



# SCOTUS CENTRAL CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL ANNUAL REPORT

www.scotuscc.org 2016-17 Columbus, NE 68601

## Message from the President



The charisms or “gifts from God” that we chose to celebrate during the 2016-17 school year were Gratitude, Service and Faith—and I give thanks to God for the many opportunities we shared this year to be good stewards of His gifts and to grow in our faith. Reflecting back on the year, the first thing that comes to mind is the positive attitude, enthusiasm and effort our students and faculty shared every day—what more could a school president ask for in his first year!?

Academically, we had seven seniors named to the 2017 Omaha World Herald Academic All-State team including Tate VunCannon who was on the West-Central, first team. Over the course of the year, 35 students received NSAA Academic All-State recognition, and our National Honor Society numbers grew to 70. The 2017 Class ACT composite score was 24.3 which was 3.4 points above the national average. I am also very proud of the continued success with the Student Council’s “Shepherd” program—which provided upper class student mentors for incoming 7th graders. And new this year was the formation of a very successful faculty student assistance team that provided focused assistance to students who were struggling academically.

In team competition our students brought home six district championships, a state title in girls cross country, second place finish in girls’ soccer, and third place finishes in boys cross country and track. At state competition our cheerleading squad captured first place in Game Day, and our Journalism students won the state Class B title for the first time in school history! We also had exemplary individual district and state performances in many other sports, speech, music and mock trial. All of this hard work earned Scotus a combined NSAA Cup—our thirteenth cup since the program’s beginning in 2006!

When it came time to ask our stakeholders for financial support, they came through with \$1.15 million dollars in SEF 15 pledges, a near record net from the Gala dinner auction, many individual gifts for faculty wish list items and we received 216 new Lenovo tablets for students to use in the classroom. And when I suggested in an October 2016 school board meeting that it would be nice if we could someday have a STEAM Lab in our school, the Shamrock nation came through to make it happen. Through a special fund drive and dinner in the fall of 2017 featuring Chuck Hagel ’64 as the guest speaker, we *will* have a STEAM Lab. STEAM is an acronym for Science-Technology-Engineering-Art-Mathematics.

It has been very gratifying to serve Scotus, our families and supporters as president; and I look forward to another great year in service to the Church and our community. May God be praised!

**GRATITUDE.** “Rejoice always, pray continually and give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” Thessalonians 5:16

**SERVICE.** “Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.” 1 Peter 4:10

**FAITH.** “Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity.” 1 Timothy 4:12

Jeff Ohnoutka, President

### Corporate Board

Archbishop George Joseph Lucas  
Archbishop Emeritus Elden Francis Curtiss  
Fr. Ross Burkhalter, St. Anthony  
Fr. Michael Swanton, St. Bonaventure  
Fr. Joe Miksch, St. Isidore  
Patrick Slattery, Archdiocesan Superintendent  
Mr. Jeff Ohnoutka, Scotus CCHS President

### Student Council

Naomi Kosch, President  
Tate VunCannon, Vice-President  
Maddie Sinovic, Secretary/Minutes  
Zach Svehla, Secretary/Attendance  
Amberly Parker, Treasurer

## DEDICATED LEADERSHIP 2016 - 2017

### Board of Education

|                         |                        |                    |
|-------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>St. Anthony</b>      | <b>St. Bonaventure</b> | <b>St. Isidore</b> |
| Todd Duren              | Joe Chohon             | Sue Donoghue       |
| Lisa Kaslon             | Jason Mielak           | Dr. Dale Zaruba    |
| Mike Novicki, President | Kathy Steiner          | Clint Przymus      |
| Fr. Ross Burkhalter     | Fr. Michael Swanton    | Fr. Joe Miksch     |

### Scotus Mothers

Kelly Feehan, Co-President  
Kris Wurtz, Co-President  
Michelle Rinkol, Secretary  
Patricia Braziel, Treasurer

### Administrators

Jeff Ohnoutka, President  
Merlin Lahm, Activity Director/  
Asst. Principal  
John Schueth, Development Director

### Endowment Board

Fr. Joe Miksch  
Chuck Gonka  
Tom Kratochvil  
Wayne Morfeld  
Bob Niedbalski, President  
Jack Pekny

### Shamrock Club

Mike VunCannon, President  
Jay Pelan, Vice-President  
Mike Allen, 2nd Vice-President  
Marc Wolfe, Secretary  
Merlin Lahm, Treasurer  
Jim Bulkley, 250 Club

# 2016-17 FINANCIAL REPORT

## General Fund

The fiscal year budget concluded with a positive balance of \$5,018.23.

