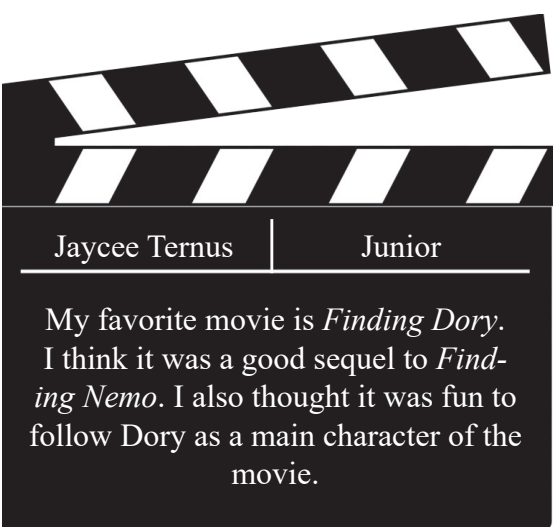
"In the morning I'm making waffles!" - *Shrek*. Donkey is my spirit animal." Kamryn Chohon 10

"Amy, I don't hate you because you're fat. You're fat because I hate you," from *Mean Girls*. Nathan Schumacher 12



# Scotus' favorite movie quotes





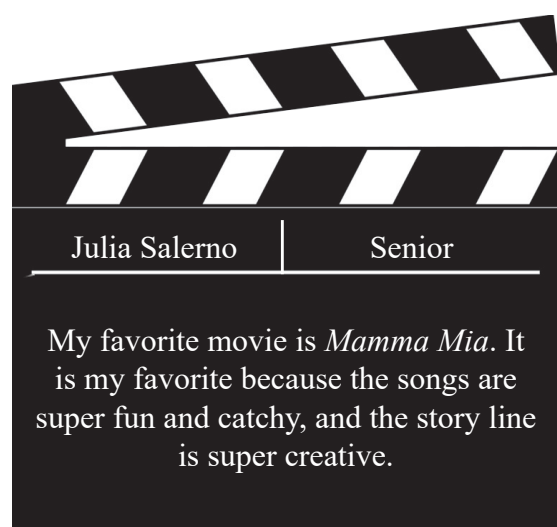
Jaycee Ternus | Junior

My favorite movie is *Finding Dory*. I think it was a good sequel to *Finding Nemo*. I also thought it was fun to follow Dory as a main character of the movie.



Angie Rusher | Advisor

I have too many favorite movies to pick one, but one that is close to my heart is *Finding Nemo*. We always watched it when the girls were little. It is a classic family movie, but we always started with "First Day of School!" and not the traumatizing first scene of the movie.



Julia Salerno | Senior

My favorite movie is *Mamma Mia*. It is my favorite because the songs are super fun and catchy, and the story line is super creative.



**Fandango.com**  
**Top 10 Actors of the Decade**

1. Johnny Depp
2. Denzel Washington
3. Robert Downey Jr.
4. Matt Damon
5. Russel Crowe
6. Leonardo DiCaprio
7. George Clooney
8. Hugh Jackman
9. Brad Pitt
10. Will Ferrell



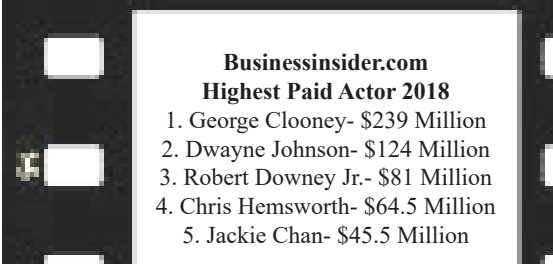
**Fandango.com**  
**Top 10 Actresses of the Decade**

1. Sandra Bullock
2. Meryl Streep
3. Angelina Jolie
4. Julia Roberts
5. Rachel McAdams
6. Kate Winslet
7. Reese Witherspoon
8. Charlize Theron
9. Jennifer Aniston
10. Halle Berry



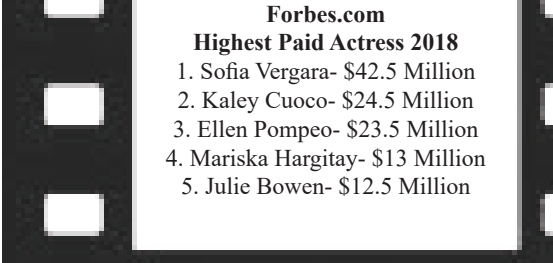
**thenumbers.com**  
**Top 10 Grossing Movies**

1. Avatar
2. Titanic
3. Star Wars Ep. VII: The Force Awakens
4. Avengers: Infinity War
5. Jurassic World
6. Furious 7
7. The Avengers
8. Avengers: Age of Ultron
9. Black Panther
10. Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2



**Businessinsider.com**  
**Highest Paid Actor 2018**

1. George Clooney- \$239 Million
2. Dwayne Johnson- \$124 Million
3. Robert Downey Jr.- \$81 Million
4. Chris Hemsworth- \$64.5 Million
5. Jackie Chan- \$45.5 Million



**Forbes.com**  
**Highest Paid Actress 2018**

1. Sofia Vergara- \$42.5 Million
2. Kaley Cuoco- \$24.5 Million
3. Ellen Pompeo- \$23.5 Million
4. Mariska Hargitay- \$13 Million
5. Julie Bowen- \$12.5 Million

## The Marvel Masterpiece

By Elliott Thomazin  
Editor

After twenty movies, millions of dollars, and multiple cinematic records, Marvel movies have ascended to international acclaim. With the release of *Avengers: Endgame* right around the corner, fans are gearing up for the culmination of eleven years of Marvel cinematic history.

Marvel has constructed one of the most impressive cinematic universes in film history. Marvel wasn't the first to create a universe to house all of its movies. In fact, Universal Studios was the first to create a shared world for its early 1900s monster movies. Since then Star Wars, DC comics, and Hasbro have tried to unite their films into a coherent world. Even though there is competition, Marvel has risen to the top film after film. With last year's *Avengers: Infinity War* achieving the highest grossing opening weekend in box office history, Marvel's popularity shows no sign of stopping. The incredible depth of the universe draws upon over half a century of storytelling.

According to *disneynews.us*, the first Marvel comic hit shelves in 1939. This year marks the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of that release. Since then, Marvel has published over 37,000 comics. Because of the vastness of the Marvel library, Marvel movies never lack inspiration. The company could create a movie highlighting the battles between the Avengers and X-Men, or they could explore the conflict of shapeshifting aliens infiltrating society. Marvel's rich history isn't the only reason that millions flock to the theaters every time a new Avengers film releases. The Marvel cinematic universe

is incredibly unique because all the movies are interconnected. Simply put, events that occurred in Captain America have a unique effect in The Avengers. This relationship isn't the same as a movie being a sequel. Due to this, Marvel movies become engrossing. Marvel movies also include unexpected references to Marvel's rich history. From a Howard the Duck sighting at the end of Guardians of the Galaxy to Beta Ray Bill's statue on the Grandmaster's tower in Thor Ragnarok, easter eggs evoke joy in the dedicated fans who enjoy them.

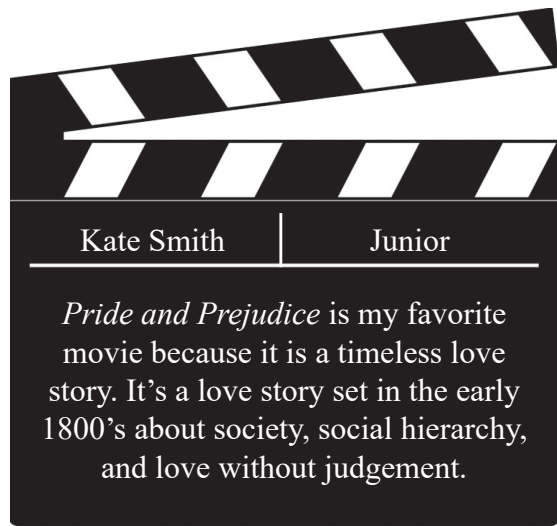
The biggest reason that Marvel has created a movie empire is by creating enjoyable movies that speak to the heart. Fans know that when they enter the theater to see a superhero film, they're going to have a blast. The visuals provide a cinematic work of art, the action scenes get the blood pumping, and the relatability of complex relationships produces a winning combination movie after movie. The various movies don't only produce enjoyment, but they also communicate intense themes. *The Avengers* contains strong teamwork, *Captain America: Civil War* deals with betrayal, and *Black Panther* provides political commentary for today's world. The impact of Marvel's cinematic universe goes far beyond the screen.

Marvel movies have become a cultural phenomenon. They have sparked countless conversations, formed friendships, and inspired millions to become daily heroes. The Marvel Cinematic Universe draws upon rich history, is uniquely unified, and always provides exciting entertainment. On April 26<sup>th</sup> the Avengers will go up against their toughest foes in *Avengers: Endgame*.



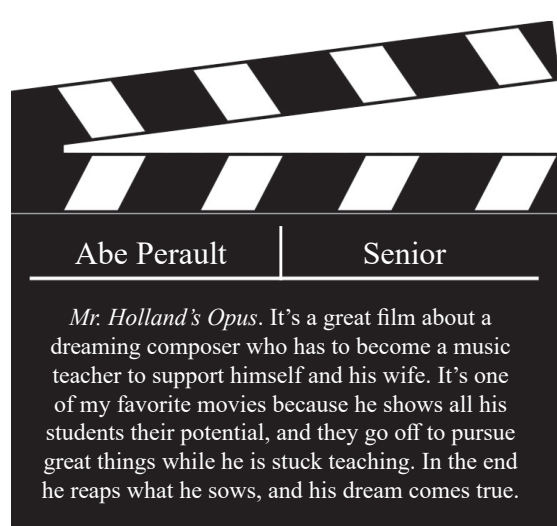
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The first Marvel comic released in 1934. Today, there are 20 films contained in the Marvel Cinematic Universe.



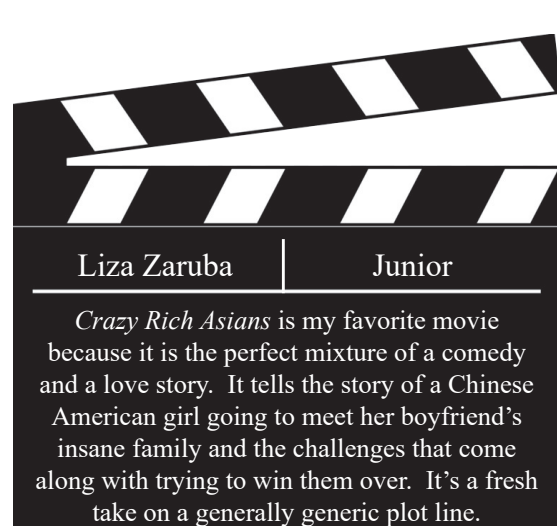
Kate Smith | Junior

*Pride and Prejudice* is my favorite movie because it is a timeless love story. It's a love story set in the early 1800's about society, social hierarchy, and love without judgement.



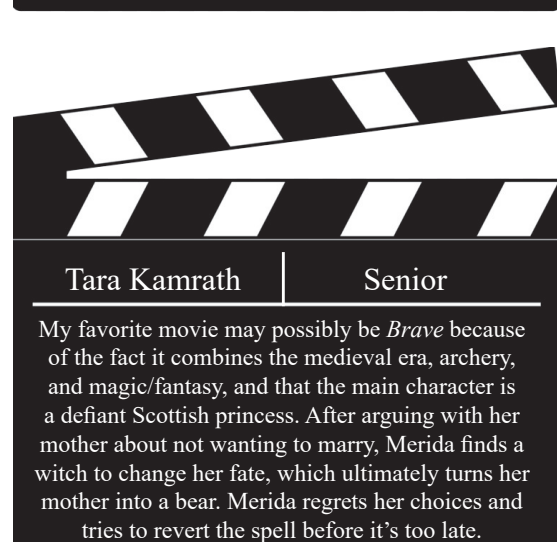
Abe Perault | Senior

*Mr. Holland's Opus*. It's a great film about a dreaming composer who has to become a music teacher to support himself and his wife. It's one of my favorite movies because he shows all his students their potential, and they go off to pursue great things while he is stuck teaching. In the end he reaps what he sows, and his dream comes true.



Liza Zaruba | Junior

*Crazy Rich Asians* is my favorite movie because it is the perfect mixture of a comedy and a love story. It tells the story of a Chinese American girl going to meet her boyfriend's insane family and the challenges that come along with trying to win them over. It's a fresh take on a generally generic plot line.



Tara Kamrath | Senior

My favorite movie may possibly be *Brave* because of the fact it combines the medieval era, archery, and magic/fantasy, and that the main character is a defiant Scottish princess. After arguing with her mother about not wanting to marry, Merida finds a witch to change her fate, which ultimately turns her mother into a bear. Merida regrets her choices and tries to revert the spell before it's too late.



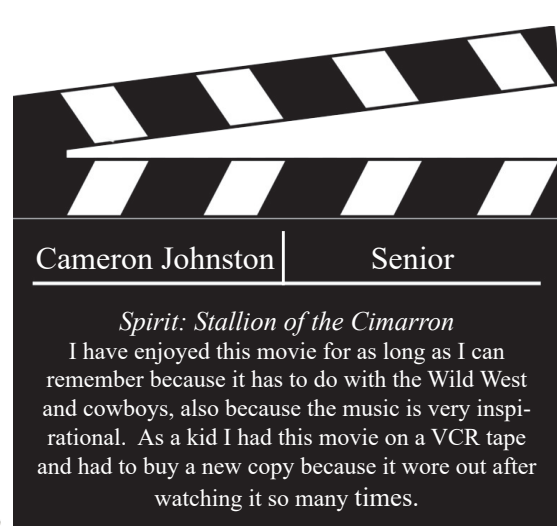
Mariana Valdez-Ortiz | Senior

I would say that my favorite movie is *Stardust*. It is about a man who goes on an adventure to find a fallen star (stars are people in this world). Their adventure continues as they cross paths with three witches and seven brothers who are fighting for the royal throne. It is a movie full of romance, magic, and action.



Brea Lassek | Junior

I love *Remember the Titans* because I always watched it as a little girl with my dad. I identify with coach Yoast's daughter Cheryl because I preferred to watch football over anything and got just as frustrated with the referees or players as she did. Now that I am older, I appreciate the movie for its message against racial prejudice and, of course, young Ryan Gosling.



Cameron Johnston | Senior

*Spirit: Stallion of the Cimarron*  
I have enjoyed this movie for as long as I can remember because it has to do with the Wild West and cowboys, also because the music is very inspirational. As a kid I had this movie on a VCR tape and had to buy a new copy because it wore out after watching it so many times.



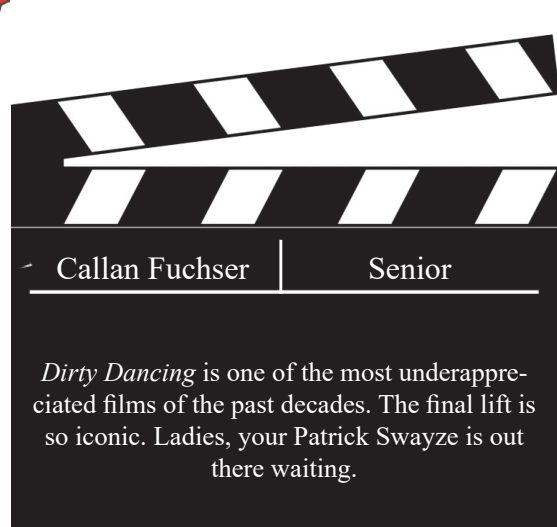
Chloe Odbert | Junior

My favorite movies are all of the *Cinderella Stories*. They are always our go to for our girls nights, and I could literally watch them over and over and never get tired of them!



Elliott Thomazin | Senior

When it comes to movies, *The Prestige* tops my list. The fictional film follows two 19th century magicians as they compete to invent the best piece of magic the world has ever seen. To put the icing on the cake, the climax contains the biggest twist that I have ever witnessed in cinema. It's definitely a must-watch.



Callan Fuchser | Senior

*Dirty Dancing* is one of the most underappreciated films of the past decades. The final lift is so iconic. Ladies, your Patrick Swayze is out there waiting.



## Sports

## Wrestling rocks conference

By Cameron Johnston  
Staff Reporter

The middle of the wrestling season has come and gone and the only things wrestlers and fans alike can think about are the possibilities districts and state tournaments have in store.

Scotus varsity wrestling members have competed at six tournaments and five duals. Their best performance came at the recent conference tournament at Fremont Archbishop Bergan High School on Saturday, January 19th. The Shamrocks continue tradition by never placing lower than second as a team. This has occurred for the last seven years.

"Yes I am [pleased with my performance] because as of right now I will get a good seed at districts," senior captain Colby Gilson stated.

The Shamrocks rallied at the conference tournament to receive runner-up recognition falling short of beating David City Aquinas. They did, however, best Archbishop Bergan Knights who had previously defeated the

Shamrocks in a dual.

"We had four pins in a row to end the dual, there were seven matches left, and out of those seven, we pinned six of them," Senior Captain Jackson Neville said.

The Shamrocks are led by Neville with a record of 22-9 after the conference tournament and senior Daniel Tworek with a record of 23-8. In the dual against Mount Michael Benedictine on Thursday, December 20th the shamrocks were quickly behind by more than twelve points, which is two pins, but rallied to defeat the Mount Michael Knights by twelve with four consecutive pins.

"My greatest accomplishment so far is that I won conference, and I achieved this by working hard in practice and giving it my all," freshman Landyn Maschmeier said.

Maschmeier is only the fourth freshman in Scotus wrestling history to be a conference champion. Maschmeier competes at the 113 pound weight class.

"The greatest challenge the team has had to overcome is sickness; we

have had multiple instances with this setting our team back in practice and competition," senior captain Evan Sliva said.

The Rocks will compete at the district tournament on Friday, February 8th and Saturday, February 9th at Grand Island Northwest High School starting at 11 a.m. The top four wrestlers from each weight class will punch their ticket to Omaha and their chance to continue their season.

"My greatest accomplishment so far this season is when I got my 1st win," sophomore Sebastien Fritz said.

With many younger members on the team the Rocks are creating small goals to get these athletes ready for their future wrestling seasons.

"To medal at one of our meets because I have never medaled at a varsity meet in high school," sophomore Ben Kamath said.

The end of the high school wrestling season brings high hopes for the competitors at the district meet. This is no different for

the Shamrocks who look to send more wrestlers to state than last year's two seniors. The annual state competition will be held from Thursday,

February 14th to Saturday, February 16th in Omaha at the CHI Health Center. This is the largest wrestling tournament in Nebraska bringing in

more than 950 wrestlers competing on ten mats at once for the highest award in Nebraska high school wrestling.



CAMERON JOHNSTON/ ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

**Senior Daniel Tworek attempts to pin his opponent at the triangular on Thursday, January 24th with Lakeview and Boone Central Newman Grove. Tworek leads the team with a record of 29-9 as of February 1st.**

## Shamrocks shoot for the post season



CHLOE ODBERT/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

**Junior Tyler Palmer dribbles the ball down the court during the game against Archbishop Bergan on January 19th. The Shamrocks lost to Archbishop Bergan 47-65.**

By Chloe Odbert  
Staff Reporter

Although the stars currently seem out of line and the Shamrocks shots are refusing to fall, the boys' basketball team is looking to

make their way into the post season.

So far the season has not gone the way the boys have wanted. The Shamrocks have been continuously looking for improvement in many aspects of the game and at times have shown it. The boys have had

many highs and many lows, but recently have had too many lows to finish a game on top.

"It has been rough at times, but we are starting to figure out how to play at the level we are capable of," senior Caden Pelan explained.

It is said that the reason the team is falling short in big games is because their shots are not falling like they need to be.

Junior Dalton Borchers felt that this was the reason behind the teams most recent losses.

"We started out the season shooting the ball really well but have been lacking in the area recently. As a team we really need to get back to that," Borchers said.

The last win taken by the Shamrocks was their 46-44 victory over Twin River in the championship game of the Holiday Tournament. On their way to the championship, the Shamrocks also defeated Schuyler 75-27.

"We performed well against Twin River and pulled off a win. We still need to improve on finishing games. We have lost a lot of close games by a couple of points simply because we haven't been able to finish," freshman Garrett Oakley stated.

Since the victory over Twin River, the Shamrocks have dropped Norfolk Cath-

olic 42-46, Lincoln Christian 32-78, Boys Town 37-75, North Bend 49-69, Boone Central 53-54, and Archbishop Bergan 47-65, and again to Lincoln Christian 39-62 in a well fought battle.

Although the Shamrocks have been on what appears to be a losing streak since the championship round of the Holiday Tournament on December 28, the team still hopes to improve their game and continue to get better all the way through the season.

"We hope to be playing our best basketball at the end of the season, and hopefully make a run into the post-season," Borchers said.

The Shamrocks took their second loss to Omaha Concordia 42-49 on January 24. They played Bishop Neumann at home and Kearney Catholic in Kearney last week. The Shamrocks have three regular season games left until they have a look at the post season.

"We really have been working on our transition defense. We have realized that there are some teams out

there that have better athletes than us, so we need to stop them from getting easy layups," senior Grant Shanle said.

Along with the four seniors, some younger players have been stepping into big leadership roles this season.

"Josh Faust has been a huge contributor this year. He has really stepped up and become a leader on our team as just a sophomore," junior Eric Mustard explained.

Josh Faust is currently leading the team in three-point percentages. Faust is shooting 56 percent from the three-point line for the season.

The Shamrocks hope that their hard work and continuous effort to improve their game will carry them all the way into the post season.

"As we look toward the end of the season, we still have a lot of hope for a run to the state tournament. We are just taking one day at a time, trying to get better every day in preparation for sub-districts," senior Bryce VunCannon said.

## Girls grind through final games

By Liza Zaruba  
Staff Reporter

After streaking out a winning record in the pre-Christmas season, the Scotus girls' basketball team returned from Christmas break ready to go. It is not a secret the girls are gearing up in hopes of making another trip back to state this year.

"Everyone is working on their own game to improve our game as a team," junior Chloe Odbert said.

The Holiday Tournament was the team's first games back after break on December 27 and the 28th. The girls worked to shake off the rust against their first-round opponent Schuyler on the 27th. They ultimately squeaked out a win of 25-22 against the Warriors.

"We definitely struggled in the first game after coming back from days of no practice, but we came out on top in the end," freshman Grace Mustard said.

The Shamrocks moved on to face their rival, Lakeview. The momentum for the team had shifted, and the girls hit ten three pointers that game. Scotus ended up on top beating the Vikings 43-35 and effectively putting a halt to Lakeview's seven game winning streak. This

win also gave the Shamrocks the title of 'Holiday Tournament Champions' for the seventh year in a row.

"The team came together, and we were able to beat Lakeview," senior Abbie Zoucha explained. "Coming back from Christmas break and winning the Holiday Tournament was a confidence booster for our young team."

The girls' basketball team was unable to hold on to their three-game winning streak following the Holiday Tournament. The following week on Thursday, January 3rd, the girls team traveled to York only to be sent home with a loss of 30-37. Two days later, they endured a crushing defeat by Bishop Neumann. They lost with their largest deficit yet of 23-51.

"I would say the toughest competition was Neumann, but we stuck with them in the first half. There are games when our shooting is off that makes the games tough," Mustard said.

The Shamrock team has faced a multitude of challenges this season ranging everywhere from injuries and illnesses to a lack of experience on the team to shots that struggle to be finished.

"We have struggled with making shots and consistency with our defense," junior

Amber Buhman said. "I felt like we started out the season strong, and we have been struggling lately and need to get back on track."

The girls pushed through the adversities crushing Norfolk Catholic 46-34 on January 8th earning them a victory at home.

The girls followed the win with another two-game losing streak against Lincoln Christian and North Bend Central. These two losses brought to light the team's new focus: consistency.

"The hardest game was Lincoln Christian because we started off the game playing bad, but we played better in the second half. It was hard losing that game because I know we could have beat them," senior Courtney Kosch said.

The girls finished out their games before the conference tournament with another win and loss to add to their record. They pounded the Boone Central Cardinals for a successful home victory on January 17th, but unfortunately fell to Fremont Bergan during a rescheduled game on January 19th.

"We are trying to improve our teamwork and working for each other and not just ourselves," sophomore Kamryn Chohon said.

The girls went into



RYLIE OLSEN/YEARBOOK STAFF

**Junior Chloe Odbert eyes the basket during the Boone Central game. The Shamrocks record after the Aquinas game was 9-10.**

conference and were able to pull out their second victory against Omaha Concordia on January 21st advancing them to the next round of play and making their record a mixed 9-8.

The final conference game against Bishop Neumann was much like their initial match up this season. The Shamrocks lost 60-29 in this crushing defeat by a conference rival.

"We are focusing on playing well for the whole 32 minutes of a game. We have parts of the game where we play well, so we are working on putting it all together for our best game yet," Zoucha said.

The girl's basketball team fell to Aquinas Catholic on Thursday, January 31st losing 32-41. They are wrapping up their season games with a game against Kearney

Catholic last Saturday and a game against home-town rivals Lakeview tonight.

"We are going to surprise some people toward the end of the season, so they better watch out," sophomore Camille Pelan said. "We have the potential; we just need to meet it. I believe that if we all have the right attitude and play our 'A' game, we can definitely compete with some of the top teams."



# Swimmers sail to state

By Callan Fuchser  
Staff Reporter

With 2019 just getting underway, people are creating resolutions, hoping to abide by them for the upcoming year. However, swimmers are still beginning their year the same way they ended it; morning practice. For a straight two months, swimmers are traumatized by their screaming 5:30 am alarm weekday mornings.

In January, swimmers continue their early morning rituals and an average meet per week taking the Columbus Discoverer Swim Team across the state to foreign pools. Senior Konner Kudron sees great improvement through the season thus far.

“As a team we are doing well and working really hard in the pool. I think we’ll be ready for state, which is right around the corner. Tapering will start soon which will hopefully lead to time drops

in our upcoming meets,” Kudron said.

Since Christmas, the Discoverers have hit the road traveling to Hastings for a make-up meet in late December, followed by quick trips to Lincoln, South Sioux City, Norfolk, Beatrice, and Kearney throughout January. Senior Captain Julia Salerno’s events vary from meet to meet, but she continues to excel in her favorite.

“My best event is the 100. Even though it is hard, it is definitely my favorite. I swam a qualifying time for the 100 in our opening meet against the Fremont Tigers,” Salerno said.

Recently, the notorious Fishcoverers traveled to the Millard North Invite where several teams show up, battling for best times. Millard North is known for their seemingly freezing pool awarding state qualifying times. This year proved no different.

“The Millard North meet

has definitely stood out because we swam multiple state qualifying times. The girls qualified in the 200 Medley Relay, dropped buckets of time all around,” Salerno said.

In total, the Discoverers have clocked 18 total state qualifying times so far with time left for even more. Junior Emily Miksch, who swims the 50 Freestyle, 100 Breaststroke, 200 Medley Relay, and 200 Freestyle Relay, has seized state times in all her events.

“I am really excited to swim the 100 Breaststroke because I am very close to making it to the finals this year,” Miksch said.

At the latest home dual against Hastings, the Discoverer girls pulled away from the Tigers, outscoring them 93-75. Salerno placed first in the 100 Freestyle while Miksch also placed first in the 100 Breaststroke.

“We got an unexpected win on the girls’ side at our



KELSEY FAUST/YEARBOOK STAFF

**Senior swim captain Julia Salerno swims Freestyle in the final leg of the 200 medley relay. The Discoverer girls’ clinched a 93-75 win over the Hastings Tigers on January 17 at the Columbus Aquatic Center.**

home Hasting’s dual. Even though we didn’t win a lot of events, we took second, third, and fourth place which added up,” Miksch said.

With the season winding to a close, the Discoverers are

swimming toward personal best times and racking up even more state times.

“Conference is in Hastings in a few weeks followed by state in Lincoln. After conference only the

state qualified swimmers will continue practicing. We are looking forward to the meets to come and hopefully some personal best times,” Salerno concluded.

# Powering through the season

By Tara Kamrath  
Staff Reporter

There are many sport activities that are available to participate in at Scotus Central Catholic, but one is difficult to ignore when continual clanking is heard after school coming from the

weight room as other students file out the northern doors to return home for the day.

Powerlifting is a relatively new sport activity at Scotus, only being established three years ago, but it has proved to be a valuable sport, one that the team’s members have fallen in love with and work nonstop at improving

themselves and one another.

The students’ motives for going out for powerlifting range from wanting to build up strength or simply just enjoying lifting weights. This is junior Kate Smith’s first year doing powerlifting. She is in the 148-pound weight class.

“My family and friends encouraged me to go out,”

Smith said. “I also thought it would be something I would enjoy and be good at.”

Smith has personal records (equipped) of 275 pounds for deadlift, 230 pounds for squat, and 115 pounds for bench.

“The most challenging thing for me was going out of my comfort zone since powerlifting is nothing like any activity I’ve ever done,” Smith said.

Powerlifting is a sport of continual improvement, one’s ultimate goal being to best his or her personal record multiple times. Junior Levi Robertson has been in powerlifting for three years. He is in the 198-pound weight class, and his personal records (equipped) are 455 pounds for deadlift, 360 pounds for squat, and 185 pounds for bench.

“It’s a different kind of sport,” Robertson said. “At the meets during your lifts it’s a pretty cool feeling when everyone is screaming and yelling at you to get your lift. There’s nothing else like it.”

Along with Robertson, junior Tim Ehlers has also been in powerlifting for three years. He is in the 165-pound weight class. Ehlers’s personal records (raw) are 365 pounds for deadlift, 325 pounds for squat, and 185 pounds for bench.

“I did powerlifting because it’s something I really enjoy,” Ehlers said. “I love the adrenaline at every meet and the excitement that goes along with it.”

Senior Abe Perault has been in powerlifting for three years. In the 220-pound weight class, Perault’s personal records (raw) are 405 pounds for deadlift, 375 pounds for squat, and 215 pounds for bench.

“It’s a team activity where you compete against others, yes,” Perault said, “but the best part is that it’s more about making yourself better while having fun with your team. I assume if powerlifting didn’t exist, I’d still be playing basketball. Let’s just say it’s probably a good thing powerlifting exists.”

This is senior Emma Brandt’s second year powerlifting. Her personal records (raw) in the 132-pound weight class are 185 pounds for deadlift and 95 pounds for squat.

“You won’t regret [going out for powerlifting],” Brandt said. “If you want to be in something that pushes you and pushes others, this is the thing to be in. You still get to be competitive, but you also set goals and meet those goals. You are also competing against yourself, which is different than most activities we have at Scotus.”

There are 27 students actively on the powerlifting team. In January, there were two meets in the Omaha area: Creighton Preparatory School and Omaha Central High School. State for raw powerlifting is scheduled for Saturday, February 23, at Creighton Preparatory School. Scotus is not attending state for equipped powerlifting this year.



RYLIE OLSON/YEARBOOK STAFF

**Junior Levi Robertson lifts his equipped squat at a powerlifting meet. Scotus has attended two meets in January; one hosted at Creighton Preparatory School.**

# More Winter Activity Photos



RYLIE OLSON/YEARBOOK STAFF

**Sophomore Kamryn Chohon shoots a jump shot during the Boone Central-Newman Grove home game on January 17. The Shamrocks beat Boone Central-Newman Grove 38-44.**



RYLIE OLSON/YEARBOOK STAFF

**Freshman Landyn Maschmeier attempts to throw his opponent at the triangular with Lakeview and Boone Central-Newman Grove. Maschmeier was the conference champion in the 133 pound weight class this year.**



CHLOE ODBERT/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

**Sophomore Josh Faust finishes a layup under the hoop through his defender in their game against Archbishop Bergan. The Shamrocks play Wahoo tonight at home.**



# Crazy Asians rich in romanticism

By Jaycee Ternus  
Staff Reporter

Can you imagine being in a relationship with someone and not knowing them and their family are super rich? Being thrown into a lavish life can be challenging, especially when you haven't grown up that way.

The movie *Crazy Rich Asians* follows the character of Rachel Chu. She is an American-born Chinese economic professor; she travels with her boyfriend Nick to his hometown in Singapore for a friend's wedding. Little does she know how wealthy and famous Nick and his family are. Will Nick's family and friends accept her, and will she fit into this rich lifestyle?

Personally, I love romantic movies, so I enjoyed it. If you are one for romanticism then this movie is for you. There was also lots of

humor surrounding the relationship of Rachel and her friend she reconnects with in Singapore. I loved the fashion shown in this movie and how well the set of the movie was designed. The locations in the movie were beautiful and fit the movie perfectly.

Love in relationships can be unbreakable but can money break this bond? In the movie *Crazy Rich Asians*, it is clear to see how money can affect a relationship. Rachel was blind of the fact that Nick was hiding his wealth and fame. Maybe Nick was scared to lose Rachel because of these aspects in his life. Growing up in a middle-class society versus growing up rich is different. Throughout the movie the two lovers struggle with the difference in how they both grew up. The way Nick's family views Rachel's difference in not

growing up wealthy like them can also be seen throughout the movie.

This movie was good at showing how closely family is tied to a relationship. Nick Young's family has history of being one of the wealthiest and famous family in Singapore. Not to mention Nick is the most eligible bachelor in Singapore throughout the past years. So, pressure is on for Rachel to impress Nick's family and friends. Heritage is very important to his family which makes it hard for Rachel to fit in. Nick's mom plays a big role in his life, and we can see she wants the absolute best for him.

From the beginning to the end we can see the difference in relationships between Nick and his mom vs Rachel and her mother. They both want what's best for their children but have different views on raising them. Nick's trust in his mom decreases through the movie



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The romantic adventure of Nick Young and Rachel Chu is told in the movie *Crazy Rich Asians*. The film, based on the novel by Kevin Kwan, came out on August 15, 2018.

as he sees the way she treats Rachel. This movie not only shows the love in a relationship between a couple, but also shows the importance of

family in a relationship.

Overall, I really enjoyed watching this movie. I enjoyed watching the adventure of Nick and Rachel as they

traveled to Nick's home city. If you haven't already seen *Crazy Rich Asians*, I would suggest you watch it because it is an awesome movie.

# Escape rooms break Columbus boredom

By Brea Lassek  
Staff Reporter

You wake up in a cabin in Alaska and you have no recollection of how or why you are there. The only inclination you possess is the assortment of random clues

in the shack.

This is the exciting atmosphere of the newly opened S.T.A.R Escape Rooms located in the Friedhoff building in downtown Columbus. With the lack of entertainment options in this area, the escape rooms provide an alternate activity to do.

Participating in an escape room involves being locked inside a themed space in which the only way to breakout is by connecting various clues to solve the mystery at hand. I have done two escape rooms before, one in Kansas City and the other in Columbus.

In Columbus, there are three options for experiences: Granny Schmit's Kitchen, The Last Frontier, and Will Power. Each of these scenarios have their own degree of difficulty out of five. My team, Liza Zaruba, Tyler Palmer, and myself, chose The Last Frontier because it was the intermediate level. The escape rooms I had been at in Kansas City were extremely elaborate and realistic, so I had high expectations.

Upon arrival, I was skeptical. The area we walked into for our challenge was not actually a room as you could see above the tops of the walls. Some of the décor was noticeably fake, but as soon as we started the hour, I did not mind. We were immersed into the Alaskan wild and each of us started to find clues in the most unexpected places.

The worker supervising the game will give three hints upon request. Every team member must agree and raise their hands to receive the hint. Additional

clues can be given but doing so knocks that team off the leaderboard. At one point, my team got stuck attempting to figure out a certain code and asked for a fourth hint. I appreciated that we could do this, because I would rather escape from the room and not be on the leaderboard than not figure out the whole mystery.

