

Speech wins runner-up at state

By Aubree Beiermann

After a long, tiring winter of wins and losses, the speech team's season ended in success. On March 26th, district finalists traveled to Kearney to compete in the Class B State Speech competition. This year, the team took 14 events and 9 competitors. Only 3 of the 8 made finals: seniors Jessica Jackson, Jordan Kouma, and Madden Saenz. They led the team to a glorious finish of state runner-up.

At the state competition, there were three rounds and then the final round. Jackson competed in three events at state: Program of Oral Interpretation, Poetry, and Serious Prose.

"I was exhausted. I performed 12 rounds, all about 10 minutes, and I was tired. I was also very relieved and upset it was over," Jackson said.

Jackson went triple gold in all her events this year. She is the first to accomplish this in all of Class B state history.

"I was so surprised and elated. I felt like all my hard work had paid off. I was mostly excited for my team and my coaches. I couldn't have competed as well as I did without them," Jackson said. "This is an accomplishment my freshman year self would have never believed was possible. I was overjoyed."

Saenz placed 2nd in his event of Humorous Prose, and 4th in both his Serious Prose and in his and Kouma's Duet. These were his first state medals.

"State was very polarizing! It felt great to get medals and the trophy, but it was the most exhausting effort to get them," Saenz said.

Kouma also placed 4th in his individual event, Extemporaneous Speaking. Last year, he placed 2nd at state in this event.

"I knew it was possible for us to place in the top two this year. When I found out we were tied for 2nd in finals, I knew we would get it," Kouma said. "I was very confident in Jessica taking all three golds, and I knew Madden and I would place decently in both of our individual events and duet. It is an amazing feeling to hear we would finally get a trophy for Scotus, especially our senior year."

This win is the first state trophy for Scotus' speech team. Along with a trophy, they will finally get a well-deserved year on the banner in the gym.

"All the three years I have been a part of the program, we have had two or three strong events that would place, but this year all seven of our finals events, and some who didn't break, were the best we've ever had," Kouma said. "I didn't place as well as I did last year, but getting team runner-up was the best possible outcome."

For these three, speech doesn't end here. This summer they will all compete at the National Individual Events Tournament of Champions, and Jackson and Saenz both qualified for the National Speech and Debate

Competition.

"[This season] went exactly as I wanted it to; I scored my state medals and qualified for nationals," Saenz said.

For Jackson, this season had many ups and downs, but she is extremely happy at

where the team and herself ended. In the future, she plans on majoring in acting at college and pursue a career in the field.

"I'm so proud of my team; we couldn't do anything without each other and our great coaches," Jackson said.



Coach Bill Policky, seniors Madden Saenz, Jessica Jackson, Jordan Kouma, and head coach Melanie Mimick celebrate after winning Class B Speech State Runner-Up. The three seniors brought home seven state medals with Jackson placing first in all three of her events, a Class B record.

VunCannon leads 4th place finish

By Jillian Rusher

In the last eight years Scotus Journalism has won five state championships and one runner-up. This year, while a championship was not won, the journalism team qualified 13 students in 12 events to compete at the NSAA State Journalism championships, and still placed fourth as a team. Junior Josie Rother placed 3rd in Broadcast Feature Story and 5th in Broadcast News Story.

"The time leading up to state was full of anticipation and anxiousness. It was my first year being a part of journalism, so I was excited to have qualified for state," Rother said.

Four students qualified for competition categories in the morning where they were given an hour and fifteen minutes with a common topic to complete an article or drawing. Senior Sofia Karges competed in Newspaper Sports Feature Writing, placing fourth, also placing fifth in In-Depth Newspaper Coverage, and third in Broadcast News Story.

"I was really nervous while I was waiting to compete because I had never done it before, but once I got started, it felt like I was

right back in the journalism room writing another article," Karges said.

Senior Ella Hash was the only returning state qualifier. She competed in Editorial Writing, placing fourth, along with qualifying in In-Depth Newspaper Coverage, placing fifth.

"Going into state journalism, I felt confident in myself and my teammates. Those competing the day of have been working on their writing the whole school year, and what Mrs. Rusher has taught us gave us an advantage," Hash said. "The things we qualified looked great, and I had no doubt that our submissions would compete well against other schools'."

The other nine students qualified with entries that were finals only. Eight of the students who qualified were in the broadcast categories. Senior Mallory Dreesen placed 3rd in Broadcast Feature Story and fifth in Broadcast News Story.

"It was good to experience something new and not know what everyone placed, so it was a little surprise every time somebody

from our school walked up there. The rest of us were able to cheer each other on, which I thought was pretty awesome!" Dreesen said.

Senior newspaper editor Quinn VunCannon not only was a part of the fifth placing In Depth Newspaper Coverage, but she came home with a first place medal in the Infographic category.

"State journalism was a great experience to share with my classmates and fellow newspaper staff; it was such a rewarding experience to end my high school career as a state champ," VunCannon said.

Angie Rusher has been the head advisor for journalism for 17 years, leading the journalism program to all five of its state championships.

Rusher concluded, "Class B was highly competitive this year with 9 teams qualifying 10 or more entries, so placing 4th with only 12 events is a great accomplishment. It is also a strong showing out of the 42 schools in class B. I am proud of these students qualifying with the best in the state!"

Eight teachers bid farewell to Scotus

By Sydney Stuart

At most workplaces coworkers come and go, however, at Scotus Central Catholic that is not the case. Many faculty members have been at Scotus for a long time, but after this school year eight teachers will be retiring or taking on new adventures. The departing teachers have a combined 134 years of teaching experience at Scotus.

Spanish I and II teacher Alexis Wilch will be moving to Schuyler after heading the Spanish department for 1 year. Wilch along with Tyler Linder are 2 of the 8 teachers not retiring.

Head football and assistant wrestling coach Tyler Linder has been a teacher for 13 years, all at Scotus. Linder is not new to challenges and has taken on many classes while at Scotus such as junior high character development, communications, health, career awareness, and junior and senior theology, which he is currently teaching.

"I'm looking forward to the challenges of making a big career move. I'm a big believer that nothing great happens inside of your comfort zone. I'm looking forward to showing my kids that you can do challenging and difficult things," Linder said.

Following this school year Linder will move to Omaha and serve as the dean of students at Mount Michael Benedictine.

Linder's departure is unlike most of the teachers leaving as 6 of the 8 are retiring, including Carmen Johnson.

Johnson has been a teacher at Scotus for 36 years, starting in 1989. She has taught junior high religion, FCS classes, and culinary arts.

"[I'm excited to] organize my house, then I'll judge county fairs, substitute at Scotus, and volunteer," Johnson said.

Johnson has helped to plan and organize prom and was even a junior high cheerleader sponsor.

A retiring teacher with a shorter time at Scotus is Kris Wurtz.



The journalism qualifiers celebrate with all their hardware after placing 4th as a team at the state journalism contest. The team consisted of Olivia Nelsen, Quinn VunCannon, Emma Brezenski, Sofia Karges, Josie Rother, Ella Hash, advisor Cody Mroczek, Mallory Dreesen, Brody Splittgerber, Caleb Cameron, Aiden Meers, Evan Pavlik, Kate Hendricks, and advisor Angie Rusher.



Senior Quinn VunCannon stands on the podium after receiving her state championship medal in Infographic. VunCannon also place 5th in InDepth Newspaper Coverage.

TEACHERS

Business and technology teacher and FBLA sponsor Kris Wurtz has 33 years of teaching experience at CHS and 4 years at Scotus for a combined 37 years. At Scotus, Wurtz has taught computer business applications, computer applications I and II, and personal finance.

“[My favorite memory is] attending leadership conferences with FBLA and watching members professionally represent Scotus,” Wurtz said. “I’m looking forward to being able to travel and enjoy flexibility without a bell schedule.”

Janet Tooley is retiring after 38 years of teaching. Tooley has contributed to Scotus’ sports in volleyball as head coach for 8 years,

junior varsity coach for 21 years, and 27 years as the head girls track and field coach. Tooley has taught fitness classes such as strength training, recreational sports, and health and P.E. classes for junior and senior high.

“[My favorite memory is] every morning I walk in and there is always a group of students here early in the morning; it’s like a little family,” Tooley said. “Every year I senior band student has taken on the role of greeting me personally everyday.”

Tooley will have a lasting impact on the sports tradition at Scotus, as will Merlin Lahm, who is also retiring.

Current activities director (AD) and assistant principal Merlin Lahm will depart from

Scotus following 39 years here. Lahm taught upperclassmen math until he transitioned to AD and assistant principal in 2017. Along with teaching, he has coached high school basketball, track and field, cross country, and junior high football. After retirement Lahm has big plans besides occasionally subbing and driving the bus for activities.

“My plan is to go on adventures; I rock climb and hike. I have some retired friends I can go with where I can. I’d say [my time at Scotus has been] extraordinarily positive. The parental community and support is the biggest trait that makes us special,” Lahm concluded.

Sandy VanCura has the most years teaching out of all the teachers with 47 years.

VanCura has only been at Scotus for 4 years. She stepped up in 2021 and taught English 8, 12, and accelerated English 12. After that year, she transitioned to teaching the education classes through Wayne State College for dual credit. VanCura will be the interim principal at Aquinas in David City next school year.

“Each of us is called to serve, and I feel I am being called to serve in this way at this point in time,” VanCura concluded.

