

ST. AMBROSE  
ACADEMY

# MISSION IMPACT

## 2024-2025



**"We don't want our Catholic schools to simply have a public curriculum with religion tacked on. We want to build a culture of the school that is Catholic through and through in every aspect... In so many ways, St. Ambrose exemplifies that for us." – Bishop Donald J. Hying**

# SHINING AT HOLY NAME HEIGHTS!

In time for the 2024-2025 school year, we placed our light on a lampstand in the northeast wing of Holy Name Heights through the generosity of our donors: \$8 million raised for renovations through the Christ Our Light Capital Campaign!

It is no surprise that a building constructed as a seminary would be perfect to house our academy, and our staff and students are overjoyed. The playing fields. The laboratory classrooms. The gym. The oratory. Our new home has the feel of what a school *should* be.

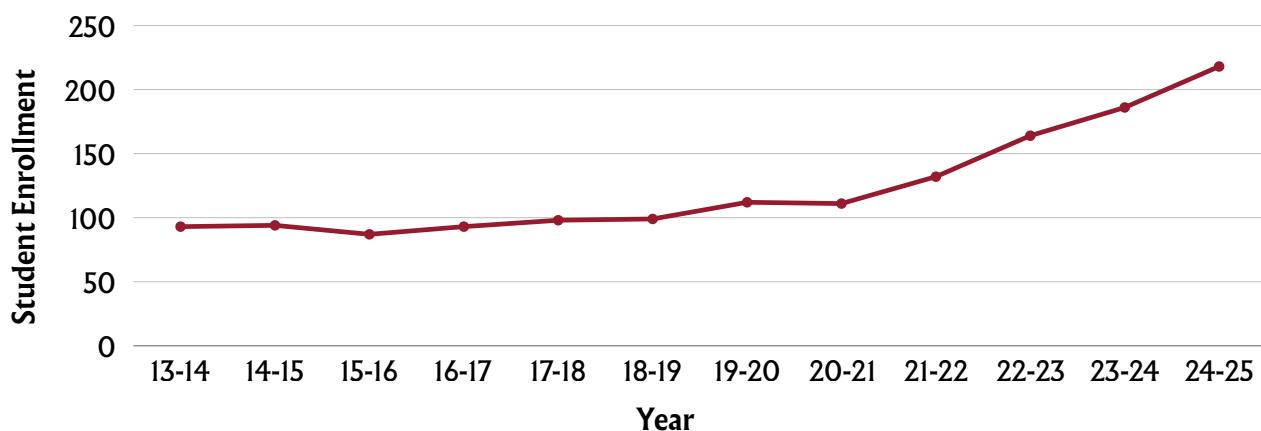


“We all win together.” From the beginning of negotiations to bring SAA in as an anchor tenant at Holy Name Heights, Bishop Hying recognized the mutual benefits for the school and the diocese: financial stability and the creative use of otherwise underutilized space. To an oratory crowded with SAA students at the first all-school Mass, Bishop Hying expressed his joy at this campus alive again with young people formed to know God, now and for years to come. Our students are on fire for Jesus and shining brightly!



## NEARLY DOUBLED AT 218! ENROLLMENT CONTINUES TO GROW

In 5 years, we have nearly doubled in size, from 111 to 218 students in 2024-2025! “More and more families are seeking the incredible Catholic atmosphere found in our hallways and classrooms,” remarked Enrollment and Retention Director Angela Hineline!





# LETTER FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

Dear St. Ambrose Friends,

I'm marveling at what God has done at St. Ambrose Academy (SAA) in 2024-2025, our first year at Holy Name Heights, a beacon on the hill here in Madison!

When I made my first visit to St. Ambrose in March 2024, filling in as a substitute teacher, I was deeply moved by what I saw: teachers and students who pray during every class, love Jesus Christ, and delight in learning in joyful community with each other. I've been around the block a few times, and you just don't see this everywhere. I seized the opportunity to take on a bigger role in this incredible mission and to even lead the move to our new home as SAA's new Head of School.

Over 200 young men and women have filled the newly renovated classrooms, oratory, gym, and playing fields at Holy Name Heights – our campus is buzzing with life! The reach of our motto – *Omnia Christus Est Nobis* (“Christ is Everything for Us!”) – is expanding, and we have YOU, our generous supporters, to thank.