### Budgeted Revenue

|                             |             |
|-----------------------------|-------------|
| Parent Tuition              | \$ 930,826  |
| Parish Tuition Assistance   | \$ 852,350  |
| Endowment/Scholarships      | \$ 375,504  |
| Transfer from SEF           | \$ 320,000  |
| Fundraising/Athletics/Other | \$ 350,500  |
| Total                       | \$2,829,180 |

### Budgeted Expenditures

|                              |             |
|------------------------------|-------------|
| Salaries & Benefits          | \$2,306,346 |
| Contracted Services          | \$ 174,800  |
| Materials/Supplies/Athletics | \$ 290,034  |
| Gala                         | \$ 58,000   |
| Total                        | \$2,829,180 |

### Actual Revenue

|                             |             |
|-----------------------------|-------------|
| Parent Tuition              | \$ 937,852  |
| Parish Tuition Assistance   | \$ 852,350  |
| Endowment/Scholarships      | \$ 381,319  |
| Transfer from SEF           | \$ 320,004  |
| Fundraising/Athletics/Other | \$ 402,259  |
| Total                       | \$2,893,784 |

### Actual Expenditures

|                              |             |
|------------------------------|-------------|
| Salaries & Benefits          | \$2,287,116 |
| Contracted Services          | \$ 211,633  |
| Materials/Supplies/Athletics | \$ 315,593  |
| Gala                         | \$ 74,424   |
| Total                        | \$2,888,766 |

## CAFETERIA

The cafeteria budget concluded with a positive balance of \$20,154.

|                       |           |
|-----------------------|-----------|
| Budgeted Revenue      | \$419,675 |
| Budgeted Expenditures | \$419,675 |
| Actual Revenue        | \$411,738 |
| Actual Expenditures   | \$391,584 |

Highlights: lower than expected lunch ticket and breakfast sales (\$14,462 below budget) were more than offset by lower food costs (\$11,789 below budget), dairy expenses (\$11,794 below budget) and supplies (\$2,910 below budget.) The cafeteria also deferred some planned equipment purchases to the next year.

## NOTE:

The school did not incur real estate taxes on any properties this fiscal year. Previous taxed properties converted to the new parking lot had been demolished a year earlier.



## ENROLLMENT & TUITION ASSISTANCE

Enrollment for the 2016-17 school year was 373 and it decreased by 9 students for the start of 2017-18.

Tuition for 2016-17 was \$2,675 (Grades 7- 8), \$2,725 (Grades 9-10) and \$2,775 (Grades 11-12). Tuition for 2017-18 increased \$80 per student or an average of 2.9%. 2017-18 tuition rates by grade level were: \$2,755 (Grades 7- 8), \$2,805 (Grades 9-10) and \$2,855 (Grades 11-12).

During the 2016-17 school year, \$86,676 was distributed in tuition assistance benefiting 62 students at Scotus and 46 Scotus students participated in the federal free and reduced lunch program.

*A look at the last 11 years of enrollment history:*

|         |     |                |            |
|---------|-----|----------------|------------|
| 2007-08 | 346 | 2013-14        | 396        |
| 2008-09 | 360 | 2014-15        | 363        |
| 2009-10 | 368 | 2015-16        | 371        |
| 2010-11 | 382 | <b>2016-17</b> | <b>373</b> |
| 2011-12 | 401 | 2017-18        | 364        |
| 2012-13 | 397 |                |            |

## STANDARDIZED TESTING

61 of the 63 members of the Scotus Class of 2017 took the ACT test and the score report for the Class also included two additional scores of students who did not return to Scotus for their senior year. The 2017 ACT Class Profile composite score for Scotus was 24.3 – compared with the 2017 Nebraska state average of 21.4 and the

2017 national average of 21.0. (If the scores of the two students who did not graduate with the Class are removed, the Scotus 2017 class composite would be 24.9.) The Scotus Class of 2017's average STEM score was 24.7 compared with the state average of 21.5.

According to the American College Testing Program, a student's potential success in college can be predicted by their ACT scores; and ACT has established college readiness benchmark ACT scores for College English Composition (18 on the ACT English Test), College Algebra (22 on the ACT Math Test), College Social

Science (22 on the ACT Reading Test) and College Biology (23 on the ACT Science Test.) Attaining a benchmark ACT score will predict that a student will have a 50% chance of receiving a B or higher or a 75% chance of receiving a C or higher in the corresponding college courses.

2017 sub scores compared with the Nebraska (state) and national averages:

|             | Scotus | State | Nation |
|-------------|--------|-------|--------|
| English     | 24.4   | 20.9  | 20.3   |
| Mathematics | 25.0   | 20.9  | 20.7   |
| Reading     | 23.3   | 21.9  | 21.4   |
| Science     | 23.9   | 21.5  | 21.0   |
| Composite   | 24.3   | 21.4  | 21.0   |

|                       | % of Scotus Students with ACT Benchmark Score or Higher | % of Nebraska Students with ACT Benchmark Score or Higher |
|-----------------------|---|---|
| English Composition   | 90%   | 67%   |
| Algebra               | 75%   | 42%   |
| Social Science        | 70%   | 50%   |
| Biology               | 57%   | 41%   |
| All Four Course Areas | 48%   | 28%   |