The final teacher retiring is science and math teacher Tom Salyard, who has taught at Scotus for 38 years. Currently Salyard teaches conceptual physics and pre-calculus, calculus, and physics for dual-credit.

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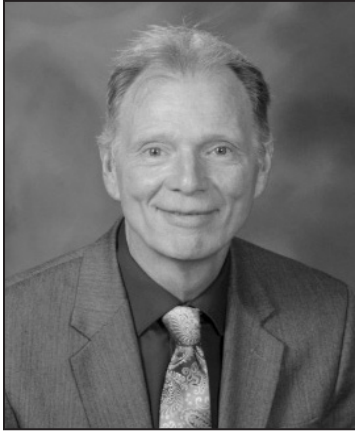
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Prom changes exceed expectations

By Sofia Karges

Once the spring season rolls around, the school year starts to wind down. Teachers are covering their last units, students are getting ready for summer, and seniors are experiencing their “lasts” as high schoolers. In the midst of all this chaos, juniors and seniors are preparing for their last dance of the year.

This year, prom was held on Saturday, April 5th. Students kicked off their night with mass at St. Bon’s at 4:30 before walking over to Scotus to eat dinner at 6:30. The actual dance lasted until 10:30, and students ended their night at the Fieldhouse with post-prom lasting until a little after 2.

There were many changes to prom this year; one of them included having the dinner and dance in the Dowd Activity Center instead of in the cafeteria.

“The dance this year was the best we’ve had in my opinion. This was most likely

because we did it in the gym instead of the cafeteria,” senior Brody Splittgerber said.

This year, the juniors were able to use the Gala set-up to decorate because it was the week after prom. The decorations included curtains, tables with floating candle centerpieces, a place to take pictures, fairy lights, and white drapes that hung over the whole gym, bringing the “Once Upon a Time” theme to life.

“I would definitely prefer the dance in the new gym. The ambience was so much nicer and formal, and there was a lot of room to get space if needed,” senior Caroline Klitz said.

Another aspect to prom this year that was different than in years past was the time schedule. This year, everything was moved up an hour in order to hopefully end the night sooner. The change had mixed reviews although there were good intentions behind

the idea.

“I’m not sure what it was like last year, but I think starting it earlier to end it earlier is nice as not everyone can manage to stay awake until 3 am,” junior Favio Riverio Rubio said.

Last year, mass was at 5:30 and post-prom ended around 3:30. Because pictures had to be before mass, girls were starting their “getting ready” process mid-morning.

“I personally did not like starting prom and post-prom earlier because I felt that we were rushed. I think starting post-prom earlier made everyone a little more tired at the end and just wanting to go home,” senior Rylie Tonniges said.

After the dance, students are invited to keep the party going at post-prom, and this was the second year post-prom was held at the Fieldhouse. The Fieldhouse is filled with all

sorts of entertainment for the students. Some of these included an obstacle course, a photo booth, hungry-hungry hippos, human hamster balls, cornhole, spikeball, volleyball, basketball, pickleball, and more.

“Post-prom was really fun and relaxing. My favorite part was either racing people in the bouncy house obstacle course or watching people get blown up in the inflatable bubbles,” senior Madden Saenz said.

Prom is always one of the most anticipated moments of the school year, especially for seniors, whose next big event is graduation.

“I would say prom was a great way to end my high school dances,” senior Mallory Dreesen said. “It was super fun last year because it was my first one, but this year it went very smooth, and I had a great time!”



Angie Rusher / Journalism Advisor

Seniors Brody Splittgerber, Jacob Rother, Ian Karges, Carter Nickeson, Austin Long, and Evan Jelinek dance to a song at prom. The dance was preceded by a dinner after mass at St. Bonaventure’s.



Angie Rusher / Journalism Advisor

Juniors Josie Rother and Sydney Stuart shimmy together on the dance floor at prom on April 5th. This was the first year prom was held in the Activity Center instead of the cafeteria, utilizing the gala set up.

Stations start off easter break

By Kate Hendricks

To prepare for the end of Holy Week, Scotus students and staff gathered in Memorial Hall to watch the live stations of the cross. 36 seniors took part in the live stations. Jesus

was played by senior Ian Karges.

The actors posed the station on the stage while the voice actors read a reflection from one of the characters at the end of the scene.



Meah Sackett / Yearbook Staff

Seniors Ella Hash, Rylie Tonniges, Lexi Reidmiller, Quinn VunCannon, Ava Rickert, and Raya Kluever weep for Jesus (Ian Karges). Stations took place in Memorial Hall on the Wednesday before Easter break.

Assistant campus minister Nate Tenopir was happy with the changes made to the stations this year.

“I was very pleased with the changes. In the past, we had used a live station that wasn’t an exact duplicate of the 14 stations and included scenes such as those in the Garden of Gethsemane. The old format provided a little more variety because a few of the stations, mainly when Jesus falls, are repetitive and require creativity in how to pose the actors,” Tenopir said. “I had help from Mrs. Wallish plus Ryan Allen and Elizabeth Stoner in creating different ways to use the soldiers, and those worked out well. I also thought putting it on the stage so the crowd could see the full production and not have to turn around or look around the gym was helpful. I felt the personal reflections added a new, meaningful element, and the costumes tied it all together.”

The production was all on the stage this year and included a screen with lyrics to the hymns and the prayers displayed for everyone to follow along and participate. Veronica was played by senior Abby Schumacher.

“I participated in stations this year to take part in the passion and death of Jesus on the cross. My favorite station is Veronica wiping the face of Jesus, and being able to act that

out was super striking to me,” Schumacher said.

Costumes were also a new part of the living stations this year as well. Senior Becky Policky played the role of Mary.

“I was asked to be Mary in the stations, so I felt very honored and didn’t want to pass up the opportunity. My favorite part was getting to do it with my classmates,” Policky said. “As senior year is wrapping up, there aren’t many chances to do stuff with your classmates and friends before the end of your time together. I felt like this was a good way to spend time with people I may not see often after I graduate.”

Seniors participated in the stations for a variety of reasons.

“I like the idea of leaving the gym in silence because at that point, Jesus is in the tomb and everything is silent. It’s also the way we’re meant to leave Mass on Holy Thursday and after the Good Friday service. Thus, it was a little bit of preparation for how to conduct ourselves during the most solemn time of the year,” Tenopir said.

The production ended with music and the spotlight on Jesus as he lay in the tomb. Students and staff left the gym in silence.

Rescheduled retreats wrap up

By Jillian Rusher

Throughout the school year, students are required to attend one faith based retreat. The individual student has the opportunity to pick the retreat sounding most interesting to them. This spring, Nebraska weather caused three of these retreats to be rescheduled to a later date.

On Wednesday, April 9th, some students chose to attend the Lenten retreat. The students were able to go walk through the life size stations of the cross at the Cloisters on the Platte. Sophomore Lydia Dostal was among the 24 students who attended.

“The statues really gave a good image of what Jesus went through and walking through them outside was very peaceful,” Dostal said.

The students then had Eucharistic Adoration along with listening to talks at the retreat center. Junior Lola Doerneman was one of the participants at the retreat.

“I loved the talks and getting so much quiet prayer time to reflect and pray. It was a great reset for me, and my heart is on fire for Jesus again,” Doerneman said.

Other than the Lenten retreat, high school boys were able to attend the Men’s retreat on April 23rd.

Scotus sophomore and junior boys traveled to Camp Rivercrest in Fremont, Nebraska where they listened to talks and had faith-based activities. Junior Aiden Meers attended the retreat for the second time this year.

“[The most impactful part of the retreat was] the talk about having an identity outside

of sports, the prayer teams, and confession,” Meers said.

The boys also participated in a variety of outdoor activities, including football, kickball, and gaga ball. Junior Dante Smith was one of the 32 men at the retreat.

“[The retreat helped my faith] by being in a group of guys growing in our faith through activities and listening to the talks,” Smith said.

To add to the faith-filled day, the eighth grade class participated in their class retreat at the Saint Bonaventure Parish Center. The Culture Project led the retreat, guiding the eighth graders through various talks and group discussions.

“[The most impactful part of the retreat] was all of us connecting with each other as a class,” eighth grader Jaci Harrington said.

The talks included topics on human dignity, social media, and a sexual integrity talk where girls and boys were able to split up and talk about their role as men and women.

“I loved how all the guest speakers talked with much enthusiasm. I am also glad we could journal about the talks so I can remember everything I learned,” eighth grader Vivienne Karges said.

Along with the Culture project, campus ministry upperclassmen were given the opportunity to lead small groups and grow in further relationships with the eighth grade class. The students led games and group discussions



Amartha Bridger / Communications Director

Eighth graders Ariana Hissong, Audrey Faltys, Bailey Becker, Evy Kluever, Maggie Holmstedt, and Mya Langan listen to the girls talk given by the Culture Project on Wednesday, April 23rd. The Culture Project is a Catholic group of young people who travel the country talking to students about how to live out a virtuous life.

with their small group. Senior Caleb Cameron led a group of seven eighth grade boys at the retreat.

“I think the retreat was beneficial for the eighth graders because the Culture Project talked about many topics relevant to them as

they go into high school. It was also enjoyable to see the eighth graders bond with their classmates,” Cameron said.

Retreats concluded for the year, and the Rock Talk held on Wednesday, April 30th was the last faith-based event for the year.