Please join me in rejoicing in the work the Holy Spirit accomplished in us in the 2024-2025 school year: moving home to our beautiful new campus, our students' deep faith, our teachers' effectiveness, and the accomplishments of our alumni, crowned by the ordination of our second priest-son, Fr. Robert Marsland (Class of 2007), and his Mass of Thanksgiving in June.

All that God is doing and has done here since the Academy's founding in 2003 has left me awestruck, and I hope that you're encouraged by the good news we have for you. But let's not put up our feet now. Together, we can intensify the light of Christ beaming from our new home in years to come.

Yours in Christ,  
John Scudder, Head of School



## A COMPLETE ANSWER TO PRAYER: FR. ROBERT MARSLAND'S MASS OF THANKSGIVING!

As a child 25 years ago, Fr. Robert Marsland prayed the Rosary with his family for a new Catholic high school in the Madison area, possibly to be located at what is now Holy Name Heights. His parents went on to co-found St. Ambrose Academy in 2003 and sent him and his siblings there.

When Fr. Robert came to the Holy Name Heights Oratory in June 2025 to offer a Mass of Thanksgiving for his May ordination to the priesthood, he realized how completely his family's prayer had been answered at that moment, decades later. God had certainly provided.

Fellow alumni, school families, and staff in attendance rejoiced with Fr. Robert at God's incredible Providence toward the St. Ambrose community, and closing out the first year at Holy Name with such a Mass of Thanksgiving was perfect. Fr. Robert said, "My vocation has kept me far from Wisconsin since graduation, and this Mass was a special occasion to reconnect with my roots, rejoicing in the continued vitality of the family that prepared me for this mission."

Now, Fr. Robert is assigned to the Opus Dei Center in Irving, Texas, offering the sacraments and spiritual direction to families and young people there and drawing on his own formation at St. Ambrose: "My St. Ambrose formation gave me the deep conviction that faith and reason are inseparable, enabling me to navigate all the intellectual challenges of my university studies, ending up with a stronger faith and deeper desire to serve the kingdom of Jesus Christ."

Please pray for Fr. Robert Marsland -- he is praying for his St. Ambrose family!



# “THEY DON’T WANT FLUFF.”

In choosing SAA for their children, Savanna and John Parker were choosing solid Catholic faith formation coupled with a nurturing Catholic community so as to give their children the best possible foundation for adulthood. “Our kids want the faith!” raved Savanna and John. “They don’t want fluff. They want the deep side.” For the Parker kids, Religion classes have been their favorites, and their parents are very pleased!



After completing a 3-year novitiate of prayer, study and community life, Sr. Annie Butler (pictured left, Class of 2015) made her first profession at the Cistercian (Trappist) Our Lady of the Mississippi Abbey in Iowa on the Feast of the Assumption, August 15, 2024.

She professed vows of poverty, chastity and obedience and will continue her discernment at the abbey. May God bless Sr. Annie for pursuing God’s call to religious life!

**AN EXTRA-SPECIAL FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION:  
SR. ANNIE BUTLER PROFESSES FIRST VOWS!**

## BRINGING FAITH TO CAMPUS ...AND BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING



After reverting to his Catholic faith when he came to St. Ambrose Academy as a Freshman, Sam Glanville (Class of 2024) relished the vibrant Catholic community at school. He recalls Dr. John Joy entertaining tough questions from students in Religion class, including why Jesus had to die for us on the cross. Dr. Constance Nielsen guided lively discussions of papal encyclicals like Pope St. Paul VI's *Humanae Vitae*.

When Sam moved onto the University of Wisconsin-Madison campus, he carried this formation with him and thirsted for a new vibrant Catholic community. Sam has made his home at the St. Paul University Catholic Center, compassionately answering questions for his peers, like why Jesus had to die for us on the cross. Thanks, Dr. Joy! In fact, a St. Paul's intern tapped Sam to become a Bible study leader for 2025-2026 because of Sam's knowledge of and love for the faith.