My group did, in fact, escape with six minutes to spare and only using one extra clue. I recommend going in a larger group because I think we could have gotten out independently with one or two more people.

On their website, times can be reserved, but walk-ins are also acceptable. We went on a Sunday afternoon without an appointment, and there were rooms available right away. However, if you plan on going on a Friday or Saturday night, I suggest reserving a room. To do so, you must pay the fee of \$24 per person. If you have a group smaller than six people, you risk sharing a room with strangers.

S.T.A.R Escape Rooms in Columbus costs \$24 plus tax. This is around the same cost as escape rooms in large cities. Personally, I think they would have more customers if they lowered the price. Another downside is that there are only three scenarios available, meaning you are limited to the number of times you can go back.

Overall, I appreciate Columbus's influx of new businesses and the S.T.A.R Escape Rooms are no exception. For just recently opening, the plot lines and complexity of the rooms were sufficient, but I hope they continue to develop the business in the future. As of now, three more rooms are under construction and should debut soon. If you are searching for a refreshing activity to do in Columbus, I highly suggest booking an hour at the S.T.A.R Escape Rooms.

More information and booking appointments can be found on their website, [starescaperooms.com](http://starescaperooms.com).



PHOTO COURTESY BREAS LASSEK

Juniors Liza Zaruba, Brea Lassek, and Tyler Palmer pose after successfully breaking out of an escape room. S.T.A.R. Escape Rooms recently opened in downtown Columbus.

# Snuggie 2.0 changes lives

By Julia Salerno  
Staff Reporter

Everyone knows of the original Snuggie: the blanket with holes for your arms. With Snuggies being so five years ago, there has been a new item introduced to the market through the popular TV show *Shark Tank*. This item is called The Comfy and is basically a Snuggie 2.0. The Comfy is an oversized, one-size-fits-all hooded sweatshirt that is made of the same material as your favorite blanket. You can now lounge on your couch and binge your favorite Netflix show, make yourself a grilled cheese, or go out anywhere in the same warmth as being wrapped up in your favorite blanket in the convenience of a hoodie. I think that everyone should invest in a Comfy because it will greatly change your lounging life.

I have recently purchased a Comfy and it has changed my life for the better. When I first took my comfy out of the box, the first thing I realized was how soft the material

blankets that I own. The outside was a smooth and silky yet soft material. The inside of the blanket is lined with a soft and fuzzy, white sherpa material. The second that I put on my comfy, my life was immediately changed. I could feel how well it locked in the heat from my body. It can keep you very warm and I realized that it is warmer than my winter coat that I have. You can get them in many different colors too. They are available in grey, black, creme, pink, teal, burgundy, red, purple, and blue.

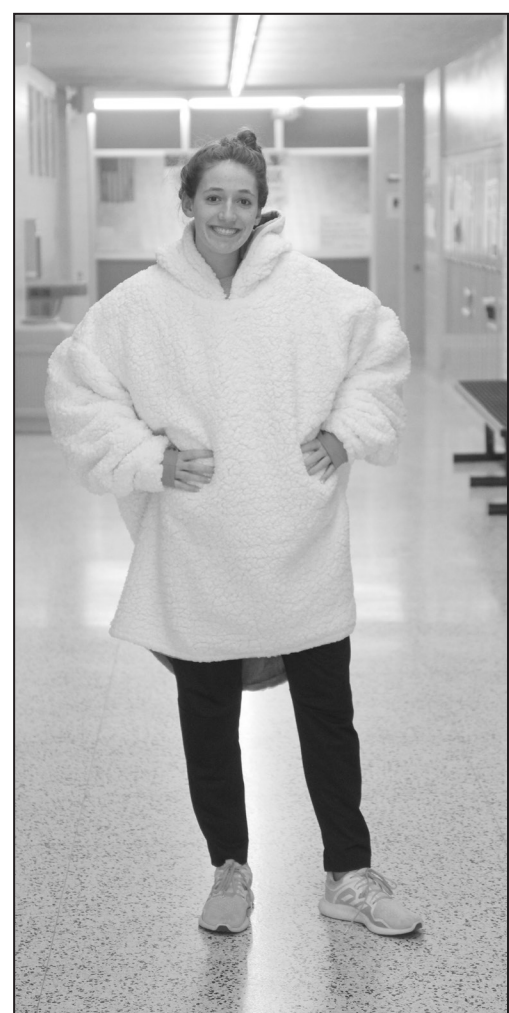
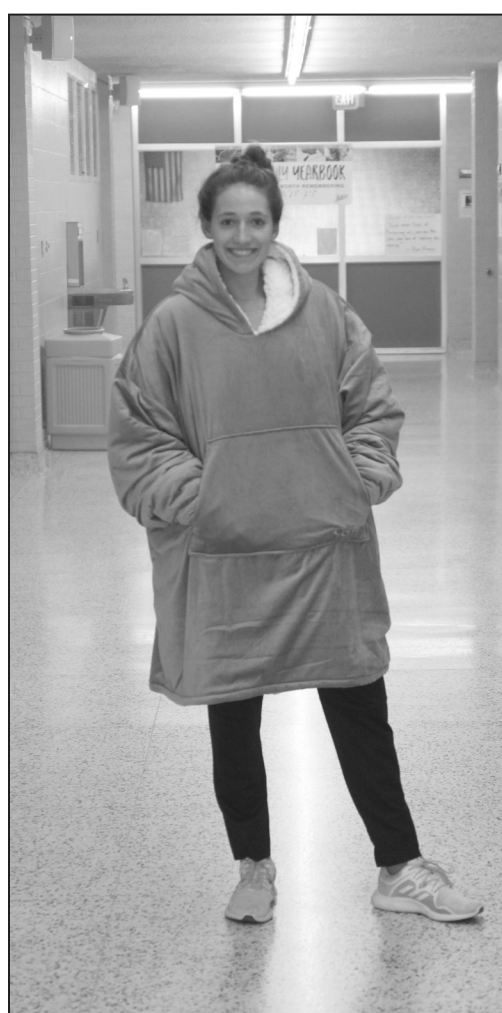
Even though you may think that there is no way that this huge hoodie could comfortably fit everyone with its one-size-fits-all claim, I can assure you that it does. I have had all members of my family try on my Comfy, and they can all say that they loved it. While sitting on the couch, I could curl in my legs and my whole body would still be fully covered by the sweatshirt. This is a trait of the hoodie that you cannot get with many of your regular hoodies.

Another plus is that it has a huge front pocket. It is so big that you can fit a whole package of Oreos in it! The

large pocket is great for carrying all your snacks that you will need for your upcoming Netflix binge. A final plus of the Comfy is that it has cuffs around the wrist. Going back a few years with the Snuggie, they had sleeves, but they were too big and would always get in the way of anything you tried to do. The Comfy has now eliminated that problem from your life. With cuffs around the wrists, it is just like you are wearing your favorite hoodie.

Now these kind of luxuries in life aren't free, but they sure won't drain your bank account. You can get yourself an original Comfy for the price of \$39.99 (plus shipping and handling of course). You can order one from the original Comfy website or from a large retailer such as Target or Bed Bath and Beyond. Also, if you are a Beyond+ member you can get it for only \$31.99! I know that this may seem like a lot just for a blanket, but I promise that it is worth every penny.

People may say that this is a waste of money or unnecessary because people already have normal blankets, but I disagree with that.



ANGIE RUSHER/JOURNALISM ADVISOR

Senior Julia Salerno models her Comfy. The sweatshirt blanket is reversible and is designed so people can do whatever they want in the comfort of a blanket.

The number of activities that the Comfy allows you to do while in the comfort of a blanket is remarkable. These

are a great investment so that you will be comfortable in everything you do. I suggest that all people go out and

purchase a Comfy to see how it will make your life better.



# Marchers defend life

By Elliott Thomazin  
Editor

“Rise and shine and give God the glory, glory!” One by one, blankets start to rustle in the aisle, hands reach to remove headphones, and sleepy eyes appear from behind bus seats. The 20-hour bus ride is about half-over as 37 students from Columbus wake up on route to the National March for Life.

Tuesday, January 15<sup>th</sup> marked the start of a four and a half day pilgrimage to Washington D.C. Hundreds of thousands travel to the nation’s capital each year to protest the Supreme Court case Roe v. Wade. This year marked the 46<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the case that made it legal to get an abortion in the United States. Scotus has been taking students to participate in the march for about a decade. This year, the group was able to visit the Basillica of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, Gettysburg, and Mount Saint Mary’s University.

During the evening of January 16<sup>th</sup>, the pilgrims arrived in Maryland and celebrated mass in the National Shrine of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton. Elizabeth Ann Seton was the first American born saint.

“The National Shrine

of Elizabeth Ann Seton was definitely my favorite. Walking into that gorgeous church just gave me so much joy... it was stunning and the fact that people created such beauty for our Lord just makes me happy. Plus, we got to have Mass there, and you can’t go wrong with Jesus,” sophomore Clarissa Kosch said.

January 17<sup>th</sup> saw the marchers touring the battlefields of Gettysburg. Gettysburg was the farthest north that the Confederacy travelled during the civil war. The tour concluded at the Gettysburg museum and Cyclorama. The Cyclorama is a 377 ft. by 42 ft. painting depicting the battle at Gettysburg.

“The Gettysburg Cyclorama was very cool! I thought it was amazing that a painting that big and intricate could even be painted,” sophomore Lizzie Parker said.

All the marchers woke with excitement on January 18<sup>th</sup>, the day of the march. After a morning mass and rally, the Columbus group headed to the National Mall to hear from Pro-life advocates Ben Shapiro, Mike Pence, and President Donald Trump. Shortly after, hundreds of thousands from across the country marched to Capitol Hill to promote civil-rights.

This was freshman Abce

Hutchison’s first march. “I feel like the media doesn’t give the March the glory it needs. There were way more people there than I was expecting and just seeing that many people all there to protest the same thing was amazing,” Hutchison said.

First time marcher, senior Hallie Parker immediately felt the rewards of the pilgrimage.

“I was exhausted, but I was also overjoyed because I had the chance to participate in the March. I stood side by side with my friends and family to witness a great movement that I was lucky enough to join,” Parker said.

After the march, the exhausted students received unfortunate news. The threat of snow and icy weather was quickly approaching the bus route home. In order to beat the weather, the group would have to leave at 4 a.m. on Saturday morning. The pilgrims originally intended to leave D.C. on Saturday afternoon, so this meant no visits to the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception or the Holocaust museum.

This was senior Emma Brandt’s second March for Life. “I was a little upset but then I just had to remind myself the real reason we went in the first place. We are the voices for the babies and



ANGIE RUSHER/JOURNALISM ADVISOR

Scotus students, chaperones, and organizers pose for a photo in the National Mall. Thirty-seven students and seven chaperones from Columbus made the pilgrimage for the 46th March for Life.

really that’s all that matters.” Brandt said.

Not everyone was disappointed with the early exit. “I was down with leaving early. I was able to do lots of physics and calculus,” senior Hannah Allen remarked.

After a long trip home, the Columbus march for life group arrived at Scotus at two o’clock in the morning. Fr. Capadano celebrated mass with the exhausted students, chaperones, and parents.

Senior Julia Pichler has

attended the march for life all four years of high school. She has words of encouragement for anyone on the fence about attending.

“Do it! Don’t save it until your senior year because you will regret it! I have loved it every time I have attended. It is an experience that helps you grow as a person and Catholic all at once,” Pichler said.

Every year the March for Life attracts pro-life groups from all over the country.

People keep returning to defend life, to strengthen relationships with their peers, and to experience the spiritual blessings of a pilgrimage.

Sophomore Emily Ferguson is still feeling the effects of the March. “All I feel after the March is joy! I experienced so many moments with God, blessings, laughs, and standing up for babies that brought me joy. I want to carry that back in Columbus, and not let it fade,” Ferguson concluded.



PHOTO COURTESY MICHAELA KRESHA

The Archdiocese of Omaha participates in the national March for Life. Scotus marches with the Archdiocese wearing bright yellow hats.



EMILY STUTZMAN/YEARBOOK STAFF

Seniors Isaac Ostdiek, Braden Labenz, Emma Brandt, Elliott Thomazin, and Isaac McPhillips pray in the National Shrine of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton. The marchers celebrated Mass in the shrine.

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# Honest Abe's advice on love

I've been dating my boyfriend for a few months now, but we've recently hit a rough patch. When we started dating, we would talk in the halls, go out for ice cream, and be able to talk for hours. All of that is a thing of the past thanks to his *Fortnite* addiction. Instead of asking me how my day is, he does weird dances in the hallway. We never hang out anymore because he's too busy "dropping in with the boys." I hung out with him last week while he played, but all he did was sit in a bush the whole game. I just want things to go back to how they were. How can I get my boyfriend back?

Sincerely,  
Fortnite Frustration

*I have had many girls just like you come to me with this same problem lately. Many of these girls feel like their boyfriends want a golden SCAR more than they want them. I have recommended unplugging his Xbox (or any other console of his choice) and threatening to leave him. If he admits he has a problem, you'll need to take him to the nearest FAA (Fortnite Addicts Anonymous) group to get some heals. Once he is all better, you guys can get back to talking and eating ice cream. That will be the real Victory Royale.*

Dear Abe,

My boyfriend has been leaving tufts of fur all over my house every time he comes over. I told him it really annoys me and asked him to try to keep his fur to himself, but I'm still finding fur littered on my floor and in my food. What should I do? (Also, he's a cat).

Sincerely,  
Finding the Purrrfect Guy

*Date a human.*



Dear Abe,  
I really like this guy in my class, but I don't think that he feels the same way I do. I have heard from other classmates that he is also planning on going into the seminary. Should I give up and not tell him how I feel, or should I proclaim my love to him and hope that changes his mind about the seminary. Please help!!!

Sincerely,  
Vocation Vulture

*Well that seems like a predicament, but I can say that he must be a cool guy. I'd say if you really want to get to his heart, do things with him that he likes. Maybe join him for daily Mass or a holy hour. Nothing gets to a seminarian's heart like Jesus. Good conversation topics to bring up are Mother Theresa, Latin Mass, Gregorian chants, and the celebration of Mass, Ad Orientum style. If you really get desperate, tell him that you want to be a nun.*

Dear Abe,

I've been talking to a guy for about three weeks now-Incredibly chill and someone I could really see myself with. Conversation seems to flow like the Platte River. However, I can't distinguish if he's flirting or not. Is it socially expectable to bluntly ask, "Are you flirting with me?" or will I be shunned for the rest of existence? I just want to know if he feels the same without making it awkward.

Sincerely,  
Flirting Down the Platte River

*If you want to do it bluntly, I recommend you dropping a letter in his locker. It should say, and I quote, "Are you flirting with me? Check YES or NO." Then spice it up with some pop-up hearts and a piece of candy. His third-grade intellect will bring him back to when he was actually in the third-grade, and he will have no choice but to check YES.*

## Scotus' most eligible bachelors and bachelorettes



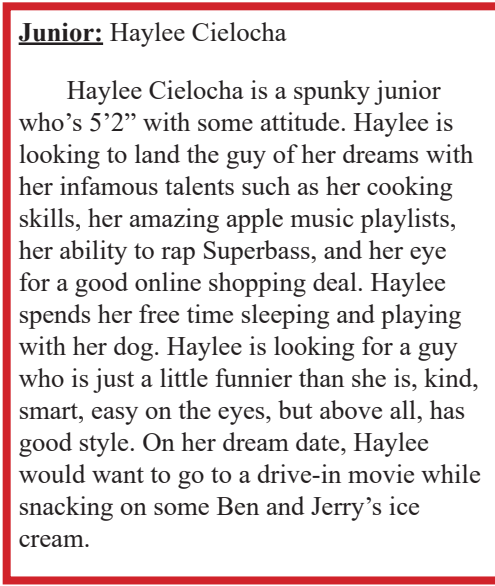
**Senior:** Logan Bennett

Logan Bennett is a 5'5", amusing, and adventurous senior gal. As active as Logan is, no guy could ever be bored. She enjoys traveling, spending time outdoors, and arguing that Little Caesars is the superior pizza place in Columbus. Logan's simple requests for any guy she dates is that he must have a fresh haircut and beautiful, straight smile. To woo Logan over, the guy of her dreams would take her shopping at West Roads Mall in Omaha and not complain about it. Logan is looking for a tall, confident guy who will put her first since, after all, it's all about her in the relationship.



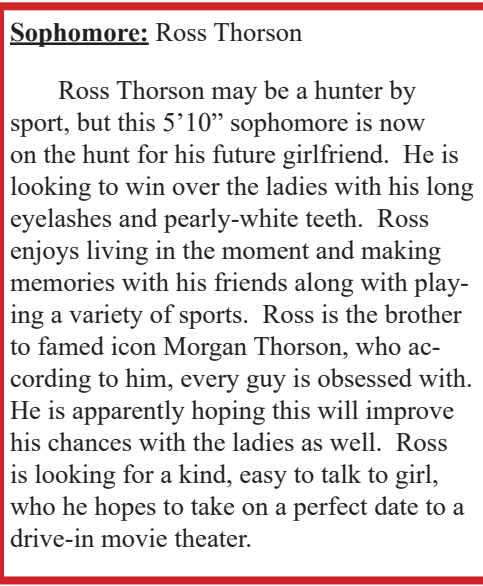
**Freshman:** Gavin Brabec

Gavin Brabec is a 6-foot tall, devastatingly handsome guy looking to swoon all the ladies. In his free time, Gavin enjoys cozing up to a warm fire with a good book or some Netflix. Gavin is extremely intelligent and is looking for a respectful and witty girl to be his counterpart. On a dream date, Gavin hopes to fly his girl to Paris on a private jet to enjoy a romantic dinner at the top of the Eiffel Tower. He hopes to finish the magical night gazing at the night sky lit up by fireworks. Gavin is also looking for a girl with enough money to pay for this extravagant night due to Gavin's unfortunate inability to do so.



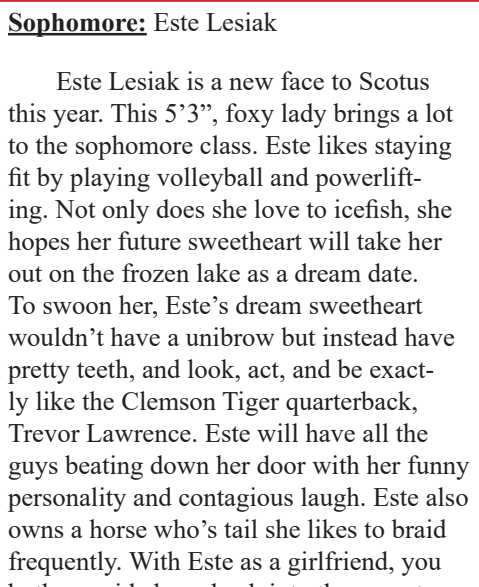
**Junior:** Haylee Cielocha

Haylee Cielocha is a spunky junior who's 5'2" with some attitude. Haylee is looking to land the guy of her dreams with her infamous talents such as her cooking skills, her amazing apple music playlists, her ability to rap Superbass, and her eye for a good online shopping deal. Haylee spends her free time sleeping and playing with her dog. Haylee is looking for a guy who is just a little funnier than she is, kind, smart, easy on the eyes, but above all, has good style. On her dream date, Haylee would want to go to a drive-in movie while snacking on some Ben and Jerry's ice cream.



**Sophomore:** Ross Thorson

Ross Thorson may be a hunter by sport, but this 5'10" sophomore is now on the hunt for his future girlfriend. He is looking to win over the ladies with his long eyelashes and pearly-white teeth. Ross enjoys living in the moment and making memories with his friends along with playing a variety of sports. Ross is the brother to famed icon Morgan Thorson, who according to him, every guy is obsessed with. He is apparently hoping this will improve his chances with the ladies as well. Ross is looking for a kind, easy to talk to girl, who he hopes to take on a perfect date to a drive-in movie theater.



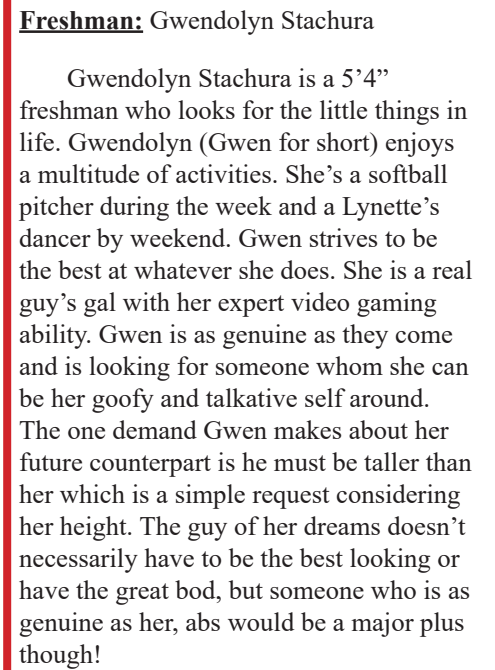
**Sophomore:** Este Lesiak

Este Lesiak is a new face to Scotus this year. This 5'3", foxy lady brings a lot to the sophomore class. Este likes staying fit by playing volleyball and powerlifting. Not only does she love to icefish, she hopes her future sweetheart will take her out on the frozen lake as a dream date. To swoon her, Este's dream sweetheart wouldn't have a unibrow but instead have pretty teeth, and look, act, and be exactly like the Clemson Tiger quarterback, Trevor Lawrence. Este will have all the guys beating down her door with her funny personality and contagious laugh. Este also owns a horse who's tail she likes to braid frequently. With Este as a girlfriend, you both can ride horseback into the sunset.



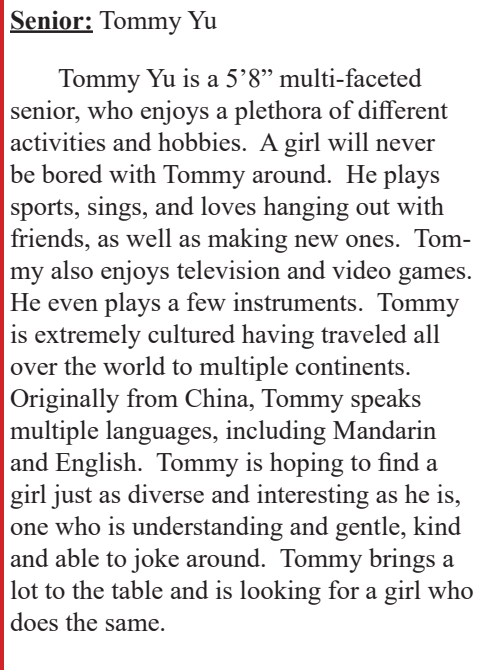
**Junior:** Jared Beaver

Jared Beaver is a 6'4" extremely athletic junior. Besides balling it up in all his sports, Jared enjoys hanging out with his friends and taking long walks around Columbus' own Lake North during a beautiful sunset. Jared is looking for a girl with a great personality and sense of humor much like his own. Jared's number one rule for any and every girl he dates is she must have glasses. When taking a girl on a date, Jared would choose Olive Garden as his restaurant of choice, and being the gentleman he is, Jared would allow his date to eat all of the breadsticks.



**Freshman:** Gwendolyn Stachura

Gwendolyn Stachura is a 5'4" freshman who looks for the little things in life. Gwendolyn (Gwen for short) enjoys a multitude of activities. She's a softball pitcher during the week and a Lynette's dancer by weekend. Gwen strives to be the best at whatever she does. She is a real guy's gal with her expert video gaming ability. Gwen is as genuine as they come and is looking for someone whom she can be her goofy and talkative self around. The one demand Gwen makes about her future counterpart is he must be taller than her which is a simple request considering her height. The guy of her dreams doesn't necessarily have to be the best looking or have the great bod, but someone who is as genuine as her, abs would be a major plus though!



**Senior:** Tommy Yu

Tommy Yu is a 5'8" multi-faceted senior, who enjoys a plethora of different activities and hobbies. A girl will never be bored with Tommy around. He plays sports, sings, and loves hanging out with friends, as well as making new ones. Tommy also enjoys television and video games. He even plays a few instruments. Tommy is extremely cultured having traveled all over the world to multiple continents. Originally from China, Tommy speaks multiple languages, including Mandarin and English. Tommy is hoping to find a girl just as diverse and interesting as he is, one who is understanding and gentle, kind and able to joke around. Tommy brings a lot to the table and is looking for a girl who does the same.





# Rock Bottom

Shamrock boys make a run in the post season. See pg. 6

Powerlifters take gold at Peru State. See Pg. 5

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## Anything Goes in Memorial Hall

By Mariana Valdez-Ortiz  
Staff Reporter

A boat in the middle of the ocean with tons of people aboard who are on their way to London from New York. Officers trying to

find criminals, people disguising as other people, and couples getting together. This is where the Scotus musical took the audience this year. “The best part of musical is that I can go and be myself with the most supportive people I know,” senior actress Mattie Johnson commented.

Laura Salyard, the director of

the musical, organized a performance that made the crowd laugh with its witty humor. The cast performed four times at Memorial Hall. The first performance was on Thursday, February 14th. This performance was for any students and teachers who could come down and enjoy the show during 9th period. The other three performances were

on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.

“Musical is such a great experience. It is something that everyone should experience during high school. I learned so many things this year; I regret not doing it earlier,” senior actor Elliott Thomazin said.

The musical revolves around Billy Crocker, who is trying to get together with Hope Harcourt. The only problem is that Hope is engaged to another passenger, Evelyn Oakleigh. Billy with the help of his friends Reno Sweeney, night club/evangelist, and Moonface Martin, public enemy number 13, might just get his happy ending by the end of the musical.

“Students should keep going out for fine arts because I wish I had more years to do it,” Johnson said.

The musical had many lead roles this year. Junior Liza Zaruba played Bonnie. This was Zaruba’s first time having a lead role in the two years that she has been part of the Scotus’ musical.

“My favorite scene was my solo scene. It was a ton of fun to get to own the stage and dance all over the place with my girls,” Zaruba said.

Billy was played by senior Patrick Herchenbach. Herchenbach has participated on the musical for two years with a lead role in both years.

“I absolutely loved being part of the musical. Musical is one of the hardest things I have had to say goodbye to as a senior,” Herchenbach said.

The cast and crew had to face various obstacles throughout the three months they spent practicing.

Between busy schedules, sickness, and the bad weather, there were only a limited amount of practices on which everyone was able to attend.

“Our cast had to work really hard to put on this production. Towards the end we also had a lot of people fighting off sickness, so they could perform,” Herchenbach commented.

Hope, played by sophomore Janae Rusher, was one of the main female lead roles in the musical. This is Rusher’s first time having a lead role in the two years she has been part of the musical.

“The people in musical are so much fun, and everyone has a place in the musical. It’s not like sports in the sense that if you don’t have lines you don’t play, everyone has a part and is part of the cast or crew. You aren’t left on the sidelines and will be able to play a part,” Rusher said.

To raise money for future musicals they sell tickets. They also offered many different types of candy in the concession stand. Businesses and other people from the Scotus community also have the opportunity to donate money if they want to support the fine arts department in Scotus.

“Musical is a family. It is so cool to work with one another and slowly see a show come to life,” Zaruba said.

See Page 2 for more musical photos.



BLANEY DREIFURST/YEARBOOK STAFF

Seniors Isaac McPhillips, Maddie Sueper, and Patrick Herchenbach pose in the middle of their song, “Friendship” in Scotus’ Musical *Anything Goes*. Their first performance was on Friday, February 15.

## Shadowing sets students up for success

By Brea Lassek  
Staff Reporter

Scotus students are jump-starting their futures through the help of local businesses. This year, more students than before are taking advantage of the job shadowing opportunities in partnership with Columbus Community Hospital, BD Medical, and more.

Although a few students have job shadowed in the past, Scotus guidance counselor Pam Weir reports there has been a large influx of interest during this school year.

On Thursday, February 7<sup>th</sup>, Melinda Allen, the HR Education Coordinator at the hospital, visited with around fifteen students, explaining the various job shadowing possibilities. Through their program, nursing, physical therapy, and radiology are only a few areas students can observe.

“Many times, students have an idea of what career path is interesting, however seeing something firsthand can help you determine whether that career path is right for you. By being in the hospital environment, you might discover careers that you hadn’t even considered!” Allen commented.

Senior Konner Kudron has already utilized the hospital’s job shadowing program. Over Christ-

mas break, Kudron was able to witness a surgery with his uncle.

“I learned a lot about their machines and different drugs they use to keep the patient paralyzed and sedated. He also had to make sure the patient was positioned correctly,” Konner described.

Allen believes job shadowing can not only benefit the student but also the hospital.

“The hospital benefits from job shadowing as it is a way for us to connect with students who are interested in pursuing a health care career,” Allen explained. “It gives us the opportunity to encourage their interests and to show them all of the employment opportunities available at Columbus Community Hospital.”

Senior Emma Brandt plans to become an athletic trainer after job shadowing Scotus trainer Andrew Sheridan. Sheridan assisted Brandt in recommending the best universities for athletic training and mentored her in the basics of his career. Brandt will continue to gain experience by shadowing at Premier Physical Therapy this summer.

“[Job shadowing] helped me decide which path to take for college and which college to choose,” Brandt said. “I have also learned the basics of Athletic Training and what trainers do on the daily. I have fallen in love with it!”

Aside from the health field,



BREA LASSEK/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Senior Emma Brandt tapes an athlete’s ankle after school. Brandt’s job shadowing has inspired her to pursue a career in Physical Therapy.

students also can gain experience at BD. With the additions of the STEAM program and Careers Club, Betsy Rall plans to expand the Scotus job shadowing program.

“We certainly know enough industries and have enough relationships with them, so if students are interested in something specific, we can make that happen,” Rall stated. “For instance, if somebody decided

they were interested in some sort of engineering, I could hook them up with Vishay Electronics, ADM, Piller Family Farms, or BD.”

With the help of the various job shadowing opportunities, the future is looking bright for Scotus students.

“My plan right now is to go to UNO for Athletic Training and get my masters. Then I will go onto PT

school to become a Physical Therapist,” Brandt explained. “I hope to be able to work in a clinic someday with set hours and then be able to go to sporting events after working in the clinic and be on the sidelines for a high school.”

If you are interested in any of these opportunities or want to propose a new one, contact Pam Weir or Betsy Rall.



Musical



(top left) Senior Maddie Sueper sings with her fallen angels, (clockwise top right) sophomore Clarissa Kosch, junior Jayden Heng, sophomore Olivia Klug, freshman Camille Cox, and sophomores Maddie Blasser and Lizzie Parker.  
 (left) Sophomore Janae Rusher and senior Mattie Johnson dance with senior Isaac Ostdiek during the song "Bon Voyage."  
 (above) Senior Isaac McPhillips and junior Liza Zaruba try to figure out a way to make their plan work.

All Photos by Blaney Dreifurst

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# Moms make the best friends



By Julia Salerno  
Staff Reporter

Whether my team just won our state qualifying volleyball game, or I found out

I got accepted to the college I wanted, there is always one person who I know will always be my biggest supporter and will always be there for me. This person in my life is my mom.

I am proud to say that my mom is my best friend. She is the first person I call whenever anything happens, good or bad.

Now, I know there are many arguments about people saying a mom needs to only be a mom and not a friend, but I think that is definitely wrong. Having my mom as my best friend is a benefit not many people get to have.

One reason moms make the best friends are because

they will always tell it like it is. They will never lie to you to spare your feelings. For example, when I was prom dress shopping, I knew that I could always count on her to tell me how she actually felt about the dress. This is not only helpful for picking out outfits but also life decisions. Moms have way more experience than us and will never turn down the opportunity to help you avoid making the mistake they did. As much as we never want to admit it, moms always know best.

Another reason moms make the best friends are because they most likely know exactly how to get through everything you're

going through. When I was younger, I didn't want much to do with my mom, just like every other teenager, but as I have grown up, I have realized just how amazing she actually is. She has been through high school, she's had boyfriends, and she's had best friend breakups. She will always be there to offer the advice she thinks is best for me. She has been through almost everything that I will have to go through, so it is nice knowing she is always

there to help me through.

The final reason moms make the best friends is because they always want the

best for you. Since there is a bit of an age gap, there is no jealousy over success

among peers, so there is nothing that is making her not want to see you succeed. All moms want for their children is for them to be happy and successful. Seeing

you happy and succeeding in life will make her feel proud of everything she has helped you through.

If you do not already have a great relationship with your mom, I highly recommend getting on it. You can take either big or small steps to get there, but you're going to have to start somewhere, and once you start, it will only keep getting better.

I hope that someday everyone gets to have the type of relationship I have with my mom with their own moms because it is one of the greatest things I have in my life.

*"She will always be there to offer the advice she thinks is best for me."*

~Julia Salerno

# Let go of your phone... at least for a while



By Abe Perault  
Staff Reporter

Every year in Mrs. Zanardi's English class, the seniors read a book called *Fahrenheit 451*. The concept of the book is that the main character lives in a world dominated by technology. In this world, books are looked at as evil, and the protago-

nist, Montag, is a firefighter who burns the books. Montag eventually becomes curious about the books, and the plot ensues from there.

During the week the seniors read this short novel, Mrs. Zanardi challenges them to a media detox: no T.V. no music, no video games, and students are only able to call and text. Except for the times students must use a computer for homework, technology is off limits if they choose to accept the challenge. I did, and I found it relatively easy. I do have to admit I did listen to music when I worked out, and in the car, I listened to the radio or a cd (not my preferred way of listening to music.)

The media detox opened and changed my mind about the way we use our phones. From that one week to now, I have noticed, it not only

controls my life, but we are all slaves to our phones.

I have noticed this especially in social interactions. The next time you hang out with friends, take a count of how many times they pick up their phones. The fact that people cannot sit with each other and enjoy each other's company without going on their phones is ridiculous. I recently had a beautiful experience with a friend on the snow day we had. We had just gotten done zooming down a snowy hill on a sled when she turned to me and said, "Wow! Time flies when you're not on your phone." We had fun that day and we did not need a phone to have fun, we just needed each other.

One of the biggest complaints I hate hearing from myself and from others is that I have no time. I have

no time to read that book. I have no time to do my homework. I have no time to pray. Blah blah blah. Try setting down the phone and doing it. Trust me, the text message you think you might receive is not that important. When I stopped using my phone for that week, the amount of things I was able to get done was incredible. I could read every night, pray at least a half hour, and get my homework done all while practicing football as well. If the thing you want to do is important, you will make time for it. Using your phone less might be a solution to that problem.

Our phones have also taken away our appreciation for silence. When I was participating in the detox, there were multiple times I sat down on my couch to do nothing but enjoy the silence.

There is a real freedom in knowing you do not have to be listening to something. French theologian Blaise Pascal once said, "All of humanity's problems stem from man's inability to sit quietly in a room alone." We must realize silence is not a bad thing. It allows us to build character. What do people do when their friends go to the bathroom when they go out to eat with each other? They whip out their phones. Embrace moments like that. Take that moment of silence to reflect on your day or to thank God for all He's done for you. Being able to do that says more about your character than checking Twitter would.

In all of this, I do want to clarify that I am not saying phones are bad, I just think the amount of time we use them needs to be limited.

Technology is great for learning and enjoying oneself, but we have hit a point where most of us are probably addicted to our phones. That defeats the purpose of them. Our phones should be helping us. We are not their slaves, and they are not our masters.