Girls soccer crushes the competition

By Caleb Cameron

There are many aspects to successful sports teams. The Scotus girls soccer team has many of these traits: hard work, determination, chemistry, and many more. The team has had a blazing hot start to the season, starting 10-0. One major aspect setting this year's team apart from years past is experience. Last season, the Shamrocks made a trip to the state tournament with no seniors on the roster. This year, the team returns 10 starters and has built increased depth as they aim to make a deep push in the state tournament.

Senior midfielder Sofia Karges is a second-year captain for the Shamrocks. "Our overall goal is to make it to state again. We're all striving to get better every day at practice in order to meet that goal," Karges said.

The season started strong as the team beat Lexington 8-1 on March 22nd. They followed up the dominating start with two more wins by mercy rule, beating Holdredge and Omaha Concordia on March 25th and March 31st, respectively. In the following two games, the Shamrocks faced Gretna and Bennington on April 3rd and April 7th, two teams that had also made the state tournament last year. The Shamrocks ended up winning both games 3-1 and 4-0.

Senior midfielder Ella Hash has assisted 7 goals this season.

"The Gretna and Bennington games had a big impact on the team. Gretna has been a powerhouse in Class A for the past 5 years,

and Bennington made it to the state semifinals last year. Those games showed us we can compete with anyone in our class and gave us some confidence for the second half of the season," Hash said.

The Shamrocks then played Lincoln Lutheran/Raymond Central/Parkview Christian on April 8th, winning via mercy rule. The team then followed it up by mercy ruling Lutheran High/Norfolk Catholic on April 10th.

Senior midfielder Katelyn Pensick made the switch from goalie to midfielder this season.

"I think we're feeling good about what we have been building this season. We've all seemed to click very well on the field," Pensick said.

The Shamrocks completed another week undefeated in dominating fashion, defeating two solid opponents. They beat a 7-1 Grand Island Northwest team 4-1 on April 14th. The next day, the Shamrocks traveled to Kearney and defeated the 7-2 Stars 6-0.

Senior midfielder Emma Brezenski is a four-year starter for the Shamrocks and has scored 31 goals this season.

"We have a few more tough games left, so I'm excited to get better and play those teams so we can see our improvement pay off," Brezenski said.

The Shamrocks beat another tough opponent, Millard North, 4-1 on April 21st. On Tuesday, they traveled to Lincoln to play #3

rated Lincoln Pius.

The team played Lakeview today as their final match before entering the postseason.

Junior Mia Fehringer has scored 11 goals this season and leads the team in assists with

8.

"Our goal from the start has been to make it to state again. I am excited to play some of the best teams and see how our team responds to the challenge," Fehringer concluded.



Becky Policky / Yearbook Staff

Junior Mia Fehringer attacks the goal against Lutheran High/Norfolk Catholic on April 10th. Fehringer scored 2 goals against the Eagles.

Newcomers keep boys golf 'up to par'

By Quinn VunCannon

The Scotus boys golf team is no stranger to success, earning a state title and several state runner-up trophies in the last 5 years. This year, with only 1 varsity returner, fresh

faces are looking to uphold the strong legacy the golf program boasts.

Junior Brayden Fleming is the only returning member from last year's state run,

tying for 57th on the big stage.

"Being so young definitely brings nerves because half of the team isn't used to playing in competition, which is going to affect our shot at making it to state as a team," Fleming said.

The Shamrocks started their season at the Aquinas Invite, shooting 346 to take second place. Fleming shot 76, which was good for second individually and freshman Clint Saltzgaber and senior Carter Nickeson ended 87 and 88, respectively, which earned them 5th and 7th place medals.

Freshman Layne Aschoff made his varsity debut at the meet, carding a 102.

"We do have a very young team this year, so there's a lot of room for growth and improvement, especially around the greens," Aschoff commented.

Scotus competed in a dual with Schuyler on April 8th and won handily.

On April 10th, the team golfed at the Norris Invite. Nickeson had the low for team with an 80, tying for 14th place and losing the scorecard playoff.

"I want to earn as many medals as possible and make state. The best way to do so is to play golf whenever I get the chance," Nickeson said.

Fleming and Saltzgaber shot 87 and 90, and two new varsity players made their debuts with sophomore Matthew Dinslage carding a 92 and freshman Tyson Cieloha shooting 95.

The team spent the beginning of the

season finding its footing lineup wise, as the last two varsity spots have been battled out by multiple people.

"The varsity 4 and 5 man spots are going to keep switching up until hopefully we get some kids more consistent so we can have the best shot to make it to state," Fleming said.

Scotus had triangulars on April 14th and 15th, and capped their week off at the York Invite that Thursday.

Nickeson was the only medalist for the day, taking 15th place with a 79. Fleming wasn't far behind shooting 82, and Saltzgaber, Dinslage, and Cieloha all put up scores in striking distance going 90, 91, and 96 to round out a team score of 342 to take 8th place at a competitive class B meet.

"We are off to a little bit of a slow start, but we are looking for improvement as the season goes along," Saltzgaber said.

The Shamrocks competed at Quail Run today in the Lakeview Invite. The 'Rocks will end their regular season hosting the Centennial Conference Tournament and traveling to Norfolk Country Club for the Norfolk Catholic Invite.

Monday, May 19th the boys will golf in the district tournament at Indian Trails Country Club to hopefully earn their spot at the state tournament, held on May 28th and 29th at Jackrabbit Run Golf Course in Grand Island.



Quinn VunCannon / Rock Bottom Staff

Senior Carter Nickeson watches a putt roll on #1 green at Quail Run Golf Course in a dual against Schuyler on April 8th. Nickeson placed 15th at the York Invite with a 79.

Boys soccer strives for positive record

By Austin Long

Theodore Roosevelt once said, "Nothing in the world is worth having or worth doing unless it means effort, pain, difficulty." In the Scotus boys soccer team's case, a positive record is worth having, but nothing short of hard work and dedication will earn it.

Shamrock boys soccer kickstarted their preseason with many scrimmages along with a rigorous fortnight of two-a-day practices, all in preparation for their first match and future season. Junior Eli Maguire earned a varsity jersey and plays center defensive middle.

"We have been working on finishing when we have opportunities to score," Maguire said. "We are always trying to build our soccer IQ."

In a tournament on March 22nd and their first game against Gross Catholic, the Shamrocks lost 0-2, matching them with South Sioux City. Sadly, the 'Rocks returned home with no dice, losing 0-1. As a goalie, junior Carson Wessel played a key role in the tournament, keeping the opposing teams' scores to a minimum.

"South Sioux City has been the most impactful game this season. Even though we lost, we competed with a top 10, class A school," Wessel said.

Next on the Shamrocks' schedule came Holdrege and Ralston on March 25th and March 28th respectively. These two games resulted in back-to-back wins, setting the 'Rocks record to 2-2 and continuing the battle for a positive season. Senior Ian Karges plays as a wing for the Shamrocks.

"We all have the skills to succeed," Karges said. "We just need to be able to put

everything together to finish."

Soon after earning an even season record, the 'Rocks lost against St. Albert on March 31st; however, the team made a quick turnaround on April 1st, winning against Platteview. For the 'Rocks, senior Landen Neville plays center back.

"Our loss in overtime against Gretna showed us we can play and compete with anyone in the state. We need to figure out how to score a few more goals," Neville said.

The Shamrocks moved on to face Gretna, one of the toughest teams on their schedule, on April 7th. After leading the game into overtime, the 'Rocks lost 1-3. The next day on April 8th, the team played against Lincoln Lutheran/Raymond Central/Parkview Christian Soccer (LLRCPC), losing in a shootout.

"LLRCPC allowed us to understand our weaknesses," Maguire said. "We can now focus on them in practice."

Coming off of another cold streak with a record of 3-5, the Shamrocks took on Conestoga on April 12th. They secured the win with a score of 1-0. The 'Rocks then faced off Grand Island Northwest on April 14th, winning 1-0 in overtime and returning their record to a neutral 5-5.

"Our defense has done a great job keeping the opponents at bay," Karges said. "We have stopped other teams from scoring a lot on us."

Then on a hot streak, the Shamrocks lost 1-4 against Kearney Catholic on April 15th. A week of practice and Easter break later, however, the 'Rocks rocked Madison 8-0 on April 22nd to again neutralize their record,

6-6. Senior Jacob Rother is a center back for the team.

Shamrock boys soccer takes on Schuyler twice every season, but has not seen much success against them in recent years. The 'Rocks competed against Schuyler on Tues-

day, April 29th and may see them again in district play.

The Shamrock's final match of the regular season will be against the Lakeview Vikings on May 1st.



Madden Saenz / Rock Bottom Staff

Junior midfielder Kade Wulf attempts a pass while competing against Ralston on March 28th. The Shamrocks beat Ralston, giving up zero goals and ending the game 2-0.

Track seeks postseason peak

By Ava Rickert

With each new sports season comes new faces and young talent contributing to the team. With a strong senior class graduating last year and losing a number of athletes to competing spring sports, the track team has had to adjust in order to be successful competitors.

The most important part of track and field is being able to score points for the team whether it be individually or in relays. With fewer people on the roster, the track team did not know what to expect heading into the season. However, the team has seen positive results at the meets they have attended so far.

Senior Adrianna Kush has been on the track team since her freshman year.