Those encyclicals from high school are also helping Sam in his biomedical engineering classes now. Sam explained, "My love for the human being and for assisting others came from the classroom with Dr. Joy and Dr. Nielsen, going through documents such as *Humanae Vitae* and discussing the human person and how, as Christians, we are to love every individual."

There is a real-world application in his recent group project to create a device that would connect a wheelchair and a stroller for a disabled client. "The reason why I felt so passionate about this project and helping this woman gain some semblance of normalcy was because I was reading those documents and discussing the dignity of the individual and talking about Catholic social teaching." Although Sam's coursework is tough and his schedule, including activities at St. Paul's, is grueling, he is turning to the Lord for the grace to persevere in his faith life and his academic career.



"Testimonial talks and guided small group discussions with friends are inspirational and practical--designed to inspire the guts for discipleship that complements the intellect that is formed everyday in classrooms," explained Jason Simon, SAA Parent and the Evangelical Catholic CEO. Jason's student discipleship program is giving students and alumni the guts to witness for Christ everywhere.

## GUTSY DISCIPLES FOR CHRIST

Current Guardians are capable AND willing to evangelize - in regular discipleship groups, Bible studies, friendships, and leadership positions - while preparing for the future!



## GROWTH IN SUN PRAIRIE SAM GALVIN AT ANCHOR GROUP



In October 2024, Sam Galvin (Class of 2018) joined his wife, Anna, in welcoming their oldest child, Gabriel. That same month, Sam became Team Lead at Anchor Group in Sun Prairie.

Even before he graduated from the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities, he had his foot in the door at Anchor Group as an intern, having heard about this incredible majority-Catholic NetSuite consulting company through his older brother, Ben.

The Catholic culture there – particularly the Brotherhood of St. Joseph – hasn't disappointed as Sam and his colleagues use their daily "Growth Hour" to pray together, build relationships through weekly small groups, and plan the altar they intend to build together for the office chapel.

Sam points to his formation at St. Ambrose as helping him in the high-intensity situations he encounters at work with frustrated clients. "It is important to cut through the emotion and figure out logically what has happened. Being able to think logically and to communicate my premises and my conclusions clearly has been essential." He credits Dr. Constance Nielsen and her Cycle 1 Logic class for outfitting him for success at this kind of critical thinking.

He added, "Through the foundation I gained from Miss Klinkhammer, I am able to put a Christian lens on my work, which helps in a Catholic company and culture. I'm able to look at situations which frustrate me but I can still interact with love." Congratulations to Sam Galvin on his promotion and growing family!

## OUR RECENT GRADUATES ATTEND SCHOOLS LIKE...

Beloit College, Benedictine College, Christendom College, Franciscan University of Steubenville, Lake Forest College, Madison College, Michigan Technological University, Notre Dame University, Oklahoma City University, Rose Hulman Institute of Technology, St. Norbert College, Thomas Aquinas College, University of Iowa, University of Mary, University of Nebraska, University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, University of Wisconsin-Madison, University of Wisconsin-Platteville, Viterbo University, Winona State University

## 2024-2025: A SNAPSHOT

**135** STUDENTS IN GRADES 9-12

**82** STUDENTS IN GRADES 6-8

**26** SPORTS OFFERED

**19** EXTRA-CURRICULARS OFFERED

**2/3** OF STUDENTS WHO TOOK THE NATL LATIN EXAM EARNED HONORS

**7** PERFECT NATIONAL LATIN EXAM SCORES

**6** AP SCHOLAR AWARDS

**5/8** OF TEACHERS HOLD ADVANCED DEGREES

**5** FACULTY HOLD A PHD



### HOT OFF THE ST. AMBROSE ACADEMY PRESS!

St. Ambrose Academy Press published Dr. Geoffrey Ludvik's edited compilations of primary sources from the ancient and medieval periods for use in class... and beyond! These resources are a unique element of our carefully crafted classical curriculum - shaped by experts in their fields!



### ATTRACTING AND RETAINING THE BEST!

"Teachers love to teach here because the students are well-behaved and intellectually curious; because the families and administration are supportive; because they thrive in a community of collaborative and like-minded colleagues; and because the whole environment supports their lives of faith and their pursuit of holiness."