So, I encourage you to take a break from your phone every day at some point. Maybe set aside a 30-minute period of silence to pray or read a book. Take a friend out to dinner and leave the phones in the car. Trust me, it will not be wasted. I have never heard of an interesting person who sat on their phone all day. I have heard of interesting people who did something with the time they were given. That is why they were interesting.

# Youngest kid calls for most rules



By Chloe Odbert  
Staff Reporter

If I had a dollar for every time that I got the classic "you aren't your older sister, we have just learned over the years" talk, I would be able to buy my parents off my back. Now, don't get me wrong,

I love my sisters. In fact, I have learned more about the value of life and who I want to be through them than I would have ever been able to gather on my own as an only daughter.

Without our tight-knit relationships, choosing my maid of honor and godmother of my first child would be easy, but because we are all such best friends that choice will never be one that I don't take at least five minutes to think about. For example, I already think about it, and I'm only sixteen years old.

Having three sisters has made for lots of memories, both good and bad. For instance, one time a man in Mexico literally got to his knees and begged my dad to allow him to marry one of his daughters so that he could get across the border. Again, love them all to death, but being sister-wives has never really been a desire of ours.

Being the youngest of four kids, especially four girls, has its many perks like sharing clothes and accessories, but many downs also like consistently being compared

to my siblings. Once parents have gone through parenting a time or two, they seem to think they have all of their kids figured out, which is not true!

All three of my older sisters have their different qualities that I aspire to match, and they have their stories and opinions that I myself NEVER want to partake in. Although my parents continuously vow that they don't, I am permanently on birdwatch and have many less freedoms than the older three. I consistently fight the battle of wanting to be the best person I can but also continue to be let down because of a past mistake made by my sisters.

I am sure that someday I will understand when I am a mother myself, but for the time being, I yearn for the freedom to make my own

mistakes. I want the responsibility to make the right choice in difficult situations rather than it being assumed that I will make a mistake because at some point or another my sister did. I wish for the trust that I can and will do the right thing when I'm in the wrong situation. All the rules given to the youngest sibling come from a prior mistake made from an older sibling. For instance, for the longest time my curfew was ridiculously early for no reason whatsoever except for the fact that one of my siblings somewhere along the way abused their freedom of staying out. That one was a burden I had to bear for what seemed like a ridiculous amount of time.

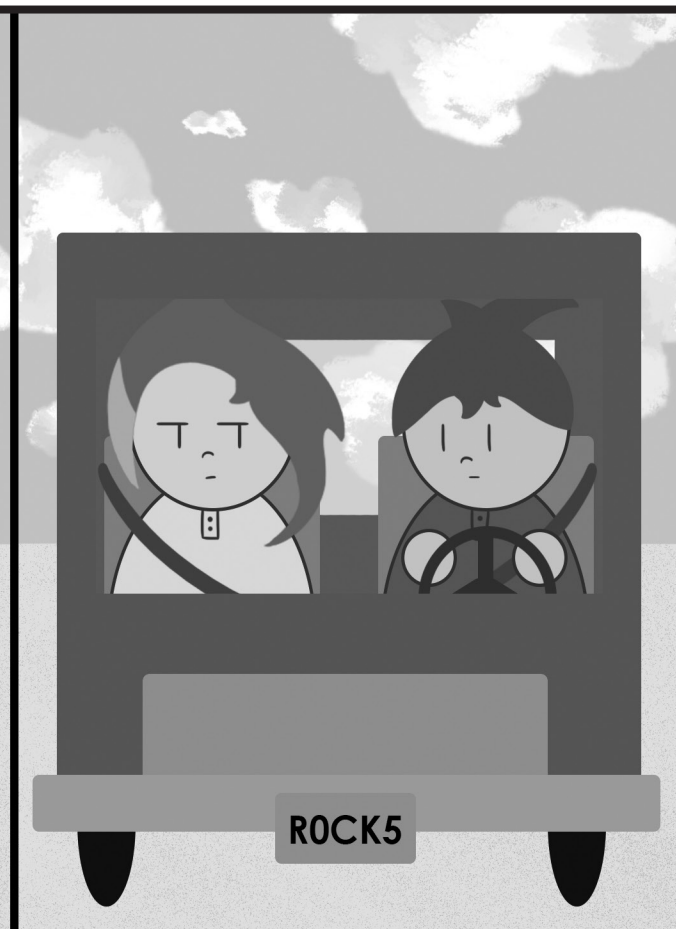
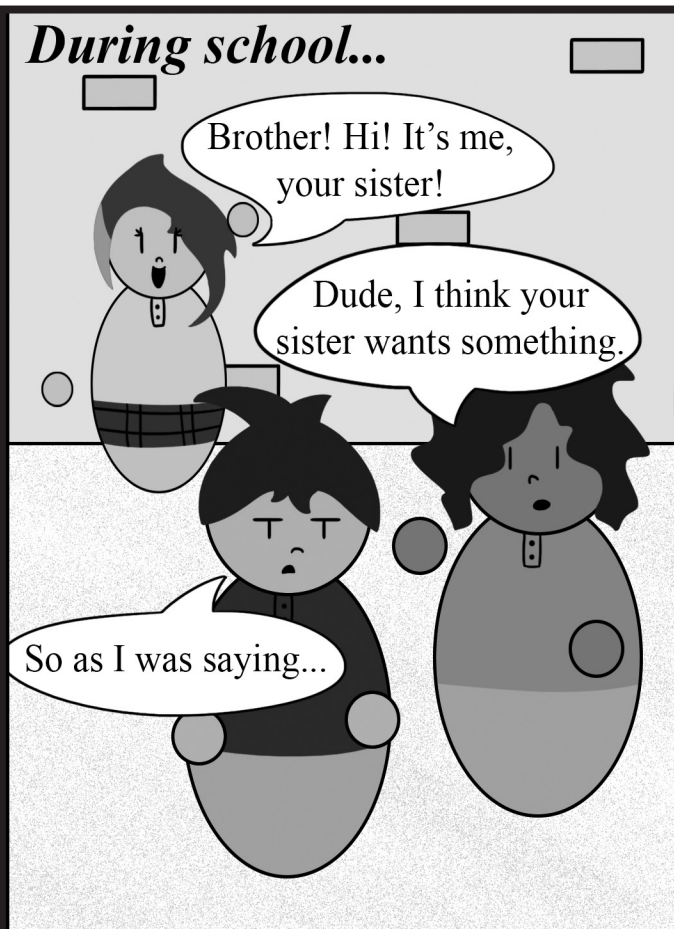
The idea that the youngest child is always given new freedoms and new wiggle

room is one that I will go down claiming to be false. Because of the older siblings being the guinea pigs of the family, they truly have the most freedom. It simply depends on how they use that freedom for good or bad that becomes problematic for the youngest children.

To all you oldest siblings or simply older siblings in the stand point of all the youngest sheep in the herd please for the sake of us all, be smart with your freedoms. Your poor choices and bad decisions will forever alter the parenting style and household rules of the family. No matter how hard you fight that we "have it the easiest" always remember that the rules we do have are because of you and how you chose to utilize your freedoms!

*"Having three sisters has made for lots of memories, both good and bad."*

~Chloe Odbert





# Teacher *personalities* bring life to Scotus

## The Bromance

Friendship is a wonderful thing that can be one of the greatest blessings in a person's life, and Wade Coulter, Jarrod Ridder, and Chris Mustard have experienced this firsthand. The three have been attached at the hip for numerous years now and have had the pleasure of not only teaching side by side but also coaching football and basketball together.

"When you spend that much time together, you just become such good friends, almost like brothers," Chris Mustard said.

Together, they are the three stooges, the three musketeers, the three feet in a yard, the three boats Christopher Columbus sailed to America. \*history teacher jokes\* They are each other's first choice when picking teams and even when needing an extra multiple-choice option on a test.

"If you were going to pick someone who could beat the minotaur underneath the island of Crete, who would you pick? I would pick Mr. Coulter." Jarrod Ridder stated.

It seems as though they enjoy doing everything together...or almost everything.

"We don't work out together because I would have to work out in order for us to do it together," Mustard explained.

Nevertheless, the three along with another Scotus staff member, Joe Schoenfelder, participate in the annual 4x100 meter race against members of the girls' bas-

ketball team. It is an intense sporting event that has even resulted in a casualty when Ridder fell to the ground last year after having pulled his hamstring. Still, the relay is highly anticipated and cherished every year.

"That baton used in our relay is not just a baton," Wade Coulter said. "It is a beacon of our friendship."

To top off their friendship, Coulter and Mustard also have a detailed handshake that they enjoy doing between passing periods.

"We point at each other from across the hall. Then we get close and do a shoulder bump. After that, we cup our hands together to make that clapping sound. Then we pull each other in and pat each other on the back, two taps on the back to be exact," Mustard said.

All in all, Coulter, Ridder, and Mustard have a bromance that by the looks of it will last through the ages.

They have gone through years of teaching and coaching together, and they have managed to enjoy every minute of it.

"We all have common interests, and we're all in touch with reality. We're not selfish, and we care about other people," Coulter explained. "We have a faith-filled, fun-filled, fulfilling relationship. Honestly, my job would be 1/10 as enjoyable without our friendship."



## Mr. Brockhaus

His voice can be heard three classrooms away. His presence coaching basketball is unmistakable. There is only one teacher who could possibly deserve his own category and that is the man, the myth, the legend, Pat Brockhaus.

"[What sets me apart is] God-given talent," Brockhaus explained. "I don't know; I am just awesome."

The Scotus Government and Social Science teacher believes a life as great as his own all boils down to the basics. From his morning routine to avidly watching *Fox and Friends*, Brockhaus begins every day with the key that unlocks his excellence.

"I have to have my sugar-coated cereal in the morning, or I can't function," Brockhaus commented. "I can live without lunch, but I got to have breakfast. I don't know how people can go without breakfast, that's crazy."

Starting off the morning right prepares him for what is in store in his classroom. Brockhaus is known for his bold, unexpected statements while teaching.

"A lot of times they just come easily. My mouth works faster than my brain does," Brockhaus remarked.

Although often hilarious and unconventional, Brockhaus understands his thoughts said out loud can sometimes be a mistake. Back in his glory days, the slang he used was not the same as it is today. This language barrier can cause misunderstandings and the occasional apology. Nevertheless, students enjoy Brockhaus's various classes and are along for the crazy ride.

"Years ago, a freshman caught a honey-bee and said he would eat it for five bucks; that got done in class," Brockhaus revealed. "I didn't pay him, but other students did. It took like three minutes. It was kind of weird if you ask me."

Other standout moments in the classroom with Brockhaus have been more awkward than bizarre.

"I thought a girl was passing another girl a note, and she was just adamant that it wasn't a note," Brockhaus recalled. "So, I was like, well then what is it? Turns out it was a feminine hygiene product."

Through these crazy experiences in his 30 years of teaching, Brockhaus has learned countless valuable lessons, including the advice he wishes to pass along to his students. To him, life can be summed up in a few simple phrases.

"Work hard, laugh, play hard, say please and thank you, tell people you love them," Brockhaus advised. "Also, if you can surround yourself with high character people, that's a big thing."

With his immeasurable wisdom and uncanny sense of humor, there is no dispute Brockhaus is one of a kind. Despite the shenanigans in his classroom, Scotus holds a special and serious place in his heart.

"It's a tough place to leave: great support from families and administration plus a vast majority of the students are self-motivated. I've had three kids go through here who were three totally different learners," Brockhaus concluded. "You will appreciate it more when you get older."

## The Therapists

Teachers Jo Moody, Becki Zanardi, and Melanie Mimick are much more than English and Spanish teachers at Scotus. They are real-life advice columns counseling students through life one problem at a time.

"Students will learn as much about life and how to handle things in high school as they will about any of the subject matter, if not more," English teacher Becki Zanardi said.

These teachers put the student first understanding that people and relationships should always come before trying to teach as much information as possible.

"It's not necessarily the content we teach," English teacher Melanie Mimick said. "It's about seeing the kids."

Students deal with their problems in all different kinds of ways. For these teachers, it is about handling each case individually understanding each student's problems are unique to them.

"Just because someone comes doesn't mean they want their problem solved. They just want someone to listen while they vent," Zanardi explained.

Even when students are not

coming to them for advice, these teachers still believe it is part of their responsibility to know their students well enough to be able to tell when something is off.

"I went into teaching to help students. That was my ultimate goal, so I try to keep an eye on my students, watch out for things

that maybe they need to talk about, or just see if they are having an off day. I try to get to know them outside the classroom," Spanish teacher Jo Moody said.

At the end of the day, these teachers want nothing more than to impact their students' lives for the better. They are here to help kids and be the teachers students remember when they look back at high school.

"High school is such a short time span for kids. So, I have to look at what impact am I leaving on you guys," Mimick said. "It's amazing what can be accomplished by putting other people's needs in front of you. That is what teaching is all about."

Articles and Photos by Liza Zaruba and Brea Lassek/Rock Bottom Staff



# Storytime with Scotus staff

## WEIR

The senior retreat at Timberlake; watching students overcome their fears and encourage one another is an every year highlight. One senior a few years ago was only about 4-5 feet from the ground on the power pole, and she froze with fear for at least 30 minutes or longer.

## TIMONEY

The time Matthew Bichlmeier had to sing and dance to the Quadratic Formula song to avoid detention after he spilled water on my grade book.

## ADAMS

When the class of 2014 were seniors, they used to sit by the cafeteria east door. Green curtains used to hang all along the north wall beside their table. Lauri Diamond would return to school and come in the east door and unload her delivery van. During the winter it would be so cold and the seniors would wrap themselves in the curtains to keep warm. It looked like we had a row of sail boats in the cafeteria.

## Linder

I got really angry at a group of juniors several years ago for lifting up one of the old lunch tables and smashing a Scotus Rock (previously known as a Runza) underneath it. I came unhinged! The verbal lashing was enough to send some students to therapy. The chastisement lasted only about five minutes, but we sat in utter silence for the remaining thirty-six minutes. I have never heard a room of high school students so quiet. Years later I find out that anytime that group of students get in trouble for anything they would say, "It's not like I put a Runza under a table."

## Rusher

I once had a student throw up in my room. I sent another student to get paper towels to clean up the poor kid before sending him to the office, and then he threw up again; I had to jump out of the way; I was eight months pregnant. They can't prepare you for that in teacher school.

## Dusel-Misfeldt

Every day is a new adventure with my students. Some adventures are good and meaningful, others are not as good, and some are just hilarious. I get up each day looking forward to that day's new adventures. It is always funny when students learn that Mrs. Podliska and I are sisters. It's when they ask me who is older that I tell them they just failed my class (only kidding) because she is four years older than me!

## Coulter

One time I handed out the incorrect number of worksheets to two consecutive rows, and Courtney Kosch, using the loud version of the Courtney Kosch voice, told me to "learn to count". Someday I'm going to be as funny as her.

## ZANARDI

Miss Mimick called me "Mom" this week, but I'm not sure she would want me to share that.



# Dusel receives teacher of the year

By **Kate Smith**  
Staff Reporter

During Catholic Schools' week Mass, Mrs. Dusel-Misfeldt was awarded Gerhold teacher of the year. Students immediately jumped in the air with excitement. Mrs. Dusel received a standing ovation as she came to receive her award.

"It was overwhelming. I'm not a big crier, and it was hard even for me to hold back tears," Dusel admitted.

Mrs. Jane Dusel-Misfeldt has been teaching for 28 years and has been the chemistry teacher at Scotus for 27 years. During her first year, she worked part time being the chemistry and life science teacher in two schools: Exeter and Friend. After that, she received a job as the full-time chemistry teacher at Scotus. During the early years of working at Scotus, Dusel received a job offer from Creighton University to command all the Chemistry Labs. There she would have helped teachers and managed all the materials in the labs, but she wouldn't necessarily be teaching. Mrs. Dusel took much time thinking over this job offer, but ultimately declined.

"I think that for me, it's the student interaction that really keeps me here. So it was kind of heart wrenching to make that decision at that time, but I have not had any regrets about it. This is where I'm supposed to be, there's just something about it," Dusel said.

Dusel credits part of her teaching style to life science teacher Vern Younger, whose classroom was right across the hall from hers when she first started teaching at Scotus. She listened in on some of his classes during her plan periods and admired his way of teaching.

"I so wanted to be able to deal with students and their needs and their sometimes-crazy behavior, in a way that would be strict, disciplined, but yet allow for laughter, fun, empathy, and all those kinds of things, and I

felt like he had that," Dusel added.

Ask anyone who has been through her class, chemistry is one of the toughest classes at Scotus. Dusel runs a tight ship, and she expects a lot from her students, but she would never expect something of her students that she wouldn't ask from herself in return.

"Discipline and organization are very important to me, and it's important that I try to portray that to my students that if I expect it out of them, I would also expect it out of myself," Dusel said.

Despite her class being one of the hardest in the school, Dusel never gives up on trying to help her students in every way she can whether that be in finding new examples to explain a new concept or empathizing with her students' busy schedules.

"It's in one of my prayers every day that I thank God for gifts and that He gave me the ability to teach and try to reach students on their level as much as I can," Dusel said.

When Dusel isn't thinking about chemistry and school work, she likes to spend her free time going on walks with friends or family and reading novels.

"I like to spend time with my husband and my family and my friends. We don't have to be doing anything real earth shattering, just enjoying each other's company," Dusel commented.

For Dusel, the best thing a teacher can do for a student is to never give up on them. She teaches by this code and works to help her students succeed. She thinks that if a student fails, it's a direct correlation to the teacher.

"Even when the student really wants to give up, I can't. Sometimes I want to, but I must try find a way of connecting with them," Dusel stated.

Not only is she a teacher, but Mrs. Dusel also keeps busy being the seventh-grade volleyball coach, NHS sponsor, and the wife to John Misfeldt, who works at Columbus High School.



TARA KAMRATH/ ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

**School president Jeff Ohnoutka gives chemistry teacher Jane Dusel-Misfeldt a congratulatory hug after presenting her with the Gerhold Teacher of the Year Award. Mrs. Dusel received this award at the end of Catholic Schools week Mass.**

"To me, it's time management and thinking ahead about what I have to get done for school and what I can spend time doing something else that might need to be done or what I want to do," Dusel added.

Mrs. Dusel tributes her classroom now to her students who teach her something new every day and her husband. Whether that be students asking to try something different or bouncing ideas off her husband, both, she says have made her the teacher she is today. As for the person she is now, Mrs. Dusel says an earlier marriage is what shaped her into to be the person she is.

"I like to say that I was young and stupid, but God guides you in different directions. After my divorce, that was a big wake up call for me, and I needed to find myself. I needed to figure out who I wanted to be and who

I really am on my own, and am I happy with that? And if not, then I better figure it out," Dusel said.

Despite the hardships she has faced, Mrs. Dusel believes that's what ultimately led her to Scotus and is now so thankful to be married to John for 22 years this coming summer.

"I couldn't be going through this life without him. I've been so very blessed to have him as my spouse for so many years," Dusel added.

The 2019 Gerhold Teacher of the Year wanted to leave her students with some of her best life advice.

"Never give up on a dream that can be a reality for you," Dusel concluded. "Always think, 'I can do it!' because for most of us, if we really want to do it and we really put the effort in, we're going to get there."

## What was your first car and why did you like it?

**Kris Andresen**  
1975 Voltz Wagon Rabbit  
The color. It matched the color of the yellow lines in the street.



**Becky Zanardi**  
'86 Cutlass Supreme  
It was my FIRST car! I didn't get a car until I was a sophomore in college. I always had a vehicle to drive - just not one licensed to me.



**Annette Hash**  
'67 Impala  
It got me where I needed to go.



**Betsy Rall**  
1975 Voltz Wagon Rabbit  
50 mpg mileage. And it was cute.



**Pat Brockhaus**  
'69 Belair  
It was fast and could carry numerous passengers. I could drive it without the keys in the ignition.



**Joan Lahm**  
'75 delta 88  
Huge and safe.



**Fr. Capadano**  
Red 1993 Pontiac Trans Sport  
I didn't have to share it with my older sister.



**Shelly Adams**  
'80 Camaro  
That it was a Camaro, duh!



**Angie Rusher**  
4WD Subaru Justy  
It was manual transmission, so I would teach my friends to drive and laugh really hard.



**Wade Coulter**  
'86 Cutlass Supreme  
It worked.



**Gail Bomar**  
Ford Fairlane 500  
It was MY car and not my parent's car.



**Jane Dusel-Misfeldt**  
'73 Bronco 2  
It was unique in appearance.



## Which teacher said what?



- “Rock on!”
- “Alright, get to work.”
- “Let's rap about it.”
- “I don't like any of that rap crap.”
- “El Checko”
- “I don't read minds. I don't want to read your minds.”
- “Tuck your shirt in.”
- “The fair is in July.”
- “Stop playing games on my computers.”
- “Build a wall.”
- “Children of God”
- “Late, Late, why are you late?”
- “You do you.”
- “Garrrrrrrrrrr”
- “You're gonna need a half sheet of paper.”
- “Here we go, Gary, China is in the news, AGAIN!”



# Sports

## Wrestlers take on Omaha

By Cameron Johnston  
Staff Reporter

With the conclusion of the NSAA State Wrestling Championship, the season has ended for those that qualified for the state tournament. Six Shamrock wrestlers tested their abilities at the CHI Health Arena from February 14th through February 16th. Unfortunately, all six competitors lost their first match on Thursday which qualified them to wrestle Friday morning with a loss concluding their seasons.

Senior captain Evan Sliva qualified with a fourth-place position at the district tournament on Saturday, February 9th.

"I didn't expect much of myself honestly. I knew I was going to have tough matches," Sliva stated.

Freshman Landyn Maschmeier, in his first state tournament, finished his freshman year with two losses at state and a final record of 31-17, according to

trackwrestling.com.

"The best thing about competing at the state tournament is that it is an amazing experience, you get to show everyone how good you are, and get to make a name for yourself," Maschmeier said.

Senior captain Jackson Neville lost his only match on Thursday to the number one ranked wrestler in the class B 138-pound weight class. However, Neville rallied back on Friday to win his first match with a pin in less than two minutes.

"Wrestling in front of that many people is the worst thing about wrestling at the state tournament. It was my goal going into the season to qualify, so it was cool being able to wrestle in Omaha, however it was very nerve wracking," senior captain Jackson Neville said.

Junior Nick Taylor, like Neville, lost his first match but returned on day 2 to win by decision with a score of 9-6 at the completion of the 3rd and final period. Taylor finished his season with a

record of 35-18, according to trackwrestling.com

"I now know the level of competition that is at state so I know I need to work a lot harder so I can place next year," junior Nick Taylor said.

Senior Daniel Tworek along with Neville placed fourth at districts so they were offered a tough match up against the number one seeded wrestler in each of their weight classes. Unfortunately, both were matched up with the top-rated wrestlers in their class.

"The best thing about competing in state was wrestling in the top 16 wrestlers in the state. The worst thing about wrestling at state is losing in front of all the people watching," senior Daniel Tworek stated.

Junior Evan Hand is, along with the other five state qualifiers, competing in his first state tournament.

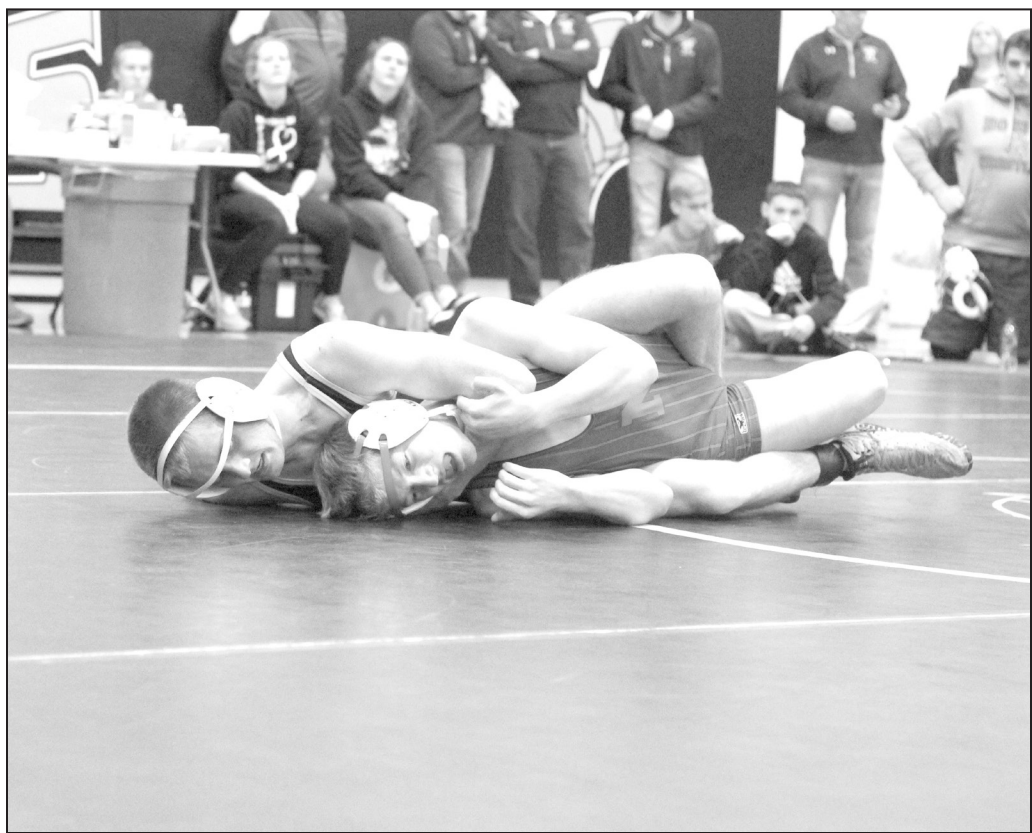
"It's excited knowing that you are wrestling with the best in the state, however when you step on that mat

and see thousands of people watching you, you get a little nervous," Hand stated.

The Rocks look forward

to improving on this season's finish despite having a rather young team next year. With the conclusion of wres-

ting, seniors Neville, Sliva, Tworek, Colby Gilson, and Gary He have wrestled their final matches.



CAMERON JOHNSTON/ ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Senior Jackson Neville puts his opponent in a head-lock at the district meet on February 9th at Grand Island Northwest High School. Neville finished his senior season with a record of 33 wins and 19 losses.

## Rocks fall short in final fights



ABE PERAULT/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Senior Courtney Kosch shoots a layup during sub-district play on Tuesday, February 12. The Shamrocks were defeated by Boone Central/Newman Grove with a score of 33-28.

By Abe Perault  
Staff Reporter

The Scotus girls' basketball season came to an end on

February 12, but the Shamrocks went down fighting in the last two games of the season.

On Thursday, February 11 the Scotus girls' basketball team faced off against

cross-town rival Lakeview in the final regular season game.

From beginning to end both teams fought hard. Scotus took a 16-15 lead after the first quarter, but Lakeview came back to tie the game up

at half 27 all. The Shamrocks came out of halftime firing taking the lead to end the third quarter at 38-32.

"We shot well during the first half, but we went cold in the second half," junior Amber Buhman said. "We scored a lot of points this game, but our defense also gave up too many points."

The Vikings made a comeback in the fourth quarter after Lakeview senior McKenna Klug made two back-to-back three-pointers to tie the game. Senior Courtney Kosch made two three pointers after Lakeview scored two more of their own. An offensive rebound and put back by senior Abbie Zoucha tied the game at 49. Just when the Shamrocks had a chance to end the game, Borer stole the ball, getting fouled while driving down the court. With a little help from the Scotus student section, Borer missed both free throws, sending the game into overtime.

"I thought we shot our best from outside the arch," senior Courtney Kosch commented. "We never gave up in the fourth quarter and

we kept pushing the ball and playing hard to get into overtime."

Junior Chloe Odbert started overtime with a score off an offensive rebound to put the rocks up by two. Lakeview responded by taking the lead with a score and two free throws. Then Zoucha sank her own free throws to tie the game with twenty seconds left. On the next possession Borer went down the court to hit the game winner resulting in a Scotus loss. The final score was 55-53.

"This game is definitely a game that we all want back," sophomore Camille Pelan said. "If we played them one more time, there is nothing that could convince me that we would lose."

The Shamrocks would never get that chance after facing off against Boone Central in the first round of sub-districts.

"We struggle to make shots. I thought we played pretty good defense, but we couldn't finish on the offensive side which hurt us," senior Abbie Zoucha said.

Both Boone Central/Newman Grove and Scotus

had a hard time making any shots in the first half. BC/NG was the only team to score in the first quarter which ended in a 3-0 Cardinal lead. The Shamrocks finally got some shots of in the second quarter, but they still trailed by five points. The second half was more eventful, but Scotus' defense was still more effective than their offense. The girls were forced to foul after junior Amber Buhman's shot was contested. Boone Central/Newman Grove ended the Shamrocks season with a score of 33-28.

"We didn't want to give up points in the paint, and Kamryn did her job and took charges which were big for our team. Unfortunately, their three-point shooters were on that night, and they just didn't miss," Zoucha continued.

The Shamrocks final record for the season was 10-12.

"Our record doesn't show the true journey we faced this year. We didn't let the adversity tear us down, and that is why my teammates are my best friends," Pelan said.

## Shamrocks unite in post-season run

By Elliott Thomazin  
Editor

Kaden Young and Jared Beaver smack the ground with their towels as Josh Faust nails another three. The Rowdy Dowdies cheer at the top of their lungs. Tyler Palmer weaves through defenders as he drives to the hoop. These scenes were common as the Shamrock boys played with passion during their postseason run, but, unfortunately, fell short.

After a four game winning streak, the Shamrock boys' basketball season came to an end on February 25<sup>th</sup>. The boys overcame adversity to have a shot at the state tournament.

"As a team we went through a really tough stretch in January. We lost a lot of games and there was a lot of talk and fingers being pointed in the locker room. I give a lot of credit to our seniors. With their leadership, we were able to put all that behind us and go on a run to end the season," junior Eric Mustard said.

On February 14<sup>th</sup> the Shamrocks faced a pivotal game against the Aquinas Monarchs. Even though the game was in David City, the Rowdy Dowdies showed up in full force. On the court,

the Shamrocks fought hard to break their twelve-game losing streak. A final score of 68-52 meant that the Shamrocks secured the much-needed victory to end the regular season.

"After we finally broke through our shell against Aquinas, we got a new spark. Our shots started falling, and our plays started to develop. There was a lot of unselfishness during that game, and it really revamped our whole vibe to realize that we were a team that could be scary in the postseason. We got our confidence back," junior Tyler Palmer said.

The postseason began on February 18<sup>th</sup> in the Columbus High gym. The Shamrocks faced off against the Madison Dragons. Junior Tyler Palmer scored 24 points, and senior Caden Pelan put up 25 points during the game. The Shamrocks gained their second straight victory with a final score of 67-55.

The next day, the Shamrocks went toe-to-toe with the Twin River Titans. The last time the Titans and Shamrocks had been in the same gym was in the championship game of the Holiday Tournament. The Shamrocks knocked down the Titans there, and they did it again in the subdistrict match. A final score of 63-46 advanced the

Shamrocks to the subdistrict finals against Boone Central/Newman Grove.

"The biggest obstacle we had to overcome was ourselves. Up until the end of the season, we weren't letting ourselves be successful. We finally broke through that and played good basketball at the end of the year," senior Bryce VunCannon said.

The subdistrict final was played on February 21<sup>st</sup>. From VunCannon knocking down back to back threes to sophomore Josh Faust stopping in the paint to draw a foul, the game was full of incredible moments. The game concluded with the fourth straight win for the Shamrocks with a final score of 62-43. The subdistrict win was a highlight of the season for the Shamrock boys.

"My favorite postseason game was against Boone Central because we played great and the student section was the best all season," Faust commented.

Faust scored 8 points and secured 6 rebounds during the game.

"During the Boone Central Game, their student section yelled at Josh telling him he was 7 years old. Josh then proceeded to have two threes and an 'and one' to shut them up real nice," VunCannon said.



KENDRA KORGER/YEARBOOK STAFF

The Scotus bench celebrates during the subdistrict final. The boys beat Boone Central/Newman Grove with a final score of 63-43.

Shamrock nation travelled down to Kearney to support the boys as they faced Ogallala in the district final. After an aggressive game, Ogallala emerged victorious with a final score of 79-61. Seniors Grant Shanle and Caden Pelan both put up 19 points during the game.

"The Ogallala game [was my favorite] because even though we lost, the school's supporters still drove two hours in bad weather to support us. It made me happy knowing people still believed in us, and we really

played with passion and had no regrets in the last game," Palmer said.

The game in Kearney marked the last game for four seniors who have dedicated countless hours to the game.

"The seniors taught me more than just basketball when it came to the mental aspect of the game: Caden throwing in his little pointless comments that made us all laugh, Bryce hitting a clutch shot when the game was on the line, Shanle making his free throws and dunking in warm-ups in the final game,

and Wurtz giving it his best every day and knocking down threes when we needed them," said Palmer.

Despite their 9-17 season record, the Shamrock boys proved they could dance at the end of the season.

"I'm proud of the way the team stepped up to the plate when it mattered. Instead of checking out of our losing season, we stuck together and were able to make a run at the state tournament," VunCannon concluded.



# Swimmers seize conference

By Callan Fuchser  
Staff Reporter

From the beginning of any sport season, the end goal is always to 'make it to state'. However, the biggest splash this year for the CHS swim team came during Conference in Hastings, where the girls' varsity squad brought home the gold.

"I felt that conference swim went pretty well, but it never ran through my mind that we would've won!" Kaira Dallman said.

This year, the Columbus Discoverer swim team voyaged to state swim in Lincoln with fourteen swimmers, four who are specifically Scotus born and bred. Senior captain Julia Salerno, senior Konner Kudron, junior Emily Miksch, and sophomore Kaira Dallman all participated in at least one of the 9 qualified

events swam on February 22 during Preliminaries.

"State did not go as well as I wanted to, but we dropped time in a few relays so that's awesome. I swam a personal best time for my split in the medley relay which was great. It was nice to be able to swim against and compete with so many schools that we hadn't swam against before," senior captain Julia Salerno said.

All female Fishcoverers events fell short of advancing to the finals on Saturday. Finals include the 16 fastest times of the 22 total events.

"The top 16 go to finals. We got 17th in the 200 medley, 19th in the 200 free relay, and I got 18th in the breast. We got a best time in every event, however, and are ready to go back and get to finals next year!" junior Emily Miksch said.

On the men's side, Konner Kudron put up a personal

best time to end his last high school season. Kudron will continue to swim collegiately for Midland University in Fremont, NE during the 2019-2020 season.

"I got a personal best time at state with a 1:03, my previous time was a 1:05 in my 100 breaststroke," Kudron said.

With two Scotus seniors saying farewell, swimmers are left with lasting memories.

"One of my favorite memories was watching our seniors swim their last events. Even though it was super sad, we yelled 'all in' (our team saying) and 'last one fast one' (which we say for every fast set in practice) right when they dove in, it was something I'll always remember," Miksch said.

With the season now over, Salerno has time to reflect on her active 4 years full of early morning practices,



JAYCEE TERNUS/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Sophomore Kaira Dallman swims the breaststroke in the third leg of the 200 meter relay at The Aquatic Center on February 1st. This is Dallman's second year qualifying for the state meet.

weekday meets, and endless laughs. Salerno will spend the 2019-2020 year studying at Nebraska Wesleyan

in Lincoln, NE and playing volleyball.

"Swim was a huge part of my high school, and I'm

going to miss it a lot. I've gained friends that I will have forever from this," Salerno concluded.