“It has been surprising to see how much success our track team is having because of the amount of girls we have,” Kush said. “Although there is not a big number of girls out, our athletes have been extremely valuable in their events.”

On March 22nd the track team kicked off their season performing in the Wayne State Indoor Meet. The team used this meet to gain confidence in their events and insight on what needed to be changed for future meets.

Senior Cohen Pelan placed 3rd in the 60 meter dash at the Wayne State Indoor Meet.

“We lost some of our best runners from last year, so adjusting to practices and relays has been different,” Pelan said.

The team hosted their home invite on April 1st, with girls placing 3rd and boys 6th.

Many athletes took home multiple medals in their events. Freshmen Allie Brezenski and Avery Heinrich were big contributors to the girls’ point total, with a combined six top-three medals.

Brezenski took home medals in all four of her events at the home invite.

“I like the feeling that what I contribute helps the team,” Brezenski said. “I feel like I perform better when I know I’m counted on.”

The team returned to Wayne on April 8th to compete at the Wayne Invite. The girls team placed 1st overall, and the boys had several top-three individual finishes at the meet.

The girls 4x100 team set a meet record at the Wayne Invite. The team as a whole brought home seven gold, five silver, and two bronze medals from the meet.

Senior Rylie Tonniges placed 4th in shot put at the Wayne Invite.

“Winning the Wayne meet was really fun. It showed that we competed hard and worked together to get first,” Tonniges said. “We knew we needed to get points out of field events to win.”

The track team had a meet at Boone Central on April 15th and one at Central City on the 17th. Both girls and boys placed 7th as a team at the Boone Central Invite. Girls placed 5th as a team at the Central City Invite while boys placed 9th.

The team competed at Schuyler on April 25th. Due to weather conditions, field events were cancelled and races were finals only.

Girls brought home 5 top-three medals and the boys came home with 1 top-three finish. The girls placed 4th while boys placed 7th.

Junior Thomas Settje placed 2nd in the 300 meter hurdles at the Schuyler meet.

“We are working on building our endurance and speed so that we peak around the time of districts,” Settje said.

The team competed at the Lakeview

Invitational on Tuesday, April 12th.

The team will round out the season competing at the Centennial Conference Tournament on May 3rd, followed by the Battle Creek Invite on May 8th, and districts on May 13th. State Track and Field will take place at Burke High School in Omaha on May 21st and 22nd.



Adrianna Kush / Yearbook Staff

Sophomore Grace Hamling jumps over a hurdle in the 100 meter hurdles at the Wayne State College indoor meet on March 22nd. Hamling also competed in long jump and the 300 meter hurdles.

CHS girls tennis makes a comeback

By Abby Schumacher

Instead of Scotus having their own boys and girls tennis teams, they merge and play with Columbus High School. However, in the 2023-2024 school year, Scotus had no one go out for girls tennis. On the other hand, the boys tennis team consisted mainly of Scotus boys with only a few being from CHS. This year, however, juniors Jem Meyer and Valeria Rodriguez decided to try tennis out for the first time and are both on the reserve team.

“It’s odd [there are only two from Scotus], but it allows me to meet new people,” Rodriguez said.

Counting Meyer and Rodriguez, there is a total of 28 ladies on the team.

“I wanted to have something to do this spring,” Meyer said. “I asked around to other people that did it, and it sounded fun.”

On March 27th, Meyer won her doubles match against Lincoln Northwest with a score of 6-2 at Gerrard Park.

“I prefer doubles, only because I don’t have to run as much, and if I forget the score, I can ask my partner,” Meyer said.

Toward the beginning of the season, Rodriguez suffered from an ankle injury, so she wasn’t allowed to play her first match until April 1. In this duel against Norfolk, Rodriguez lost her doubles match 0-6. That next week, on April 8, CHS played Grand Island

Senior High in Grand Island. Rodriguez won her doubles match, and Meyer won both her singles and doubles matches.

“The last match was super close, and we ended up winning,” Meyer said.

On April 11, Rodriguez won her first singles match 6-2 and lost her second singles match 0-6 against Blair at Pawnee Park.

“[When setbacks happen during a match,] I control my breathing and try to only focus on the match,” Rodriguez said.

With both girls being new to the sport, they have had to learn the different rules that tennis entails and overcome obstacles that occur during the match.

“This means having integrity and good sportsmanship. There have been situations where my opponents were not honest, and I’ve had to challenge them for it,” Rodriguez said.

Meyer and Rodriguez have two more duals left in their season. Both will be played at Pawnee Park on May 1st against Lincoln North Star and on May 12th against the York Dukes.

“[I will continue playing tennis] because it has been so fun this year, and I love the coaches,” Meyer said.



Abby Schumacher / Rock Bottom Staff

Junior Jem Meyer serves the ball during her doubles match on March 27th at Gerrard Park. It is Meyer’s first year participating in tennis with CHS.



Abby Schumacher / Rock Bottom Staff

Junior Valeria Rodriguez prepares her backhand at her tennis match on Friday April 11th at Pawnee Park. Rodriguez won her match 6-2.

Baseball looks for strong end of season

By Kate Hendricks

The Discoverers baseball team has been put to the test this year with its tough schedule. With the graduation of a large senior class, the Discoverers looked to reload their

season with new faces.

The varsity Discoverers team faced Norfolk to start the year. They lost the game 5-8. They took their first win against Seward on

March 22nd. Senior Spencer Shotkoski plays pitcher and outfield for the Discoverers this season.

“For postseason play I am most excited about the good talent that we see and get the opportunity to go up against it,” Shotkoski said.

With new faces on the field for the Discoverers, many challenges and opportunities arose. High expectations were set for this year’s team. Sophomore Connor Cameron is an outfielder for Discoverers.

“The focus for preparing for the end of the season is to keep improving the little mistakes to win games,” Cameron said.

On April 14th, the reserves team took on Grand Island. Sophomore Ryan Palensky is a reserve shortstop, pitcher, and second baseman.

“The team’s most impactful game was against Grand Island, last year they were a team who we went 1-3 against, and they are the most skilled and talented team we will play all year. It was very difficult for us because we have had 8 straight home games at Pawnee Park on the turf, so it was our first game on a dirt field, and we showed what we can do when we play as a team,” Palensky said.

The JV team has had a successful season so far with a record 8-4. Their next game is on

May 2nd against Mount Michael Benedictine.

“The season is not going how we want it to, but you can tell all 3 levels whether being varsity, JV or reserves, there is a bunch of effort being put in and high expectations. My goal this season is to get better as an individual player and be a better teammate to help my team in whatever possible way,” Palensky said.

The Discoverers were faced with many challenges to start off the year with a record of 1-8. Senior Grant Zoucha is a third baseman.

“I think the most challenging thing about our season so far has been trying to get the guys on the bench more involved with the game. We have been struggling with energy off the field, and the coaches and most of the players haven’t been too pleased with that,” Zoucha said.

The varsity squad took on Omaha Central on April 11th. The Discoverers won in extra innings by a score of 10-7.

“Our most impactful game was Omaha Central because it showed us how to win close games,” Cameron said.

The Discoverers will face Lincoln Pius X for their next game at Pius on May 2nd. The Thunderbolts’ record is 7-11.

“As we get to the end of the season, the focus is ending my career the right way and setting the bar,” Shotkoski said.



Rebecca Kosch / Yearbook Staff

Scotus senior Spencer Shotkoski bats against Bellevue East on April 10th. The Discoverers won the game 11-2.



FERNANDO ALMAZAN
Northeast Community College
Construction
My favorite memory is being with my friends at the senior retreat.



JOAQUIN AZURDUY
University of Nebraska - Lincoln
Software Engineering
A fun fact about me is that I like to play the piano.



CAEL BACKMAN
Northeast Community College
Electrical Construction
My favorite memory is flipping the boats at the senior retreat.



AUBREE BEIERMANN
University of Nebraska - Lincoln
Pre-Radiology
“Hold on to the memories, they will hold on to you.”
~Taylor Swift



KENZY BEIERMANN
Central Community College
Nursing
My favorite memory is that I thought it was a good idea to take accelerated chemistry until I got help everyday. Big thank you to Mrs. Dusel!



EMMA BREZENSKI
South Dakota State University
Nursing, Soccer
My favorite memory is the entire quarantine experience we had in seventh grade; I definitely took that time off for granted.



CALEB CAMERON
University of Nebraska - Kearney
Biology- Pre Medicine
“Winners win, losers lose.”
~Coach Mo



ALEX CASPERSON
Northeast Community College
General Studies
A fun fact about me is that I go fishing for 8 hours straight on my days off of work during the summer.



HENRY CHARD
Southeast Community College
Electrical and Electromechanical Technology
A fun fact about me is that I once recited 213 digits of pi from memory for pi day.



HANNA CHOHON
University of Nebraska - Kearney
Nursing
A fun fact about me is that I’ve had to upgrade my bookshelf four times to bigger bookshelves to hold all my books.



MALLORY DRESEN
Central Community College
General Studies, Volleyball
A fun fact about me is that I decided to join the girls soccer team the day before practice started after never touching a soccer ball before.



ALEX EVANS
Creighton University
Sports Medicine
“You won’t regret the things you did. You’ll regret the things you didn’t do when you had the chance.”
~Mark Twain



HAYLEE FALTYS
College of Saint Mary
Human Biology
“You will have a test this week, it will be this week.” (It was not that week.)
~Mr. Brockhaus



ADAM GONZALEZ-GOMEZ
University of Nebraska - Kearney
Astrophysics
My favorite memory is winning district one act and going to state.



