



LOYOLA
CATHOLIC
SCHOOL

Alumni Newsletter - Spring/Summer 2024

Dear Loyola Catholic School alumni and alumni parents,

As we finish the end of another academic year, we find ourselves reflecting on the achievements, growth, and memories that have defined these past months. It's been a year filled with remarkable accomplishments, inspiring moments, and the relentless pursuit of excellence by our students, faculty, and staff. We thank God for blessing Loyola Catholic School with the love and devotion of so many families and friends who are committed to making a positive difference in our students' lives and living out the important values of our school's mission.

We wish to congratulate the new high school graduating class and welcome them into our alumni community. As with all our graduating classes that have come before, your ongoing involvement, feedback, and participation in our community events will continue to enrich the experiences of current and future Crusaders.

Now comes the time to enjoy a rejuvenating summer filled with laughter, relaxation, and memorable moments. Your alma mater is proud of the legacy all our alumni continue to build, and we are excited to witness your continued growth and success as the years go by.

Blessings to you all,
Loyola Catholic School Advancement Department

News & Events

Retirement Announcement

After 45 years of teaching at Loyola, Linda Ruehle has decided to retire. She brought joy to learning for many students and was also a lifetime learner. Many students from years ago remember her unit on space while others may remember her extensive knowledge of history. She brought history to life in recent years as she was an integral part of the 5th grade Wax Museum project. She has been a familiar face to many students and alumni who walk the halls at Loyola. She will be greatly missed!



Loyola Golf Tournament

The Crusader Golf Classic took place last month and brought together our community in the spirit of fun, generosity, and a shared commitment to supporting Loyola Catholic School. This year's team winner was Noah Roe, Chris Roe, Mike Kiefer (pictured is Al Kiefer), and Tim Roe. Thanks to the dedication and support of our sponsors, participants, and volunteers we raised \$28,000 to help ensure that our students and staff have access to the resources they need for success!



Loyola's Annual Report

The Annual Report highlights the school's academic successes, extracurricular accomplishments, and the many ways we have grown as a faith-filled community. Please take a moment to read through it by clicking on the link:

[Annual Report](#)

Impactful Giving Opportunity

We have a very important matching gift challenge happening RIGHT NOW for alumni only! Any donations made to Loyola by clicking the link below will be matched, dollar for dollar, by a generous donor who also happens to be a Loyola alum. Please consider a gift to take advantage of this very special opportunity to further impact the lives of students and staff at Loyola. Your help immediately supports student scholarships, facility improvements, innovation and research, and so much more.

Yes, I would like to make a donation to Loyola today!

Alumni Spotlight

Craig Duehring's journey from Loyola Catholic School to becoming a decorated Air Force pilot is a testament to the skills and desire for knowledge he honed as a student.

A graduate of the Class of 1963, he remembers spending much time in Loyola's library, thumbing through books and learning about the world he would one day explore from the sky. His aviation dreams took flight when he experienced his first airplane ride at Mankato Airport, igniting a passion that led him to join the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) and excel as the senior-ranking cadet in our state.



Upon graduating from college, Duehring embarked on a remarkable career in the USAF, earning his officer's commission and undergoing rigorous training. His deployment to Southeast Asia marked the beginning of a heroic chapter, where he served as a forward air controller during the Vietnam War. Throughout two tours, including one in Laos as a 'Raven,' Duehring demonstrated unparalleled courage, logging 1525 combat hours across 834 missions. His valor earned him two Distinguished Flying Crosses (DFCs) and the prestigious Silver Star Medal, recognizing his extraordinary contributions in the face of adversity. Additionally, he was awarded 27 Air Medals for his exceptional aerial achievements. He writes of these experiences in his wartime autobiography, ["The Lair of Raven"](#).

Transitioning from combat roles, Duehring continued to excel, serving as a jet instructor and contributing significantly to NATO's operations in Europe. His ascent within the Air Force culminated in his appointment as Assistant Secretary of the Air Force, where he oversaw the well-being and operations of all Air Force personnel, including active duty, Reserve, and Guard members. This pivotal role tasked him with coordinating assignments, training programs, housing initiatives, and medical facilities, ensuring the readiness and welfare of the entire Air Force community. One of his greatest achievements occurred in 1987 when Duehring's exemplary leadership earned him the Lance P. Sijan Award, presented by the Chief of Staff of the Air Force and the Secretary of the Air Force. This prestigious award is given to the top leader in the entire USAF in the Senior Officer Category (including all Lt Colonels, Colonels, and Brigadier Generals).

Duehring's illustrious career stands as a shining example of the extraordinary heights our alumni can reach, inspiring current and future generations to aim for excellence and make impactful contributions to our world.



Tom Gengler, Class of 1995

As a business professional that enjoys giving back, alum Tom Gengler takes the opportunity to participate in The Career Navigator Program hosted by South Central College. This year, Loyola 9th graders attended the event, where they had the chance to explore various career options. Tom's involvement provided invaluable insights into the business world and encouraged our students to consider diverse career paths for their futures.