# Scotus strength prevails at state

By Kate Smith  
Staff Reporter

As all winter sports come to a close, so do all winter activities. The powerlifting season ended over two weekends. There was an unequipped state meet at Creighton Prep High School held on February 9<sup>th</sup> that few participated in. There was also an equipped state meet that nearly the whole team participated in which was February 23<sup>rd</sup> at Peru State College. The girls placed sec-

ond as a team, and the team placed first in the coed division with seven gold medalists, four silver medalists, and four third place medalists.

The powerlifting team has been coached by Tom Woodward, Brooke Taylor, Dan Wallin, and many other assistants who started the program four years ago. They all have a passion for the sport.

"To see what the kids have accomplished in a very short period of time against the level of competition is incredible. This

is just a huge statement for the high character athletes we have participating in the program and what Scotus Central Catholic represents," Woodward said.

The equipped state meet was filled with screaming, shouting, and a lot of competing. Senior Emma Brandt, who competed in the 132-pound weight class, was determined to win her last powerlifting meet and would do whatever it took to come out on top.

"My goal for state was to get first. Last year I got

second, and I was really disappointed. I worked harder this year because I wanted to win. I think I exceeded my expectations because we got first as a team and second as a girls team," Brandt added.

There was a wide range of skill going into this year's team. This was many athletes first year in the program with others who have been lifting from the very beginning. For the 165-pound weight class champion Rylie Olson, this was her first and last year. Even as a newbie, she left it all on the platform for her first and last state meet by beating the school bench record she had already broken earlier in the season, which was previously held by Abbie Perault.

"Jokingly at the beginning of the season, I said I'd bench plates by the end of the season and believe it or not, I benched plates at state. My best lift this year was squat, and I ended up squatting 275 pounds," Olson said.

The boys had six lifters place in their weight classes and had three set new school records. The gold medalists were: Kaleb Wiese in the 242-pound weight class and Adam Kamrath in the 114-pound weight class. The girls received second place in the girls' division with twelve

girls placing in their individual weight classes. Of those twelve, seven set new school records. There were five gold medalists: Rylie Olson in the 165-pound weight class, Kate Smith in the 148-pound weight class, Michaela Kresha in the 198-pound weight class, Emma Brandt in the 132-pound weight class, and Katelyn Bayer in the 114-pound weight class.

"Records are made to be broken and our team wanted our names to be on that record board," Smith said.

This meet was an interesting one to say the least. Scotus and Lexington tied for first in the coed team division and had the same number of medalists for every ranking which would have been the tie breaker. It came down to a coin flip at the end of the meet for the first-place title.

"My best memory from state was watching all our kids celebrating winning the State Championship Trophy. I thought it was just a passionate goal for the coaches, but I was wrong," Woodward explained.

This was the first state championship that Scotus Powerlifting has ever received. This has been a goal for the team since the beginning of the season, and it was a team effort to attain this goal.

"We had to work hard, and we had to be determined. At the meet, we did exactly that. The people who needed to win, won, and now we're champs," fourth place medalist Abe Perault added.

The lifters feel like the weight room is filled with positive, encouraging energy every day of the powerlifting season. The coaches make it a priority to keep faith and the team at the center by starting every practice with prayer and a huddle. They try to make it a good environment for everyone involved to achieve their goals and be successful.

"I think our team has the best environment I've ever been in. Everyone cheers for everyone, and everyone pushes each other to do their best," Olson explained.

Behind any good team is good coaches, but the powerlifting coaches give all the credit to the kids who work hard every day to reach their goals.

"We set high standards and these kids went above and beyond. We couldn't be prouder. We have the best kids for the sport, and we will continue to lead by example in our faith and strength," coach Taylor concluded.



PHOTO COURTESY SARAH EHLERS

The powerlifting team hoists the championship trophy in the air to celebrate their team win. There were also seven gold medalists on the Scotus team at the state competition on February 23.

# More Winter Activity Photos



PHOTO COURTESY JACQUIE SMITH

The Scotus cheer team spells out "SCC" with their poms during their performance at state cheer on February 16. The team received 6th in the Gameday and 5th in the Sideline competitions.



JAYCEE TERNUS/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Junior Emily Miksch swims the 100 breaststroke against Grand Island on February 1st. Miksch qualified for state in the 200 medley relay, 200 freestyle relay, and the 100 breaststroke.



# Cheer returns to state

By Jaycee Ternus  
Staff Reporter

Every year the Scotus cheer team performs at state cheer to compete with the best of the best in Nebraska. On February 16<sup>th</sup>, the Scotus cheer team performed at state cheer in Grand Island. The team placed fifth in Sideline and sixth in Gameday. "I think we all did amazing. We didn't place exactly how we were hoping, but I don't think most people minded too much because we had such a fun day. We all worked so hard on our routines and put in so much time practicing and improving," junior Haylee Cielocha said. "Overall, I am so proud of our team because I know that we all performed to the best of our ability and left it all on

the mat." The cheer team performed in two categories, Sidelines and Gameday. The judges look for sharpness, timing, jumps being together, and how loud the team is. "I thought our routines looked the best they ever have. Our team really went all out for our performances and I'm proud of that," junior Kate Smith said. There are twenty girls on the team this year. State cheer was the same weekend as the musical, so after cheering, some of the girls performed in the musical that night. "My last state cheer experience was so fun! I had a blast with my teammates, and I'm really proud of how well the girls performed," senior Kelsey Faust said. This year there were a total of twelve teams compet-

ing in Gameday and fourteen teams competing in Sideline. "I could not have asked for anything better from the girls. We went out there, gave it our all, and crushed it. Just because the judges didn't recognize it, my opinion will not change," junior Liza Zaruba said. "The girls worked so hard, and especially considering we had one girl sick at home and a couple sick while performing, I could not have been more impressed with the way the girls adapted and pushed forward." The Scotus cheer teams have had past success at the state level. They won in 2017 C1 Gameday category and were runner up in Sideline category in 2017 and 2018. State cheer wraps up the 2018-2019 season, and tryouts are April 1<sup>st</sup> for any incoming freshmen. "I think the State Cheer



PHOTO COURTESY JACQUE SMITH

The cheer team runs onto the mat to compete in the Game Day category at state cheer February 16th in Grand Island. The squad had twenty members this year

and Dance is a great showcase for all the cheer and dance teams who want to compete at a state level. The

girls put in a lot of practice hours from November to February to perfect their routines, and it is so fun to watch their

excitement on competition day," cheer coach Pat Engel said.

# Teens spread awareness

By Chloe Odbert  
Staff Reporter

Earlier in the month, Scotus staff and students saw something they typically do

not see within the walls of the school, an act of violence. February is dating violence awareness month and the local Revolution group came to Scotus in order to bring attention to the fact that teen

dating violence truly does happen. The group helped to show the students that dating violence is something people need to be aware of, know how to handle, and understand who to talk to.

On February 7th, the Revolution theatre group performed in the Dowd Activity Center. The theatre group is made up of students from all three of the local schools.

Junior Lauren Ostdiek has been a part of Revolution for two years. She is the only Scotus student who is involved in the Revolution theatre group. Ostdiek performs as Haley in the skit.

"Haley is in an abusive relationship. Her purpose in the drama is to show how many girls who are in a bad relationship feel, and hopefully to help others recognize some red flags in their own relationships."

According to Ostdiek, the Revolution program has two different theatre groups that take turns visiting schools and alternate performances.

"I became a part of the Revolution theatre group because I remember watching the production when I was in

seventh grade and thinking that their message was really important, so I wanted to do so as well," Ostdiek said.

Not every student involved in Revolution is a part of the theatre group, however. Scotus has eleven participating students who help to do their part in bettering the community and raising awareness for dating abuse.

All students who are a part of Revolution go through training in the summer, so they are properly prepared and equipped to help anyone who approaches them in need of help.

Freshman Luke Przymus, who is in his first year of being in Revolution, also enjoys helping to raise awareness throughout the community.

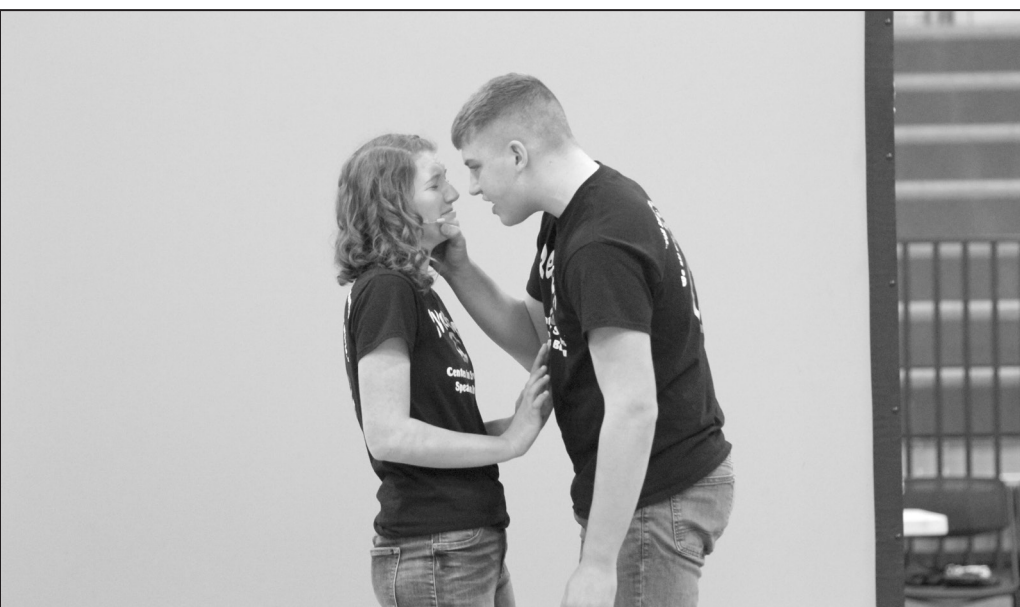
"We visit schools to talk to the students about typical and dangerous scenarios they could find themselves or others a part of. We also fundraise, do community

service, and so much more," Przymus said.

The Revolution group often participates in Columbus Days and other benefits. The students in the group do things such as face painting at these events. Being a part of these events helps to spread awareness about teen dating violence and get the Revolution group's name out into the community.

Sophomore Janae Rusher has been a part of Revolution for one year. She does not perform the skit but finds other ways through Revolution to spread awareness for teen dating violence.

"I am a part of Revolution because no one should ever have to go through an abusive relationship alone," Rusher said. "I grew up in a house that was safe, and I have healthy relationships, so I want to help anyone who is not as fortunate as I am to have great relationships in their lives as well."



JULIA SALERNO/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Junior Lauren Ostdiek performs with a fellow theatre Revolution student. Scotus has eleven students who actively participate in the Revolution program run by the Center For Survivors.

# Flags flip through final performance

By Liza Zaruba  
Staff Reporter

For most, halftime is the point in the game to take a breather, stretch out their legs, and pull out their split the pot tickets, but for the flag team, it's showtime.

The flag team performed their last routine of the year during the halftime of a boys' basketball game on February 1<sup>st</sup>. The girls performed seven times throughout the year during pep rallies, football games, and basketball games.

"My favorite part about flags is the performances," sophomore Cassie Kouma said. "It is a lot of fun to show the entire school what we have practiced at a pep rally or during halftime of a game."

This year, the flag team is composed of thirteen members with three freshmen, four sophomores, four juniors, and one senior. Tryouts for the team were back in April, and since then, the flag team has gone through a multitude of changes.

"Flags this year has been different because we have a new coach. We practice a lot more, and it's stricter now. We also got our new uniforms this year which was very exciting," junior McKenna Hoefler said.

Laura Salyard added a new title to her long list of current responsibilities as the assistant band director, vocal

teacher, and musical director of Scotus by now also becoming the new Scotus flag coach.

"I think she has pushed us more this year to have cleaner technique, so, overall, our performances have been neater and more challenging," Kouma said.

To prepare for the season, the girls go through a grueling five-day camp during the summer. There, different choreographers come in every day and teach them all of their routines they will be performing for the year.

Once the school year begins, the flag team increases their practice schedule to be sure they are fully prepared for their upcoming performances.

"A week or two before we have that performance we go through and relearn that routine we work on and clean it until it is performance ready," freshman Laine Leitschuck said.

The girls practice before school during the week in the Activity Center. Practices usually last for only 30 minutes, so the girls must work hard in order to really get the most out of the little time they have.

"A normal practice is usually at 7:30. We sometimes stretch depending on the routine. Then, we usually run the dance and clean up parts that need improvement," junior Jaycee Ternus

said.

The flag team also works with Becky Brandenburg, a local choreographer, throughout the year to keep their performances looking spotless. She typically comes in the week of the performance to help the girls clean their dance and critique any technical problems with it. The girls then must prove they know the dance if they want to prevent getting cut from the performance that week.

"A couple days before the performance we have test outs to see if you are ready to actually perform," sophomore Anna Ehlers explained.

Performances include more than just the girls elaborately throwing and spinning their flags. The girls also dance and even occasionally perform with poms.

"My favorite performance of the year was our Halloween routine. It was so different from anything we had ever done before," junior Molly Carstens said.

The girls have finished up their performances having debuted four different routines this year. Now, it's time for the process to start itself over again with tryouts beginning in April.

"Flags does take time, but in that time, there is a lot of laughing and fun that happens," Leitschuck said. "The support you get from your teammates is amazing. We are all like sisters."



EMILY STUTZMAN/YEARBOOK STAFF

Sophomore Cassie Kouma performs during halftime of the football game on August 27th. The flag team had thirteen members this year.



BREA LASSEK/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Juniors Jaycee Ternus (front) and McKenna Hoefler (right), sophomore Keira Feehan (left), and freshman Laine Leitschuck (back) dance during their last performance on February 1st. The flag team performed during pep rallies, football, and basketball over the course of the year.



# Band presents pirates

By Julia Salerno  
Staff Reporter

“Baby shark, doo doo doo doo doo.” The annoying yet catchy song “Baby Shark”, accompanied by a student dressed in a shark costume, was the grand finale of the band concert that recently took place. With the full band performing this piece, it was a concert many people won’t forget.

The Scotus Central Catholic Instrumental Music Department hosted their 24th annual band dinner concert on February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019. The theme of the concert was Pirates, which lead to many students being transformed into some outrageous pirate attire.

“The energy during the concert was really high this year. Everyone was having fun and enjoying themselves. It seemed like there were more people than usual. I think our jokes helped a lot,” senior trombone player Elliott Thomazin said.

This concert is different than the others also because the purchase of a ticket is required. The tickets cost \$6 for adults and \$3 for children. With the purchase of a ticket, a potluck meal was

available beforehand. The meal consisted of sandwiches and fried chicken per usual. It also had desserts and side dishes that were provided by the band families themselves.

For this concert, there were performances from five different bands: the Scotus jazz band, the fifth grade band, the sixth grade band, the junior high band, and the senior high band. Different than previous concerts, the seventh and eighth graders combined to make up the junior high band.

Each band had the opportunity to perform two or three songs alone. The full band included students ranging from fifth grade to seniors.

Senior trumpet player Braden Labenz, “It was a good experience for each grade. The fifth graders look forward to being upperclassmen and cannot wait to be older and better. It also gave the upperclassman a chance to look at all of the amazing memories and how we have grown.”

The senior high band performed the a medley of songs from *Pirates of the Caribbean* that night along with “Shipwreck Cove”.

“I thoroughly enjoyed

playing ‘Come Sail Away’ [in the jazz band]. I listened to it with my dad all the time growing up,” senior percussionist Blake Sucha said.

At the end of the concert, all students joined together to play the song “Baby Shark”. The group was also joined by Scotus senior Abe Perault dressed in a shark costume running around.

Senior clarinet player Abigail Stuart said, “This year’s dinner concert was amazing. It made it even better having Abe run around as a shark.”

There were fourteen seniors who performed in their last dinner concert that night. The seniors are the ones who chose the theme for the concert.

Senior flute player Tara Kamrath said, “It’s hard to believe I only have one more concert now in the spring. Band definitely has been the best thing to happen during my years at Scotus. It will be painfully difficult when I graduate.”

The band will conclude their year with a final spring concert April 16th to showcase their final pieces they competed with at district music.



EMMA BRANDT/YEARBOOK STAFF

Senior Caden Pelan performs in the drumline. The theme of the concert was pirates.



EMMA BRANDT/YEARBOOK STAFF

Freshman Emiliano Rodriguez plays his saxophone at the band dinner concert February 4th. There were performances from the 5th grade, 6th grade, jr. high, senior high and jazz band.



EMMA BRANDT/YEARBOOK STAFF

Freshman Adriana Cieloha plays the flute along with the senior high band. They performed two songs that night, one being a medley of *Pirates of the Caribbean* songs.

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# The Kiss of Deception does not deceive a good story

By Tara Kamrath  
Staff Reporter

There are many, many books written and published in the history of the human race, but only a number of these prove to be a tier higher than others when it comes to the quality of the characters, the world, and the story itself. Through the multiple adventures I have partaken in the comfort of my mind, very few have been deemed worthy to me to leave a mark and call me back to go through the journey all over again.

One of these journeys comes from the mind of Mary E. Pearson in *The Kiss of Deception*, first book in *The Remnant Chronicles* trilogy. The action starts immediately in the first chapter. Princess Arabela Celestine Idris Jezelia (though preferably Lia), First Daughter of the House of Morrighan, is to be married to the prince of another kingdom in the attempt to align the two, but there's a problem: she doesn't want to marry him, someone whom she's never met before and doesn't love. To solve this, she runs away to a distant village and starts a new life as a tavern maid, which only leads to a new issue.

The prince she was to marry sets out after her and vows to himself to not approach her, to merely see who she is, because after all, he didn't want to marry her, either, but ultimately ends up breaking that promise. Along with that, an assassin from a rival kingdom is sent to kill Lia. What makes this so intriguing to the reader is that you're not certain who is the prince and who is the assassin. What entails is a journey of romance, adventure, and – of course, as the title hints toward – deception.

There are multiple reasons why I decided to read this book for a second time, initially picking it up four years ago. Since I first read it, several scenes still vividly remained in my mind, unlike other books I've read. Pearson's writing is magical like that, implanting something into her readers' heads years after they read a single paragraph. So, reason one: the writing.

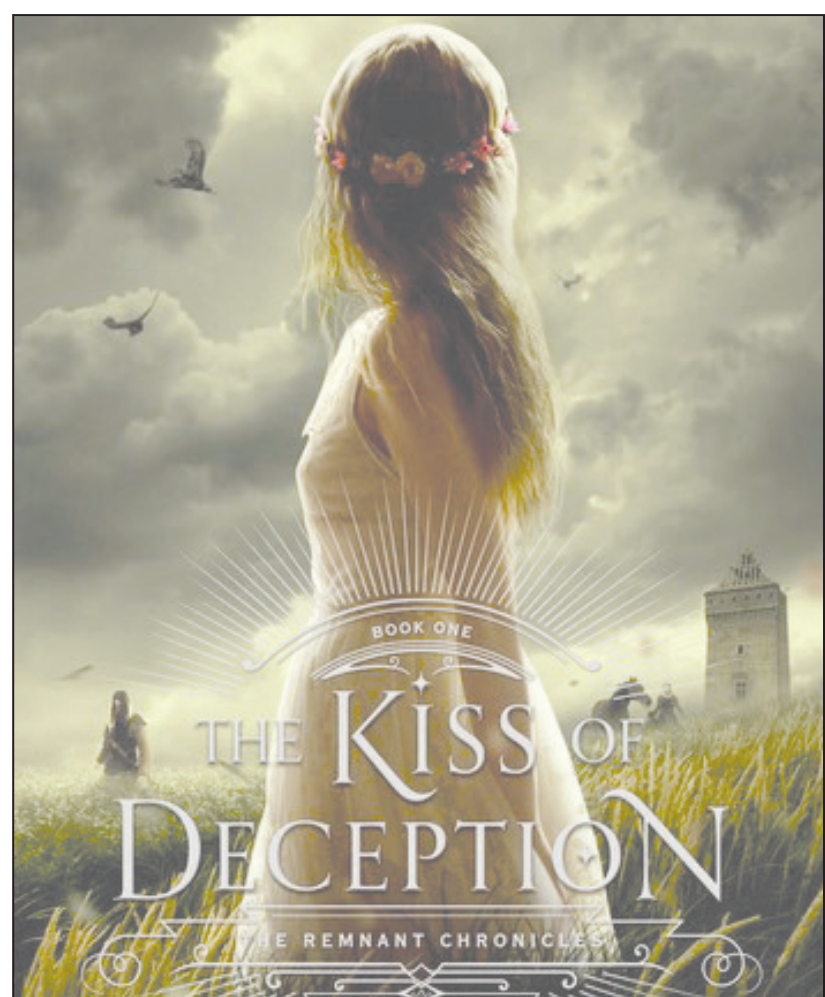
Reason two is the world itself. It's clear that Pearson spent countless hours thinking up of the history of *The Remnant Chronicles*. From the dull chill of Civica, to the lucid warmth of Terravin, to the endless wasteland of the Cam Lanteux, and with all the ruins the Ancients left

behind, it feels like it's just a distant continent on Earth.

The third reason is the characters. Lia is headstrong and determined to become who she wants to be, not some pretty pawn to send off to a strange kingdom to form an alliance. As I read more and more of her thoughts, it feels like I'm in her position myself, and the way Pearson switches the point of view between the prince and the assassin makes the reader wonder who's who until it's all finally revealed.

If you are searching for a new story to experience, one concerning love, ventures, and a fierce protagonist, *The Kiss of Deception* is for you. The story will keep your interest in all the characters and the world itself, making it hard to put the book down and keeping you thinking about it even after the covers are closed.

*The Heart of Betrayal* continues Lia's thrilling story, taking her to the heart of her enemy, and the trilogy concludes with *The Beauty of Darkness*. Pearson has recently begun a spin-off series taking place in the same world, the first book being *Dance of Thieves*. The sequel, *Vow of Thieves*, is expected to be published on August 6, 2019.



*The Kiss of Deception* by Mary E. Pearson holds a journey of romance, adventure, and just as the title suggests, deception. It is the first book in *The Remnant Chronicles* trilogy.

# Telling the truth about twins

By Mariana Valdez-Ortiz  
Staff Reporter

People start to ask a lot of questions when they realize I have a twin. The first thing people always say is, "Ohh really? That is so cool."



PHOTO COURTESY BPI MEDIA

My sister and I smile at the camera for our senior pictures pictures. We went to downtown Omaha to take our senior pictures together.

The next comment that comes out of their mouths is, "Do you like having a twin?" How am I supposed to answer all these questions especially to people I have not met before? Yes, it is cool having someone who knows everything about you. Yes, I love having a twin, but I also do not know any different. I have always had a twin, so I do not know how it

feels to not have a twin. Most of the time having someone who looks exactly the same as you is incredible, but there can be some bad moments.

I always have someone in the room with me who knows exactly what I am thinking. With one look my twin, Daniela, can know exactly what I am thinking and vice versa. We can talk without even saying a word. I do not know if it is a weird twin telepathic connection or just because we have always been together, but it is like we have our own language. My parents even can agree with this. They have always said since we were little, we would start talking in our own language.

Another question everyone asks is, "Are you close?" Of course, we are close. How can you not be close to someone you have known for your whole life and spend most of your time together? We always know what to say to each other. We know what each look means. We know what makes us happy, angry, sad. We can always find a way to make the other one smile if one of us is feeling down, but we also know how to make each other

angry. I think that is why in some occasions we can get into some ugly disagreements. Forgiving each other can be hard and easy at the same time. It is hard because we know what we said was on purpose, so we would get upset. It is easy because we just can't spend much time without talking to each other, and we instantly regret what we said.

Having someone who looks identical to you also comes with a lot of disadvantages. You must get through the same questions when you meet someone new. Twins cannot even prank their twin because they will immediately see through it. Finally, the most annoying of all is when people can't tell you apart. Not only do teachers and people who see you every day, but parents sometimes get it wrong too. I think the most annoying part of this is I don't think that we look that much alike. I know we look similar, but not similar enough for people to not know who is who.

Even though it can seem like there are many disadvantages, all the advantages cancel out the disadvantages, and I would never

give up being a twin. I get to have someone by my side for my whole life. I know I can count on my sister for anything. Not all twins have the same close relationship I have with my twin, but I believe there is no one who can know you as well as a twin can.

Knowing that much about someone can create a connection that can't be broken by anything. I have an older sister, and I have a great and close relationship with her. I also have friends I have known since I was three years old. My relationships with them just can't compete with the bond I have with my twin. Think about it, do you have someone in your life who knows every aspect of your life and who you are, someone who can understand you with just one look, someone who has spent all her life by your side? If you have someone like that in your life it is probably your twin, or you are extremely lucky because no one else in my life knows me like my twin knows me.

# Learning magic inspires wonder

By Elliott Thomazin  
Editor

"I'm gonna take a guess," I say as I take a card from the middle of the deck and place it onto the table, "I think this is the card that you are just thinking of." Five pairs of eyes light up as the card is revealed and smiles occupy the faces of everyone around. Everyone leans back in their chairs. They've entered the realm of wonder. The impossible has been made possible.

Every time I perform for others, I get to see the astonishment that magic evokes. Learning and performing magic has been one of the most transformative experiences that I have had in my life. Knowing even one simple magic trick has numerous benefits.

Magic makes you stand out in a crowd. The world has many athletes, executives, and actors, but it lacks magicians. The world of magic is a very tight-knit community. I have met many people over the course of my life from areas across the globe, but I've only met a handful of magicians. By my estimate, there are fewer than 10 working magicians in Nebraska right now. That's less than .0005% of the Nebraska population. Becoming well educated in the art of magic puts you in an exclusive group of people. This means that at any

social gathering you'll be the only one there who will be able to amaze everyone with fifty-two simple pieces of paper, a little practice, and a great presentation.

Creative thinking is improved by magic. If everyone knew what was happening during a simple piece of magic, there would be no wonder. Secrets make magic possible. It's a magician's job to come up with a method to make the impossible possible. They must come up with a way to locate a selected card or make the Statue of Liberty disappear- I'm looking at you David Copperfield. After spending hundreds of hours learning the ins and outs of magic, I've noticed that magic can permeate into my everyday thinking. When faced with a problem, the direct path may not always be the most ideal. Magic has opened new paths of thinking and problem solving for me. Exposure to magic theory helps engage thinking in new and unique ways. Some of the best tricks have methods that are even more impressive than the effect that they accomplish.

Magic improves social skills. When I first started pursuing magic, I was a very shy kid. I would perform for others with shaky hands and awkward silences. I'm a natural introvert, so social interactions were a challenge. Five years later and performing for a few hundred people no longer gives me anxiety. I've learned that many magicians

experience the same initial shyness. Over time, magic breaks down the social walls that keep people isolated. Magic must be shared with other people to be effective. Those interactions teach valuable lessons about communication, teamwork, and attentiveness. As I've grown in the knowledge of performing, I've realized that tricks are secondary to presentation. Magic presents the opportunity to come up with interesting stories to present the impossible to an audience. If someone is looking to bring their social skills to the next level, practicing and performing magic might be worth looking into.

I couldn't write about all the wonderful effects of learning magic without providing an opportunity to learn a trick. The QR code next to this article will take you to a video that I put on *YouTube* that will teach you how to do one of the first tricks I learned. I hope you find the video fascinating. Learn the trick, put in the practice, and share it with others. If you find yourself becoming fascinated with magic, there are plenty of resources out there for you. A great place to start is with *Vanishinginmagic.com*. Magic has changed my life in so many ways. The art of magic makes people unique, improves cognitive ability, and breaks down social barriers. Start adding wonder to your life and learn some magic.

1. Open up the appstore and download a QR reader. (The iPhone camera or Snapchat have a built in QR reader.)
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HALLIE PARKER/YEARBOOK STAFF

Magician Elliott Thomazin stands next to an audience member as he presents a trick during Columbus Days. Thomazin performs magic for events across Nebraska.



# Rock Bottom

**The Speech team qualifies for state, and Lauren Ostdiek places sixth. See page 8.**



**The senior boys face off in the Mr. Shamrock Pageant. To find out who won, see page 9.**

Scotus Central Catholic

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## Scotus stays strong through flood

**By Abe Perault**  
*Staff Reporter*

Thursday, March 14 will be cemented in many people's minds for years to come. The Great Nebraska Flood, as it is being deemed, affected hundreds of thousands of people across the state. The flood also had a substantial impact on many of Scotus' own faculty and students.

On Wednesday, March 13, the school's central office was looking like Grand Central Station as students who lived outside of town filed in to sign out. Administration had decided to send them home, as well as seven teachers after Highway 81 and 64 were already beginning to be shut down due to flooding.

Spanish teacher Gail Bomar and English teacher Melanie Mimick were excused early in order to reach their homes in the David City area.

"There was water over the road in two different places, but we were able to get through," Bomar said. "We were fortunate in Bellwood. We didn't have a lot of damage."

All the way on the opposite side of town, multiple students had to rush home to their houses in the north as Shell Creek began to fill up with water. Among these was junior Amber Buhman, who lives eight miles north of Columbus.

"After I got home on Wednesday, I didn't leave my house until Saturday night. Honestly, we felt really isolated since there was no way to get to Columbus or Norfolk," Buhman said. "I feel blessed that we were stuck at home, rather than having to evacuate our house."

Some students were not as lucky. Junior Sarah Bichlmeier, who left early on Wednesday to get to her house outside Monroe, was alone during the flood. The flood waters had blocked her parents from getting home. After the power had gone out, Bichlmeier received a call in the early morning from her dad telling her to take food, water, and propane and get to the second floor of the house.

"I worked on my Chemistry for two hours until the sun came up!" Bichlmeier said laughing.

After receiving a call from the fire department telling her that she would be evacuated by boat, Bichlmeier packed bags for herself and her parents. After a series of attempts to evacuate by boat were unsuccessful, the rescue was called off. Bichlmeier was left with multiple neighbors at an unfamiliar house for twelve hours. The waters were too dangerous to travel on, and it was too windy for a helicopter, but once the wind died down, a helicopter was able to pick them up, bringing them safely to Columbus.

"When they said they were calling off the rescue, I got a little scared. If I had been alone, I would have probably been a lot more

See FLOOD, Page 2

## Scotus strives for sainthood this Lent

**By Elliott Thomazin**  
*Editor*

"Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return." With these words, millions of Catholics receive a cross of ash on their forehead to mark the start of the Lenten season. The Ash Wednesday Mass serves as a reminder that time on Earth is limited,

so Catholics must make daily strides toward sainthood.

Lent is one of the five liturgical seasons in the Catholic Church. During Lent, Catholics work to add prayer, penance, and almsgiving to their lives. Scotus Campus Ministry is working to make this year's Lent a productive season for all students.

"[Lent] is mainly meant to help us all grow closer to God by helping

us relate to Jesus' sacrifice. Through our sacrifices, prayers, and giving to others were able to draw close to his sacrifice which brings fruit to our lives," Campus Ministry leader Kelly Koranda explained.

During the Lenten season, it has become tradition for Catholics to give something up. Scotus students have been taking on their form of personal penance by denying

daily pleasures such as social media or sweets from Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday. This denial can have powerful effects on the spiritual life.

"Abstaining from meat or the thing we decided to give up for lent proves to us that we have the ability to say no to our bodily urges. Most people struggle in their spiritual life because they haven't developed self-control to the point of being able to say no to various occasion and things that can lead them into sin," school chaplain Fr. Capadano said.

Campus Ministry is also encouraging the Scotus Community to partake in almsgiving by donating to the Nebraska flood fund drive. A collection jar has been placed in the office and religion classrooms to allow the students to donate to the drive. The money raised will go into an Archdiocesan wide fund. Pastors across the Archdiocese will be able to request funds to help individual parishioners and aid in community wide relief services.

Lent is also a time to increase prayer. Every Wednesday during Lent, the Scotus chapel is open for students to come worship through Eucharistic Adoration. This gives the opportunity for students to spend their study hall in prayer. Scotus parents are also needed to spend time with our Lord during this time. The sign-up sheet is found in the central office. Increasing prayer can easily be added into anyone's schedule.

"Honestly, the way that you start increasing prayer is the same

See LENT, Page 2



ANGIE RUSHER/JOURNALISM ADVISOR

**Freshman Roxanne Beshaler receives ashes from teacher Tom Salyard. Ash Wednesday was celebrated on March 6 at St. Bonaventure Church to kick off the Lenten season.**

## HOSA holds on for internationals

**By Cameron Johnston**  
*Staff Reporter*

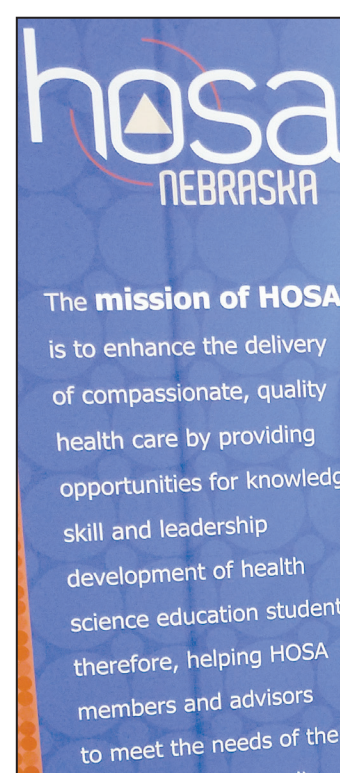
In the last three years a new organization has come to Scotus to get students involved and thinking about their future careers. HOSA stands for Health Occupation Students of America. HOSA, like other activities, competes at local and state levels; from Monday, March 18 to Tuesday, March 19, 2019, four Scotus HOSA members competed against others involved at the Baxter Arena in Omaha.

Those who entered in the State Leadership Conference competed by taking tests and matching their knowledge up with everyone else there to try their hand at qualifying for the international competition.

Senior Kendra Korger qualified for the international competition received a third-place medal with a poster presented in the category of extemporaneous health. Korger is also an officer assistant.

"By going to many different speakers this year, I saw how passionate someone can be about a job. Everyone I met through HOSA truly enjoyed their jobs, but they also explained how the health field is not easy work," Korger stated.

Senior Logan Bennett is in her second year involved with the HOSA activities at Scotus and holds the position of Service Chairperson.



**Seniors Kendra Korger, Maddie Sueper, Logan Bennett, and Mira Liebig pose for a picture at the State Leadership Conference on Tuesday, March 19th at Baxter Arena. All pictured, plus senior Kelsey Faust, qualified for the international competition in Orlando, Florida on June 19 through the 22.**

"[HOSA has influenced my choice to enter the health field] because when we go on hospital tours, we go to breakout sessions, which helps students narrow down their career choices," senior Logan Bennett said.

Bennett and senior Maddie Sueper competed as a team giving a speech and presenting a tri-fold

poster to health field professionals for the Health Career Display event. Bennett and Sueper received a third-place medal and a qualification for the international competition. Sueper is the 2018-2019 HOSA President.

"One thing I learned from HOSA is that dreams are achievable. Being able to talk to licensed

health professionals has helped me understand the long road it takes to become a medical professional is all worthwhile by being able to help others," Sueper said.

Seniors Kelsey Faust and Mira Liebig also qualified for the international competition. Faust was unable to be present at the medal

See HOSA, Page 2



PHOTO COURTESY JOAN LAHM



**HOSA**

award ceremony due to her involvement in track and field.

"HOSA has helped me make the decision to enter the health field after high school. It has given me the opportunity to learn more about different careers and narrow my choices down to discover what I want to do," Faust said.

Faust received a first-place medal in her category of dental science and is the HOSA Vice-President.

"Yes [I was pleased with my performance at SLC]! Scotus' HOSA program is still pretty new, and this is only our second time going to the State Leadership Conference, so I didn't know what to expect for my category, but everything went smoothly, and I was proud of the poster I made," Korger said.