ELLA HASH
University of Nebraska - Lincoln
Psychology
A fun fact about me is that I can sing any song from One Direction’s discography after listening to it for 15 seconds.



EDUARDO HERRERA, JR
University of Nebraska - Lincoln
Business Administration
“No such thing as a life that’s better than yours.”
~J. Cole



LILY HUMPHREY
University of Nebraska - Lincoln
Journalism
My favorite memory is senior year football games with Jessica Jackson.



JESSICA JACKSON
University of Minnesota
Acting
A fun fact about me is that I got punched in the nose by a homeless woman in New York.



CALLEN JEDLICKA
University of Nebraska - Lincoln
Agricultural Systems Technology
“If you risk nothing, then you risk everything.”
~Geena Davis



EVAN JELINEK
Northeast Community College
Electrical Construction and Control
“If you’re not first you’re last.”
~Ricky Bobby



NOAH KAMRATH
Southeast Community College
Radiology
“Sometimes you will never know the value of a moment until it becomes a memory.”
~Dr. Dre



IAN KARGES
University of Nebraska - Lincoln
Mechanical Engineering
My favorite memory is working with the crew boys all four years of one act. We got our work done and had plenty of time to mess around.



SOFIA KARGES
University of Nebraska - Kearney
Dietetics and Nutrition
My favorite memory is qualifying for state basketball my senior year.



CAROLINE KLITZ
Wayne State College
English Language Arts Education
My favorite memory is playing Jackbox in the hotel at state speech and getting runner-up.



OWEN KLUEVER
Southeast Community College
Electrical Technician
“Shake and bake cow.”
~Ricky Bobby



RAYA KLUEVER
University of Nebraska - Kearney
Biology
My favorite memory is getting to cheer at state volleyball and basketball senior year.



EMMA KLUG
University of Nebraska - Lincoln
Agricultural Communications
A fun fact about me is that I sewed my own senior prom dress.



REBECCA KOSCH
Central Community College
General Studies
My favorite memory is all the snow days we had senior year.



JORDAN KOUMA
Southeast Community College
Electrical Technician
A fun fact about me is that I am an Eagle Scout.



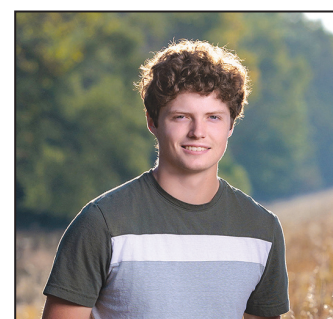
NOAH KUHL
SD School of Mines and Technology
Paleontology
“Because the history of evolution is that life escapes all barriers. Life breaks free. Life expands new territories. Painfully, perhaps even dangerously. But life finds a way.”
~Michael Crichton



ADRIANNA KUSH
University of Nebraska - Lincoln
Sports Nutrition
My favorite memory is when Abby Schumacher and I ordered Dominos under the name “Bertha Johnson” at one act practice.



OWEN LINDHORST
Army
“You will fail.”
~Mr. Brockhaus



AUSTIN LONG
Southeast Community College
Energy Generation Operations
A fun fact about me is that I can play “Mary had a Little Lamb” on the piano using only one hand.



GABE MADORA
Northeast Community College
Technician
“Stay out of trouble,
do not let your mistakes cost
you and your future.”
- Unknown

LARKYN MAHONEY
Southeast Community College
Radiologic Technology
“Live the life you love, love
the life you live.”
- Bob Marley

ANDREW MELLIGER
St. Gregory the Great Seminary
Philosophy
A fun fact about me is I have
solved a Rubix cube in 23.56
seconds (my current average is
30 seconds).

VIVYETTE MORENO
Business Owner
Pupuseria El Rinconcito
My favorite memory was
attending the senior retreat.

ALYSSA NELSEN
University of Nebraska - Lincoln
Business Administration
“A lot of stuff today
people, a lot of stuff.”
- Mr. Brockhaus

OLIVIA NELSEN
Capitol Beauty School
Cosmetology
My favorite memory is
freshman year basketball when
Papa Ridder “surprised” us
with Daylight Donuts.



LANDEN NEVILLE
University of Nebraska - Lincoln
Construction Engineering
“Enough people will hate me
that I know did right. But to
never meet a human being that
I say that I don’t like.”
- Zach Bryan

CARTER NICKESON
University of Nebraska - Lincoln
Environmental Biology
“You can’t be afraid to fail. It’s
the only way you succeed.”
- LeBron James

SAM OLMER
University of Nebraska - Kearney
Biology
My favorite memory is
flipping kayaks at the
senior retreat.

COHEN PELAN
University of Nebraska - Kearney
Pre-Medicine
My favorite memory is
playing field hockey at the
men’s retreat.

KATELYN PENSICK
University of Nebraska - Kearney
Biology
“Rivers know this:
there is no hurry. We shall get
there someday.”
- Winnie-the-Pooh



BECKY POLICKY
Wayne State College
Elementary Education
“A day without homework is a
day without sunshine.”
- Mr. Salyard

HENRY RAMAEKERS
University of Nebraska - Lincoln
Construction Management
“Real G’s move in
silence like lasagna.”
- Lil’ Wayne

AVA RICKERT
University of Nebraska - Omaha
Molecular and Biomedical Biology
My favorite memory is
playing state volleyball with
the same girls I went to
elementary school with.

DYLAN RIEDMILLER
Northeast Community College
Diversified Agriculture
“Nothing is given.
Everything is earned.”
- LeBron James

LEXI RIEDMILLER
Northeast Community College
Nursing
“Ladies and gentlemen, it is
too loud for you to
be actively working.”
- Ms. Mimick

JACOB ROTHER
University of Nebraska - Lincoln
Mechanical Engineering
“Bro is eating fuego.”
- Coach John Bailey



MEAH SACKETT
Central Community College
General Studies, Volleyball
My favorite memory was
reverse sweeping Ogalla in the
district volleyball game.

MADDEN SAENZ
University of Kansas
Psychology and Pre-Medicine
“One day I am
gonna grow
wings.”
- Radiohead

ABBY SCHUMACHER
Benedictine College
Pediatric Nursing
My favorite memory was
when Mr. Ericson drove me
to the ER with Eddy, Lily, and
Austin because I got sawdust
in my eye during one act
practice.

SPENCER SHOTKOSKI
Northeast Community College
Electrical Construction and Control
“The magic you’re looking for
is in the work you’re
avoiding.”
- Chris Williamson

BRODY SPLITTERGERBER
Iowa State University
Aerospace Engineering
My favorite memory is Mr.
Ericson hitting the stanky leg
three different times because
we made it to state.



EVAN STEFFENSMEIER
Creighton University
Business
A fun fact about myself is that
I’ve chipped my front tooth
five times.

BEN SUEPER
University of Nebraska - Lincoln
Undecided
A fun fact about me is that I
love collecting vinyl records.

JACK SUEPER
University of Nebraska - Lincoln
Social Work, Psychology
“You just gotta keep livin’
man. L-I-V-I-N.”
- David Wooderson

RYLIE TONNIGES
University of Nebraska - Kearney
Radiologic Technology
My favorite memory was
during one act, going to the
Super China Buffet after state,
and I took a crab claw from
there and put it in our one act
pickle jar.

QUINN VUNCANNON
Wayne State College
Medical Laboratory Science
A fun fact about me is that I
can lick my elbow.

ANISTON WEBER
Xenon Academy
Esthetics
My favorite memory was the
senior retreat and the friends
I made.



LUCAS WEMHOFF
University of Nebraska - Kearney
Pre-Medicine
My favorite memory was
Jacob trying to swallow a
grape whole.

MAXON WEMHOFF
University of Nebraska - Lincoln
Construction Management
A fun fact about me is that I
accidentally killed all of Mrs.
Rall’s goldfish with a pen in
their tank (sorry, Mrs. Rall).

CONNOR WURTZ
University of Nebraska - Kearney
Pre-Medicine, Biology
“Somehow the sun keeps
shining, the world keeps
spinning, and somehow I keep
going on.”
- Marty Robbins

GRANT ZOUCHA
Southeast Community College
Diesel Technology
“Never let the fear of striking
out keep you from
playing the game.”
- Babe Ruth



Quinn VunCannon

I’m a quitter. Dance, softball, volleyball, piano, band, musical, track, quiz bowl...the list of activities I have quit throughout my time at Scotus could honestly go on even longer. It’s not that I’m particularly proud to say I’ve quit all these activities; actually, it makes me a little queasy thinking about how well rounded I could have been if I just would’ve balanced my schedule a bit. However, the subtle ache is soothed when I look back on the actual memories I have, not the ‘what could have beens’.

The summer after my freshman year I was faced with a choice. I had the realization that I, a resounding 5 foot 4 inches tall, was not growing anytime soon and probably would not

have the successful volleyball career I’d always dreamed of. The other option I gave myself was to go out for golf.

Now, I’d basically grown up on a golf course but hadn’t seriously considered doing golf like ever. I hadn’t touched a set of clubs since I was probably 11. I spent that summer having many teary eyed range sessions with my dad while still playing in summer volleyball league. I remember one particular evening golfing with my dad and sobbing, asking him to just make the choice for me. It felt like a life or death situation at the time. Ultimately, I chose to quit volleyball and go out for golf, and it was one of the best decisions I made in my entire time at Scotus.