– Dr. John Joy, Dean of Faculty



**30,000 VOLUNTEER HOURS SINCE 2003... WITH 3,270 IN 2024-2025!**



What formation in a Catholic, classical environment would be complete without service and corporal works of mercy? Rather than leave it to chance, we arrange for two full-day Service Days each semester. One work site, retreat center Durward's Glen, commented, "A big shout out and HUGE thank you to the hardworking kids from St. Ambrose Academy on a snowy, spring service day! From mopping and painting to hauling logs, these kids helped knock out our to-do list in just a couple of hours! We appreciate you!"

## **MORE THAN JUST ENTERTAINMENT: ANASTASIA IS NEXT LEVEL**

Sold-out shows for the SAA production of *Anastasia* certainly entertained. The fantastic choreography for songs like "Paris Holds the Key to Your Heart" won Heather Jones (Class of 2016) a JERRY Award for Outstanding Choreography. Sophomore Clare Freng (below, center) elicited side-splitting laughter from the audience with her spunky character, "Countess Lily."

But, there was more than on-stage excellence. Clare explained, "During Tech Week, we pray that all our hard work will give glory to God, that people will walk away knowing God better." Before each show, Clare and her company spread out into every row of the theater to pray "Come, Holy Spirit!" so that the audience wouldn't just see a group of students on stage but rather that they would see God. Encore!



## ALL IN THE FAMILY A WARM WELCOME



New freshman Monica Klingele didn't just enroll at St. Ambrose Academy. She and her parents, Audrey and Mark, joined the St. Ambrose family. Audrey wasted no time in getting involved: "Volunteering is a great way to be a part of the community! There are many different ways to help the school and the kids, so there is something for everyone."

She added, "You get to give of your time, talent, and treasure to support a community and be a part of your kid's education. I have enjoyed this aspect more than I thought I would because you get to spend time with great people! But, it's important as parents to be engaged in the education of our kids, and volunteering has helped remind me not to take school for granted."

Audrey, we don't take our beloved families for granted either!



Senior Magdalen Simon scored her 1,000th career basketball point on February 11, leading the SAA/ALCS team to a 76-32 victory over Johnson Creek.

Soon after, Magdalen committed to playing basketball at Franciscan University under Coach Iliana Spoelman. Coach Spoelman commented, "Magdalen is a dedicated competitor who embraces hard work and brings great energy to the court. More importantly, she is a person of strong character and deep faith, embodying the values we strive to uphold at Franciscan."

### MAGDALEN SIMON SCORES 1,000TH POINT AND COMMITS TO PLAYING BASKETBALL AT FRANCISCAN UNIVERSITY!

# AUDITED FINANCIALS

## As of June 30, 2025, per Wegner CPAs LLP

(All Figures in \$-000s)

### Balance Sheet

Assets	14,189
<u>Liabilities</u>	7,671
Net Assets	<u>6,518</u>

### Income Statement

#### Revenues

Tuition	2,167
Contributions	209
Fundraising, Other	<u>1,140</u>
	3,516

#### Expenses

Program Services	2,373
General & Administrative	592
Fundraising	<u>738 *</u>
	3,703

(187) : Change in Net Assets

\* Includes a campaign pledge write-off in the amount of 421

## CENTERED AND FOUNDED ON CHRIST

It was our great joy to welcome a record-breaking number of new students and help them find a home in our school family! "I have been able to make new relationships that are centered and founded on Christ. I have been able to more deeply practice the faith through my studies and being able to go to the little [St. Joan of Arc] oratory," reported new Freshman Monica Klingele. Monica and new students like her enrich our school and transform our community... but not without your support!



“SAA has helped our kids strive for greatness in the classroom, but, more importantly to us, in life. Our boys serve every Mass they can in our home parish and at SAA. They love their teachers and are loved in return. The relationships they have built along the way have helped them grow into the young men they are today... If you believe in the mission of SAA, please give so that families like ours can continue to send their kids to this amazing school – a million times, thank you!”

– Laura and Michael McBain

## MAKE A GIFT THAT TRANSFORMS LIVES TODAY

It is through the generosity of our donors that families like the McBains receive scholarship assistance to bridge the financial gap.

Would you give the gift of a great Catholic, classical and close-knit SAA education to students with financial need?

Donate today!

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