Senior Mira Liebig has been a part of HOSA from the beginning starting her sophomore year. She was voted Secretary in her senior

year.

"I learned that there are so many opportunities in the medical field and there is a need for mental health professionals," Liebig stated.

These five senior girls have the opportunity to represent their school, state, and country at the international competition in Orlando, Florida on June 19th through the 22nd. HOSA is in their third year at Scotus but has sent seven people to the international competition so far.

**LENT**

way that you start increasing anything: you schedule it in for an amount of time that you think you're capable of handling," Capadano said. "If you've never ran before, you don't start by running for an hour. You start by running for ten minutes. If you can run a mile under ten minutes, then you can push it to two miles. The same is true with prayer. If you can do 10 minutes of prayer without distractions, then move to 20 minutes, then 30, and so on."

Students also had the opportunity to go to the sacrament of reconciliation on March 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. Receiving forgiveness is a great way to enter Easter with a clean heart.

"My hope for the student body is that people will take the time to think about what will help them grow and try to be committed to those things," Koranda said. "When you fall, seek God because that's the whole point so that we remember our dependence on him."

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**FLOOD**

scared," Bichlmeier said.

The Duncan area was also affected. Bailey Lehr, whose family owns T-Bone's truck stop which is right off Highway 81, was impacted greatly. The truck stop was underwater by Friday, the water inside the building reached five feet high including a one-foot layer of mud. T-Bone's was not the family's only building impacted. Two storage buildings, a house they rent out, and their own house were all flooded to some extent. The flood also took 300 of the family's cows. On top off all of that, the Lehr's had to evacuate.

"It was scary. I was

at my house at 5:00 A.M. grabbing important stuff and making sure the animals were as safe as we could get them. A few days later, we had to kayak to our house to check the animals," Lehr explained.

Many other Scotus families were affected by the flood from Schuyler all the way to Lake Oconee and Humphrey as well. Scotus has already started to help the aid relief through Campus Ministry's Lenten donations. They began by taking water, bleach and other supplies and giving out to others. The central office will continue to receive money donations until the end of Lent.



PHOTO COURTESY BAILEY LEHR

**(left) A car is seen underwater from the second floor of the Lehr's rental house. The renters had to be evacuated by helicopter. (right) Mud and products cover the floor of T-bone's truck stop. The inside of the highly visited truck stop has to be completely redone because of flooding.**

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# School adopts new vaping rules



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In recent years at Scotus, electronic cigarettes have become an issue in bathrooms. As of Monday, April 8th new building policies will come into effect to combat this problem.

By Cameron Johnston  
Staff Reporter

With the technological advancements of nearly everything in the world, the drug industry is never far behind. Many companies have taken stock in the idea that using electronic cigarettes is safer than the all-natural tobacco and nicotine blend. These new companies are banking that teens will buy into the idea that vaping is safer and look to their products instead of the known dangers of cigarettes. Vaping is similar to smoking, but instead of burning tobacco leaves, the user heats up flavored juices mixed with nicotine and other harmful chemicals and they inhale the vapor produced. The nicotine is then absorbed into the blood stream and the user experiences a momen-

tary feeling of calmness and relaxation. While students are taught of the dangers of these products in their health and physical education classes, some still choose to risk their health and well-being for a quick buzz. The bathrooms have become a hotspot for underage and illegal vaping. "I have noticed a fruity smell lingering in the bathroom for the last couple years, but never thought anything about it. Faculty and I have decided to install nicotine detectors in all bathrooms, men and women's," head custodian Joe Schoenfelder said. Similar to smoke detectors, the nicotine detectors alert faculty to even the smallest traces of nicotine in the air instead of smoke. Students have taken to the bathroom stalls to satisfy their addictive behaviors. "Students have been

misusing the privacy of bathroom stalls for illegal activities, but teachers also use those facilities and have learned the distinct sound that an electronic cigarette makes," teacher Patrick Brockhaus said. Multiple students have been caught using these devices on school property and have been dealt with swiftly and appropriately. "Mr. Lahm and I have decided to close all but 1st floor's bathrooms to crack down on this behavior. In addition to this, a teacher will be present during passing periods to supervise that the facilities are being used appropriately," president Jeff Ohnoutka said. New policies are being put in place that will make the consequences of using an e-cigarette on campus much more severe. The first offense will result in the notification of the parents and

one week of Out of School Suspension. The second and final offense will result in expulsion of the student immediately. After the confiscation of over twenty electronic cigarettes during the 2018-2019 school year, faculty looked for new ways to deter students from engaging in this activity. The only logical solution conjured up was to close all but one bathroom and to have it supervised at all times. During the Drug Awareness Presentation on March 12th, parents were informed about the epidemic that has plagued Scotus restroom and locker room facilities for years. Parents agreed with the faculty and school board's action to close restrooms. As of Monday, April 8th the new building policies take effect along with the new repercussions.

# New technology transforms Scotus

By Julia Salerno  
Staff Reporter

Every student knows the struggle of pulling out a new Lenovo, signing in, and sitting there and waiting at least 5 minutes to get logged on. Students will no longer have to deal with that problem anymore.

With the rise of technology filling the halls of schools all across the country, there will be many new technological updates coming fall 2019 to Scotus Central Catholic.

President Jeff Ohnoutka said, "I am very excited to see all of the technological updates coming to our school. We are going to be open to many new opportunities because of this."

One main upgrade is that each student will get his or her own Lenovo that they get to take home every day. Thanks to fundraising and donations, the school was able to purchase enough so that every student has one.

"We also hope that students can have the opportunity to take some online classes that are not offered at our school through this. Having the option of different classes is a huge plus of this upgrade," Ohnoutka said.

Students will be respon-

sible to charge their laptop every night and will be expected to bring them to every class with them. Teachers are going to be encouraged to and will now be able to assign more homework online and administer tests online as well.

Integrationist Angie Rusher said, "These laptops are going to be awesome! It is going to be much faster and easier for students to use them since they will each have their own."

Previously, teachers would have to reserve the media center to allow their classes to use computers, then there were Lenovos in every classroom, but now students will be able to access the internet easier and quicker. They will also be able to do more online activities.

Students will be fined throughout the school year if any damage happens to their laptops, but each student will get a protective case along with their laptop so that they

can be somewhat protected. Another upgrade coming to the school is that the library will be going almost all electronic. With each student having their own Lenovo laptop, they will each be able to access the collection of books through an internet portal that contains over 2,000 books. These books can be used for recreational reading or informational reading for research.

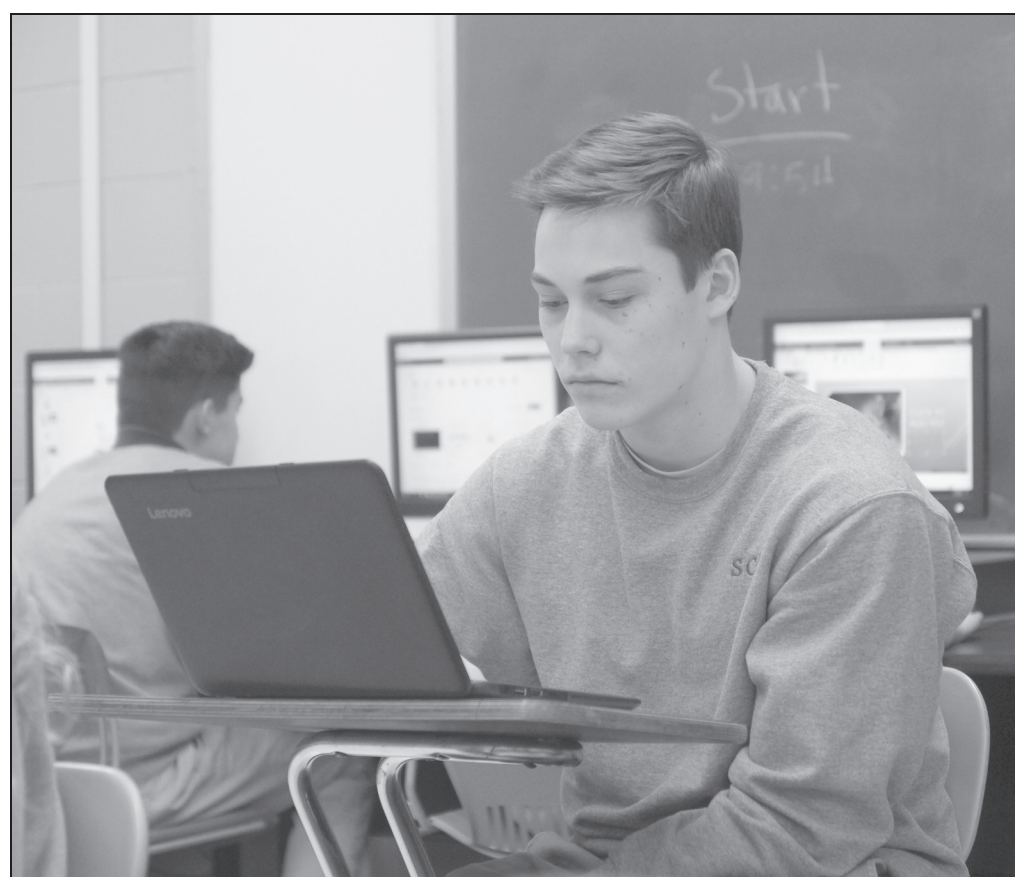
The library will continue to keep some books such as Bibles, dictionaries, and encyclopedias, but other than that, it will all be digital.

Librarian Cathy Podliska said, "I have taken a lot of time putting all of our books into the electronic system so that it is easy for students to access whatever they want whenever they want. I think it will be a great upgrade that the students will really appreciate."

With the media center going electronic, students will no longer get media center passes that allow them to go to the media center during study halls. Students will only be allowed to go down if they need to take an AR test

**"The library will continue to keep some books such as Bibles, dictionaries, and encyclopedias, but other than that, it will all be digital."**

~Julia Salerno



JULIA SALERNO/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Sophomore Bryce Foreman uses a Lenovo during study hall. Next year each student will receive his/her own Lenovo to use during the school day.

or need help from librarian Cathy Podliska. The final upgrade for the school is that it will go completely paperless. No more 50-page chemistry packets from Mrs. Dusel or getting five separate pieces of paper a day from Mr. Salyard. Students will no longer get textbooks or have any work-

sheets on paper. The students will have all their textbooks electronically on their laptops and will have to do all assignments online. "We are not only going to help the Earth by cutting out paper, but we are also going to save money," Rusher said. Technology is constantly

evolving, and being a private school, the school does not have the same funding as other public schools to have the same technology as them. Scotus will continue to upgrade as much as they can to stay up to date with the best technology they can have.

# Cafeteria quits government funding



ANGIE RUSHER/JOURNALISM ADVISOR

The Junior boys enjoy their lunch during 6th period. The school lunches will be offering more choices including restaurant catering next year.

By Jaycee Ternus  
Staff Reporter

As sixth period rolls around, stomachs begin to growl, as everyone looks forward to lunch. Depending on if a sack lunch is brought or a school lunch is purchased, the lunch experience can leave

stomachs full or empty. This year the Scotus lunch program has had many changes. The cafeteria has allowed sack lunches for students which many students take advantage of in place of the daily lunch. Also, the cafeteria has increased the price of a single serving of lunch. In the coming school

year, the cafeteria agreed to make some big changes to the lunches. They have quit the government funding in lunches and are going back to homemade Scotus Lunches. Also, every Friday the school will be catered by a different restaurant in Columbus. Because of changes in the main lunch, students will not be

able to take a sack lunch and the price for a single lunch will not change. "This year's lunches have changed compared to the lunches in the past. This year we have allowed students to bring sack lunches which I think helped students feel like they have more options for lunch," head cook Holli Bettenhausen said. "However, I think that bringing lunches was a bit of a hassle for students this year. I am excited to quit the gov-

ernment funding lunches and going back to the homemade Scotus lunches." These lunches will all be homemade from the main entrance to the desserts. The most exciting part is that they are bringing back daily desserts. "I am excited to bring back the old Scotus lunches. Going back to the old ways is

going to be fun and refreshing for our cooks. Even though the sack lunches are going to be gone, I think the kids will enjoy the new lunches more," Bettenhausen said. Restaurants like Pizza Ranch, Runza, and Pizza Hut will be sponsoring Scotus lunches and donating their food on Fridays. The Restaurants want to show their healthy food options and show how students need a full meal

to fuel their day. "Being sponsored by restaurants in Columbus every Friday will be something new to Scotus lunches. We hope by serving these meals to our kids they will learn how to make healthy decisions when going out to eat," account manager Shelly Adams said.

The lunches on Friday will be discounted to half of the price of a regular meal at school. The restaurants are starting this program, so they will be donating the meals. All the Catholic schools in Columbus will be adhering to these lunch changes. "As the students are enjoying these healthy homemade meals, they can learn in the future to stick to a healthy diet," Adams said. To update the cafeteria, the school will be buying some new baking supplies in order to make some new lunches. They will be buying two air fryers to get the perfect crispy taste without the grease and oil. "Over the years I have seen the kids really enjoy fried French fries as a side for lunch. With the calories that oil fryers bring we had to switch to baking them," Bettenhausen said. "Next year the French fries will be fried with the new air fryers. I think this will be such a healthier option for the new meals."

**"In the coming school year, the cafeteria agreed to make some big changes to the lunches."**

~Jaycee Ternus



# Scotus extends school schedule

By Brea Lassek  
Staff Reporter

The halls of Scotus will be filled even longer next school year as a new schedule will be in effect. Scotus president Jeff Ohnoutka plans to introduce a ten-period day in hopes of allowing students the opportunity to take more classes. He believes nine periods a day has limited students' learning experiences.

"120 students have signed up for a STEAM class next school year. With our growing technology resources, we hope to increase that number," Ohnoutka explained. "Students who were not able to originally fit an elective into their schedule now can. This is huge for our school."

During the 2018-2019 school year, six new electives were added: Computer Aided

Design, Computer Science, STEAM, Graphic Design, and Theology and Art. The STEAM program also offers different levels of difficulty, creating even more classes.

"This year, I had to choose between taking STEAM or Band. I have been in Band since 5<sup>th</sup> grade, so I could not bring myself to give it up. I wish I could have taken both because all of the STEAM students always talk about what they create in class," sophomore Emily Ferguson admitted.

The notion was approved by the Scotus School Board at their latest meeting on March 14<sup>th</sup>. The school board's consent was given on a few conditions. To compensate the extra time needed, Ohnoutka agreed to remove snack break as well as start at 8 a.m. and end at 3:55 p.m. These changes ensure all ten periods remain 41 minutes long. Afterschool

practices would begin accordingly around 4:15 p.m.

"Due to the schedule being changed, our practices will have to go longer. We won't even be out of school yet by the time our volleyball girls have usually been in the gym for warmups. Our athletes will have to be even more mentally tough to still work hard after a longer day," volleyball and track coach Janet Tooley remarked.

The time alterations are not the only obstacles in the future. Scotus guidance counselor Pam Weir has her work cut out for her as well. Class registrations were filled out earlier this spring intended for a nine-period day. Weir aims to preserve the classes each student requested for the original schedule while adding their selected alternatives for the tenth period.

"Rearranging every student's schedule will be hectic, but Mrs. Moody has

## New Schedule

<u>1) 8:00-8:41</u>	<u>6) 11:45-12:55</u>
<u>2) 8:45-9:26</u>	<u>7) 12:59-1:40</u>
<u>3) 9:30-10:11</u>	<u>8) 1:44-2:25</u>
<u>4) 10:15-10:56</u>	<u>9) 2:29-3:10</u>
<u>5) 11:00-11:41</u>	<u>10) 3:14-3:55</u>

agreed to aid in the process," Weir said. "We both feel this change will add more depth to a student's resume."

Although the staff is embracing the ten-period day, Ohnoutka understands

the schedule modification has potential to cause an uproar.

"I am aware the feedback of this change will not all be positive, but I know as a school community, we can adapt," Ohnoutka acknowl-

edged. "I have no doubt our students will rise to the challenge and continue to work hard. That is the Scotus Way: pursuing excellence in new situations."

# AlumNUN arrives at Scotus

By Kate Smith  
Staff Reporter

As Scotus says farewell to Father Capadano, Scotus

also welcomes new changes. School Chaplain Father Capadano has been here for five years and is now being moved to either Wayne, Nebraska, or a parish in

Omaha. There will be no one replacing the school chaplain position in the upcoming school year because of the priest shortage in the Omaha Diocese.

"The past five years have been fun, and I'll never forget the crazy memories of my students and the staff, but I'm ready to move on to the next chapter of my ministry," Capadano said.

Although a priest can't necessarily be in the school because of the priest shortage, Scotus has hired Sister Gabby Middendorf to be the school nun. Middendorf graduated from Scotus in 2016 and will leave the School Sisters of Christ the King, which is in Lincoln, Nebraska, this spring just in time to be a full-time school nun.

"I have been praying about this a lot and I believe God is calling me back to Columbus. It will be really nice being back in my home town and giving back to Scotus," Middendorf commented.

With Sister Middendorf in the building, she will oversee campus ministry and help organize retreats. Because there will be no priest attending the retreats anymore, president Jeff Ohnoutka made the executive decision they will now only be a privilege for the junior and senior

classes.

"We decided to keep the senior retreat because it's something the kids look forward to, and the junior class retreat will officially be a class service project every year," Ohnoutka stated.

Since Sister Middendorf obviously can't host Mass, the first change that will be made is there will not be an everyday Mass in the chapel. Students who must attend daily Mass as part of their grade in their theology classes will have to attend the 6:30 A.M. daily Mass held at Saint Bonaventure.

"It's only 45 minutes earlier than the Scotus morning Mass, and I think our students will appreciate having more time before school starts," theology teacher Kelly Koranda commented.

Along with Mass being cut from the everyday routine of Scotus, the chapel will be renovated to a hangout room for the Scotus senior class which was its original purpose until it was changed into the chapel in 1980. Mr. Ohnoutka plans to start reconstruction of the chapel in

the summer so it's ready for 2020's senior class.

"There will be a supervisor, of course, but I think this could be a great, new senior privilege for our students," Ohnoutka said.

The last change that will be made is the Eucharistic Adoration and Faith Rally that was held at the end of Catholic Schools Week this year will go back to being a movie afternoon for the students. With all the priests busy at the grade school parishes, Scotus would not be able to host adoration.

"It was a great idea but hosting it in the future is just unrealistic. The theology staff has some other ideas in the works to compensate, however," Koranda added.

Father Capadano has left a major impact on Scotus students and the Catholic community and Scotus wishes him the best of luck in his next chapter.

"I will continue to keep Scotus in my prayers, and I look forward to hearing all the great things to come. GO ROCKS!" Capadano concluded.



KELLY KAMRATH/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF '15

Sister Gabby Middendorf prepares to have her own classroom by giving a presentation in front of a mock classroom. Middendorf graduated from Scotus in 2016 and will return for the 2019/2020 school year.

# Ericson says goodbye to teaching

By Mariana Valdez-Ortiz  
Staff Reporter

Selling their house, car, and most of their personal belongings to buy a one-way ticket to Europe is not something many people decide to do. This is exactly what Clyde Ericson will be doing after this school year ends. He is going to leave everything behind to undertake his dream journey.

Art teacher Clyde Ericson has decided to leave his job as a teacher at Scotus to travel the world instead. Ericson has been teaching at Scotus for two years, but now has discovered that his true calling is traveling. He has been thinking about traveling the world since the beginning of this year.

"I am really excited to start this new chapter in my life. I have always had the desire to travel, and this year I finally decided to pursue that dream," Ericson said.

Ericson first started to think about doing this when he was offered to lead the Europe trip. For the first ten days of his adventure, he

will be going to Barcelona, Provence, Florence, and Rome. This will be his first time going to Europe.

"I am looking forward to visiting Europe. I think that Provence is the place that is really going to surprise me," Ericson added.

The only personal items he is taking with him other than clothes are his art supplies. To earn money, he

plans on selling paintings and drawings to tourists and other travelers that he might encounter on his travels. He also plans on starting a blog. He wants to have a platform that will allow him to share his adventures and the knowledge he picks up along the way.

"Oh brother, I hope this works because if it does not, I will have to move back in with my parents, and I really do not want to do that," Ericson added.

Ericson is no stranger to

traveling. For the last couple of years, he has gone on various mission trips. Volunteering has given him the chance to travel to Alaska and Haiti.

"Volunteering is something that I hope I can do in every new country I visit," Ericson added.

Ericson's plan is to go on a road trip all throughout Europe. He will spend two months in Europe trying to

explore as many countries as he can. After those two months in Europe end, he will move onto Asia. His journey in South Asia will begin in India.

"The number one thing I want to experience are the different cultures in each country. It has always fascinated me how culture can change so much depending on which country you are in," Ericson said.

To prepare for his travels, Ericson is learning the basics of two other

*"Oh brother, I hope this works because if it does not, I will have to move back in with my parents, and I really do not want to do that."*

~Clyde Ericson



MARIANA VALDEZ-ORTIZ/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Art teacher Clyde Ericson gets everyone ready for the first One Act performance. Ericson will be leaving his job at Scotus at the end of this school year to travel the world.

languages. He is learning the basics of French and Chinese. Ericson already knows enough Spanish to have a conversation.

"Learning other languages has been difficult, but I want to learn as much as possible about each culture, and knowing the language will make it much easier,"

Ericson said.

Ericson has no idea when his travels will end, or even if he will come back to the United States. He hopes to spend at least one year abroad. After months and months of traveling, he might decide to settle down in a country in Europe.

"Deciding to do this

has been one of the most important decisions I have had to make. I am sure there are going to be some difficulties along the way, but I can't wait to see all the new experiences I will have and the memories I will make," Ericson concluded.



# Zarubas and Pelans elevate Scotus

By Liza Zaruba  
Staff Reporter

For many years now, Scotus Central Catholic has been able to benefit from the lofty donations made by generous benefactors. Just last year, for example, Chuck Hagel's event drew in enough money to fund a new state of the art STEAM lab for Scotus students. It is these people who keep Scotus continuously growing to support all its students' needs, and known or unknown, these people make a big impact on the Scotus community.

The Zaruba and Pelan families are recognized for being long-time supporters of Scotus Central Catholic. They send their children to attend Scotus, and they have participated in a number of different committees and boards for Scotus ranging from the school board to the Gala committee to the organization of post prom. Their most impactful support, though, comes in a much more tangible form: donations.

"It is comforting knowing that there are always supporters there to help Scotus in whatever needs it may have," president Jeff Ohnoutka said. "It is that kind of backing that keeps Scotus the excellent place it is."

This past year, Scotus

was able to add a nearly brand-new charter bus to its garage of school vehicles. The Scotus staff claimed there was a separate savings account that had been set aside in hopes of an affordable charter bus like this one becoming available, but unsurprisingly, no one bought into it – literally. Rumors began to circulate that the Pelan and Zaruba families were the ones funding the bus this entire time, and like most rumors, it turned out to be true.

"Buying a charter bus for the school has been on my radar for a while now. I wanted to find something the school truly needed and give the kids, including my own, a chance to experience a sort of luxury that they would not have otherwise been able to enjoy being at a private school," Dale Zaruba explained.

Just when no one thought it could be topped, the Zaruba and Pelan family announced they are ready for their next big project: an elevator for the school!

"Because I am an occupational therapist at Wiggles and Giggles here in Columbus, my entire day revolves around helping kids with disabilities," Jill Zaruba said. "An elevator at Scotus would open up a whole new world of possibilities for these kids. Attending Scotus can finally be a reality for them."

Architects have recently been surveying the school looking to begin the first drafts of the exciting project. The timeline of the new elevator is still unknown, but if all goes well, the hope is that it will be installed and ready to go by the beginning of the next school year.

"Sponsoring the elevator was the least we could do for Scotus considering all of the opportunities and education Scotus has provided for our kids," Jay Pelan explained.

Given Scotus' complicated layout, the engineering of the elevator will be no easy feat. Engineers are working on designing a prototype that will allow for students to be able to reach the three different floors of Scotus and still go to the fourth floor, or the fine arts floor, that is on the north side of the school.

"It is definitely a little bit of an engineering nightmare," Ohnoutka admitted. "When all of the different flights of stairs and platforms are taken into consideration, suddenly Scotus has about nine different levels. I would like to assure everyone, though. It is nothing we cannot handle."

Most of the elevator's design is being left up to the architects, but due to Pelan's and Zaruba's generous donation, they were allowed some input when it came to the actual look of the elevator itself.

"Jill and I wanted the

elevator to be white with marble floors and mirrors on the ceiling for a classy look; however, Jay and Dale thought that a green elevator would bring out some school spirit. The four of us talked it over for a while and came up with a compromise," Tina Pelan revealed. "We are going with my and Jill's idea."

Don't be fooled, though. Dale and Jay's mark will still be made. They were given the difficult task of choosing the elevator music.

"Careful thought went into picking the elevator music. Dale and I deliberated for a while and decided the only music that truly encapsulated the spirit of Scotus was Christian heavy metal. We felt it really drove home what Scotus was all about: intensity, passion, and, most importantly, God," Jay Pelan said.

All in all, the new elevator will make a great addition to Scotus as it continues to evolve with the times, and none of this would be possible if it were not for the extremely generous donations the Zaruba and Pelan families have provided.

"On behalf of the entire Scotus community, I would just like to say thank you to the Zaruba and Pelan families," Ohnoutka stated. "The impact this new elevator will have on the students will be seen for many years to come."



PHOTO COURTESY JILL ZARUBA

Dr. Dale and Jill Zaruba pose for a photo while attending a ribbon cutting ceremony in honor of the elevator they, along with Jay and Tina Pelan, donated to Scotus. The elevator will be installed and functioning by the beginning of the school year next fall.

# Teacher tries *The Bachelor* to find love

By Chloe Odbert  
Staff Reporter

As a single woman living in Columbus, Nebraska, English teacher Bree Ackermann has had trouble finding love in her new tight knit community. Living as a hopeless romantic, Ackermann decided that it was time to go outside of her comfort zone and broaden her horizons. In order to venture out and find love, Ackermann recently applied and was cast for season 23 of the ABC television show *The Bachelor*.

The idea of online or "blind" dating has always scared Ackermann as she heard horror stories and was told of other people's horrible experiences. Finally, however, she had to bite the bullet because it was time to settle down and find the man of her dreams.

"I used to think that *The Bachelor* was just a television show full of drama and was all fake, but once I got to the age I am and was still searching for love, it became more of an opportunity," Ackermann said.

Ackermann has not applied or auditioned for a reality TV or radio show before so the idea of applying for *The Bachelor* came along

with getting many new experiences under her belt.

"I was really nervous the day I sent in my application," Ackermann said. "But the idea of this jump and this step for my life in the right direction excited me."

Along with the nerves and anxiety about being cast for the show, Ackermann's emotions were accompanied with the fear of what her family would think.

"I prayed and reflected about it for a long time. I am the oldest of five children in my family and one of my biggest fears is setting a poor example for my younger siblings," Ackermann stated. Specifically, she was concerned for her little sister, twelve-year-old Elle Ackermann, and how she would react when she shared the news that she was cast to be on the next season.

"As a big sister, and the only sister to Elle, I strive to be the best I can be and to set the best example I can for her," Ackermann expressed. "With all the evil around us in the world today, I just want to find true happiness. Elle has been a huge part of my life, and I would do anything to protect her from being hurt especially by a broken heart. I never want to set a poor example of love for her."

When Ackermann finally worked up the courage to disclose the fact that she had applied to *The Bachelor* to her family, they supported her in her decision and are already making wedding plans.

Although the idea of being on TV and hopefully finding love at the same time seems thrilling and exciting, becoming a contestant on *The Bachelor* holds a lot of commitment and responsibility.

"I am not sure if I was more nervous to hear back whether or not I would be cast or if I was more nervous to tell Mr. Ohnoutka that I would have to resign," Ackermann said.

Along with the decision to apply, with her recent acceptance onto the show, Ackermann has now made the decision to step down from her position as an English teacher to find love.

"It was a really hard choice, honestly, I love my kids. This is my first year here at Scotus and the thought of saying goodbye before I have barely said hello makes me so sad," Ackermann expressed.

President Jeff Ohnoutka was understanding and supportive when Ackermann confided in him that she would be leaving.

"She has been a great



PHOTO COURTESY BREE ACKERMANN

English teacher Bree Ackermann stands next to fellow contestants in the upcoming season of *The Bachelor*. The next season of the show premieres January 2020.

addition to the English department here at Scotus. Not only do we love and appreciate her but so did all the students. When she came into my office, I could tell that whatever she was going to say next was a big deal to her by the look in her eye," Ohnoutka said.

One of the requirements when applying for the show is that the applicant must be committed to traveling with the show and being away from home for months at a time. Ackermann reluctantly explained this to Ohnoutka recently when she got the news that she was being cast for the next season of the program.

"You know, here at

Scotus we always preach excellence. Whether it is in the classroom, on the court, or out in the community, we want everyone within the walls of our building to strive to reach that peak of excellence," Ohnoutka stated. "Because of that constant pull toward excellence, I knew that our English department couldn't suffer such a great loss permanently. We as a collective administration decided to give Ms. Ackermann more of a leave than a permanent termination."

With that, Ohnoutka concluded that no matter how far she gets in the show she will always have a job doing what she does best, enlightening Scotus students when she is

ready to focus completely on her career.

For all of you who spend your Monday nights on the couch binge watching either *The Bachelor* or *The Bachelorette*, keep an eye out for a familiar face on season 23 airing in January of 2020.

"I don't know how the students are going to react to seeing their English teacher on *The Bachelor*, but as for myself, I am really excited to begin this next chapter and journey for myself. I am confident in my students. They are going to rock and roll in their academics without me until I return hopefully with an engagement ring," Ackermann concluded.



TARA KAMRATH/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF



# Sports

## Soccer scores despite setbacks

By Liza Zaruba  
Staff Reporter

Spring has sprung, and with it, the girls' soccer team is back on the field for a fresh season. Last year, the girls lost first round at state to Elkhorn, the eventual state champions. Now, they are ready to take on the season with a new team and earn a spot in the state tournament.

The girls' soccer team this year consists of five seniors, two juniors, four sophomores, and five freshmen rounding out a total of sixteen girls. Numbers are down compared to years past, but the girls are confident about the team members they do have.

"We all get along really well, and even though we don't have many players, it's better to have people who want to play rather than people that dread coming to practice every day," sophomore Kamryn Chohan said. The lack of girls can sometimes be difficult when

trying to run a drill or scrimmage during practice, but it also allows the girls a chance at more touches and reps with the ball as well as the opportunity to connect with every team member giving them a more unified team.

"I think one of the best parts [about soccer] is that we are really close, and you get to become really close with everyone no matter the grade," senior Emily Stutzman said.

A limited number of girls is not the only challenge the soccer team has faced so far this season. The weather has been an uphill battle for every sport, and the soccer team has definitely felt the impact, as well.

"The biggest challenge we have faced is the weather," senior Emma Brandt explained. "We only got outside to practice twice before our first game, and there is only so much you can do inside. We just try to stay positive and bring as much enthusiasm as possible."

Despite the challenges,

the girls are focused on one goal this year: making it to state. The girls' soccer team has made it to state the past ten years, and they are hopeful this year will be no different.

"I am shooting for state and to see everyone improve and get more comfortable on the field. As long as we connect as a team, I believe we can make it far," senior Courtney Kosch stated.

The girls are off toward that goal with their first game against Lakeview on Tuesday, March 19. The soccer team smashed Lakeview with a 7-3 win.

"For the first game of the season, I think it went pretty well!" senior Julia Salerno said. "We definitely have plenty of room for improvement, but it was great to actually be able to play and not only practice. It was also great watching some of the underclassmen step up to play."

The leading scorer for the game was junior Kenzie Brandenburg with four goals

followed by seniors Abbie Zoucha, Kosch, and Salerno all with one goal.

"[The first game] went really well for only practicing twice outside. We showed that we are able to play as a team but also found areas we need to work on," Brandt

explained.

The soccer team beat Blair last Thursday 4-2, which continues their undefeated season. The girls move on to an away game today against the Lincoln Lutheran Warriors.

"The best part about

being on the soccer team this year is the bond we will grow with each other because we don't have a huge team," senior Abbie Zoucha said. "We may be a smaller team, but we all get along so well and all want to be playing the game."



RYLIE OLSON/YEARBOOK STAFF

Senior Courtney Kosch controls the ball as she looks down the field during the soccer game on Monday, March 25th. The Shamrocks started their season with wins against Lakeview and Omaha Concordia.

## Boys soccer soars through season openers



JULIA SALERNO/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Senior Prestyn Engel steps to intercept the ball from his opponent at their game against Lakeview Tuesday, March 19th. The Shamrocks have played 5 games this season already, only losing one.

By Julia Salerno  
Staff Reporter

From balls hitting the bleachers and players trying to dribble on a gym floor, soccer practice indoors is not the ideal way that the Shamrock soccer team wanted to start their 2019 season. The boys' soccer team had to practice inside for almost the first three weeks of the sea-

son due to constant freezing temperatures and extreme amounts of snow.

There are twenty-three players on the team this year freshmen through seniors. Some key players for the Shamrocks are senior team captains Braden Labenz, Zack Beiermann, and Carter Thorson.

Head Coach PJ Miller said, "These guys bring leadership to this year's team,

one of the reasons they were chosen team captains."

"Other key players are juniors Henry Hernandez, Tyler Vaught, and Conner Wiehn. Hernandez and Vaught have lots of experience as they both have been playing in varsity games since their freshman year, and Wiehn is the starting goalie for the second year in a row," Miller said.

The Shamrocks are

coming into this season with higher expectations than how last year ended.

Senior defender Zack Beiermann said, "My expectation for this year is to try and win more games than last year and learn from each game and get better."

As much as changes for this year, the Shamrocks are going to mainly keep things the same besides some position changes.

"The major difference this year is this team is more experienced than last year. A lot of the guys didn't have much varsity time up until last year and now they understand what it takes," Miller said.

The Shamrocks faced the Lakeview Vikings in their season opener on Tuesday, March 19<sup>th</sup>. Due to previous weather and not wanting to ruin the fields, they played at the Central Community College turf soccer field. With much offensive success, the Shamrocks defeated the Vikings 8-0.

"[The game against Lakeview went] pretty well.

You can't complain with an 8-0 win. We did get a chance to finally play and found places we need to work on," Labenz said.

The goals for the Shamrocks were supplied first by Dimas and then followed by Hernandez. Not long after, Dimas scored off a corner kick assisted by Christensen, and Labenz also got his first goal in before the end of the first half. The second half brought in goals from Labenz, Antonio Chavez, Vaught, and Tommy Yu.

"It's great to start the season with a win. We still have a lot to progress on and build as this is not the best competition we will be going against in the future," Hernandez said.

On March 23<sup>rd</sup>, the Shamrocks traveled to Omaha to play in a tournament hosted by the Creighton Prep boys' soccer team. They played the Creighton Prep Blue jays in their first match and were defeated 4-1. Labenz was the only one to be able to put the ball in the back of the net for the

Shamrocks.

In their second game of the tournament, the Shamrocks faced Lincoln North Star. A second goal of the day from Labenz and a free kick from Matthew Dolezal brought the Shamrocks to victory. They defeated the Navigators 2-1 to place 3<sup>rd</sup> in the tournament.

Following the tournament, the Shamrocks played Omaha Concordia on Monday, March 25<sup>th</sup>. They defeated the Crusaders with a mercy rule of 10-0, which ended the game early. Goals in that match were scored by Chance Bailey, Inri Dimas, C. Thorson (2), Hernandez, Kade Weise, Yu, Ross Thorson, Prestyn Engel, and Devon Borchers.