From sophomore to senior year, I made some of the best friends I have in my life and achieved success at the state level. Golf pushed me in numerous ways (it’s definitely not a sport for the mentally weak), and I will be forever grateful I made the dive into the unknown instead of staying on a path I would have been more comfortable on. The decision wasn’t life or death, no matter how much it felt that way, but it greatly impacted my time as a high-schooler.

I’m not saying quitting is always the answer though. My relationship with the sport of basketball has been a rocky one to say the least. Growing up, basketball was the ‘it girl’ in my life, my most favorite sport. Then came my junior year. I went from playing free to questioning every choice I made on the court, and I started to hate it. My love for the game had seemed to vanish from thin air, and I was ready to quit by the end of the year. I was angry and bitter and wanted to put myself first in a crappy situation. The entire summer before my senior year was spent stewing over the decision, but I decided to stick it out.

Finally proud to admit I didn’t quit something, we made it to state for the first time in 7 years, and it felt like a reward from the universe for finally not quitting something.

Those two difficult choices both ended up working in my favor, but that’s not to say there haven’t been regrets and turmoil along the way. However, those two particular choices were ones I put mind-numbing hours of my life debating, and I believe that’s why they worked out for me.

My conclusion is this: quitting is ok. If I didn’t quit volleyball, I wouldn’t have a state medal in golf. But don’t make rash decisions. I wish I could go back and tell my 13 year old self she didn’t need her dad to make her choices for her. She decided what was best for her and her time at Scotus would be better because of it.

This is Quinn VunCannon, signing off.



Ella Hash

“Hey guys, I’m going to go home and do my calculus homework I haven’t done in three weeks!” I told my friends every day for the last week. In reality, I would go home after practice, eat dinner, shower, scroll on *TikTok*, then go to bed. It’s not that I didn’t want to do the work, I simply didn’t feel up to it. This has seemed to be the mantra I have repeated throughout my time here at Scotus. I say I’ll go home and do my homework, but when the time comes, I put it off.

Finding my system of doing homework hasn’t been a linear path. Some days I would get everything done in my study halls. Other days I would sit on my computer playing the *New York Times* mini games and accomplish nothing. As

someone who’s involved in multiple sports and activities, I have found the one way I can balance school, homework, and my social life: procrastination.

Procrastination has been the one constant in my life. I will procrastinate any and everything. “Oh, I’ll make myself dinner at 6:30,” but it’s 6:37 so I have to wait until 6:45. I even tried to procrastinate this signoff, but Mrs. Rusher is making me write it (thanks Mrs. Rusher). While many say procrastination is bad, I’ve learned to accept I will procrastinate, but make the most of my procrastination.

I wasn’t always a procrastinator. In elementary school and junior high I tried to be the first one done on all my assignments even if I had many wrong answers. Part of this was because I wanted to look smart in front of my classmates, and the other was to get back to reading whatever book I had picked up from the library.

Even though I finished my work before everyone else, this wasn’t the way to go about work. Instead of missing harder questions, I was missing the simplest problems and scoring terribly, in my eyes, on my work. It wasn’t until quarantine where my views and goals shifted.

As a seventh grader, we barely had any assignments. I’d hop on zoom for music class once a week and that was the extent of my homework. The rest of my time was spent scrolling through *TikTok*, reading, or playing with my neighbors. I will admit I gained bad habits during this time, one of them being procrastination. Since there was barely any homework to do, I’d put it off until I had to do my assignments then turn them in.

This carried on into high school. It’s not unbelievable for me to stay up until 2 a.m. finishing my calculus or journalism article on a school night (sorry mom and dad). Even though I hate staying up late doing homework, my system hasn’t failed me yet. I usually do my best work while I am in a time crunch. Last year when I qualified for state journalism, the article that was submitted was a draft I finished the period before it was due. I also did this for every English essay during the first semester, and I never scored below a 93%.

While my system or way of doing homework might seem arbitrary, I have learned this is what works best for me. Yes, I dislike staying up late, and yes, I would be better off doing my homework right away, but if my system works, I shouldn’t change it. I am in no way encouraging students to procrastinate, but instead saying to find your own system. Even though I hate procrastinating, it is the one of the only ways I can, and will, accomplish my work.

This is Ella Hash, signing off.



Front row: Quinn VunCannon, Sofia Karges, Ella Hash, Abby Schumacher, Sydney Stuart
Back row: Kate Hendricks, Austin Long, Jillian Rusher, Caleb Cameron, Aubree Beiermann, Madden Saenz, Ava Rickert



Front row: Ella Hash, Abby Schumacher, Sofia Karges, Quinn VunCannon
Back row: Madden Saenz, Ava Rickert, Caleb Cameron, Austin Long, Aubree Beiermann



Caleb Cameron

When reflecting on my Scotus journey, I’ve made some conclusions: I’ve been involved in many activities and groups, and I don’t regret being involved in any of my activities, even those I didn’t see all the way through. I’ve realized there is a big difference between not liking an activity because it is difficult and not liking it because I didn’t find any interest or enjoyment in it. Throughout my high school career, I’ve had my fair share of opportunities to shut myself down: tearing my ACL my sophomore year, having mock trial, Revolution, and club basketball all on Sunday evenings, and struggling mentally because I couldn’t find any time for myself. These struggles caused me to question myself; are all these activities

even worth my time and effort?

Going into my freshman year, I decided to go out for football because almost every freshman boy did. I almost immediately regretted it as two-a-days rolled around and I was being killed by upperclassmen linemen every day. I often came home with low blood sugar, big bruises, and a headache. That season, the team had a tight-knit group of seniors leading the team to a 9-2 record. I loved the unity of the team and social aspects of football, but hated practice and the pressure of games. If you had asked freshman Caleb if he would have played football his senior year, he would have told you, “Heck no!”

The summer before my sophomore year, I was unsure of whether I was going to even go out for football. I still attended all the meetings and skills practices because of my friends, but deep down, I was not excited to keep playing and thought I would quit at the end of the summer. Ultimately, I had too much respect for Coach Linder and the rest of the football coaching staff, so I decided to give football one last shot.

Fast forward to earlier this year. I was a returning 3-year starter gearing up for a successful senior season. Football still wasn’t my favorite sport, but I enjoyed it much more than I did in my freshman year. As the season went on, my love for football and the team grew each week. I looked forward to practice and got excited thinking about hitting someone hard under the lights. I was performing even better than the expectations I put on myself. In the end, our team would lose a hard-fought game against Lakeview 7-14. I stood on the hill as the clock ticked down, tears streaming from my eyes, but the tears were not tears of sadness or regret; they were tears of thankfulness and contentment.

Reflecting on the season and my football career as a whole, I’m glad I stuck it out. All the hot practices, all the times getting hit hard, all the early morning workouts-the struggles were worth it. Football and all my other activities have taught me that hard doesn’t always equal bad and how to embrace challenges. I’ve concluded that those difficult situations were where some of my greatest friendships and best memories were made. Looking back, I am grateful God gave me the opportunity to participate in all these activities to give glory to him. So for all the underclassmen thinking about quitting when it’s the most difficult, give it a last shot: you might thank yourself later.

This is Caleb Cameron, signing off.



Sofia Karges

When I walked down the halls of Scotus for the first time as a seventh grader, I remember looking up at all the pictures of championships from previous years and thinking, “I want to leave Scotus with a legacy just like that.”

I looked ahead to my high school career and saw success in being as involved and busy as possible. Because of this, I signed up for every extracurricular or club activity possible. I thought people would see all I did and think I was successful.

Junior year rolled around, and I found myself getting burnt out from all I was involved in. I would wake up around 6 am most mornings to lift at school, then change quick and go to the club meeting I had that morning (Tuesdays were cheer, Wednesdays were student council, Thursdays were Campus Ministry, and every so often Fridays would be NHS). Then I would go to school all day, have practice for two hours after school, get home, eat, shower, do homework until 11, go to bed, and do it all again the next day. I found I never had time for myself, never had time to even sit and talk to my family because I was always focused on the next thing I had to cross off my “to-do” list.

One night I was able to sit down and enjoy dinner with my family, and I heard about something exciting my sisters were doing that had been going on for a while, yet I had no idea they were doing it. It wasn’t until that moment I realized how much I was missing out; I didn’t even know what my own sisters were doing with their lives. I learned I was fulfilling everyone else’s needs but my own, and in the process of all this people-pleasing, I was running myself ragged.

I talked to my mom later that same week and told her how overwhelmed I was feeling about everything, and she said something that has stuck with me since. She told me I don’t need to do everything myself, and there’s no shame in asking for help when I am overwhelmed.

Now, I am not saying I came to the conclusion to quit everything that was stressing me out. Instead, what I learned was I needed to take a step back and actually enjoy what I was involved in. I was in all these great activities, but I wasn’t able to enjoy any of them because I was always worried about what needed to be done next, which resulted in me adding unnecessary stress to my life.

I felt I missed out on having fun in high school at times because I was so wrapped up in my own world. It wasn’t until spring of my junior year that I felt I was actually able to slow down and enjoy everything I was involved in. Now that senior year is almost over, I wish I could go back and tell myself to stop worrying so much and instead be present in my life.