## POST-SECONDARY INSTITUTIONS SCOTUS GRADUATES ARE PLANNING TO ATTEND

Enrolling in a 4-year college – 76%

Enrolling in a 2-year college – 24%

### IN-STATE INSTITUTIONS

Central Community College – Columbus – 8

Chadron State College – 2

Creighton University – 2

College of St. Mary – 2

Doane College – 1

Northeast Community College, Norfolk – 6

Southeast Community College, Milford – 1

University of Nebraska, Kearney – 3

University of Nebraska, Lincoln – 17

University of Nebraska, Omaha – 9

Wayne State College – 5

### OUT-OF-STATE INSTITUTIONS

Benedictine College – 1

Columbia College, Chicago – 1

Drake University – 1

Iowa State University – 1

Missouri Western – 1

South Dakota State – 1

Washington University, St. Louis – 1



## COMMENCEMENT 2017

Joining the ranks of Scotus alumni and alumnae this spring were 63 graduates. Alyssa Kuta, senior class president, provided the senior welcome at commencement and campus minister, Fr. Matthew Capadano, provided a greeting and homily. The **2017 Spirit of Scotus Award** winner was senior, Mitchell Halligan, son of Todd and Barb Halligan.

The 2017 graduating class had 7 class members named to the OWH Academic all-state team including Tate VanCannon who was selected for the All West-Central Academic First Team. 78% of the graduates received scholarships including 7 Regent's scholarships.

### PARISH TUITION ASSISTANCE

The three Columbus parishes support the annual Scotus budget with parish tuition assistance—effectively providing a scholarship to each Scotus student that was valued at \$2,285 in the 2016-17 school year (\$852,350.04 total.) St. Anthony parish provided \$167,060.64; St. Bonaventure provided \$378,272.88 and St. Isidore provided \$307,016.52—with the support levels based upon the number of students enrolled from each parish at Scotus. In addition, parish tuition assistance is supplemented with the annual income distribution received from the Walter & Josephine Rambour endowed fund (\$140,828 in 2016-17.) This endowed fund has a corpus value of \$3,128,337 and was established to support the parishes by assisting with their annual tuition assistance support to Scotus Central Catholic.



## CHILDREN'S SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Participation in the Children's Scholarship Fund program continued this year and the Columbus parishes raised \$20,239.07 during the 2016-17 school year. The money was sent to Omaha and in return the Columbus Catholic schools received back a total of \$60,700 in scholarships benefiting 72 students for the 2017-18 school year. For each dollar raised and sent to Omaha, Columbus was guaranteed to receive back \$1.50 from CSF. Columbus actually received back \$3.00 for each dollar raised—a very good return! A summary of the scholarships follows:

### 2017-18 CSF Scholarships

| <u>School</u>           | <u>Student #</u> | <u>Award Total</u> |
|-------------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Scotus Central Catholic | 24               | \$ 19,200          |
| St. Anthony             | 31               | \$ 27,300          |
| St. Bonaventure         | 14               | \$ 12,500          |
| St. Isidore             | 3                | \$ 1,700           |
| <b>Total</b>            | <b>72</b>        | <b>\$ 60,700</b>   |

# WHAT OUR SUPPORTERS ACCOMPLISHED IN 2016-17

Thank you for your wonderful investment in the education of our students and future of our school.  
You have truly accomplished great goals in the Scotus 2016-17 fiscal year!

## Project

## Funded By

|  |                                |
|--|--------------------------------|
| Fund the paving of our new parking lot (\$125,000) .....   | SEF 15 Campaign                |
| Fund the final 3 years of HVAC loan payments (\$135,000).....  | SEF 15 Campaign                |
| Provide tuition assistance over 2016-17, 17-18, 18-19 school years.....  | SEF 15 Campaign                |
| <i>(\$829,762 of \$975,000 goal)</i>   |                                |
| Classroom furnishings and teaching supplies .....  | Lottery 2016                   |
| Purchase 216 new Lenovo notebooks for classroom use.....   | Gala 2017                      |
| Locker room flooring and new cage lockers for football pads/uniforms .....   | Shamrock Open 2017             |
| New AC system for computer server room .....   | Columbus Big Give              |
| New drop ceiling and LED Lighting for Science wing hallway,<br>& help with new tuba, greenhouse for biology, etc. .... | Scotus Mothers                 |
| Pay down HVAC debt:  |                                |
| \$5,000 (St. Isid.) \$2,978.34 (St. Bons.) \$5,334.967 (St. Anthony) .....   | Ignite the Faith Parish Rebate |
| Landscaping for the school's south side .....  | NE Arboretum Grant             |
| Re-wired cafeteria speaker system, new amplifier .....   | Private Donations              |

## SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PROCESS

During 2016-17 Scotus Central Catholic High School focused on two areas for school improvement. Those two areas were power standards and assessments for our curriculum and professional development for our teachers in the area of technology integration.

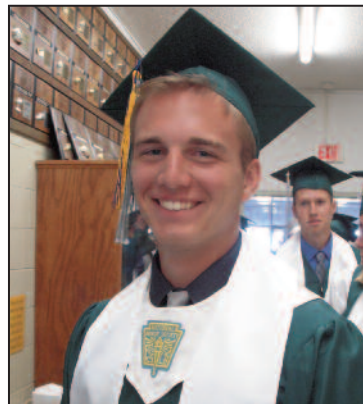
Over the last few years Scotus has made a commitment to align our curriculum with the elementary schools to provide more control over what is being taught at each grade level. By building off those essential skills being taught at each grade level, it reduces the burden on our teachers to reteach some of those skills. The teachers are then able to zero in on the important skills (power standards) for their subject area and build assessments toward those standards.