"The Omaha Concordia game was beneficial because it gave the younger players valuable varsity playing time. The underclassmen were able to go out and have fun and get better while they had a whole sideline full of coaches cheering them on and helping them where they needed help," Labenz said.

## Track starts off season strong

By Jaycee Ternus  
Staff Reporter

As the days begin to warm up the track team gets out to practice for another successful season.

This year there are 39 students out for track. Their first varsity meet was March 19, at Nebraska Wesleyan at the indoor track field. Freshman Grace Mustard got 1st at Wesleyan and got the new 55 Hurdles Indoor School Record of 8.84.

"I love the feeling right before and right after a race. The nervous butterflies when you are in your blocks, but then the feeling of accomplishment when it's all over," Mustard said.

At the Nebraska Wesleyan indoor meet the girls were runner up to Waverly and the boys were 7th in the 8-team field. Senior Elliott Thomazin runs the mile and two miled this track season and placed 2nd in the 3200 and 3rd in the 1600.

"I think the team is really working on dropping time and getting back into the groove of track after being trapped indoors. We've got

a lot of people out this year, so we're excited to really develop a family atmosphere," Thomazin said.

This year the team gets the advantage of hosting the four meets: Scotus Relays, Knights of Columbus Invite, Conference, and Districts.

"It's fun to talk to and hang out with different people at track meets. Track meets are a good chance to hang out with people you wouldn't usually hang out with," junior Amber Buhman said.

Girls state track returners are sophomore Anna Ehlers, junior Liza Zaruba, and senior Kelsey Faust. Faust runs the 1600 and 3200 this year.

"The first meet went well, and I am very proud of how we competed. Training this year has been difficult for us because of weather conditions so I was surprised with how well we competed. The girls really stepped up considering the pre-season obstacles we faced," Faust said.

At the Scotus Relays invitational the boys discus team left with a gold medal. Team members, by rank at the meet, are seniors Grant

Shanle and Abe Perault, and juniors Cole Demuth and Tim Ehlers.

The woman's distance running team placed second in the four by one mile. The only time this event is ran is at the Scotus Relays. The 4x1 mile ladies team was the highest placing girls event of the invitational.

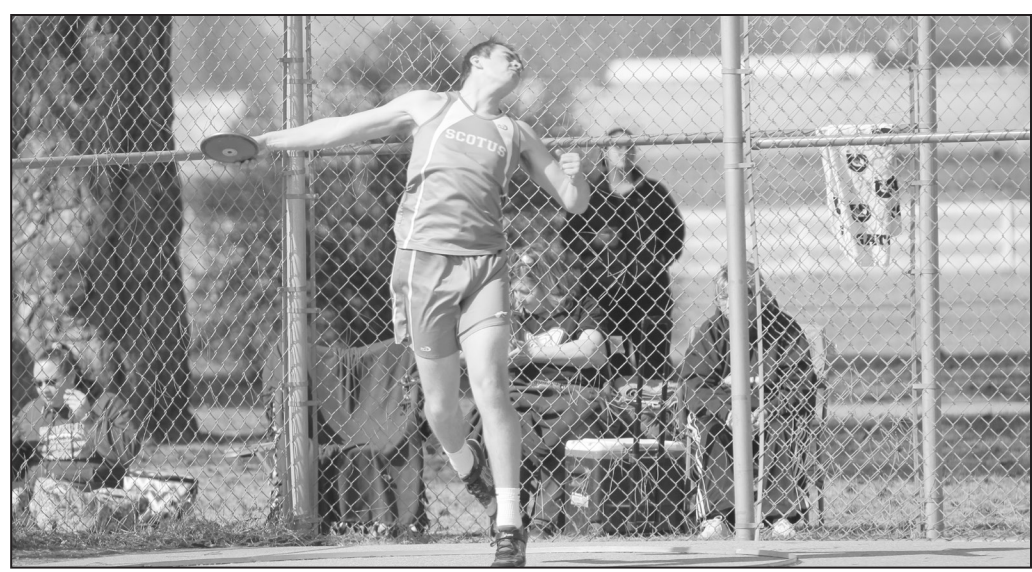
The Scotus Relays was changed from a two session meet to a single session due to the possibility of incimate weather.

At the 2019 Relays eight teams traveled to Pawnee Park Stadium and Track to compete. The boys overall place seventh. The girls left with a sixth placement, the girls dropped three places from last years relays with 30 less points in total.

Junior Chloe Odbert competes in triple jump this year.

"The environment is fun. Our team always encourages and helps cheer each other on which is awesome. Competing after these first couple weeks of straight practice was fun," Odbert said.

The boys and girls track teams travel next to Wayne on April 2nd.



ANGIE RUSHER/JOURNALISM ADVISOR

Freshman Grace Mustard (top) jumps over a hurdle at the Scotus Relays. Mustard set the indoor hurdles record at 8.84 seconds for the 55 meter race. Senior Grant Shanle (bottom) throws a discus at the Scotus Relays.



# Spring weather strikes out baseball team

By Chloe Odbert  
Staff Reporter

As the spring sports season has come into full swing, the Discovers' baseball team has yet to hit a homerun.

With the continuously surprising spring weather, the Columbus baseball team has had few practices where they have not been trapped inside the field house.

Sophomore Evan Bock who is in his second season of playing on the co-op team plays shortstop and second base for the team.

"Practicing in the field house is difficult because we cannot make game-like situations," Bock said.

Due to weather, the team has already sacrificed some of their games. Some of the players have a more positive outlook on the situation at hand.

Sophomore Kaden Young plays two positions for the team this season, first base and pitcher.

"I think the indoor

practices have made us more excited to get outside and it allows us to keep the energy levels high at practice," Young said.

The Discovers ended their 2018 season with a 10-11 record. While they head into this season, they have nothing but hope.

Junior Eric Mustard is keeping a positive outlook on the season with hopes of helping to lead the team to the Discover's first ever district championship and state tournament appearance.

"Our goal as a team this year is to win a district title and compete at the state tournament. We have a lot of talent on our team this year and a state tournament birth is what we're working for," Mustard stated. "We have worked hard so far this season despite the weather conditions. We have been working toward the end goal of the season and are itching to get outside and start playing games."

The baseball team was able to travel and compete in their season double-header

against Bellevue West on Friday March 22.

In the first of the two games, the Discovers put the heat on the Thunderbirds and defeated Bellevue West 4-3. Mustard and Bock both were able to head home after doubles hit by their teammate. Mustard scored the game-winning run.

However, for their next match up shortly after, the Thunderbirds answered back with a 2-3 defeat over the Discovers.

Junior Tyler Palmer who serves as an infield and outfield player as well as a pitcher explained that the team still has a positive outlook on the season ahead of them.

"As a team we all played our positions well and focused on getting really quality at bats. Our players did a good job of hitting when we had an opportunity to score," Palmer said. "For the second match-up we didn't do as well doing those things."

The Columbus baseball team scheduled a make-up game with Skutt Catholic High School for Friday



ROCK BOTTOM STAFF '18

**Junior Tyler Palmer steps up to the plate during a game in his 2018 season. The baseball team is scheduled to play next today at 4:30 pm at home.**

March 29. The make-up game is to be held at Pawnee Park.

Despite all the cancellations and unfulfilled promises this baseball season had in store, the team is taking the

indoor practices as an opportunity to get better rather than to complain.

"They really limit us to what we can do as far as fielding, throwing, hitting, and baserunning, but we don't

let it affect our morale and make us lose hope that we will play soon, we still have a lot of fun and get better with the given aspects of mother nature," Palmer concluded.

# Girls' tennis makes racket with start of season



MARIANA VALDEZ ORTIZ/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

**Junior Emily Miksch serves the ball at the dual against Lincoln Northeast. Miksch is the only Scotus player on the girls' varsity tennis team.**

By Tara Kamrath  
Staff Reporter

As the birds return to dot the yards and sing to welcome the season of spring, so too do the courts begin to fill with flashing yellow and professional grunts as Scotus' girls' tennis team, cooperating with that of CHS, hit tennis balls back and forth over the nets, training hard to become the best tennis players they can be.

This year, there are ten girls from Scotus out for tennis. Sophomore Alli Demuth has been on the tennis team for two years.

"I wanted to do some type of sport and I knew I wasn't going to do track, and I've never touched a soccer ball, so I figured I should try out for tennis," Demuth said.

Due to the recent weather of heavy rain and melting snow, the team was unable to practice outside for a span of about two weeks. This is junior MaKenzie Enderlin's third year on the girls' tennis team.

"The recent weather has made us practice in the gym at CHS where the ball skids and we use trashcans as a net," Enderlin said. "We have been outside four times, and we are thankful for the warm weather and sunshine. I never go to a practice without smiling and laughing; it is so much fun."

Alongside the scheduled practices with the team, Enderlin also receives private lessons to work on her own needs individually as a player.

Junior Emily Miksch is in the second year of her

tennis career.

"The only reason I went out is because my friend, Adam Kamrath, made me play since we were friends," Miksch said. "He would destroy me every point even when I cheated. He said I should go out for tennis. I thought I'd be reserves because of how many times he beat me but turns out losing to the #1 guy for boys' tennis actually makes you good."

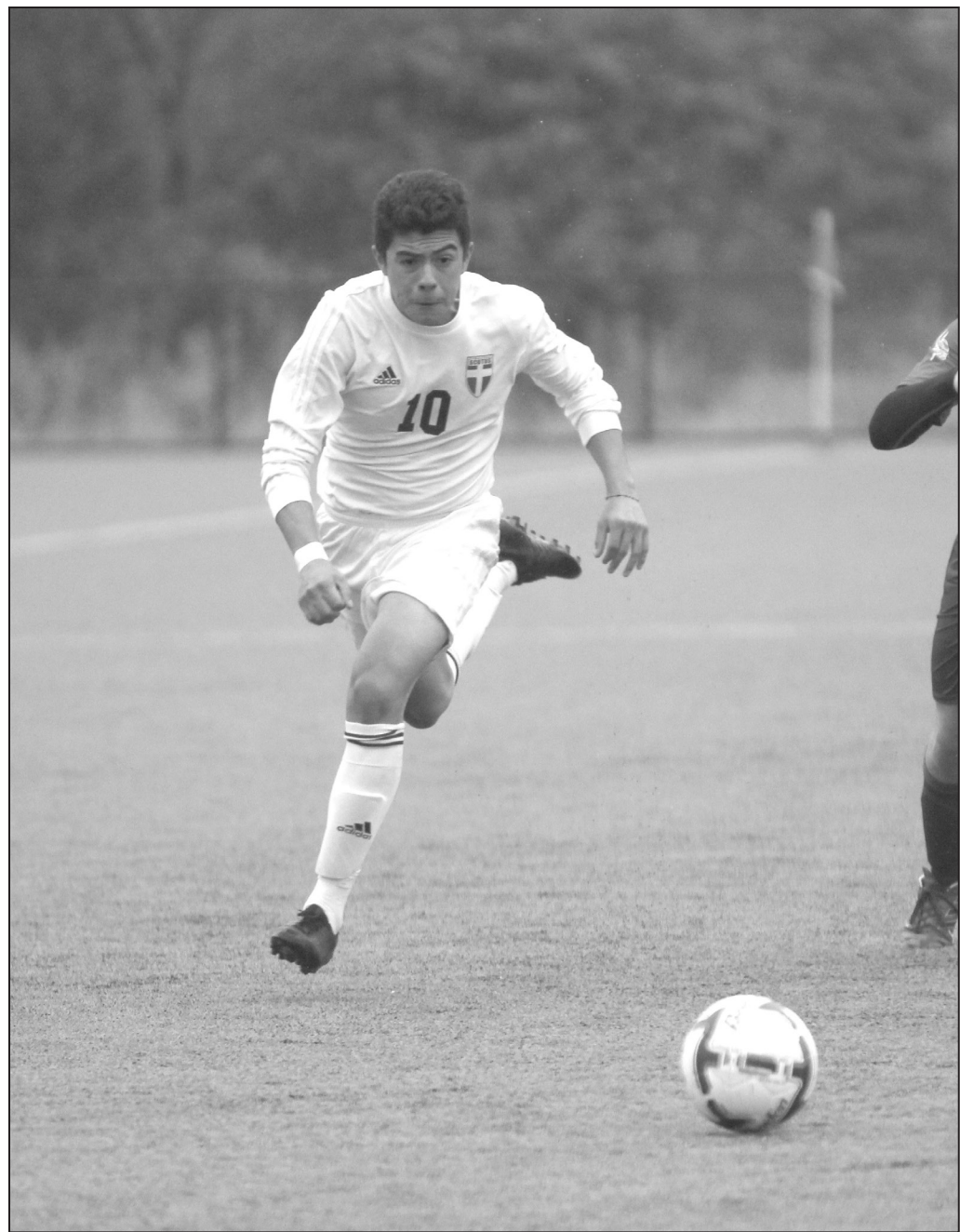
The girls' tennis team's first duals were on Friday, March 22, at Pawnee Park against Lincoln Northeast. They also had an away game against Norfolk on Tuesday, March 26. Four more home games are scheduled to take place at Pawnee Park throughout April and the beginning of May.

# More Spring Activity Photos



ANGIE RUSHER/JOURNALISM ADVISOR

**Seniors Issac Ostdiek and Nathan Schumacher hand off the baton at the Scotus relays. The next varsity track meet is April 2 vs. Wayne.**



JULIA ZARUBA/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

**Junior Henry Hernandez chases down the ball at the game against Lakeview Tuesday, March 19. The Shamrocks defeated the Vikings 8-0.**



# BHR returns to Scotus

By Kate Smith  
Staff Reporter

For many teenagers, high school is when they start dating and having their first real relationships. But for those who do choose to date, most know very little about what a healthy relationship consists of or the red flags of a bad one. This is why Building Healthy Relationships class has come back to Scotus. This nine-week program helps students learn and become more aware of dating violence, sexual assault, abusive relationships, and many other important topics while still having fun in the process.

"I joined BHR because I wanted to know how to start a healthy relationship, help others start healthy relationships, along with being able to help someone who's not in a good relationship," junior Levi Robertson said. The class is broken down

into nine weeks with one session every week that takes up one period during school. The class is offered to all juniors and seniors who are interested. With the tough topics discussed, boys and girls are in separate classes. This program is provided by the Center for Survivors here in Columbus. Traci Pilar is the head instructor of this class.

"[I started teaching this class] to keeps kids safe and to empower them," Pilar explained.

BHR came back to Scotus just this year after being defunded four years ago. The Center for Survivors received some smaller grants to fund the program this year. The Center was then approved for an even bigger grant for next year to help re-establish the class in schools where it was previously. The class would then be offered in more schools that surround Columbus.

"Back when we had it, prior to this time, we had six different counties, and we

were probably in roughly twenty different schools, and we will probably get all those schools back plus more," Pilar added.

This class not only teaches about how to have a healthy relationship but also how to identify and help others such as friends and family members who could possibly be in an unhealthy or abusive one. Students are trained to help others and support anyone who could possibly be in danger.

"The most important thing we learn in BHR is how to spot the signs of unhealthy relationships because it sheds a new light on the relationships around you," junior Evan Hand explained.

Abusive relationships seem to be identified with just romantic relationships, which is not the case. Any relationship can be harmful and toxic as explained in this class.

"[BHR is important in school] because it allows teens to learn and realize how



KATE SMITH/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

**Volunteer coordinator Traci Pilar informs her students about dating violence and unhealthy relationships. Building Healthy Relationships class is a nine week program, with one session every week.**

they should be treated when or if they are in a romantic relationship but also in family situations," Junior Rachael Lam said.

Building Healthy Relationships class covers many

topics but Pilar's main take away for her students is how strong and powerful they can be in any situation of their life.

"They are very strong kiddos, they can do any-

thing, and they can help their friends," Pilar concluded.

You can also join Building Healthy Relationships by signing up when the opportunity is presented in your junior and senior classes.

# Speech team qualifies for state

By Mariana Valdez-Ortiz  
Staff Reporter

On Thursday, March 21st, ten Scotus students went to Kearney to compete

at state speech. After many Saturdays sacrificed and long practices, three seniors, three juniors, two sophomores, and two freshmen were able to earn high enough scores at districts in David City, to continue their season and go

to state.

Senior Julia Pichler competed in the OID category this year at state. This is her first year as a member of the speech team.

"I do a lot of research. I look up everyone who is go-

ing to be in our rounds, and I write down how they have been doing at their meets. I then compare it to our records and get more anxious," Pichler said.

Senior Patrick Hercenbach has been part of the speech team for four years. This year at state he competed in two events, extemporaneous speaking and oral interpretation of drama alongside four other Scotus speech members.

"I hope that we perform the best that we can. Our script is a lot of fun. If we make our audience's day a little better with our performance then we will have succeeded," Herchenbach said.

Sophomore Maddie Blaser competed in the OID category at state. This is her first year as part of the Scotus speech team.

"Students should definitely do it. It is a great experience that students won't regret," Blaser added.

The first meet of this year's season was the Scotus

Central Catholic Shamrock Invite. The team ended up getting third place.

"The most important thing about a performance is that we leave it all out there and are proud of how we performed," Blaser said.

Along with Herchenbach, Pichler, and Blaser, senior Isaac Ostdiek and junior Lauren Ostdiek won second place on the OID category at districts. Districts were in David City on March 11th.

"My goal going in to state is to perform my best and feel good about my performance once it's done. Breaking (making it to finals) is always a nice bonus, but at the end of the day, I just hope to feel like I performed my best," Lauren Ostdiek said.

Juniors Debanhi Adame-Hernandez and Katie Stachura, sophomore Noah Korth, and freshmen Gwen Stachura and Zoe Euteneuer also competed in the OID category at State Speech. They earned third place at Districts.

"I hope to finish my season with no regrets," Pichler said.

The team was sent off by the whole school on Wednesday, March 20. The hallways were filled with students clapping and encouraging the state qualifiers.

"Speech has changed me as a person, it has improved my confidence and has given me amazing friends," Herchenbach said.

The state speech competition was in University of Nebraska- Kearney. Ostdiek received sixth place on entertainment speaking. Herchenbach, I. Ostdiek, Pichler, L. Ostdiek, and Blaser received eleventh place in OID. Adame, Stachura, Kort, Euteneuer, and Stachura got seventeenth place in OID.

"The biggest challenge at state is staying calm, enjoying the moment, and recognizing that it is like any other meet. We get the opportunity to compete against great competition, and it is a special," L. Ostdiek concluded.



HALLIE PARKER/YEARBOOK STAFF

**Junior Lauren Ostdiek performs her entertainment speech at the varsity invitation in David City. She received sixth place on entertainment speaking at state speech.**

# Faith leads teens to Quest

By Elliott Thomazin  
Editor

Seventy-seven miles North of Columbus sits a small retreat center hidden atop a hill within the Nebraska plains. The building has been the site of countless powerful experiences of God's love. The quaint structure hosts numerous retreats throughout the year including JC Camps and TEC weekends. This Spring, the Tintern Retreat Center near Oakdale, Nebraska opened its doors to welcome all the participants of the Quest retreat.

On March 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> sixty people made the drive up to the Tintern Retreat Center. Of those sixty, fifteen were from Scotus. In total, the retreat lasts less than 40 hours, but what it lacks in length Quest makes up for in impact. Through a series of talks, group discussion, and powerful skits, teens from across the Archdiocese are brought closer to God. Sophomore Maddie Blaser also participated in her first Quest this Spring.

"Some of my friends had gone to Quest and they all recommended it, so I decided

to go," Blaser said. "I also thought it would be a good way to take a break from my busy schedule."

All the workers for the retreat arrived at Tintern on the evening of Friday March 22<sup>nd</sup> to prepare themselves to serve the candidates. Sophomore Josh Styskal was a member of the OATS team. OATS stands for Our Almighty Team Support. Throughout the weekend, OATS cooks, cleans, and sets up for the many activities at Quest.

"For those who are attending their first Quest, it is literally a quest to find faith. For those attending again, it is a refresher of your faith," Styskal said.

Early the next morning, the candidates start to arrive. After the fifteen candidates walked into Tintern, the retreat was ready to start. Freshman Grace Mustard was one of those fifteen.

"I wasn't planning on going. With how busy track has been, this was the last thing on my mind, but Simon Pichler would NOT take no for an answer. I am so glad he kept asking about it because it is exactly what I needed," Mustard said.

Once at Quest, the

candidates are separated into families. Because this Quest had fifteen candidates, there were five families made up of three candidates, one or two counselors, and one team parent. The team parent is an adult volunteer who helps the family form a secure bond. The retreat was led by directors Abe Perault, Elliott Thomazin, and Dustin Ternus. Sophomore Gavin Brabec was also able to experience his first Quest weekend.

"My favorite thing about Quest was my family discussions because we became very close to each other," Brabec said.

Because "What happens at Quest stays at Quest," the exact events of the camp will remain a mystery to those who haven't participated in the retreat. Those who have made the retreat in the past can testify to its power. Quest is centered around the three circles of love: love of self, love of others, and love of God. To illustrate those circles, several talks are given, Jesus is made present, and the sacrament of reconciliation is offered. Sophomore prayer team member Emily Ferguson valued the spiritual side of the retreat.



ELLIOTT THOMAZIN/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

**Candidates, parents, and volunteers celebrate Mass in the Tintern chapel on March 24th. Fifteen teenagers attended their first Quest during the weekend.**

"[I will take away] the peace I felt at Tintern. So often, our day gets so busy and we lose sight of God. However, at Quest I felt such a peace while I was there praying in the chapel and around others. I want that peace to last," Ferguson said.

Because Quest is made up of people from all around the Archdiocese of Omaha, Quest is a great way to meet new people. Lasting friendships are easily formed over

the 30-hour retreat.

"I am taking all the friendships made from Quest, but I'm also taking away that no matter what you think you need in your life, God knows better and will provide you the experiences you really need," Mustard recalled.

The weekend ended with Mass celebrated by Scotus Chaplain Father Capadano. All the candidates, volunteers, and parents packed into the Tintern Chapel to

celebrate their faith. A brief overview of the weekend was then given before everyone got up to say their goodbyes. Many hugs were exchanged as new-found friendships were forced to go separate ways.

"I would definitely recommend that every high schooler should go on this retreat. It is a truly life-changing weekend," Ferguson concluded.



# Thomazin magically wins Mr. Shamrock

By Callan Fuchser  
Staff Reporter

The opening number in the 14<sup>th</sup> annual Mr. Shamrock left the crowd laughing and glad none of the contestants were professional dancers. On Sunday, March 10<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00pm, twelve Scotus senior men took part in the Mr. Shamrock pageant. After displaying secret talents, answering questions, and flaunting what they had on the catwalk, Elliott Thomazin was named the 2019 Mr. Shamrock.

“Winning Mr. Shamrock was such an honor. I had a blast with all the guys who performed. Everyone was creative and brought some unique talents to the competition. When they announced I won, I was ecstatic. I was just happy to be a part of a great night filled with plenty of smiles, laughs, and memories,” Thomazin said.

Seniors Drew Zaruba and Caden Pelan got the ball rolling in the talent portion with a drop the mic rap battle. With fellow student council member Connor Wiehn as their hype man, Zaruba and Pelan threw hilarious disses at each other, bringing the crowd and judging panel to tears.

“The rap battle was a

real fun thing for Caden and I to do. We sat down with Connor Wiehn and thought of the best roasts against one another. It was a real hit with the fans, and it got a lot of laughter. And no, Caden and I have not talked since,” Zaruba said.

The talent portion of the night was amped up a notch when Colby Gilson and Cameron Johnston joined forces to display their talents: a highly anticipated WWE rematch four years in the making. Gilson, whose tag name was *Triple G*, and Johnston, whose tag name was *Ron Cena*, both put their bodies on the line, putting on quite a show for the crowd. The match ended with special guest referee Drew Zaruba counting to three with Johnston pinning Gilson after Gilson was knocked out with a metal chair.

“Cameron jumped off a trampoline smacking Colby to the ground then ran off stage to get a metal chair, he then smacked Colby with it in the face. It was crazy!” senior contestant Abe Perault said.

Following the jaw-dropping WWE Last Man Standing Match, Braden Labenz showcased his best teacher impressions, Caleb Kosch entertained the crowd with his stand-up comedy bit,

Konner Kudron showed off his swimming skills across the stage, Isaac Ostdiek performed a well thought out dance skit, and Bryce VunCannon dazzled the audience with his memorization of the first 75 digits of pi. Blake Sucha’s rendition of “Knockin on Heaven’s Door” by Bob Dylan brought Memorial Hall together singing from their seats.

“Blake’s guitar performance was my favorite talent performed because it gave me goosebumps when I heard it,” VunCannon said.

After finishing up the talent portion, the twelve contestants showed off their “Catch That Dream Girl Outfit.” Gilson dressed as a bearded lumberjack, noting “what girl doesn’t love a lumberjack?” Kosch modeled his dashing Christmas themed suit and tie. Johnston arrived horseback, straight from the ranch in true county boy attire, chaps and a cowboy hat. Zaruba frolicked like a frat-boy. VunCannon kept it real in his everyday SCC uniform. Perault impressed the crowd in his monkey romphim, a twist to the female romper. Pelan showed everyone up by dressing as Mr. Shamrock.

“My favorite portion to perform was by far the ‘Catch That Dream Girl’ outfit because ladies love country



KATE SMITH/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

English teacher Becki Zanardi participates in Elliott Thomazin’s talent portion of the night. Thomazin debuted a new trick to astound the audience and judges.

boys,” Johnston said.

The annual event brought in more than 150 Scotus and community members. Upon entering, spectators brought two canned goods or \$2 with all proceeds being donated to the Simon House. The night was truly magical when Thomazin took the stage to perform a new magic trick he’d never attempted before.

“My favorite moment of the night was when I lit the page of the book on fire. I

announced that the page was now reattached in the book, and I immediately started to hear gasps. When Mrs. Zanardi opened the book to see the page, her face lit up and everyone started to applaud. It was a breathtaking experience. I’ve been working toward that moment for the past five years, and it was so great that I could share it with the Scotus community,” Thomazin said.

The judges of the 2019 Mr. Shamrock Pageant were

Social Science teacher Pat Brockhaus, English teacher Becki Zanardi, Cafeteria account manager Shelly Adams, Courtney Kosch, 2018 Homecoming Queen, and Brandon Huynh, 2018 Mr. Shamrock.

“[This year’s Mr. Shamrock was the best one yet because] numerous seniors helped each other with their talents and got the crowd involved several times during the event,” Brockhaus concluded.



KATE SMITH/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

In the opening number of the night, the twelve contestants in the 2019 Mr. Shamrock competition end their routine on a knee. Proceeds from the event went to the Simon House.

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# Caption “Meh”vel disappoints in every way

By Abe Perault  
Staff Reporter

From the moment I first saw the trailer for *Captain Marvel*, I knew something was off. The hero that I knew and grew up with did not appear to be the same woman on my computer screen. She seemed unemotional, awkwardly cocky, and overall lackluster. This film all but confirmed my suspicion and took it to even greater lengths.

*Captain Marvel* tells the story of Ver (Brie Larson), a Kree warrior, who is having dreams of a plane crash and the death of a woman she doesn't know. With the help of her captain, Yon Rogg, she is able to set aside her bad dreams by focusing on combat training. While on a mission, Ver is captured by the Kree's enemy race, the Skrulls. The Skrulls are an alien race who have the ability to shapeshift into whatever being they want to as long as they can see it.

As conflict ensues, Ver ends up making her way

to 1990's Earth, and it is revealed that she is actually a human pilot by the name of Carol Danvers, who used to be a pilot for an organization named Pegasus. On Earth she teams up with a young Nick Fury to figure out who she is, who the woman is in her dreams, and what the Skrulls are doing on Earth.

If that seemed confusing, good, because that is how messy it was trying to watch the movie. I could not help but shake my head the whole runtime of the film because of how bad it was. It tried to be a comedy/action film while also attempting to be about woman empowerment and immigration, when it could not complete its original goal of being a good superhero film.

The movie had a few other noteworthy problems. The CGI (Computer Generated Images) in the film were not up to par with all the other films in the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU), and it gave many shots a fake feel. I commend Marvel for placing 90's music throughout the film to set the time period, but it was poorly

placed in a couple of scenes.

*Captain Marvel* did a good job at getting the majority of the characters right except for one. The woman in Carol's dreams is a character named Mar Vel. Originally, Mar Vel was a male character who had a prominent role in the comics till he died of cancer. This gender swap irritates me, not because I'm against women, but because it does not do justice to the character. In the end though, I will let the change fly.

The biggest problem of the movie was that it was flat out boring. As stated before, the movie was confusing, but that was not the worst part. At no point was I interested in the story or the character of Captain Marvel. To add on to that, Captain Marvel's powers are way too convenient. I never found myself sitting on the edge of my seat thinking, "Well, she's not going to be able to get out of this one." Every time she was in danger, she blasted her way out with her fist lasers. From the beginning of the film to the end, Carol never seemed at risk of dying, or even getting injured. To put the cherry on

top of this whole mess, the only formidable enemy is wasted on the movie trying to be funny.

*Captain Marvel* did have some areas that worked well. Nick Fury was particularly fun to watch because, unlike his older version in the previous MCU films, he was even cockier and more charismatic. Samuel L. Jackson did a great job returning to his now eleven year old role. The standout performance of the film was the CGI cat Goose (a nod to you *Top Gun* fans). He is not an actual cat, but an alien called a flerken. You will have to see for yourself why Goose is the scene stealer in *Captain Marvel*.

Overall, *Captain Marvel* was a flop in my eyes, but I will recommend everyone should go see it. Marvel fans especially need to see it because Captain Marvel will play an important role in *Avengers: Endgame*. Form your own opinion about it. As for me, I thought it failed on many important levels. A good film should have a great story, and an interesting protagonist. *Captain Marvel* did not even get the basics

right. Luckily, Nick Fury and Goose helped push the lackluster film along, turning a bad movie into a meh movie. Hopefully, Captain Marvel

will be able to redeem herself in *Endgame*, but for now I would say *Captain Marvel* ranks among one of the worst Marvel movies to date.



Academy award winner Brie Larson stars as Carol Danvers in *Captain Marvel*. This film is the 21st film in the Marvel's Cinematic Universe.

# Scotus embraces natural beauty

By Brea Lassek  
Staff Reporter

On a normal school day, I can get ready in under ten minutes. I get dressed in my uniform, brush my hair,

and put it in a pony tail. On the other hand, my friend at Columbus High wakes up an extra hour early to curl her hair and apply makeup.

Unlike other schools, I have noticed girls at Scotus do not focus as much on their appearances. To me,

it is simply unnecessary. I am thankful the culture of our school focuses more on self-expression rather than impression.

In our five years together, my junior class has been through the good and the very (very) bad. We all

still remember our weird, pubescent, seventh-grade selves and recall the terrible beauty decisions we made. For example, I used to wear this awful middle part in my hair during junior high. Now, some people can rock this look, but I will be the first to tell you, I did not. My classmates already witnessed my awkward stage (that I will hopefully grow out of soon), so whom do I have to impress?

Everyone is constantly on the go with their numerous activities. At one point in the fall, I would lift in the morning, go to a meeting, attend school, run cross country practice, go to One Act, and round out the day with either dance or Mock Trial. You could not have paid me to wake up earlier to get ready. With afterschool practice, there is also no point in me wearing makeup that I will sweat off or straightening my hair that will inevitably default back to its natural, wavy texture.

One factor that I might

contribute to this overall attitude is the requirement of uniforms at Scotus. Because I do not have to pick out the perfect outfit every day or compare myself to what everyone else is wearing, I let the same hold true for my complete appearance. In a way, I think it is beautiful that the girls at our school do not feel we are in competition with each other. We simply come as we are and can display our true selves.

It has gotten to the point that people notice more when we do try. Recently, I kept my hair straight for school from my cheer banquet the night before. I cannot even remember how many times someone asked, "Why did you straighten your hair?" or "Is it your birthday or something?" Instead of being ridiculed for not covering up a pimple, it seems as if more judgement comes when I actually try.

Interestingly enough, the boys in our school have picked up the slack for the girls' lack of effort.

Freshmen boys, I am looking at you. Landon Maschmeier decided to perm his hair for state wrestling, and now I cannot tell the freshman boys apart. Other boys make unique style decisions and contemplate their next best look. Evan Hand wore a fanny pack last dress down day, and Mr. Ericson rocks the hipster vibe. Not to mention Tyler Palmer's gold necklaces he bought from the Wish app, the men at Scotus display their original styles. They completely reverse gender beauty stereotypes.

However you choose to present yourself, translate what is inside of you to the outside. I am thankful I attend a school that encourages students to express themselves unapologetically. I could not imagine constantly feeling the need to compare who has the best hair or makeup. Whether you wear makeup or go au natural, do it for you.



RYLIE OLSON/YEARBOOK STAFF

Eighth graders Taylor Neville and Ella Nahorney display their natural beauty while working in the STEAM lab. Girls at Scotus tend to go with the natural look unlike other schools.

# History of April Fools

By Tara Kamrath  
Staff Reporter

Every year on April 1st, people all over the world spend the day playing pranks and cracking jokes on others. These can range from a harmless, "You got mud on your shoe," to driving on the wrong side of the road, as some Irish do, according to Bianca Bahamondes in her article "How April Fools' Day is celebrated in 11 countries around the world".

Despite the popularity of this day, the true origin of April Fools' Day is unknown, but, of course, there are some theories.

Possibly the most prominent theory is, according to Snopes.com, when the Gregorian calendar replaced that of the Julian in the 1500s. Those who forgot the change and attempted to celebrate New Year's, which was previously celebrated on April 1st, on the wrong date were teased as "April fools".

Another theory comes from the Encyclopedia of Religion and the Encyclopedia Britannica. The timing of the 1st of April could be related to the arrival of spring, when nature "fools" mankind with fickle weather – the wild transition between the cold and warm seasons.

According to BigThink.com, a young Associated Press reporter called Joseph Boskin, a history professor, and asked him about the origins of the holiday in 1983. Boskin explained that the first April Fools' Day was celebrated during the reign of Roman Emperor Constantine, who had appointed one of his jesters, a fool named Kugel, king for the day. One of the decrees of "King Kugel" was that the day would be dedicated to absurdity in all years to come. However, Boskin had made up the story and fooled not only the readers but also the news organization.

Throughout the years of April Fools' history – however many that may be – there

have been numerous pranks attempted or succeeded, some on a more grandeur scale than others.

In 1974, the residents of Stika, Alaska, saw smoke rising from the top of the dormant volcano, Mt. Edgecumbe, not far from their town. Alarmed by the lack of warning signs that the volcano might awake, the coast guard sent a helicopter over the mountain to investigate. The pilot ended people's concerns when the words "April Fool" were seen on the rim of the volcano in 50-foot letters. This prank was planned by local Stika resident Oliver Bickar for several years and was executed by setting a large pile of tires he had placed near the summit of the mountain on fire.

Another of these hysterical pranks was pulled by BBC as a trailer for a nature documentary explaining the discovery of flying penguins in Antarctica. The related informational releases explained the birds had evolved the ability to fly so they

could "enjoy winter retreats to the Amazon". The birds were said to be very isolated and unreachable by most explorers, but the intrepid BBC crew had risked "life and limb" to document the spectacle of the migration.

