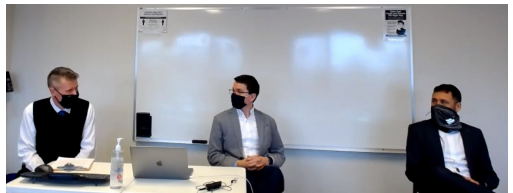




The Board and Executive Director Joan Carey didn't know, when setting out to challenge Dane County's Emergency Order #9, how things would end up back in late August 2020.

As SAA supporters know, a groundswell of support ensured that the legal fees were covered and the Wisconsin Supreme Court responded, granting schools the ability to open in-person and allowing parents to choose the environment best suited for their students.



The Academy has been blessed by the efforts of our legal counsel, Attorneys Misha Tseytlin and Kevin LeRoy from Troutman Pepper law firm. Recently, they kindly took the time to visit the Academy, offering a unique learning opportunity about the laws that govern our land and the rights and responsibilities of the American people as members of our society.

History teacher Mr. Michael Kwas facilitated the interview with the Senior class present while remaining Senior High classes watched via a live broadcast. This allowed all students to ask or submit questions for the lawyers while maintaining appropriate distancing.

We are surrounded by community leaders of all kinds and being able to engage students in conversation with diverse types of leaders offers many benefits as students think about their own future paths.

To view the recording of the live interview between SAA's lawyers and the Senior High, please visit:

Thank you to Mr. Tseytlin and Mr. LeRoy for joining us, to Mr. Kwas for moderating the interview, and to the faculty who made it possible for the entire Senior High to participate!

We warmly invite you to a live, virtual Open House event on Sunday, February 21 to show off the "Ambrose Advantage"!

Director of Enrollment and Learning Services Specialist Angela Hinline will be hosting, sharing information about SAA and talking with several of our esteemed faculty members about what SAA offers to students.

Our community is invited to attend and also highly encouraged to share this event with families who are considering their educational options!

Guests attending the live event on Facebook will be able to ask Mrs. Hinline or any of our student/faculty guests questions about the experience of students in grades 6-12 at St. Ambrose Academy.

Though different than our usual crowd-pleasing format of 15-30 minute sample 'classes' like Socratic dialogues with the Senior High or 'cookie mining' lessons with the 6th graders, guests will walk away with a lot of excitement about the dynamic faculty, immersive curriculum and the ways students are being formed spiritually and intellectually as they prepare to take on their vocations and goals in life.

Our event's faculty line-up includes:

**Dr. Constance Nielsen, Ph.D.** | Director of Classical Education; English, Latin, and Religion Teacher

**Dr. Sean Monahan, Ph.D.** | Dean of Faculty; Science Teacher

**Michael Kwas, M.A.** | Dean of Academic Success; History Teacher

**Dr. Mary Skemp, Ph.D.** | Dean of Students; English and Latin Teacher

Join us and share with others to learn more about the Ambrose Advantage.



We've got a stellar line-up for spring and we encourage you to join us on Facebook Live for a peek into the classroom with our faculty!

The next speaker in our series, Ms. Katie Behrens, will speak on 'Fantasy and Fairy Tales in the Faith' based on the ways Tolkien and Chesterton think about fairy tales and magic in a faith context, and how they prepare us for the gift of God.

Earlier editions of the Spotlight Series are a great way to see contributions from just some of our talented faculty about history, archaeology, science/nature and contemplating Carmelite spirituality. These can be viewed at:

**[www.ambroseacademy.org/spotlight](http://www.ambroseacademy.org/spotlight)**

We should never stop thinking about how we can help others," said SAA parent Laura Zakrzewski, who coordinated a Service Day project at St. Christopher Parish (Verona) for her two students, Annika and Luke, and other students from the parish.



For Laura, the need for service is greater than ever during the pandemic, “when we are tempted to dwell on our own current sufferings, no matter how minor.”

Rather than add Service Day to the list of cancelled events, SAA got creative, organizing parent coordinators to plan outdoor or other safe activities for SAA families who live close to each other. Siblings worked side-by-side —often including younger siblings, too—giving Service Day 2020 a family twist.

Sisters Monica (6th) and Mary (9th) baked pfefferneuse cookies for the parish bazaar inside while their brother, Their brother Philip (11th grade) raked leaves on the parish grounds and in neighbors’ yards. “Helping others is a way to love God,” commented Monica. More than ever, “people are lonely and need help,” she observed.

Across Madison, nine students from four families —including 8th grader Peter Karlen’s baby brother—stood vigil in front of the Planned Parenthood abortion facility, helping with the 40 Days for Life campaign to pray to end abortion.

“Babies cannot defend themselves. They can’t protest and pray. We must step in for them,” explained 6th grader Augustine Matenaer about the project. “We were able to make a difference for those babies by praying for them,” added his sister, 8th grader Sophia.

Cold temperatures, drizzle and COVID-19 could not stop students from joyfully performing works of mercy.

With over 450 views, Watch Parties big and small tuned in from around the country, to enjoy the unique 2020 Benefit Dinner. Guests dined and enjoyed the many surprises in their custom Party Boxes before playing games, voting in trivia, and watching exciting updates about SAA including the announcement that a new development in Fitchburg will be the future home of the Academy. More info will be forthcoming!

Best of all, our ‘student sponsorship challenge’ succeeded in raising 20 full student sponsorships, and our generous benefactor in turn offered 1 student sponsorship for each 4 we raised for a total of 25 full student sponsorships to help meet our funding need and continue making this education accessible for families!

Thank you to those who joined us. For those who weren’t able to attend, we re-uploaded the program and alumnus Justin Hineline’s powerful testimony on our website at:

[www.ambroseacademy.org/joy](http://www.ambroseacademy.org/joy)



*Below are comments shared by a few St. Ambrose Academy parents. Their words express the impact you, through prayer and financial gifts, have in the lives of the students and families that make SAA a faithful, vibrant, life-changing community.*

*As we approach Lent, we ask our generous God to bless SAA's families and supporters as together we continue to build strong Catholic Christian leaders!*

"My middle school-aged daughter comes home from school and we share daily conversations about the going-ons of the classroom. Stories include the funny thing the teacher did or said and how she and her classmates responded. We have a very open and healthy dialogue about what she's being taught and that really makes us happy as parents. Knowing she's cheerfully learning and able to be in school with her peers has allowed her to thrive as a student and learner this year."

"From the bottom of my heart, I thank the teachers at St. Ambrose for their many sacrifices to make in-person education a reality. Keeping the school open has given my children a sense of normalcy and hope during this tumultuous year. All of the teachers have gone above and beyond in showing their commitment to our children's health and well-being."

"It was a joy to attend mass with the St Ambrose community this morning. As I participated in mass and then drove home, I was overwhelmed with such gratitude and joy and hope. This thing that you all are doing this school year is amazing. Every school year, you put your heart and soul into teaching and molding other people's kids and it is a miracle. This year, however, seems like a whole lot of miracles rolled into one."