One of the ways I’ve been able to slow down is to lean back on my faith when I’m feeling overwhelmed. Shortly before school started, I came across a bible verse that has since become the theme of my senior year. 1 Corinthians 10:31 says, “Whatever you do, do it all for the Glory of God.” The Lord delights in our lives, and we need to remember that everything we do is for Him, so we can delight in our lives, too.

This is Sofia Karges, signing off.



Ava Rickert

And here it is, the end of my senior year. I have spent the entirety of this year being reminded of every single “last” I am faced with. My last first day of school, my last homecoming. My last volleyball game, my last state cheer competition. My last quarter of high school, my last day walking down the halls of Scotus with my best friends, and finally, writing my last ever journalism article. While reminiscing on these events, I remember one detail in particular: I definitely cried my eyes out after every. single. one. That is who I am, sensitive Ava.

My sensitivity is something I am still learning to embrace, and it doesn’t get any easier by the day. Being vulnerable is often frowned upon by our society. We are taught to keep our struggles to ourselves, to tame our emotions to avoid any inconveniences they may cause. However, I am here to say the stigma surrounding sensitivity is totally backward, and it is a trait that, once embraced, can change a person’s life.

The July before my senior year is when I felt as if the world was crashing down around me. Just when it seemed like the stress of summer volleyball, nannying, and attempting to have a social life was too much to handle, my parents divorced. No, I am not going to make this a sob story of how sucky my senior year was because of this because it was not the case at all (and would be an insanely boring article to write). The issue was my sensitive self did not want to be vulnerable to my friends and classmates about the issues I was dealing with. The last thing I wanted was to focus everyone’s attention on me and make me look like one of those puppies in an adoption shelter in a sappy Super Bowl commercial.

This being said, I found it incredibly difficult to deal with all the backlash and small-town gossip which flooded my life after my parents split. I wanted to be a tough person and make it seem as if it did not affect me. Looking back now, the one factor I wish I could change was how I handled the stress of the situation. I wish I embraced my sensitivity and was open about what I was going through because there would have been countless people who had my back and wanted to help me through it.

Something I wish I had realized is being sensitive means you care. It does not mean you are a baby, you are weak, or you are unable to deal with problems without crying every time you try to talk about them. Being sensitive is being in touch with your emotions. I wish I could have grasped the idea that being sensitive and vulnerable did not change the fact that so many people loved me and wanted to be around me. If I had not been so petrified of showing my emotions, I believe I would have found it much easier to overcome the obstacles I went through in silence.

Don’t be afraid to show your true feelings. You are allowed to cry when you are so mad you think you are going to explode. You are allowed to smile and laugh when you are with your best friends. Showing these emotions and embracing sensitivity is what makes people who they are. At least, it is what made me who I am and who I will continue to be in this next chapter of my life.

This is Ava Rickert, signing off.



Aubree Beiermann

“I don’t want to do that, it sounds stupid and boring.” Walking through the hall of Scotus, I have heard this being said about every day. It’s what teenagers do best: complain about how everything is stupid or boring or weird. I have seen this applied to activities the school puts on and even someone’s plan for the weekend, which causes people who are excited about it to feel stupid or boring or weird about it. This ruins it for everyone. I find being interested or at least not complaining does wonders in improving the experience altogether. Plus, having an open mind might lead to new favorite things.

Finding a fun interest to care about makes life incredibly more enjoyable. For me, as most people know, it has been Taylor Swift’s music. Ever since I can remember, I have been a fan of hers. It has been a big part of my life that I share with the people around me because I care about it, and I know there are bound to be a couple of others who do too. This passion has led me to the receiving end of some side eyes and weird looks in my high school career. I have heard many people say her music is only for 12 year old girls and written like one, too, but they don’t even give it a chance, which frustrates me.

During my earlier years at Scotus, when someone around me would complain about a school event, a class, or what was for lunch that day, I would almost automatically agree with them. It didn’t matter if I was excited about it or actually enjoyed it. I would say nothing back to defend myself and my opinion. If something I did enjoy was brought up, I would just sit there and not put what I thought about it into the conversation.

Because of this, I started hanging out with kids in my class who had nothing in common with me. This also stopped me from getting closer with other people because I thought being friends with certain classmates would be better for me. Now, I understand it wasn’t. When I finally met classmates who actually tolerated and listened to me and my interests, they became the friends I wanted in my life.

It is hard to be open to finding these close friends, but having an open mind when meeting others is a great start. This has led me to meeting and having friends who have the same values and care about their interests in the same way. I know my friends don’t care about my consistent updates about anything Taylor Swift, but they are my friends, so they still listen and act like they do. In return, I listen to my friend’s rant about this new sunscreen product she’s just dying to try.

I’m not telling people to shove their interests down others’ throats; I think it is great to let the people around you know about your opinion, even if it is awkward sometimes. What you think is important, and no one is going to stop talking to you if you are excited for the pep rally when everyone around you is dreading it. So yes, be excited when the movie you’ve been waiting for is released or go be hyped up for the faith rally. It doesn’t need to be something as insane as liking Taylor Swift; it could be anything. Find something you care about and share it with others. Don’t be scared of your own opinion; it makes you who you are, and it matters.

This is Aubree Beiermann, signing off.



Abby Schumacher

“hello” to the kid who goes unnoticed can make someone’s whole week. I will never forget when I was a little 7th grader, an upperclassman would smile at me in the hallways, and it would make my day each time. Because of this, I try and be the light to others by being a ray of sunshine.

Being joyful is contagious. Whenever I see someone who is optimistic, it fuels me for the day and makes me feel joyful. It makes me think, “There must be a reason to be joyful today.” Then, hopefully, I make someone joyful by my encounter with them, and the cycle continues.

I’ve learned I am most joyful when I can act like myself and not worry about what others think about me. However, it can be hard to do this out of fear of judgment from others. During my first three years of being here, I was worried about what others thought of me, so I was not myself and was miserable. It was only after the end of my sophomore year that I realized I could only be truly happy and content when I am not trying to be anyone else. I will admit, sometimes being your real, goofy self can cause some people to roll their eyes or give judgmental looks, but it is what makes me happy, so I’ll keep being weird.

There is something called “digging for joy.” This is when people purposefully look for joy in the day. At the end of my day, I try to think about a few moments that brought me joy and reflect on them. Even before I get ready in the morning, I try to think of three things I am looking forward to. This gives my day a sense of purpose and meaning. If people have a negative outlook about the day, this will give them a closed mindset for anything good and fruitful happening.

Being optimistic and not willing to cave into negative thoughts and feelings the devil implants is what keeps people going. I now love presenting speeches in front of people because of my participation in speech. At times, it could be stressful, and lies like, “I can’t do this” would try and sneak into my head. I’ve learned that rejecting these lies and importing the truth helps me to keep doing what makes me joyful. Even saying affirmations like “I’ve got this” would push me to keep glorifying God in my work with my gifts.

Small moments bring lots of people joy. Whether this be the barista at a coffee shop spelling your name right or getting to sit in front of your best friend in English class, they all give us a little extra boost for the day. Whenever I find a moment in life where I laugh, I write it down in my journal. When I am feeling down, I read these joyful moments, and it lifts my spirit. It might seem insignificant to some, but on those days when I need an extra laugh, it is all worth it.

Even though sometimes I would rather be in bed sleeping than at school, I make the most of it by being my authentic, joyful self, and looking back now, I’m so glad I did. Don’t be afraid to let your real laughter out and spread your amazing joy to others like confetti. St. Teresa of Avila once said, “Joy is the most infallible sign of the presence of God.”

This is Abby Schumacher, signing off.



Austin Long

“I’m going to CMS next year,” my best friend Isaac Garcia said near the end of 6th grade. I didn’t have many friends at the time, so Isaac not coming along to Scotus worried me. I feared I was going to be alone and not fit in.

This anxiousness for middle school and high school along with the fear of being rejected from friend groups kept me concealed to the handful of friends I already had going into Scotus and myself. I constantly thought about what everyone else thought of me, and I could not wait until I was home, away from the possibility of making a bad impression. I was shy, socially anxious, and wanted to impress everyone, but I was too scared of trying and denial; however, this was only me in junior high.

I do not remember a specific happening, motivational speech, or inspirational cat poster that broke my shell. I do, however, believe that throughout the years, I was able to slowly chip away at my shell. I pushed myself to join sports and activities I initially thought would be no good for me, yet joining them strengthened me socially and weakened my worries.

Come freshman year, I debated whether or not to go out for football. I felt I was a mediocre player in junior high, and I only saw myself continuing to be as such. I also thought it might not be for me since I never fully understood the sport, and my closest friends joined other sports, meaning I would have to make new friends—what I most feared at the time. I did end up going out freshman and sophomore years despite my lack of ball knowledge and anxiousness. In hindsight, joining football was one of the best choices I could have made not only because I grew mentally tougher, but also because I became used to being around people I did not normally hang out with.

More recently, I joined the speech team junior year. I needed more to put on my college resume, but I also wanted to challenge and improve myself. It took loads of convincing from others and myself to join speech, namely because what I was most afraid of was the name of the activity. My first speech tournaments were nerve-racking as the only thing on my mind was the thought of failure. Although fearful at first, over time I became familiar with the feeling of speaking in front of an audience. I learned to not care so much about impressing everyone or worry about how others see me, and I realized I should be caring more about what makes me happy.