Technology and its use in the classroom has become a major priority for our school. Over the last two years, Scotus has been able to purchase 292 Lenovo laptop computers through the generosity of those who donated at our Gala. That technology purchase requires professional development for our teachers to best utilize those in the classroom. As a school we have spent time looking at Blended Learning techniques and best uses of our Microsoft Education package.

Our mission is to utilize both of these areas to enhance student engagement and continue to improve academic performance at Scotus.



The 2017 Athletes of the Year were Cody Mroczek, Emma Strecker and Evan Chohon.



The 2017 Spirit of Scotus Award winner was senior, Mitchell Halligan, son of Todd and Barb Halligan.



Pat Sackett '72 was recognized as the 36th annual Outstanding Service Award winner.

### Mission Statement

Scotus Central Catholic High School assures all students the opportunity to receive a faith-based Catholic education through academic excellence and diverse extracurricular activities.

## 2016-17 FUNDRAISING / DONATION INCOME

### SEF 14 UPDATE

The Scotus Education Fund drive (SEF 14) campaign officially concluded on the last day of 2016 and pledge payments during the 2016-17 fiscal year totaled \$152,225.52. The campaign kicked off in the fall of 2013 and generated \$1,330,921 in pledges for the calendar years 2014-16. Pledge payments for SEF 14 were an astounding, \$1,301,740 or nearly 97.8% of pledges. This conversion percentage is the highest in school history and we are very grateful for the philanthropy and loyalty of our donors! The campaign provided \$900,000 in tuition assistance to students and made our HVAC loan payments over the three campaign years, provided new bleachers in the Dowd Activity Center, and purchased and removed homes on the school's new north off-street parking area. In fact, students began to park on a portion of the unimproved lot in 2015.

### SEF 15 UPDATE

The SEF 15 campaign began in the fall of 2016 and sought 3-year pledges (2017-19) to support an overall campaign goal of \$1,295,000. The campaign's main objectives were to provide: 1) \$975,000 in tuition assistance support for the 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19 school years, 2) \$135,000 to make HVAC loan payments over the same 3 years and 3) \$125,000 to pave the new north parking lot. As of 8/31/17 the campaign received 851 pledges totaling 1,149,762 or 88.8% of the goal. Pledge payments at the end of the fiscal year totaled \$505,791.76.

### ANNUAL GIFTS

Since Scotus conducted an SEF drive in the fall of 2016, the school did not offer an **annual appeal** this year. Thirty-nine annual gifts received by the school totaled \$93,656 and included \$50,000 to the general scholarship fund, \$14,627.40 to support existing scholarships, \$24,185 to support endowed scholarships, \$1,000 to fund faculty wish list items, \$510 to underwrite adoration candles in the school chapel, \$500 restricted to performing arts and \$250 for instructional supplies. The school received \$1,226.10 to make premium payments on three life insurance policies owned by the school, and \$60 was gifted as unrestricted to the general fund. Two outdoor concrete trash receptacles valued at \$1,300 were also gifted to Scotus.

The **Shamrock Lottery** had a net of \$6,619 and those proceeds supported the purchase of classroom furnishings and teaching supplies. The **Gala dinner/auction** had net proceeds of \$205,939 which was used to balance the school's annual budget. And during the Gala an additional \$30,690 was raised

to purchase 216 new Lenovo notebooks for classroom use. Included in the Gala net was the **Chuck Sand Memorial Grain Train** providing grain donations totaling \$3,307.73. Receipts from the 4th annual **Columbus Big Give** were \$4,077 supporting the installation of an air conditioning system for the computer server room. The 10th annual **Shamrock Open** raised \$12,960 directed to athletic facility improvements. **Memorial income** totaled \$10,855. Scotus also received a \$10,000 lead gift for the 2017-18 annual appeal from KC Council 938. The appeal goal is to raise \$110,000 to add air conditioning to the Dowd Activity Center. And in the 2016-17 fiscal year \$36,345 was received and restricted to the new Chuck Hagel STEAM Lab.

| <u>2016-17 Activity</u>                                     | <u>Net Raised</u> |
|---|-------------------|
| Columbus Big Give   | \$ 4,077          |
| Annual Fund Donations                                       | \$ 93,281         |
| Children's Scholarship Fund<br>(For all 4 Catholic Schools) | \$ 20,239         |
| Gala 2017 & Notebooks                                       | \$ 236,629        |
| SEF 14 Campaign   | \$ 152,225        |
| SEF 15 Campaign   | \$ 505,791        |
| Memorials Received  | \$ 10,855         |
| Shamrock Lottery  | \$ 6,619          |
| Shamrock Open   | \$ 12,960         |
| Gifts directed to Endowment                                 | \$ 25,010         |

### CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT DEBT

The school originally borrowed \$1.1 million dollars at an interest rate of 5.5% to assist with the capital improvement expenses of the 2008 HVAC installation and locker room renovation (partially funded in part by the Legacy Capital Campaign.) Over the years, this debt was refinanced several times to attain lower interest rates. Through assets returned to the local parishes from the Archdiocese's Ignite the Faith Campaign, the parishes donated \$13,313.30 in fiscal 2016-17 to help retire the HVAC debt; and on 8/30/17 the remaining HVAC debt was \$138,700. Regular loan payments on the debt are funded by SEF campaign support.