Laura Murray, Class of 2007

Author and Loyola alum, Laura Murray paid a visit to our 1st graders this school year to discuss themes of kindness and reading from her new book, "The Kindness Booth". Laura serves as the Greater Mankato Area United Way Director of Operations and has been a passionate advocate for community service and literacy programs. Her visit inspired our students to embrace kindness in their daily lives and cultivate a love for reading.

Schola Endowment Highlights

Teresa Reyerson Memorial Fund for Teacher Enhancement

Loyola alumnus from the Class of 1961 and former Loyola teacher and coach, Hardy Reyerson (pictured), established the Teresa Reyerson Memorial Fund for Teacher Enhancement in memory of his late mother. Teresa Reyerson, who dedicated her career to educating students, had a strong passion for Catholic education and worked diligently to provide her five children with the opportunity to attend Loyola. To ensure Loyola teachers are equally supported, Hardy launched the fund and made the first donation in 2005. He firmly believed that the most important instrument in the classroom is the teacher.



Hardy passed away in 2019 and is deeply missed by the Loyola community. Next to the Teacher's Competitive Compensation Fund, this is the largest endowment in support of teacher salaries held at the Schola Foundation.

Class of 2024



Congratulations to the new high school graduating class! ?? As you step into the world and embrace life's next adventure, may you find joy, success, and fulfillment in every endeavor. Best wishes for a bright and promising future ahead!

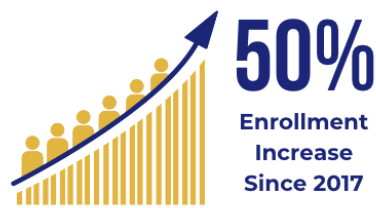
Munkhtselmeg Amarjargal
Daniel Backman
Sophia Behm
Andrew Buboltz
Ethan David Christoffer
Jaedyn Buck
Erick Ferrer
Jacqueline Katherine Frazee
Skyler Hill-Koenen
Dylan Jensen
Clairetta Rose Karst
Quinn Kelly
Lydia Klaseus

Cora Cassidy Koester
Logan Landsteiner
Rose Miller
Jackson Nichols
Ava L. Schneider
Tyler Skinner
Christian Theuninck
Olivia Tran
Gavin Walters
Lyndsey Wangsness
Anders Winch
Anne Wingert



St. Ignatius of Loyola Award Winner
 Logan Landsteiner
Blessed Theresa Gerhardinger Award Winner
 Clairetta Karst
Principal's Award Winners
 Jaedyn Buck
 Skyler Hill-Koenen

Enrollment Updates



Years of Catholic School Education in Mankato



Faculty with 5+ Years Experience



Students From

17

Different Communities Commute to Attend Loyola

\$240K+

Awarded Annually in Financial Aid



In Memoriam

*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,
 and let perpetual light shine upon them.*

Alumni

Thomas Frederick, 1952
 Paul Hunziker, 1971
 Thomas Kellen, 1963
 Terrance Maher, 1984
 Mick Montag, 1970
 Michael Oehler, 1963
 Frederic Otto, 1967
 John Reedy, 1963
 Michelle Rigdon, 1984
 Ryan Schaffer, 1993
 Phyllis Schneider, 1961
 Jean Short, 1963
 Mary Tacheny, 1942
 Larry Ulmen, 1970
 Mark Weingartz, 1969
 Christin Woodward, 1997
 Steven Fitterer, 1980
 Christopher Goebel, 2005
 David Oberle, 1960
 Sue Ellen Fasnacht, 1968

Friends

Norman Carlson
 Thomas Clements
 Paul Herzberg
 Donna Johannsen
 Thomas Kiffe
 Robert Knutson
 Joan Landas
 Marlyn Miller
 Mary Ann Monk
 John Murphy
 Ronald Nicholson
 Eldon Peterson
 Michael Platt
 Shirley Romberg
 William Simmonette
 Dennis Sullivan
 Vicki Tischler
 Rose Wilson
 James Brozik
 Mike Burkhardt
 Alexander McBride
 Richard Makela

**Bruce Bateman
Daniel Probst
George Rosati
Don Amiot
Robert Hagemann**

If you know of a classmate or friend of Loyola who recently died and is not listed, please let us know: advancement@loyolacatholicschool.org.

Let's Connect!

We want to know what you've been up to! Have some news to share? Know of someone you think should be featured? Please send us a note with your announcements or update your contact information.

Email: advancement@loyolacatholicschool.org

Phone: 507-386-5300

If you are interested in connecting with fellow alumni, check out the group's Facebook page with over 1,000 members:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/loyolaalumni>



Loyola Catholic School | 145 Good Counsel Drive | Mankato, MN 56001 US

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