Scotus' Rock Bottom newspaper began its own April Fools' tradition in

2014, kicking off with six fake articles: "Strict changes coming for 2014-2015 school year" by Carly Burkhardt; "Gardner adds plot twist" by Valerie Borer; "Blob breaks Bohac" by Kristen Ohnoutka; "Columbus schools combine" by Blake Schroeder; "Rambour on hunting rampage" by Brooke Olmer; and "Senior-

itis strikes Scotus seniors" by Jack Hoppe. Since then, there have been six issues, including this one, published in April that features April Fools' articles, and the journalism staff show no sign of stopping any time soon. Just remember what time of year it is to make sure you won't be fooled!



EN.WIKIPEDIA.ORG

In 2008, BBC made a trailer for a documentary explaining the discovery of flying penguins in Antarctica. There have been several pranks that went down in the history of April Fools' Day.





# Rock Bottom

Scotus Central Catholic

<http://issuu.com/scotusjournalism>

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## Scotus faculty serves community

By Elliott Thomazin  
Editor

Service is a crucial part of a fulfilling life. Not only does serving others cause rich spiritual benefits but performing works of mercy also impacts the community. The Scotus faculty recently went to work to aid the community.

On April 5th, students rejoiced as the final bell of the day rang at 12:02. A half day was scheduled to aid the Gala set up, but also to allow the Scotus faculty the ability to go out into the community and serve. For the first time, the staff had an organized effort to provide aid to the community. The workforce dispersed to three different locations to clean out weeds, spread mulch, or sort flood relief donations. Religion teacher Kelly Koranda helped sort donation items.

"I really enjoyed the afternoon!" Koranda said. "It always feels good to go out and serve others - I always leave more joyful than when I came. I also think it is a great thing to do as a community because it creates a bond through the shared experience. I enjoyed being able to spend the time with fellow staff members, some of whom I rarely see!"

Connection Church, the building next to Goodwill, has been collecting donations to aid flood victims. Due to the massive amount of donations, sorting became a necessary job. Joan Lahm was one of the teachers who helped sort the items.

"I was amazed at the amount of donations they collected. There are generous people in our community. We organized items in order to make room for more donations," Lahm said. "I hope we continue to have a day of service each year, if not more. Service is always a great experience."

Some Scotus staff members also stayed around the school and helped with landscaping. Mulch was spread, weeds were pulled, and the exterior of Scotus was cleaned up for the Gala the following night. Chemistry teacher Jane Dusel was one of those delegated to beautify the school.

"It was a beautiful day to be outside with great weather. After raking leaves and putting them into bags for two hours, I was physically tired by the time we got done. It was a good kind of tired - knowing that I helped make the outside of our school look better," Dusel said.

The final location that saw Scotus service was the metal palm tree island that resides by Doozys at the intersection of 26th Ave. and 23rd St. The group was led by Tyler Linder. Social Science teacher Pat Brockhaus worked to tidy up the area during the afternoon.

"I helped trim bushes, pick up trash, spread mulch, and filled up a trailer with all the dead trimmings. I thought it was great," Brockhaus said. "The weather was awesome, and the crew from Scotus was great to work with outside of a school"

See **TEACHERS**, Page 2

## Father gives final farewell

By Chloe Odbert  
Staff Reporter

For the past five years the halls of Scotus have been filled with flying frisbees and a strumming guitar; unfortunately, with the school year

coming to an end, these hallway festivities will also.

In the fall of 2014, Father Matthew Capadano was assigned to be the chaplain here at Scotus Central Catholic. At first Father Capadano was unsure about his feelings toward the assignment.

"When I think about who I am and who I was when I first came to Scotus, one of the realizations that I have is that God used Scotus to break me, but to break me in a really good way. To break me like when you get a pair of jeans that you know are going to be awesome

after a month of wearing them, but you must wear them for a month first," Father Capadano said. "They are stiff and hard to deal with and uncomfortable, but overtime they get softened. Over time they become your favorite pair of jeans. That's what happened to me when I came to Scotus."

Over the course of his five years serving as the Scotus chaplain, Father Capadano has witnessed some major changes in the Scotus community. The event that had the most impact on Father Capadano and who he is as a person was when Jeff Ohnoutka moved into the position of president.

"The reason why I feel like the change to Mr. O becoming president changed me the most is because I was finally comfortable enough with myself and the assignment I was given to buy in and lean in and work," Father Capadano explained.

Junior Cole Demuth has been greatly impacted by Father Capadano since his eighth grade year when Father just started.

"He was a great role model in our faith not only in my years here at Scotus but for everyone else who knows him. I think the fact that he is a young priest helped him connect with all of the students, and when he felt like being more mature, he was able to connect with the other teachers as well," Demuth said.

Father Capadano has also been the rock and foundation for some

See **FATHER**, Page 2



HALLIE PARKER/YEARBOOK STAFF

**Father Matthew Capadano takes the microphone at the pep rally earlier this school year. Father Capadano has been the Scotus chaplain for five years and will be leaving in May for Mary Our Queen Parish in Omaha.**

## Journalism team takes third with three gold medalists

By Kate Smith  
Staff Reporter

Northeast Community College was packed with high school students from across the state competing for the gold in the State Journalism competitions. The sound of speedy typing and rushed students competing in multiple events filled the rooms and halls of the Lifelong Learning Center in Norfolk, Nebraska on April 23<sup>rd</sup>.

For State Journalism, articles, headlines, layouts, and photography were submitted by the advisors of students, and from there they were narrowed down to the top eight in the state. Debating on what category the student qualified in, they either were eligible to compete for their place for an hour and fifteen minutes about a given prompt, or the work was automatically judged. If the work was prejudged, the student only came for awards. Scotus had sixteen people qualify in twenty-three events this year.

There were two returning qualifiers from the 2018 state championship team: Hallie Parker and Abe Perault. Perault was the champion Newspaper Layout 2018.

"Going into the first round I was nervous, but after I wrote for a little bit, my flow came to me," senior Abe Perault said. Perault placed seventh in Newspaper Layout and fifth in Sports Feature Writing.

The competition was fierce and nothing like any the journalism staff

has ever experienced. For most, it seemed that writing a whole article in less than an hour and half seemed impossible and one of the most high-pressure situations they've been in.

Junior Brea Lassek competed in Column Writing, which she placed third in, and Entertainment Review, which she placed fourth in.

"Competing at state was an adrenaline rush. It was the most stressful but rewarding two hours and thirty minutes of my life. I would not change any aspect of my column I wrote, but I wish I would have had better time management in entertainment review. At the end of the day, the experience I gained from state journalism is invaluable," Lassek added.

For those who had to compete in the morning and then wait for awards, time seemed to drag. The anticipation to see how the team did as individuals and as a whole was nerve racking. Excitement was in the air.

Senior Abbie Zoucha, Yearbook Layout Editor, competed in Yearbook Theme Copy Writing and qualified in Yearbook Theme Development, and she placed fourth in both.

"There was a long wait between submitting in my event and the awards ceremony, so I was sitting nervous for a long time wondering what place I got," Zoucha commented.

Graphic Design Teacher

See **JOURNALISM**, Page 2



PHOTO COURTESY JACQUELINE SMITH

**Seniors Mariana Valdez Ortiz and Julia Salerno react as placings are announced at the award ceremony of State Journalism at Northeast Community College. Valdez Ortiz placed sixth in Entertainment Review and third in Photo Illustration and Salerno received seventh in Column Writing and was the champion in Newspaper News Writing.**



TEACHERS

setting. Got a lot done in a relatively short amount of time with a fun, hardworking bunch of guys.”

The work concluded by 3:30 p.m., which allowed the coaches to get to their practices. Guidance counselor Pam Weir was one of those who sorted donation items.

“I was sincerely touched and humbled at the same time. Being a life-long resident of Nebraska, I have had the blessing of seeing the character, work ethic and integrity of her residents.

The devastation of the recent floods is the worst that I personally have witnessed in my lifetime. The communities’ outpouring of faith, hope and help is a powerful testimony,” Weir said. “I was blessed to sort and organize alongside the women who I have the privilege to work with daily. I kept thinking ‘many hands make the work light’. At the same time, I knew there still remains so much to do... ‘In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.’ James 2: 17.”



ANGIE RUSHER/JOURNALISM ADVISOR

Teachers Kelly Koranda and Kristen Cox with school of faith coordinator Kate Jiron sort donations for flood victims at Connection Church. Scotus Faculty had an afternoon of service on April 5th.

JOURNALISM

Clyde Ericson drove six students to Norfolk for the award ceremony whose events were prejudged. Yearbook Layout, Broadcasting, Photography, and Newspaper Layout categories were prejudged. Even those who didn’t have to compete in the morning session were nervous to see how awards went.

“I was super excited! I qualified in News Feature Photography, so I didn’t actually have to compete since my category was finals only. I just had to come for awards, and it was nerve racking and exciting all at the same time,” junior Liza Zaruba said.

Because of the new system of judging, every Scotus journalism and yearbook

staff member who qualified received medals. There were two seventh places medalists, two sixth place medalists, three fifth place medalists, five fourth place medalists, eight third place medalists, and three who took home the gold. Senior Julia Salerno won in News Writing, senior Blaney Dreifurst won in News/Feature Photography, and junior Amber Buhman won in Yearbook Sports Feature Writing. The team received third place with a total of 302 points.

“I had convinced myself that I was going to get eighth, so when they announced the eighth place person and it wasn’t me, I was happy! Then they announced seventh through third and I

wasn’t any of those either. When they announced second, and it wasn’t me, I was so surprised that I had won! I’m so grateful that I was able to have this experience at state journalism!” champion Amber Buhman added.

Journalism and yearbook advisor Angie Rusher and her staff are already looking forward to next year’s competition.

“There were a few returning state qualifiers this year, but overall this was most of the team’s first state competition. Even though we did not come out on top, we had a lot of people place. I think the team next year is going to be a threat to class B,” Dreifurst concluded.

FATHER

colleagues of his in their highest and lowest moments. Tyler Linder, Theology teacher, reflected on the times that he will never forget with Father Capadano.

“Sharing in the joy of a State Championship in the locker room at Memorial Stadium. Also, sharing the pain and heartache in an emergency room with my daughter Flora. That’s the

life of a priest. They are with you in the good times and the bad. Thankfully, in both those moments, Father Capadano was able to be an incredible witness to the grace and mercy of God,” Linder said.

In the coming year Father Capadano will be re-assigned to Mary Our Queen Parish in Omaha where he will continue his ministry. As we say our final farewell to

Father Capadano he has one for use as well.

“Jesus wants you to be you. He doesn’t want you to be something that you think he wants you to be. He will only work with you, work through you, and work in you, if you are honest with yourself and with him,” Father Capadano concluded.

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# Upperclassmen “Waltz” the night away

By Kate Smith  
Staff Reporter

The Scotus cafeteria was transformed into the Disney castle, and the juniors and seniors were princes and princesses for the night. They all danced the night away at “Waltz Disney” prom on April 30th.

“I thought the theme of ‘Waltz Disney’ was clever. The juniors outdid themselves with the wonderful artwork that surrounded us. I can tell that they put a lot of work into what was done,” senior Maddie Sueper said.

The students went to Mass at Saint Isidore’s Church before arriving at Scotus for dinner and the dance afterwards. Father Capadano said Mass and left the students with an important message during his homily to make good decisions. At 6:30 P.M. students started showing up dressed to the nines to celebrate the night. At Scotus’ proms it has become the norm for the girls to wear

long dresses and the men typically wear tuxedos or suits. “I loved how some of the dresses that the girls wore seemed like they were from a Disney movie. I doubt this was intentional for some of them, but I still think it was cool,” senior Isaac Ostdiek added.

After the dinner, the students traded their heels and dress shoes for their dancing shoes as the DJ started playing music. The dance was from approximately 7:30 to 11:30 P.M. during which the upperclassmen busted out their crazy moves on the dance floor.

“The best song was the ‘Cupid Shuffle’. I can still feel the after effects of the kick, kick, drop a week later,” senior Hannah Allen said.

From an outsider’s perspective, Scotus prom isn’t a typical dance. All the students go to Mass and then come to Scotus for dinner, which isn’t usual in most schools. Also, the songs played are different than the norm of other schools. An-

other characteristic of Scotus prom is that mostly everyone stays until the very last song. With all these differences, many students think it makes the prom unique and more enjoyable.

“I think that all Scotus dances are different than other school’s because we have all of these inside jokes or traditions that the whole student body knows. Like singing Mr. Bett’s lyrics over the actual lyrics, certain dance moves, or just repeating the best parts of songs e.g. ‘I only love my bed and my mom, I’m sorry.’ I also think that Scotus dances are unique because almost everyone dances to almost every song, which makes it way more fun,” junior Lauren Ostdiek said.

The junior parents host post prom every year and this year it was held at Westbrook Lanes Bowling Alley. The theme for post prom was “Casino Night” which included blackjack, poker games, and lots of gambling with fake money, of course. Stu-



ANGIE RUSHER/JOURNALISM ADVISOR

A group of junior and senior boys dance to a song at prom. Only junior and seniors are invited to prom.

dents bowled, ate, and earned fake money from 12:30 A.M. to 3 A.M. From 3 A.M. to 3:30 A.M. door prizes were auctioned off by Travis Bock, and students bid on items with the fake money they had earned throughout the night.

“That auction was the

most original idea I’ve seen lately. Everyone was in on it, and the prizes were a surprise, so you never knew what the winner was going to get,” senior Abe Perault commented.

The “Waltz Disney” Scotus prom concluded the

Scotus dances for the school year, and it was a memorable last Scotus dance for the senior class.

“Today’s special moments are tomorrow’s memories.”-Aladdin.



ANGIE RUSHER/JOURNALISM ADVISOR

Seniors Kelsey Faust, Kendra Korger, and Mattie Johnson pose for a picture while dancing. The dance portion of prom was from 7:30 P.M to 11:30 P.M.



ANGIE RUSHER/JOURNALISM ADVISOR

Juniors Molly Carstens, Sarah Bichlmeier, Allie Mielak, along with other junior girls sing the lyrics in a circle at prom. The theme of prom this year was “Waltz Disney.”

# Band and Shamrock Singers dominate districts

By Jaycee Ternus  
Staff Reporter

As the band and Shamrock Singers enhance their talents throughout the year, it comes time for them to show off their skills for rating at district music. District music was at the Columbus Community College on Thursday April 11th through Saturday the 13th. The talent consisted of trios, duets, solos, and full groups. Each piece is rated in quality from one being the highest and five being the lowest.

The band received eight-

teen total superior ratings and excellent ratings. Sophomore Lizzie Parker plays the trumpet and contributed to the superior ratings of the weekend. She was in a trumpet ensemble, a trumpet quartet, and a trumpet solo, which all scored ones.

“The thing I take away from districts is that even when practice feels like it is for nothing, it really all adds up to something when you get to districts weekend. The feeling after performing is worth every minute of practice for me,” Parker said.

The whole band received a superior from all three judges. Senior Tara

Kamrath contributed to the ratings by playing the flute. She played in a double flute trio ensemble, which earned a one and played a violin solo, which received a two.

“This year was huge for the band, firstly because of us being the largest high school band Scotus has ever had, and also because of all the great ratings across both band and singers,” Kamrath said. “Preparing all the music for this required three months and caused insane stress, but now that everything is coming to a close - and the results were better than anyone could have hoped for - it’s super relieving.”

Some students played different instruments for solos. Sophomore Josh Styskal played in the whole choir and also played trumpet and violin. He also sang in a small vocal double quartet with the sophomores in Shamrock Singers.

“We did amazing. Most performers received a one. A lot of the worry and nervousness we had prior to performances was relieved by our warm-up before the performance. For people who received a disappointing rating, we learned to accept that we performed as best as we could,” Styskal said.

Senior Isaac Ostdiek

plays the tenor saxophone for the band. He did a saxophone ensemble and played in the band which both received a superior rating.

“I think we did well. I recently listened to a recording of the same song that we played a few years back, and it sounded so much better now. I’m glad that we got to play it as well as we did,” Ostdiek said. “I have great memories. I grew closer to the saxophones that I did the ensemble with, and it was so much fun to perform with them one more time before I graduate.”

Shamrock Singers had a total of seven superior rat-

ings, three excellent ratings, and one good rating. Senior Patrick Herchenbach is a part of Shamrock Singers. He sang a solo and a duet, played the piano, sang a senior piece, and sang with the whole choir. The choir and duet earned two’s and his solo and senior piece earned ones.

“I was just really happy with how well we all performed. All the band members and singers did so well with all their pieces,” Herchenbach said. “I am so proud of all of us. This last district music was one to remember.”



CAMERON JOHNSTON/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Freshmen Camille Cox, Carson Czarnick, and Zane Beiermann play their district song at the spring band concert. The trumpet trio received an Excellent rating at district music.



LIZA ZARUBA/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Freshman Luke Przymus and senior Isaac McPhillips sing a duet at the music concert. Their duet received a superior rating at district music.





**Zackary Beiermann**  
 University of Nebraska-Lincoln  
**Major:** Business Administration  
**Fact:** I got some soft feet.



**Kendra Korger**  
 University of Nebraska-Lincoln  
**Major:** Undecided  
**Quote:** "I am running away from my responsibilities." *The Office*, Season 4, episode 4, 34:58.



**Cameron Johnston**  
 University of Nebraska-Lincoln  
**Major:** Animal Science  
**Quote:** "If I died no one would cry.... Because they've been dead for weeks."



**Blaney Dreifurst**  
 University of Nebraska-Lincoln  
**Major:** Journalism  
**Fact:** My parents named me after a racecar driver because my dad used to drive racecars.



**Jackson Neville**  
 University of Nebraska-Lincoln  
**Major:** Business Marketing  
**Quote:** "When something is important enough, you do it even if the odds are not in your favor."



**Abbie Zoucha**  
 University of Nebraska-Lincoln  
**Major:** Speech and Language Pathology  
**Fact:** I was Baptized at St. Anthony's, received First Communion/Reconciliation at St. Bon's, and Confirmed at St. Isidore's.



**Logan Bennett**  
 University of Nebraska-Lincoln  
**Major:** Speech and Language Pathology  
**Memory:** Freshmen year, I was walking down the stairs and all of a sudden three senior boys came running down, and I fell down about 8-10 stairs and broke my ankle.



**Madeline Sueper**  
 University of Nebraska-Lincoln  
**Major:** Nursing  
**Memory:** Junior Year, Mrs. Schumacher yelled at Hannah every morning to feed her "class fish" but was unaware that the fish had died at the beginning of the school year.



**Grant Shanle**  
 University of Nebraska-Lincoln  
**Major:** Electrical Engineering  
**Fact:** My junior year, a criminal stole Elliott's Mom's purse and our state track team chased him down and stopped him.



**Mira Liebig**  
 University of Nebraska-Lincoln  
**Major:** Deaf Education  
**Fact:** I can lick my elbow.

**Mattie Johnson**  
 University of Nebraska-Lincoln  
**Major:** Human Sciences and Sociology  
**Quote:** Yes I'm vegetarian. No I don't miss meat. Yes I eat eggs. No I'm not vegan. It's finally time I tell everyone the answers to my most asked questions.



**Blake Sucha**  
 University of Nebraska-Lincoln  
**Major:** Animal Science  
**Fact:** My pinky bends 90 degrees.



**Isaac Ostdiek**  
 St. John Vianney Seminary  
**Major:** Philosophy  
**Memory:** The send off for state speech.



**Caleb Kosch**  
 St. John Vianney Seminary  
**Major:** Philosophy  
**Quote:** I didn't learn how to close the bathroom stalls until senior year!



**Luke Bettenhausen**  
 Wayne State College  
**Major:** Psychology  
**Fact:** My eyes change color.



**Emily Stutzman**  
 College of St. Mary's  
**Major:** Kinesiology  
**Memory:** Sophomore year volleyball, Coach Held was standing on a box hitting balls at us and he hit me square in the face and told me to walk it off.



**Courtney Kosch**  
 College of St. Mary's  
**Major:** Nursing  
**Memory:** Rylie Olson forced me to eat chapstick because I lost What Are The Odds.



**Abram Perault**  
 Benedictine College  
**Major:** Philosophy and Theology  
**Memory:** Freshman year, Mr. Salyard stopped class to tell me to stop chewing on my pencil because it had no nutritional value.



**Inri Dimas**  
 Wayne State College  
**Major:** Psychology  
**Fact:** My name is on the Crucifix.



**Kelsey Faust**  
 Wayne State College  
**Major:** Dental Hygiene  
**Memory:** One time, in 8th grade P.E., Logan was spotting me while I was benching and her gum accidentally fell out of her mouth and into mine.



**Patrick Herchenbach**  
 Creighton University  
**Major:** Undecided  
**Fact:** One speech meet I gave all of my speeches in a British accent and convinced the judges that I was from England.



**Bryce VunCannon**  
 Nebraska Wesleyan University  
**Major:** Undecided  
**Memory:** We forgot Duba in Stanton after a golf meet.



**Julia Salerno**  
 Nebraska Wesleyan University  
**Major:** Biology  
**Fact:** I can touch my nose with my tongue.



**Mariana Valdez Ortiz**  
 Temple University  
**Major:** Advertising  
**Fact:** I secretly judge everyone who gets me and my sister confused.

**Nathan Schumacher**  
 Creighton University  
**Major:** Business and Pre-law  
**Fact:** From seventh grade to senior year, I have always worn shorts with my uniform to school, never pants.



**Elliott Thomazin**  
 University of Notre Dame  
**Major:** Economics and Philosophy  
**Memory:** During my Junior year study hall, I started taping notes under my desk for the people who sat there during other periods to read. For over ten weeks, we all would anonymously write to each other everyday.



**Daniela Valdez Ortiz**  
 Temple University  
**Major:** International Relations  
**Fact:** I should wear glasses, but I don't wear them because I don't want to look more like my twin sister.



**Gary He**  
 Indiana University  
**Major:** Business Administration  
**Fact:** I am super scared of dogs, especially big ones.



**Julia Pichler**  
 Peru State College  
**Major:** Secondary Education  
**Quote:** I want to be just like Mrs. Zanardi when I grow up, but Ms. Mimick's height will have to do I guess.





**Samuel Blaser**  
University of Nebraska-Omaha  
Major: Cyber Security  
Memory: The time we forgot Bennett Frewing at Scotus on our way to the District Music Competition at CCC.



**Braden Labenz**  
University of Nebraska-Omaha  
Major: Civil Engineering  
Fact: When I was six years old, I won the midwest national gymnastics meet with the highest score out of any boy.



**Lucas Schaecher**  
University of Nebraska-Omaha  
Major: Architectural Engineering or IT  
Memory: Spending the last 6 years with the cross country team.



**Abigail Stuart**  
University of Nebraska-Omaha  
Major: Chemistry  
Memory: All of my classmates being at my mom's funeral.



**Hanna Doan**  
University of Nebraska-Omaha  
Major: Public Relations  
Fact: I've been traveling to foreign countries since I was 2.



**Tyler Wurtz**  
University of Nebraska-Kearney  
Major: Business

Memory: Colby Gilson stabbed his salad at lunch and his salad went flying in the air and got all over him.



**Andrew Zaruba**  
University of Nebraska-Kearney

Major: Chemistry  
Memory: I got my first detention in 8th grade during an intruder drill because I said, "Come in!" when the 'intruder' pounded on our door.



**Caden Pelan**  
University of Nebraska-Kearney

Major: Biology  
Memory: Every day coming up from lunch in the courtyard Carter would give Drew a leaf, and he would eat it.



**Isaac McPhillips**  
University of Nebraska-Kearney  
Major: Post-secondary Education, Social Science  
Fact: I really love Godfather's pizza.



**Emma Brandt**  
University of Nebraska-Omaha  
Major: Athletic Training  
Memory: I made a fake restraining order against Abe Perault in 8th grade because he was annoying me too much. Drew Zaruba was my lawyer, and the restraining order ends the day of graduation.



**Eduardo Torres**

The Creative Center  
Major: Graphic Design

Memory: When the bus started burning up as we were headed to CCC for one act.



**Bailey Lehr**

Central Community College-Columbus  
Major: Agri Business

Memory: Coach Held yelled at Emily to get on the court and she ran and slipped on someone's sweat. We couldn't laugh because he was so mad.



**Kaity Lovell**

Central Community College-Columbus  
Major: Business Management or Real Estate

Fact: I was born backwards.



**Callan Fuchser**

Central Community College-Columbus  
Major: Criminal Justice

Memory: Eighth grade year, Jackson Neville started calling me Calpurnia after the maid in *To Kill A Mockingbird*.



**Carter Thorson**

University of Nebraska-Kearney  
Major: Biology

Memory: Mr. Coulter hitting Mr. McPhillips in the face with a dodge ball at the pep rally.



**Rylie Olson**

Southeast Community College, Lincoln  
Major: Radiology

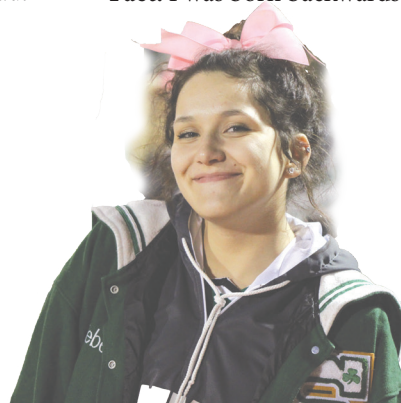
Fact: One of my ears has more cartilage than the other.



**Logan Johnson**

Northeast Community College, Norfolk  
Major: Automotive

Quote: "If no one comes back from the future to stop me, it must be a good idea."



**Rebekah Hergott**

Entering the workforce

Quote: To my surprise, high school is nothing like *GLEE*.



**Cheydon Puntney**

Entering the workforce

Quote: Stay humble.



**Tara Kamrath**

Central Community College-Columbus  
Major: Undecided

Fact: Being left-handed, I have always used scissors with my left hand because no one ever mentioned to me that there are both right and left-handed scissors.



**Hannah Allen**

Newman University

Major: Pre-Veterinary Medicine  
Quote: "Never bend your head. Always hold it high. Look the world straight in the eye." -Helen Keller



**Prestyn Engel**

Iowa Western Community College  
Major: Business

Quote: "It ain't much, but it's honest work."



**Tommy Yu**

Michigan State University

Major: Economics  
Memory: Taking my shirt off after scoring a soccer goal.



**Hallie Parker**

Mt. Marty College  
Major: Elementary and Special Education

Fact: My parents named me after one of the twins, Hallie Parker, on the movie *the Parent Trap*.



**Konner Kudron**

Midland University

Major: Nursing  
Fact: My left arm is 1 cm shorter than my right.



**Jaden Hollmann**

Northeast Community College, Norfolk

Major: Bachelor's of Science of Nursing  
Fact: I'm known to have a different hair color every two months



**Evan Sliva**

Northeast Community College, Norfolk

Major: Utility Line  
Quote: "C's get degrees, quit trying so hard."



**Colby Gilson**

Iowa Western Community College

Major: Secondary Education  
Fact: I know every lyric of every Eminem song.



**Daniel Tworek**

Northeast Community College, Norfolk

Major: Auto Body  
Quote: "Saturdays are for the boys."



# Abe Perault



When I was a kid, I expected to accomplish many achievements in high school. The first thing I wanted to do was become class president. I vividly remember sitting at the class of 2013's graduation ceremony. Kara Moore was the class president, so that meant she was presented with the opportunity to speak in front of her whole class, their families, and everyone else attending. I remember her speech focused on their class song, "Home" by Phillip Phillips. The final lines were what hit me the most. She said that Scotus was their class' home, and no matter what they do, there is always a place for them there. After hearing that, I wanted to give that speech someday.

From that point on, I expected more and more from myself. In junior high, I was told I was going to be a great football player, so I

expected that I would be the greatest lineman Scotus had ever seen. I was going to be team captain, and we were even going to make it to state. I also expected to be like my older sisters. They were praised for being so smart, so I automatically said I was going to be smart. I was going to be in the top 10 percent of the class just like them.

I had all these expectations about high school and guess how many of them happened? Zero. Not one of the dreams I expected to happen happened. I did not become class president. I did not become captain of the football team. I did not make the top ten percent of my class.

Sometimes that is the way life goes; the plans change. That does not mean they change for the worse though. In my case new opportunities opened up for me. Some of my greatest memories at Scotus were those new and unexpected opportunities. I never expected to quit basketball, but I did and in turn joined powerlifting. Three years later and hundreds of hours clocked in the weight room, my team won the program's first state title. There was also the time I signed up for Journalism. Being the only junior in the class, I was quite unsure of myself. Then I was tasked with creating the front page of every issue. Turns out you can win a state championship for that too. Those are just two of those unexpected moments of high school. That is not to mention going out for musical, making it to state in quiz bowl, and winning the homecoming game against Wahoo Neumann in football.

The biggest expectation I had crushed in high school was my relationships. If you asked me as an eighth grader who my best friends would be in high school, I would not have been right. Never did I expect to become best friends with the nerdy kids that played video games and watched cartoons or the guy that I thought was a jerk. I definitely never expected to be best friends with a bunch of juniors.

The point is that you cannot live by your expectations. Sometimes you have to write your story instead of reading the one you wish it was. High school will not end up like you plan it will. There will be heartbreak and disappointment, but there are so many unexpected blessings that it is hard to thank God for them all. Dreams are good, but do not be surprised if they do not come true. What actually happens is better than anything you would expect.

This is Abe Perault, signing off!



# Elliott Thomazin



If I could condense these past six years of walking, breathing, and living within the walls of Scotus into one word, I would choose: gratifying. Everything that I've done, from getting out of my dad's truck and walking into the north doors as a nervous seventh grader to writing this senior sign off for the *Rock Bottom* with the fear of the unknown in the back of my mind, has rewarded me with valuable experiences that will fuel my decisions for the rest of my life. Sadly, as with so many things in life, my time here is only temporary. When I walk across the stage on May 12<sup>th</sup>, my experiences here at Scotus will undergo a necessary transformation. Instead of being able to create new moments of love, laughter, and learning, I will be forced to relive my Scotus experiences as mere memories.

Looking back over my six years here, I have very few memories of regret. For example, I have never regretted my decision to get involved within Scotus. If you name an activity or group, I've probably been involved in it at some point. Because of my commitment to participation, I'll be able to cherish a diverse group of memories for years to come. Playing dodgeball on a state bound cross country bus in a Perkins parking lot my sophomore year, laughing with tears in my eyes during musical practice because McPhil, Tim, Abe, and I are butchering notes, and jumping in my seat with Grant when the trombones play a high D in "Marches of the Armed Forces" are all experiences I will carry with me forever. Some more favorites include bus rides home from cross country meets filled with singing and smiles, staring down the drain in disbelief after I dropped my pencil right into the pipes of the northwest chemistry lab station, or walking into school on an early morning only to be surprised with a sprinkle doughnut from Emma or Patrick.

Even though recalling the past never fails to put a smile on my face, these memories only subtly contribute to the fulfillment of life. It's the memories that are forgotten within the monotony of the school day that continually impact me the most. A physics joke followed by a cheeky grin from Mr. Salyard, a smile from someone walking down the hall as I walk from band to Spanish, or a reassuring pat on the back during the middle of a hard workout from Coach Lahm or Coach Bender all have gone toward making my time at Scotus as enjoyable as possible. All these heartwarming experiences have become commonplace in my life. That's the reason that saying goodbye to Scotus will be so difficult. Our normal is someone else's extraordinary.

Scotus truly is a gift, but, sadly, it's a gift that I have often taken for granted. Earlier I stated that I have few memories that I look back and regret, but that doesn't mean that I regret nothing. Regret is often the best teacher, but with graduation only a few days away, my time for learning

is almost passed. All that I can do now is share my lessons with you in hope that you take them to heart. If I could go back in time, I would take back the hundreds of wasted hours spent suckling the barrage of posts, videos, and meaningless garbage that my phone presented to me. I should have tried out for theater earlier because I found a way to unleash some inner creativity and confidence. But ultimately, I wish that I could have been a better friend, not only to the kid in the corner, but to myself because sometimes the last person that we want to interact with is the person who stares back at us in the mirror. To everyone who still has time left at Scotus: start living authentically, greet each day with a smile, and make every single day that you have in this school a day to remember.

This is Elliott Thomazin signing off.

# Callan Fuchser



Cue the Jonas Brother's hit single, "I made it to the year 3000," and change it to 2019. Thank God, it's *finally* MY year.

You learn a lot about yourself in high school. Likes and dislikes. Wants and needs. Hopes and dreams. In my swift six years at Scotus, I've learned that I have absolutely zero filter. Some see it as a major flaw, but I, see it otherwise.

Every single teenager is attempting to maneuver the highs and lows of high school, deciphering where their true fit in the world is or who their true friends are. I found my groove, surrounded myself with people who accepted my bluntness, and have been honest ever since. For example, one day in Religion, Logan Bennett and I were passionately discussing how Blake Horstmann, featured on the 23<sup>rd</sup> season of *The Bachelorette* (Becca's season),

was returning home to his alma mater, Hastings College, for a meet and greet. This erupted into my impressive knowledge of any contestant Bachelor/Bachelorette related and me being comfortable saying to Father I knew more about that than the actual books of the Bible. Sad, but completely true.

Coming back from Christmas break, I found myself being honest with everyone but myself. Sure, I can spout off dress advice, throw out my opinion on boys, and even drop my political opinion here and there, but when it came to something personal, deep down, I just couldn't do it.

Senior year has really broken me out of the shell I once forced myself into. Anyone who knows me knows I'm pretty darn judgmental, saying what I mean when I mean it. It wasn't until January of this year that I took my life by the reigns and started to be honest with myself. It took me a while, but I finally realized what was important.

People are going to gossip, and not everyone is going to agree with how you choose to live your life. That's why you must live for you and you only. Don't ever feel bad for deciding things about your own life that upsets other people. *You* are not responsible for their happiness. You're responsible for your own happiness. Anyone who wants you to live in misery for their happiness, should not be in your life to begin with.

Are there times in which you should listen to God, family, or even close friends? Of course! But there must be a line you draw, noting where your personal limits lie.

So, my message? Simple. Be the Michael Scott. Be the Christina Yang. Dare to be different, say what you mean, and above all else be honest with yourself.

This is Callan Fuchser, signing off.

# Julia Salerno



Having a sister who is only thirteen months older than me lead to many comparisons and expectations. People saying stuff such as "you two are like twins" or "I bet you are just like each other." People may not know it, but my sister and I have completely different personalities, and because of the many differences, I could not bring myself to uphold the expectations that she set growing up first.

Just because your older siblings are good at sports or had the lead in the musical three times doesn't mean that you must follow in their footsteps. You should be and are capable of doing what you want, so when you graduate high school and grow up, people know you for the characteristics you want them to.

Whether it is having to come into high school being known from older siblings or having teachers not have any idea of who you are, every single person has the opportunity to create his/her own legacy to leave behind after they graduate. Inevitably, it will be more challenging for the unknown person to leave their legacy, but it is definitely possible and here are a few ways to make it happen.

The first thing you can do to leave your legacy is to work hard. Teachers, coaches, and administrators notice students' attitudes toward everything they do whether it is on the field or in the classroom. I know that if I could have one trait the people know about me is that I am a hard worker.

Something else that can help you leave your legacy is to strive to do what you want to. Explore all activities that interest you. Join a club or try out for a sports team that seems fun. For example, I decided to join the Columbus High swim team at 9:30 pm the night before practices started. I knew that I hated basketball and wanted to try something new, so with some convincing from my friend Callan Fuchser, I decided to step outside the box and into the pool. Joining the swim team was one of the best decisions I made in high school which led to many new friendships and opportunities and lots of fun memories.

Now, being like your siblings is not all negative. If your brother was a hard worker, then coaches can expect and know that you will work just as hard as them. You can use that to your advantage to succeed. If your sibling was super smart, strive to get a higher ACT or GPA than them to rub it in their face.