## ENDOWMENT - Market Values 8/31/17 and Distributions Fiscal 2016-17

Combined endowment fund market values at the conclusion of the fiscal year (August 31, 2017) was \$8,970,819 including \$6,258,921 (locally managed funds) and \$2,711,898 (funds managed through the Archdiocese.) During the fiscal year a total of \$25,010 was added to the endowment. Of this amount, \$24,510 was restricted for endowed scholarship support and \$500 was added to the general endowment fund. Fiscal year distributions received by the school totaled \$329,404.11.

| <u>Locally Managed Funds</u>                  | <u>8/31/17</u>      | <u>2016-17</u>      | <u>Omaha Managed Funds</u> | <u>8/31/17</u>      | <u>2016-17</u>       |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| <u>Fund Name</u>                              | <u>Market Value</u> | <u>Distribution</u> | <u>Fund Name</u>           | <u>Market Value</u> | <u>Distribution</u>  |
| Fund #1 (Original Fund)                       | \$ 1,747,374        | \$ 63,019.00        | Dowd Trust                 | \$ 133,152          | \$ 5,762.67          |
| Fund #2 (Rambour Parish Investment Relief)    | \$ 3,747,616        | \$ 140,828.00       | Anonymous Fund             | \$ 1,245,882        | \$ 58,682.19         |
| Fund #3 (W. Gerhold Teacher of the Year Fund) | \$ 313,296          | \$ 11,705.00        | Fr. Price Scholarship      | \$ 11,145           | \$ 524.87            |
| Fund #4 (Feik Technology Fund)                | \$ 440,776          | \$ 1,891.22         | W. Gerhold Family Fund     | \$ 482,803          | \$ 22,745.24         |
| Fund #5 (Dorie Schrad Music Scholarship)      | \$ 9,859            | \$ 393.92           | ACNM                       | \$ 838,916          | \$ 25,725.00         |
| Fund #6 (Fr. Price B Scholarship)             | \$ 0                | \$ 127.00           | <b>Total All 11 Funds</b>  | <b>\$8,970,819</b>  | <b>\$ 329,404.11</b> |

When endowment distributions are factored in to the overall annual budget, they account for slightly more than 11% of budgeted income. While this may seem to be a modest figure, when endowment support is viewed on a historical level, the impact of the endowment is much easier to appreciate. In the last ten years, some of which were impacted by the Great Recession, endowment distributions to the Scotus general fund totaled nearly \$2.9 million dollars!

## 2016-17 HIGHLIGHTS

**New Catholic Schools Office Superintendent.** Scotus welcomes Dr. Michael Ashton who is the new superintendent of schools for the Archdiocese of Omaha. Dr. Ashton assumed his duties in late summer of 2017 replacing Patrick Slattery who announced his resignation earlier in the year.

**New Staff.** Mr. Jeff Ohnoutka began his first school year as the school's new president and five new teachers joined the Scotus faculty: Mrs. Helen Schumacher (English), Ms. Melanie Mimick (English/Speech), Ms. Alison Timoney (Math), Zach McPhillips (Math/P.E.) and Bridget McPhillips (Science.) In addition, Merlin Lahm moved from the Math department to become the school's new activities director and assistant principal. And Cathy Hoops, long-time manager of the cafeteria, retired at the end of the school year and was replaced by Holli Bettenhausen.

**Class of 2017.** Joining the ranks of Scotus alumni and alumnae this spring were 63 graduates. Alyssa Kuta, senior class president, provided the senior welcome at commencement and campus minister Fr. Matthew Capadano, provided a greeting and homily.

**Student Honors.** 70 Scotus students were members of the National Honor Society. Selected to the Omaha World Herald's Academic All-State, 1st Team, West-Central was Tate VunCannon. 2nd Team West-Central team members were: Naomi Kosch, Jessica Buhman & Luke Jarecke. 35 students received NSAA Academic All-State selections during the school year.



*Journalism. Scotus won the state Class B title in Journalism for the first time in school history!*

**State Journalism Champions.** Scotus won the 2017 Class B State Journalism Championship bringing the first non-athletic state championship banner to the Dowd Activity Center. Five Shamrocks were individual state champions including seniors: Emma Ruskamp, Tate VunCannon, Haley Faust and Jessica Buhman; and junior Matt Strecker. Jessica Buhman was the first defending state champion in school history winning the news/feature photography category for the second year. Twenty Scotus students competed winning 23 total medals.