My time as a high school student at Scotus has made me a more social and well-rounded person. Football, speech, and other activities like cross country, Cornhusker Boys State, one act, and journalism have all shaped who I am today. If I could give advice to anyone wanting to have a better high school experience or build on their socialability, I would suggest getting involved, trying new things, and being authentic.

This is Austin Long, signing off.



Madden Saenz

At Scotus, I’ve been surrounded by a busy schedule and stress like you would not believe. Like it or not, I would always have something I didn’t want to or was afraid of doing. Nothing would ever change the fact that something had to get done, and I was the only one who could do it. What made doing that thing bearable was the attitude I carried with me and, especially, my willingness to get ahead and get stuff done early.

A great example of this was the article I wrote for wrestling this year for the January issue of the newspaper. I knew choosing the article meant a long month of tracking stats, stalking athletes, and getting quotes, a difficult task all around.

Writing the article was a breeze, and tracking statistics wasn’t the most egregious thing in the world, but the hardest part for sure was getting all of those quotes from the wrestlers. For whatever reason, I dreaded getting all those quotes; this meant tracking down each wrestler, giving them a sheet, and hoping they’d fill it out and return it to me or Mrs. Rusher on time.

As the weeks went on, I continued to put off getting those quotes and would just hope everything would work out in the end. However, after a strong-voiced lecture from Mrs. Rusher, it finally clicked in my mind that only I could get those quotes, no one else. So, for a week straight, I did nothing but keep a smile on my face as I chased people down, threw questionnaires in their faces, and bugged them nonstop to get those quotes back - and it worked!

Of course, this is a rather specific example, but there have been more. Be it a calculus test, a chemistry lab, or an essay in English, everything would happen one way or another, and it was up to me to make them as easy or difficult as I wanted them to be. I could either go entirely with the flow and hope and pray things would work out, or I could take the initiative and fight against it - with a smile, too, of course.

The best results came from fighting against the flow, and every time, the fighting had to begin before the flow hit: studying beforehand, drafting essays earlier than told, and previewing assignments are just a few examples of things I had to do to fight the flow. Every single one of them was preemptive. Just as important, I did these tasks with a smile. A good attitude or mindset makes even the worst tasks possible. Otherwise, I’d be miserable and do a miserable job. As a serial crammer, let me say that being preemptive and positive is the best gift I’ve given myself when I was stuck and afraid of the workload ahead of me. I would not have learned this skill any better had I not taken journalism and newspaper writing.

Mrs. Rusher always preaches about being on top of things to avoid stress, something I wouldn’t always abide by or pay attention to. As I look back on journalism and my time at Scotus as a whole, though, the best grades, the best essays, and the best articles all came from me deciding to get ahead. So all those times I got yelled at for being a day or two or four behind on an article were worth it because they taught me an important lesson and a vital skill for my future. Thank you, newspaper and Scotus, for all the stress and adaptability you’ve given me.

This is Madden Saenz, signing off.

Three seniors sign to play at collegiate level

By Ella Hash

The past year, seniors at Scotus have been asked never-ending questions about where they are going to college or what they are majoring in. Many have known what college they'll attend while others are still deciding between a few colleges. For some students in the senior class, they had to make the decision on if they would play a sport in college. Seniors Emma Brezenski, Mallory Dreesen, and Meah Sackett all chose to pursue athletic careers past high school.

Brezenski plans to attend South Dakota State University to study nursing and play soccer. During her time at Scotus, she has scored over 100 goals for the soccer team in three years and was an all-class soccer selection in both the *Omaha World Herald* and *Lincoln Journal Star*.

"I decided to play a sport in college because it would give me a core group of friends that I could hang around and be comfortable with, and it would also help fund my schooling," Brezenski said.

Dreesen plans to attend Central Community College in general studies while playing volleyball. During her senior season, Dreesen recorded 340 kills on a .200 hitting percentage, averaging 3.5 kills per set.

"I decided to play a sport in college because after state volleyball I felt like I was not ready to give up volleyball for good. Talking to Meah [Sackett] and us both going [to CCC] has a big part in why I wanted to go as well," Dreesen said. "I'm just ready to meet new

girls and have a new environment."

Sackett also plans to attend Central Community College in general studies while playing volleyball. During her senior season, Sackett recorded 766 assists, averaging 7.6 assists per set.

"I decided to play a sport in college

because it was a great opportunity to connect with different girls, especially the incoming freshman class, and be a part of something bigger than myself," Sackett said.

While all three girls are playing a sport in college, their recruitment process varied vastly. Brezenski started her's on June 15th

going into her junior year, the first day college coaches can reach out to players.

"Once June 15th hit, you have to schedule all the phone calls with the schools you're interested in. South Dakota State happened to be one of my schools and first in-person visit," Brezenski said. "At first I wasn't sure, but the more I went on other visits the more I realized South Dakota State was the perfect fit for me because the coaches were supportive of my career choice and they made me feel like home there."

For Dreesen and Sackett, their recruitment process was similar and started during their senior volleyball season.

"Mary Young, the volleyball coach, texted me one day and asked if I was thinking of playing a sport in college or not, and I honestly wasn't sure at first," Dreesen said. "I waited until after state volleyball was done to see how I felt, and after thinking about it for a while, I noticed the benefits that came with it, so I called her and told her I'd play."

With senior year and the spring sports season winding down, many Scotus senior athletes have limited time left with their teammates. For these girls, they'll move on to their respective colleges in July and August and meet their new teammates.

"I'm super excited to meet new girls and play with a new team in college," Sackett said. "I think it will be so much fun, and we'll accomplish great things."



Seniors Mallory Dreesen, Emma Brezenski, and Meah Sackett pose for a photo in their respective college shirts. Dreesen and Sackett signed to play volleyball at Central Community College in December, and Brezenski signed in November to play soccer at South Dakota State University.

Junior high performs "Pistols and Posies"

By Madden Saenz

With one act, the musical, and speech all finished, the Scotus fine arts department approaches its final event for the year: the junior high play. Years ago, Scotus would host a spring play with senior high actors, but that came to a close with senior high students' ever-busy and overwhelming schedules. To fill the gap, Scotus senior director Clyde Ericson extended a hand to the junior high kids who might be inclined to theatre. Since then, the junior high play has been a memorable and entertaining tradition.

This year, the junior high cast and crew will perform the script "Pistols and Posies", a tale of bootlegs, mafias, and marriage shenanigans. The play was selected by senior Caroline Klitz, who is helping with the play as an assistant director while Ericson helps guide the crew and set building.

"[Klitz]'s doing a really good job," Eric-

son said. "She's always well prepared; she's respected by the kids. She knows what she's doing, and she's handling it thoroughly, not leaving anything untouched."

However, the play's success cannot be altogether attributed to Klitz's directing ability. The students must still make an effort to ensure the show is worthwhile.

"I was surprised at how well they responded to having to memorize their lines," Ericson explained. "Our lead especially had a lot of lines, and I was a little worried if he would be able to get those memorized, but he was off script and only had to be helped a little bit, so he took the responsibility to work on it himself."

The production is surrounded by a cast of eighteen, each with various roles and performances needing to be delivered.

"It's fun and a little confusing, but

the best part is being with all my friends," eighth-grader Bostyn Marksmeir said.

Behind the curtain is a small but efficient crew of eight students who help build the set and bring the play to life through screws and nails instead of scripts and monologues.

"[Set building] has been going really well and it's super fun," seventh-grade crew member Emma Schmid said. "The cast has been doing well, and in crew, we've been getting the props all done. There have been some annoying, stressful times, but most of the time it's fun. Overall, it's going super well. It just takes time and patience."

Overall, the pre-show work has gone well, which aids in Ericson's main goals with the junior high play: have a firm understanding of basic theatre know-how, allow underclassmen to shine in the spotlight, and help potentially grow the Scotus one act team for

the following fall season.

"I want them to have a good experience in junior high play and learn some very basics in acting," Ericson said. "Usually, freshmen in one act don't have a big part, so this kind of gives younger people an opportunity to see what it's like to have a bigger role, and then hopefully they'll like it enough that they want to do it in high school."

The junior high play will be performed on Friday, May 2nd at 6:30 P.M. in Memorial Hall. All are invited and welcome to show up and enjoy the 1920s gangster shenanigans within "Pistols and Posies".

"It's a good time for the community to gather around supporting these kids, telling a great story to their audience," Ericson said. "It's a great way to kind of slow down and have a nice ending to the year."



Seventh-grader Kate Sell (center) tells everyone on stage to "Freeze!" at their rehearsal. "Pistols and Posies" tells the story of two rival crime families coming together for some wedding and bootlegging shenanigans.



Seventh-graders Addi Beller, Bailey Gilbert, Kratyn Marksmeir, Bella Faltys, Emerson Schoenfelder, and Emma Schmid watch as director Clyde Ericson shows how the L-frame will be placed on the wall. The play "Pistols and Posies" will host its only performance on Friday, May 2nd at 6:30 P.M.

Extra spring photos from journalism



Junior Maclain Bailey dribbles down the field at the game against Ralston on Friday, March 28th. The Shamrocks beat the Rams 2-0.



Senior Cohen Pelan runs the 60-meter dash on March 29th at the Wayne State College indoor meet. Pelan placed third in the event.