So, whatever decisions you make, fill them with hard work and pride. You never know where life will take you, but you will know the legacy you have left behind.

This is Julia Salerno signing off.



# Tara Kamrath



A distant stare. Parted lips. Noises dimmed. Images flashing behind my eyes as one idea flits to the next. My mind is whirling, but others only hear me softly exhaling.

Throughout my life, people have commented numerous times that I am quiet or don't talk much. Starting my sixth-grade year, I began to wonder why I don't speak as much as others seem to. As the years went on, I have suggested several potential answers: I'm merely shy; no one is talking about what I am interested in; I *do* start to add to a conversation, but then I get interrupted and give up; or simply, I don't know *what* to say.

Those who wonder this need to know that instead of spurting out words through my mouth, my mind is orbited by countless thoughts and ideas. Between me coming up with concepts and scenes for my own stories I write and thinking of others' stories that I have experienced alongside their characters, my head feels like my brain is pressing up against the inside of my skull. And on the rare occasion when the tide between my ears is calm, I am observing and listening, determining how windy it is outside by looking at the tree branches or catching the trace of a stray conversation in the hallway. It's enlightening to know how much one can learn by doing this.

I am writing this because I am sure there are other people like me in this school. Those who would rather read a book during lunch than listen to scattered chatter, who glance out the window to catch a glimpse of the clouds, who wonder along with me, "What is so interesting that people can talk to each other about for a flawless forty-one minutes?"

These are the minds that go against "the norm" of society, that all people are social butterflies and compete for the best opinion. Within these minds are portals to other worlds and stories, ideas that desire to be manifested into something more through music, art, and writing, and simply cannot be properly explained through normal speaking. I support and encourage you people to show your voices through these things; there are different languages other than speech. Don't let the world around you force you to become who you don't want to be.

To those who have the luxury of flaunt tongue: hold your words when the need to wonder aloud why so-and-so uncommonly speaks arises, or else risk becoming another obstacle to his or her inner world, because within these minds is the true hurricane when it seems one is standing before the calm eye.

Quoting something that I came across recently, "Why does everyone force introverts to be talkative and leave their comfort zone, but no one forces the extroverts to [be quiet], even for a minute, to make the zone comfortable?"

This is Tara Kamrath, signing off.

# Mariana Valdez Ortiz



The day that I wished for so long to come, has finally arrived. As I begin to write this, my last article, there are only thirty-five days left till I walk down the stage to receive my diploma. For the last four years, I have spent my days counting down the days left for graduation. Now that I am only a few days away from finally graduating, I realize that I should have spent my days being grateful instead of counting them down.

It has taken me a long time to realize how lucky we all are to be able to attend a school like Scotus. A school full of teachers who care about all the students and are always willing to help them. A school that always tries to improve so that we have more opportunities.

One thing I do regret is that I did not participate in all the activities I wanted to participate in. I was afraid of what people would say, so I always made excuses. I focused too much on school work, and I forgot that the other important part of high school is to have fun. The first three years of high school I wanted to participate in One Act, but I did not do it until my senior year. My favorite memories from senior year come from the time I spent in One Act. I was able to meet new people and use my artistic skills to make props for the play. I am extremely grateful for the people that finally convinced me to join One Act.

This year was also my first year doing journalism. At the end of my junior year when I had to choose my classes for my senior year, I wanted to do yearbook, not journalism. I ended up in journalism because it was the only class available during seventh period. If I had not taken journalism, I would not have found my love for writing and photography, and I would not have gone to state journalism.

When I entered high school, I could not wait to go to college, and now that next year I am going to be in another state going to college, I have come to realize how much I am going to miss Scotus and Columbus. Next year everything is going to be different. I am going to be in a new city, surrounded by completely new people. It is the end of this chapter of my life, and I am scared, but I am also extremely excited. I am grateful for the people I have met and the experiences I have had here in Columbus. Something that I have learned is that you need to be thankful for everything and everyone. It might sound cliché, but it is true. You never know how long something is going to last, so you need to be grateful for every person and every opportunity that might come into your life.

This is Mariana Valdez Ortiz, signing off.

# Cameron Johnston



At the end of my freshman year, my brother graduated from Scotus and moved onto college. I was so jealous of his ability to move out and begin his life on his own. My sophomore and junior year I looked forward to moving out and onto bigger things. However, in recent months I have realized all that high school has to offer.

While I still am excited to move out and live away from home, I will miss the community and helpfulness that Scotus and my family has extended to me. While I am at Scotus, I feel that everyone here has my back and I have theirs and this helps everyone feel welcomed and worth something. The surrounding community of Scotus is full of alumni extending their hands to help current students with scholarships, job shadowing, etc.

The final year of my high school education is almost over and all people around me are super excited to move on and never look back. I, however, hardly ever count down the days till graduation because Scotus has become such a large and important thing in my life.

After going on college visits and talking to students in college, I have found out I will miss the connections and one-on-one teacher student ability before or after school. With teachers at Scotus I have developed relationships where I consider them more as friends than figures of authority. Once college comes, that relationship is out the window.

Another thing high school has that college and living away from home does not is the support that friends and family can give me. If I have a bad day or do something great at Scotus, I can go home and talk to my parents in person. At college, while they are still only one call away, it is not the same as face to face conversation. The number of friends that I can talk to will decrease initially, and they are the only people that will likely be there to pick me up if I am down.

In conclusion, when people tell me "the best part of Scotus will be leaving" I shrug it off and hope they realize all the things that Scotus has given them and everything that it can offer them in the future.

This is Cameron Johnston, signing off.

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# Discoverers battle back from slow start

By Brea Lassek  
Staff Reporter

With district play beginning May 4<sup>th</sup>, the Columbus High baseball team has no room to strike out. The Discoverers have battled consistency this season, fighting to a 9-9 record. In hopes of the team's first state tournament berth in school history, the boys overcame a slow start to the season by developing their fielding and capitalizing at the plate.

Strength of schedule shook the team as they faced three ranked opponents consecutively, each resulting in a loss. Although playing challenging teams, the results were mainly attributed to costly fielding errors and inconsistent hitting.

As an outfielder and senior leader, senior Caden Pelan has high expectations for both his offensive and defensive units.

"We can play solid defense and hit the ball hard if we are locked in. Our weakness is that we haven't found out how to play like that every game. If we develop some consistency, we will be tough to beat," Pelan

commented.

The Discoverers snapped a four-game losing streak in a close matchup against Blair. Led by a strong performance from Columbus on the mound and a Pelan homerun, the Discoverers earned a 3-2 win over the Bears.

"One strength we have is our pitching staff. We have a deep rotation of pitchers whether it's Palmer, Wilcox, Fleeman, or Dush on the bump," junior Eric Mustard remarked.

The next day, the Discoverers faced off against the Discoverers faced off against the Class B tenth rated Seward Bluejays. Down 4-3 in the bottom of the seventh, Columbus fought to extend play into extra innings.

Despite a loss on their record, Columbus's battle against Lincoln Southwest showcased the team's tenacity and overall development up to this point in the season. The Silver Hawks are ranked third all-class, but the Discoverers contended throughout with junior Tyler Palmer throwing a complete game on the mound. Southwest edged Columbus 3-1; however, this game provided a surge of confidence that the team can compete with high caliber

teams.

"We had so many opportunities but could not take advantage of them," Pelan commented.

Omaha South hosted the Discoverers on April 15<sup>th</sup>. Ten hits and ten runs launched the Discoverers to a shutout victory. Sophomore Kaden Young produced a hit, and Palmer had a successful day at the plate, going two for three with an RBI.

Columbus's momentum swung in their next two match-ups as the Discoverers fell to Fremont Bergan 5-3 in extra innings and Lincoln East 5-2. Between both games, the Discoverers committed five fielding errors.

On April 20<sup>th</sup>, the team travelled to Lincoln Northeast for a doubleheader. In the first game, seven appeared to be their lucky number as there were seven hits, walks drawn, and bases stolen.

Columbus maintained the same energy in the nightcap and dominated Northeast for a 13-4 win. Before this doubleheader, the Discoverers had never played a game without an error; however, the team went back-to-back games with a perfect fielding percentage against the



BREA LASSEK/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

**Junior Eric Mustard sends a ball to the outfield against Elkhorn South on Thursday, April 25. The Discoverers have a 9-9 record.**

Rockets.

The Discoverers returned home to face the Lincoln Southeast Knights on April 23<sup>rd</sup>. Palmer contributed two of the Discoverers' six hits, including a shot to deep center field for his third homerun of the season. Pelan had one hit while Mustard reached base after being hit by a pitch.

Second-ranked Elkhorn South visited the Discoverers at home and overpowered Columbus 8-5. The next day, the Discoverers bounced back on senior night in a 4-3

walk-off victory. Mustard went one for three at the plate on the day.

On April 27<sup>th</sup>, the team split two tournament games, sailing to a 20-9 win against Lincoln High and then falling to Norris for the second time this season 15-4. To round out the regular season, the Discoverers squared off against Grand Island in a doubleheader and Omaha North.

Although starting slow at the beginning of the season, the Columbus High Discoverers are heating up for the four-team single elimination

district tournament. In his second season as head coach, Coach Jimmy Johnson is confident with the progress his team has made.

"We started off slow with the bats but are really improving the mentality with what we want to do at the plate. We have also improved our toughness and knowing we must earn everything we play for," Johnson concluded. "Nothing comes easy in the game of baseball. They have worked hard and improved a lot. Hopefully, we can finish the season strong."

# Shamrocks swing for success

By Liza Zaruba  
Staff Reporter

After last year's trip to the state tournament, the boys' golf team is back with a fresh season already in full swing.

The boys' team consists

of eighteen members with three seniors, one junior, and two freshmen spending time on varsity. The varsity team has had three meets so far, each one better than the last, and the boys are looking to culminate these efforts toward one common goal.

"Our goal as a team is

to make it to state," senior Bryce Vuncannon said. "We know we have the talent necessary to meet this goal, but we need to put the time in to do so."

The boys' golf team started practices back in March, but their first meet of the season was not until April

1st at Firethorne Country Club in Lincoln, Nebraska. There, the boys placed 5<sup>th</sup> as a team, even with the hindrances on their practices due to the unpredictable weather and flooding Columbus experienced.

"Having to practice indoors until about a week before our first meet set us back a bit from where we could be," junior Drew VunCannon explained.

Next, the team traveled to York on April 9<sup>th</sup> but were unable to put up the scores they were hoping for.

"The biggest struggle [this year] has definitely been our team performance," freshman Seth VunCannon said. "At York we placed 11<sup>th</sup>, I believe we should at least be top 10 every meet."

The junior varsity also played on April 9<sup>th</sup> in Stanton where they were nearly beaten out in the dual. This was the first meet of the year for junior varsity, and the team is far from satisfied.

"The meets so far this year have been decent. We still have a way to grow as a team and hope to improve drastically," senior Blake

Sucha said.

Following the April 9<sup>th</sup> meets, the varsity team was quick to rebound from their lack-luster performance. They pulled out a second-place finish at Boone Central on April 16<sup>th</sup>. Nearly every varsity member improved their scores in comparison to the first meet, and Bryce VunCannon was able to draw out the first-place win with a score of 75.

"I thought we did really well as a team, but unfortunately, we left a few shots out there," Coach Tyler Swanson said. "We had a chance at first but didn't play as well the second nine holes, and Battle Creek beat us."

Consistency is one of the main focuses of the season this year, and it is no secret that the most effective way to achieve this is simply through practice.

"The best part about golf for me is seeing how all the time I have put in is mixing with the talent that God has given me to help me perform well," Bryce VunCannon said.

The golf team competed at the Elk's on Monday,

April 22 for the Scotus Invite for a fifth place finish. The next day, the boys returned for a win at Quail Run in the Lakeview dual. Bryce VunCannon and Cameron Johnston led the team with scores of 35 and 36, respectively.

Golf for the boys' team this year is about much more than just golf, though. It's just as much about the people involved as it is about the actual sport itself.

"The best part about golf is easily the lightheartedness of this year's team," senior Cameron Johnston explained. "When we come together, golf goes out the window and cracking the best joke becomes our number one priority."

Despite the seniors winding down their last week of school, the golf season is still just heating up. The Lakeview Invite took place on Monday at the Elk's. Tuesday, the golf team headed up to GICC, and today they are playing at Wayne. Conference is this Saturday, and then, the boys will be heading to the Norfolk Catholic Invite this upcoming Monday.



ELLIOTT THOMAZIN/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

**Senior Bryce VunCannon steps up to tee off during a home meet at the Elk's Country Club. VunCannon is the leading golfer on this year's team.**

# Track races toward state

By Cameron Johnston  
Staff Reporter

The final season of 2018-2019 sports has reached its peak and is now coming around the bend for the final stretch.

The boys and girls track teams started competing in April at the Wayne invitational on Tuesday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> and the Knights of Columbus invite on Tuesday, April 9<sup>th</sup> at Pawnee Park's Memorial Stadium.

Sophomore Abaigeal Aydt, in her second year in track, competes in the 1600 meter and 3200 meter races.

"This season the girls' team has already gotten 2<sup>nd</sup> place at two meets which is quite impressive. Everyone has worked very hard for these two places, and it is important to realize that it takes a team to get there," Aydt said.

Sophomore Olivia

Fehringer recently competed in the 400 and 800 meter races at the Knights of Columbus meet. She placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the 400 and 6<sup>th</sup> in the 800 meter race.

"The biggest struggle for me is not getting too caught up in the times. I need to focus more on the happiness that running provides me with," Fehringer said.

Senior Abe Perault throws with the boys shotput and discus team. Perault placed 5<sup>th</sup> in the shotput competition at the Wayne invitational.

"We just have to focus on working hard at practice. Most of us are doing 3 events, so we need to give each one our best effort at practice," Perault stated.

Junior Brea Lassek competed the previous two spring seasons in girls' soccer and has transitioned recently to track and field. Lassek competes in the one and two

mile races and occasionally in the 4 x 800-meter relay.

"I decided to go out for track this year for the first time since junior high, and it's such a positive atmosphere! My coaches and teammates continually push me to break my own personal records. The workouts may be difficult, but the distance crew can accomplish anything," Lassek stated.

Freshman Grace Mustard has placed at every meet she has ran in so far this year. The events she has placed in are the 100 meter hurdles, 300 meter hurdles, and the 4 x 400 meter relay.

"My favorite meets are when it's cool, not too hot, and not too windy," Mustard stated.

Junior jumper and runner Amber Buhman placed in recent meets in the 4x800, 4x400, the 400, and triple jump.

"My favorite meet is the

Scotus Relays. It is fun to compete in everything as a team, and relays are always my favorite races. This meet allows almost everyone on the team to compete. I also like that it is a home meet," Buhman said.

At the recent Lakeview track and field invitational many Scotus athletes excelled, but Senior Grant Shanle was a gold medalist in three separate events. These events were the 110 meter hurdles, shotput, and discus.

"I got personal bests in the shot by 1 foot and 4 feet in discus. If I keep competing well hopefully I can make it to state in both of these events," said Shanle.

The varsity track teams travel today to the Boone Central Quad. On Thursday, May 9<sup>th</sup> boys and girls track compete in the district track meet that will be held in Columbus at Pawnee Park's Memorial stadium.



BLANEY DREIFURST/ YEARBOOK STAFF

**Senior Grant Shanle leads his hurdle heat on April 10 at Pawnee Park's Memorial Stadium. Shanle also beat two personal bests in shot put and discus to bring home three golds.**



# Soccer searches for state tournament

By **Chloe Odbert**  
Staff Reporter

Both teams within the Scotus soccer program have had what is being made out to be miracle seasons. Both teams continue to improve their commendable records and look for an open shot at the state tournament.

A 5-0 record sent the lady Shamrocks off to a good start to the 2019 season. Their undefeated record ended on April 6 with a 0-1 loss from Waukee while playing in a Council Bluffs tournament. The Shamrocks resisted the temptation to fold and give in, however. They came back the same day to defeat South East Polk in the same tournament. The Shamrocks beat Polk 2-0 proving to themselves that they were

not going to let their season sink.

After their exhausting weekend tournament, the Shamrocks came back into their week to battle Grand Island Northwest and Kearney Catholic back-to-back April 8 and 9. The Shamrocks defeated the Vikings 9-1 and the Stars 4-0. One of the major factors of the girls' success is the relationships that have built on an off the field.

Senior goalie Emma Brandt realized the change in attitude between this season and last.

"We have good team chemistry this season, and we all get along together well," Brandt stated.

Despite their record, the team recognizes that collectively they still have downfalls. Senior Courtney Kosch, who has nine goals on the season, has been a captain for

two years and spots out the team weaknesses in order to help correct them.

"Our biggest weakness is the speed of play," Kosch said. "We like to take our time to pass a ball or we mess around with the ball a little longer than we should, but with more practice and games we will continue to get faster and faster."

The Shamrocks look to make it back to the state tournament for the eleventh consecutive year. Kosch, as a senior, would love to end her high-school career at Morrison Stadium with a medal around her neck.

"Our goal is to always make it to state and win, but I just want to improve and see everyone on the team improve," Kosch stated.

The Shamrocks played Hastings on April 23 at Hastings. The Shamrocks won

against Hastings with a score of 2-1.

The season has been on a continuous uphill streak for the boys' team as well. The Shamrocks are coming to the close of the season while seated 6th in Class B. The Shamrocks have had a dream season sporting a 11-3 record.

Junior Tyler Vaught, who plays defensive back and has two goals on the season, attributes the team's successful season on a new attitude that the players have been putting forth.

"We are finally realizing how good we actually are when we play well. We see that we can play with the 'big dogs'. I think that our change in mentality has contributed a lot to our success," Vaught said.

Along with their success, the team still struggles to find a start to their games. Junior

goalie Connor Wiehn sees this the most as he watches from the back field.

"Our biggest struggle this season is coming out on the attack when games start. We like to hang back and see what the other team has to offer. We need to get better at coming out with our heads on fire and showing the other team who we are," Wiehn said.

The team has only lost to a few opponents this season, but Wiehn realizes that these games are all just small stepping stones in preparation for what lies ahead.

"It does not matter what happens during the regular season. All these games are just preparing for us to succeed in districts and make it to state. We have to go out every day with a winning attitude and want to get better," Wiehn explained.

Much like the girls, the boys defeated both Northwest and Kearney Catholic. They then took their second and third loss of the season while on the road at the Omaha Bryan Tournament. The Shamrocks fell to Omaha Bryan 0-3 and later in the tournament to Millard South in a nail-biting 1-2 shootout loss.

The Shamrocks bounced back the following week to defeat Schuyler 1-0 in yet another shootout.

As both teams prepare for the end of the season, they look to continuously improve and build relationships to carry them into the post season.

"The goal for the team this year to make it to state. We want to make it to state and show people what we are capable of," Wiehn concluded.



BLANEY DREIFURST/YEARBOOK STAFF

Senior Julia Salerno looks to send her teammate the ball during the team's game against Lincoln Lutheran. Salerno has 6 goals and 12 assists on the season.



BLANEY DREIFURST/YEARBOOK STAFF

Junior Tyler Vaught races to the ball against his opponent from Lutheran High-Norfolk Catholic. The Shamrocks defeated the Knights 3-1 on April 4.

# Locked in with the lock-in

By **Tara Kamrath**  
Staff Reporter

Sport tournaments, Advanced Warfare, scooter races, Mat Ball, and dancing – these were the reasons that kept Scotus' seventh and eighth from falling asleep the night of April 17th and the morning of April 18th and proceeded to make them sleep for the rest of the day.

This year was Scotus' 13th annual junior high lock-in, an event where the school's seventh and eighth-grade students are invited to stay at the school overnight from 7pm to 7am, have pizza for \$10 per person, and participate in various games and activities.

There were three different tournaments played during the lock-in. The volleyball tournament teams consisted of six people, any combination of girls and boys. The basketball tournament had a girls' division and a boys' division, each team containing three players, and the dodgeball tournament held teams of six, comprised

of three girls and three boys. The other games played were scooter races, Advanced Warfare, Mat Ball, and there was always time for dancing.

Eighth-grader Libbie Brezenski's favorite part of the lock-in was playing Advanced Warfare.

"We won, and it was fun to play with all my friends even though I was dead tired after," Brezenski said.

It was too difficult for seventh-grader Nicole Peterson to choose just one favorite activity.

"My favorite activities were [eating] ice cream, scooter races, and dancing," Peterson said. "The ice cream was delicious. The scooter racing was competitive yet fun. Last but not least, the dancing was full of laughs."

Spending a twelve-hour night in one's school is bound to have some moments that stand out from the rest. Seventh-grader Luke Chard found his own way to pass the time.

"Me and my friend got the mats out in the old gym and made a fort out of them," Chard said.

Eight-graders Shayleen Smith and Jasmine Jackson were the only ones left to keep the dance floor alive.

"Something that happened that was really fun was when Jasmine and I were the only ones on the dance floor, and we danced to a couple of our favorite songs," Smith said.

Some highlights that happened during the night were those that were unpredictable. Seventh-grader Joanna Rusher witnessed one of these accidental occasions.

"We were warming up for volleyball, and Olivia Ehlers passed the ball backwards. It went right into the basketball hoop!" Rusher said. "Everyone was cheering for her."

Several people enjoyed the lock-in and recommend there to be more in the future because of the fun there is to be had and the activities one gets to do with his or her friends and classmates. Eighth-grader Brooklyn Brandt agrees that the lock-in should continue.

"It gives the seventh graders a chance to get to



BREA LASSEK/ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

Seventh-grader Jackson Heng readies to shoot the ball in a game of Knockout as his classmates watch during the junior high lock-in. This is the thirteenth year the junior high lock-in has taken place, sponsored by Julie Blaser.

know the eighth graders," Brandt said. "It is also really fun to hang out with all your friends for the whole night."

After having experienced the lock-in, some students came up with ideas for future lock-ins. Seventh-grader Kaitlyn Fleming believes there should be candy bags

for each person so all could stay awake more easily. Eighth-grader Ella Nahorny thinks there should be a movie area where one can watch movies with friends.

The grades collectively thought it would be fun to have a large game of hide-and-seek around the school,

and others wished there was less down time and activities other than sports available to play. All other suggestions can be taken to sponsor Julie Blaser. Overall, the junior high lock-in was another success.



KENDRA KORGER/YEARBOOK STAFF

Eighth graders Neleigh Sliva, Alyssa Hiemer, and Brooklyn Brandt laugh together during the lock-in. The lock-in starts at 7 P.M. and ends at 7 A.M.



KENDRA KORGER/YEARBOOK STAFF

A group of seventh grade girls celebrate after winning the junior high lock-in volleyball tournament. The lock-in is held every year on the Wednesday night of Easter Break.



# Avengers: Endgame ends series perfectly

By Abe Perault  
Staff Reporter

“Yes!” That was the only word going through my head

at the end of the newest Marvel flick. *Avengers: Endgame* manages to be one of the biggest movies in cinematic history while also giving a fitting and satisfying end to a story that has taken the past

eleven years to tell. In 2008 my dad took me to see *Iron Man* as a seven-year-old, and I loved it. Ever since that moment I have invested 11 years of my life into the stories of the heroes

in the Marvel Cinematic Universe. These were the heroes I grew up with, and they have sentimental value to me. To say this movie was an emotional rollercoaster would be an understatement.

*Endgame* picks up after the events of *Avengers: Infinity War*, and the world is in total desolation. Half the Earth’s population is gone, and we find what is left of the Avengers trying to deal with it. It was interesting to see how Thanos’ snap affected the lives of Captain America, Iron Man and company. I will not spoil the film, but let’s just say it leads the heroes to do actions they normally would not do.

I give the writers of this movie credit because they had to bring together so many story lines to fit into the movie’s ridiculously long runtime of three hours and one minute. In that time, they tell a compelling story about loss, friendship, and sacrifice, while managing to give each character the time he/she deserves. While all of that is happening, the film also manages to make you feel every emotion possible. There were times where I was almost crying, others where I was dying of laughter, and almost

the whole time I was on the edge of my seat.

I knew that I was not the only one feeling these emotions either because everyone else around me was also crying, laughing, and on the edge of their seats. The environment in the theater was perhaps my favorite and least favorite part of this movie. During my showtime, every seat was filled, and the theater was sticky from the heat. The uncomfortable situation was forgivable only because whenever a huge reveal happened, the cheers and clapping were something to experience. I have never been in a theater that got excited for something huge to happen. The downfall to that was the obnoxious teenage boys who were yelling in serious parts of the movie. So, consider seeing this movie when it is not so packed.

Regardless of all of the external problems, *Avengers: Endgame* was a satisfying end to the saga. As a fan, it was rewarding to see a film that was intentionally made for me. I could tell you every single reference that was made, and the way some of the heroes’ stories ended sat well with me. I also appreciated the spectacle of the

whole film. The final act was huge and reminded me of the battles in the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy. At one point there were over thirty heroes on the screen. If that is not awesome, I do not know what is.

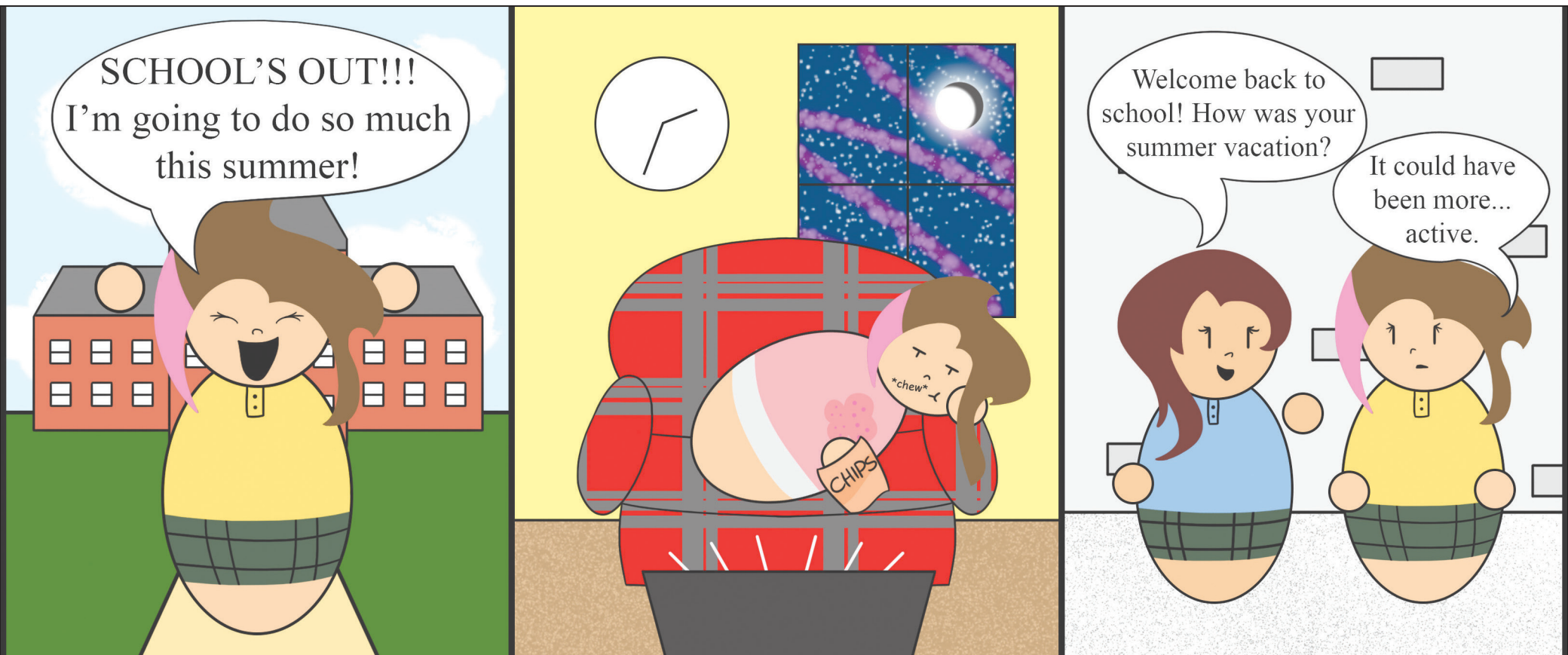
Now this movie is not for everyone. If you have not seen the majority of the Marvel films, this movie is not for you. That is the movie’s only downfall. It relies so heavily on the stories of the previous twenty-one films, that it might be hard to follow if you are not somewhat a fan of the films. Now that being said, it is still a great movie which is worth seeing just for the pure spectacle of it. If you had to watch one film in the saga before watching *Endgame*, it would have to be *Infinity War*. The story would at least somewhat make sense, but to get the whole experience I recommend watching all the films.

Overall *Avengers: Endgame* is an epic finale to the story that I have invested my past eleven years into. It will make you cry, laugh, and cheer with the story it tells. Although it is not a film for everyone, fans will be able to leave the theater feeling rewarded and satisfied.



CNET.COM

**Avengers: Endgame**, released in theatres on Friday, April 25, is the final movie in the Avengers Saga. The film is the conclusion to the previous twenty-one Marvel movies.



TARA KAMRATH /ROCK BOTTOM STAFF

# Thomas Rhett raises the bar

By Brea Lassek  
Staff Reporter

In a society where sex sells and derogatory songs are encouraged, Thomas Rhett is a breath of fresh air for the entertainment industry. The singer and songwriter was recently named ‘Male Artist of the Year’ at the Academy of Country Music Awards on April 7<sup>th</sup>. Although heavily country, Rhett pulls in jazz and pop influences for his well-rounded sound. However, his musical talent is not the main reason why I have fallen in love with this artist.

Rhett focuses many of his records on his wife, Lauren Akins, and their two girls, Willa Gray and Ada James. This may not seem significant, but today’s music industry has shifted to a more vulgar, aggressive style. Cuss words and sexual innuendos are laced into songs without an afterthought. Rhett writes his music with a family-friendly, easy-going approach.

In his hit “Die a Happy Man”, Rhett explains no amount of money or fancy possessions would be able to replace his wife. This is a drastic difference from songs boasting about too

drastic cash amounts in bank accounts and how many rings an artist has (seven to be exact).

“Life Changes” and “Sixteen” are two of my favorite songs by Rhett because he walks his fans through his life story from meeting his wife to adopting Willa Gray. The best artists are those who are open to their fans and provide a glimpse into their lives past their fame. Besides his songs, Rhett tends to post more everyday, sentimental family posts on Instagram rather than bragging about his star-studded life.

Rhett’s most recent single “Look What God Gave Her” was accompanied with an equally touching music video. His wife, daughters, and other inspiring women were featured to celebrate how God has blessed his life. Initially, his children were not supposed to be in the video, but he brought them on set one day and they jumped in unexpectedly. The cameras continued to roll, and Rhett thought there was no way to cut it. Others featured in the video include his single cover artist showing off her creativity and the founders of Love One International promoting their adoption foundation. This music video sums up Rhett’s entire mission: to serve those around him with

his music. Now, I will not lie; up until about a year and a half ago, I hated country music and did not even know who Thomas Rhett was. I hated the honkey-tonk, love your mama kind of music and changed the radio station every time. It was not until I gave Rhett’s music a true chance that I fell in love with country music.

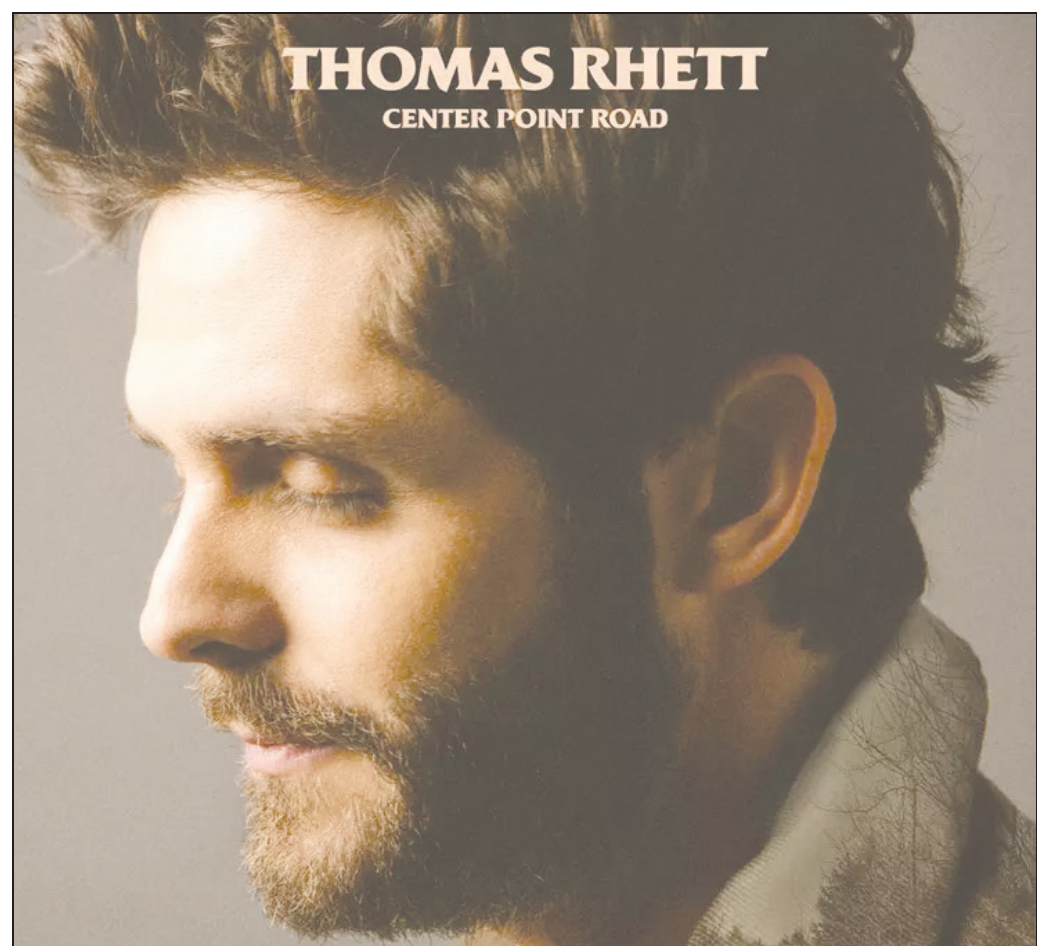
Last fall, I was fortunate enough to attend Rhett’s *Life Changes* Tour in Lincoln. One moment that stood out to me was when he sang “Life Changes” and projected videos and pictures of his family. He also started crying during the concert when he looked out into the crowd. Even though he had been on several tours and red carpets, he expressed his appreciation for his fans in Nebraska and was overwhelmed. His emotion proved to me not only his lyrics are genuine but also his personality.

This, to me, is the difference between Rhett’s songs and modern Billboard hits. Music is meant to make us feel something. It picks us up on our darkest days and allows for the perfect jam sessions with our friends. I will forever remember the memories made singing to “I Lived” during my freshman year of cross country. Now,

whenever that song comes on, I think back to the day I was in the back of Faith Pryzmus’s car and headed to cheer at a football game after a race. She graduated and the other girls in that car will soon be separated too, but as cheesy as it sounds, “I Lived” will still connect us.

This is the music Rhett creates; the type of songs memories attach to. I cannot say the same for some modern songs as they lack meaning and substance. Bass drops are cool and so is the ability to rap incredibly fast, but what is the artist actually saying? Is it from the heart?

I do not believe all popular music is awful. I love the Migos as much as the next person, but I challenge you to listen beyond the catchy beats and try to incorporate different music styles into your playlist. Thomas Rhett is a great place to begin.



IHEARTRADIO.COM

Thomas Rhett’s new album *Center Point Road* is set to release on May 31. This will be Rhett’s fifth album.