**NSAA Cup.** Scotus once again won the combined boys and girls NSAA Cup for Class C. This Nebraska School Activities Association honor is awarded based on schools' success over the past year in athletics and fine arts programs. Individually, the boys finished in 3rd place and the girls in 2nd place. 90% of all Scotus students participated in at least one NSAA activity and many more students were involved in non-NSAA activities such as mock trial, musical, etc.

**Sports Highlights.** Overall Scotus had three district runners-up, six district championships, one runner-up state championship and two state championships.

**Golf.** The girls' team under coach Tanya Niedbalski won the C-2 District Tournament and finished 9th at state. The boys under Coach Tyler Swanson qualified one player, Bryce VunCannon for the state meet.

**Cross Country.** The Scotus boys and girls teams swept the district titles. The girls cross country team captured the Class C state championship and Brea Lassek was the 6th place individual medalist. The boys cross country team finished in 3rd place at state



*Cross-country state champions!*

with Nathan Ostdiek capturing the second place medal. Scotus activities director and cross country coach, Merlin Lahm, was named the Nebraska Coaches Association girls cross country coach of the year at the NCA banquet in July.

**Football.** The football team finished the season with a district championship and a season mark of 6-4. Evan Chohon was named to the C-1 first team all-state team.

**Volleyball.** The Shamrocks finished with a season mark of 14-12.

**Wrestling.** Scotus had 3 medalists at state wrestling and the team finished in 12th place in Class B.

**Basketball.** The boys' basketball team finished the season with a district runner-up, and a 24-4 record with two disappointing losses at the state tournament. The team ended the season ranked fourth in the state. Named to the boys' basketball Class C-1 all-state first team was Dalton Taylor. The girls' basketball team captured a district championship and advanced to the state tourney but was defeated in the first round, finishing the year at 16-8.

**Soccer.** The varsity girls' soccer team finished the 2017 season as state runner-up losing to Skutt HS in the state championship match. The Shamrocks ended with a 16-3 record. The boys finished with a season mark of 10-8 and Scotus goalie Evan Chohon broke the soccer all-class record for career shutouts with 37.

**Track.** Shamrock Senior Cody Mroczek and junior Marika Spencer had stellar performances leading the Shamrock teams at the Class B state meet to fourth and eleventh place finishes respectively. Cody finished with a third in the 100 meter dash, state all-class gold medal in the 400 meter, second place in the long jump and a third place finish in the 200 meters. Marika earned two first place finishes in the shotput and discus and her throws also were good for 3rd place in all classes.

**Co-op Sports.** Five Scotus students competed at the state swim meet on the CHS team, two Shamrocks competed for CHS boys' team at the state tennis championship. Scotus had 9 players participate in softball fielding 7 of the varsity starters. 15 Shamrocks participated in baseball and 8 competed in girls' tennis.



*The girls' soccer team finished the 2017 season as state runner-up boasting a 16-3 record.*

**Speech.** The team had five district medalists and sent four Shamrocks to the state meet.

**Cheerleading.** Scotus cheerleaders won their first state titles in school history with a championship in C-1 Game Day, runners-up in C-1 Sideline and capturing the C-1 Spirit Award.

**Weightlifting.** The Shamrocks did well at the state Class B Weightlifting Tournament with 12 of the 17 Scotus competitors earning medals. Scotus junior Tyler Miksch was named “Outstanding Lifter” for the boys’ division finishing first place at 148 pounds with a total lift of 1,015 pounds and in the girls division, senior Abbie Perault finished 1st in her weight class.

**Letters of Intent.** Signing letters of intent to play college athletics were: Nathan Hiemer, cross country and track for Wayne State College, Cody Mroczek to run track for the University of Nebraska at Lincoln, Nathan Ostdiek to run cross country and track at Washington University in St. Louis, Emma Strecker, soccer at Benedictine College, KS, Dalton Taylor, football at Drake University, Evan Chohon, football at Missouri Western State University, Megan Ohnoutka, softball for Northeast Community College, Bradyn Miller to play soccer at Central Community College-Columbus, Brooke Podolak to participate in competitive dance at the College of St. Mary, Omaha and Anthony Kosch to play soccer for the Northeast Community College.

**Alumni Tourneys.** Eight teams competed in the fall Shamrock Alumnae Volleyball Tourney. More than 115 Shamrocks participated in the spring 34th annual alumni basketball tourney and more than 140 Shamrocks returned for the 10th annual alumni/alumnae soccer tournament held in August.

**Fundraisers.** The 35th annual Gala dinner/auction theme “Gala through the Looking Glass” was a take-off from the Alice in Wonderland story. The event netted \$205,939 for the school budget and an additional \$30,690 was raised at the Gala to purchase new Lenovo tablets for students to use in the classroom. The tenth annual Shamrock Open was held at Tiburon Golf Course in Omaha on June 3rd with 114 golfers participating. The event netted \$12,960 for Scotus athletic facilities. The 24-hour fundraising event, the Columbus Big Give, was a success for Scotus Central Catholic providing 52 donations totaling \$4,076.80 and exceeding the school’s \$3,000 goal. Funds from the event will be used to provide a new dedicated air conditioning system for the school’s computer server room. The Scotus Mothers Craft Boutique was held in December and attracted more than 1,600 shoppers and raised funds to support the booster club’s support for Scotus. Co-chairs for the event were: Susie Hand, Lois Thalken, Deb Ohnoutka, and Elaine Zoucha. This year the Scotus Mothers sponsored more than \$4,075 of Faculty/Staff wish list items and contributed \$4,000 to pay for the new hallway ceiling and lighting for the science wing.

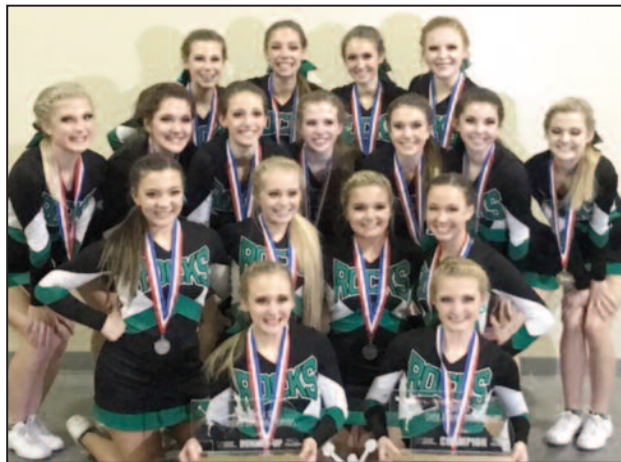
**East Activity Field.** Scotus’ original outdoor practice field recently renamed the East Practice Field was sold to the city of Columbus for a new railroad viaduct project that will be located on 12th Avenue. This space was primarily used for soccer practice and for the time being both boys and girls soccer teams may have to practice at the school’s McLaughlin Activity Field.

**Coaching Changes.** Joe Held ’04 (61-29) stepped down from his position as Scotus’ head volleyball coach and was replaced by veteran assistant coach Janet Tooley. Current Scotus Activities Director, Merlin Lahm, also stepped down from his position as head boys track coach and passed the position baton to Joe Schoenfelder. Joe has been an assistant track

coach for Scotus the last two years and he has coached the Scotus junior high boys’ basketball team for six years and the junior high girls’ basketball team for three years. Replacing retiring Jon Brezenski as the boys’ head soccer coach is former Lakeview HS head soccer coach and Scotus parent, PJ Miller. Head wrestling coach, Tracy Dodson, and assistants Gaylen Kamrath and Gary Schlesinger announced their retirement. Coach Dodson will be replaced by assistant coach D.J. Brandenburg.

**FBLA.** FBLA members achieved the following accomplishments at the FBLA State Leadership Conference: Nathan Hiemer and Keaton Kudron placed 8th in Management Information Systems and they also placed 7th in Network Design.

**Music/Theater.** Caitlin Steiner ’18 (Millie Dillmount), Isaac McPhillips ’19 (Mr. Trevor Graydon) and Mitchell Halligan ’17 (Jimmy Smith) were part of the 42 member cast and crew who presented the musical *Thoroughly Modern Millie* on the Memorial Hall stage. The 47-member Scotus senior high marching band participated in three parades this year: Columbus Days Parade (superior rating), Harvest of Harmony Parade (superior rating) and Norfolk Parade (first place trophy



*The Scotus cheerleaders won their first state title in school history with a championship in C-1 Game Day.*

for their division.) The seventy-one member junior high band also marched in Norfolk and placed third in their division. The Shamrock Singers consisted of 17 members. Scotus music students earned 14 Superior and 13 Excellent Ratings at District Music.

**Years of Service Recognition.** 5 years – Tyler Swanson; 10 years – Joan Birchem, Deb Ohnoutka; 20 years – John Schueth; 25 years – Pat Brockhaus, Jane Dusel-Misfeldt; 30 years – Tom Salyard, Janet Tooley

**National March for Life.** 40 Scotus students along with several sponsors attended the National March for Life in Washington DC.

**Service.** Scotus Central Catholic, Columbus High School and Lakeview High School along with Pinnacle Bank organized a care package project for service men and women before the holidays and literally hundreds of packages were sent overseas. Scotus hosted its annual blood drive with the American Red Cross in February with 117 prospects intending to donate and total donations of 97 whole blood units and 8 power red donor units for a total of 105 productive units. More than 7,000 hours of Living the Faith service work was donated by Scotus students this year. And the junior high students raised nearly \$3,000 for the American Heart Association through the Hoops for Heart program.

**Book.** Edited by Mark Kurtenbach ’80 and John Kopetzky ’80, the book, *I Played for Scotus* was published and made available this year. The 350-page book chronicles the history of St. Bonaventure and Scotus athletics as told by players, coaches, and boosters. Stories, records, and photos are featured in the book as more than 70 players and coaches reflect on their days as a Shamrock.

*Scotus Central Catholic High School  
admits students of any race, color, and  
national or ethnic origin*

## 2017 ENDOWED AND ANNUALLY FUNDED SCHOLARSHIPS

Named as recipients of endowed scholarships were:

**Louis & Elaine Buggi Memorial Scholarships** (Patrick Cielocha, Ava Cremers, Haley Leise, Colby Tworek)

**Manny & Millie Cimpl Family Scholarship** (Caleb Kosch)

**Sheridan Gladfelter Memorial Scholarship** (Kaylie Rocha)

**Lee & Shirley Hroza Family Scholarships** (Evan Chohon, Cody Mroczek, Emma Strecker)

**Eleanor M Loshbaugh Memorial Scholarship** (Jacob Novicki)

**George & Jeanette Maguire Memorial Scholarship** (Tim Ehlers)

**Fr. Price Memorial Scholarships** (Shelby Bridger, Brock Clarke, Lily Dohmen, Noah Korth, Seth VunCannon, Vijayalakshmi Wemhoff)

**Eldora Schrad Music Recognition Awards** (Emily Carstens, Caitlin Steiner, Matt Strecker)

**Debbie Zuerlein Schraer Memorial** (Brandon Huyhn)

**Helen Shadle Scholarship** (Alison Zoucha)

**Kathryn Kuta Sweenie Humanitarian Award** (Cassie Kouma)

**Duane Swoboda Memorial Scholarship** (Megan Schumacher)

**Gene G Witt Memorial Scholarships** (Ashley Foreman, Mitchell Halligan, Nathan Hiemer, Kaylee Tonniges)

In addition to the endowed scholarships other endowed funds provide annual restricted support: the **William L and Edna Boettcher Family Fund** (annual income is divided equally between the media center, instrumental and vocal departments); the **Ben and Virginia Nosal Fund**, and the **Jeanne Kopetzky DeRuyscher Fund** (both provide annual income supporting the schools' general scholarship fund.)

Named as recipients of annually funded scholarships were:

**David & Norma Duren Scholarship** (Antonio Chavez, Rachel Lahm, Kate Smith, Max Middendorf)

**Duren Mathematics Excellence Award** (Winston Obal)

**Erna Badsteiber Scholarship** (Cassie Seckel, Alison Zoucha)

**Leonard & Cec Feehan Family Scholarship** (Drew VunCannon)

**Lynette Topinka Goins Memorial Scholarships** (Isaac Ostdiek, Alaina Wallick)

**Dale Gonka Achievement Award** (Kaitlyn Enderlin, Colson Kosch)

**Kevin & Jacqueline Ingemansen Family Scholarship** (Louis Williams, Daniel Tworek)

**Nebraska Centennial Conference Scholarship** (Naomi Kosch)

**Terrence & Nancy McPhillips Soccer Scholarship** (Alyssa Kuta)

**Jeff Podraza Memorial Scholarship** (Kendra Wiese)

**LaVern Mroczek Memorial Scholarship** (Alex Ferguson)

**Pyramid of Success Scholarship** (Alaina Dierman, Avery Dierman, Rebekah Hergott, Eduardo Torres)

**Shamrock Club Scholarship** (Emerson Belitz, Duncan Paczosa)

**Bon Shadle Scholarship** (Noah Tworek)

**Dean Soulliere Family Scholarship** (Rylie Olson, Bryce VunCannon)

**Student Council Scholarships** (Naomi Kosch, Hallie Parker)

**STO** (Nikki Hiner)

**Curt Tenopir Memorial Scholarship** (Abigail Stuart)

Other local scholarships and recipients:

**Central Community College Scholarships** (Trevor Halligan, Bradyn Miller, Dillon Muchmore, Jared Mulligan, Riley Roddy, Samuel Schacher, Cassie Seckel)

**Columbus Sertoma Club** (Mitchell Halligan)

**Columbus United Federal Credit Union Scholarship** (Zach Svehla)

**Cornerstone Bank Scholarship** (Alayna Wilson)

**Lion's Club** (Haley Faust, Alyssa Kuta)

**Loup Public Power** (Trevor Halligan, Bradyn Miller)

**PEO** (Naomi Kosch)

**Platte County Ag Society Scholarship** (Jared Mulligan)

**4-H** (Cassie Seckel)

**TeamMates Scholarship** (Kira Dreher, Jeffrey Wheelock)

**VFW Duncan Post** (Lucas Jarecke)

**Donna Wasco Nursing** (Alison Zoucha)



*Cathy Hoops announced her retirement as the Scotus cafeteria manager after forty-four years of service to the school. Cathy oversaw the preparation of 700 lunch meals a day for students and made sure that many of the legendary recipes championed by her predecessor, Clara Fletcher, were maintained in the Scotus menu.*



*The 19th annual William and Barbara Gerhold Family Teacher of the Year Award for a Columbus Catholic schools teacher was given to Joan Lahm. Joan just completed her 22nd year at Scotus Central Catholic and presently teaches biology.*



*The 2017 Alumnus and Alumna of the Year were Todd '85 and Lisa (Cielocha '85) Duren.*



*Mass is celebrated daily and every class period begins with prayer.*