



# CRUSADERS

## CONNECTIONS

ST. HENRY DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL

SUMMER/FALL 2023



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**The Class of 2023 gathered at Thomas More University's Connor Convocation Center for St. Henry District High School's 86th Commencement Ceremony.**



**\$10.6 million**

The Class of 2023 earned \$10.6 million in scholarship money.

**5 Enrolled**

5 students enrolled in a two year college

**106 Enrolled**

106 students enrolled in a four year college or university

**1 Entered**

1 entered directly into the workforce

**2 Enlisted**

2 students enlisted in the military



# CLASS OF 2023

Sidney Arstingstall  
Paige Arthur  
Henry Barsan  
William Bartlett  
Allison Belton  
Aloysius Bessler  
Benjamin Bisbee  
Olivia Boglarsky  
Quentin Bolton  
Hannah Bosch  
Riley Bowen  
Makayla Breetz  
Gracie Butler  
Lucy Chaplin  
Cassidy Cline  
Jenna Connett  
James Constant  
Austin Cutcher  
Jadyn Danbury  
Elizabeth Deis  
Julianne Dirst  
Madeline Durstock  
Allyson Egan

Kassidy Evans  
Moira Fagarang  
Braden Fedders  
Gabrielle Ferris  
Brooke Finke  
Reagan Fredrick  
Tyler Goetz  
Andrew Goodwin  
Jack Goodwin  
John Grayson  
Thomas Haas  
John Hammond  
Wade Hammond  
Sydney Hennessey  
Julia Hudepohl  
Hope Huser  
Sean Ihrig  
Chilota Iloegbunam  
Brooke Ives  
Lanie Jones  
Ethan Kaiser  
Andrew Kakara  
Meredith Kappes

Alana Keipert  
Lucas Keipert  
Kaelyn King  
Faye Kirchgaessner  
Savannah Koch  
Carson Kute  
Charlie Lange  
Daniel Lee  
Cameron Lemmond  
Samantha Lewis  
Emma Littrell  
Autumn Logan  
Ameliya Lynn  
Christina Marsh  
Samuel Martin  
Meredith Maschinot  
Isabelle McCarthy  
Daniel McMahon  
Reganne McMain  
Faith McNamara  
Jackson Miller  
James Mirick  
Morgan Mueller

Isabella Nocero  
Tess Parks  
Katelyn Payne  
Isaac Portwood  
Anna Quinn  
Kyra Rabess  
Dylan Raleigh  
Madelyn Rapp  
Rhet Ravenscraft  
David Reding  
Mitchell Reh  
Matthew Resing  
Breanna Riegler  
Abbi Rigacci  
Sophia Rodino  
Gabriella Rolfsen  
Dixon Ryan  
Mary Schlinkert  
Amanda Schlueter  
Grace Schmid  
Carson Schmidt  
Megan Schoulthies  
Josie Schroder

Olivia Schuck  
Anay Sehgal  
Owynn Serra  
Andrew Skelton  
Rachel Stanchek  
Lauren Stearns  
Ava Stich  
Madelyn Stiles  
Elizabeth Tabor  
Megan Thomas  
Ella Thompson  
Kevin Tobergte  
Erin Toebbe  
Alicia Trapp  
Zander Vaillancourt  
Henri Verbrugghen  
Avery Vieth  
Nicholas Webster  
Anna Wilson  
Mitchell Wolking  
Megan Wulfecck  
Kyle Ziegelmeier



# CLASS OF 2023

## Crusader Artist Wins Gold In National Competition

Savannah Koch '23 ended her high school career with an impressive win. Her piece won gold in the National Scholastic Arts and Writing Competition!

Savannah's piece won the Gold Key Award in January and was put on display at the Art Academy of Cincinnati before moving on to the National Competition.

Savannah traveled to New York City in June for the awards ceremony and walked away with gold.

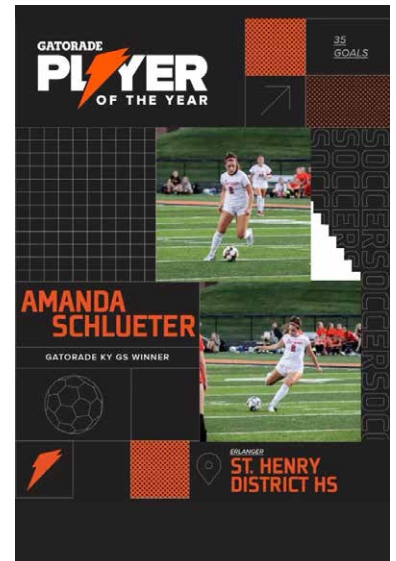


only high school soccer season (she played on elite travel teams the rest of her career). She also recorded seven assists, scoring in all 17 games played during the 2022 season as she helped the Crusaders to the 9th Region tournament semifinals.

Ranked as the nation's No. 65 recruit in the Class of 2023 by TopDrawerSoccer.com, Mandy was a First Team All-State honoree. When she's not on the field or studying, Schlueter volunteers at a local food bank, and donates her time as a youth soccer and basketball coach.

The Gatorade Player of the Year award recognizes athletic excellence and high standards of academic achievement and exemplary character demonstrated on and off the field.

Schlueter graduated with a 4.22 GPA and plans to continue her soccer career at Ohio State University.



## Schuleter Named Gatorade Player of the Year

Amanda Schlueter '23 has been named the Kentucky girls soccer Gatorade Player of the Year.

Mandy led the Crusaders in goals, netting 35 of them in her

## Crusader Collegiate Athletes

16 Crusader student-athletes will continue their athletic career at the collegiate level.

The Athletic Department held a signing day ceremony in April for the athletes and their parents. Coaches, teachers, and friends were also invited to the ceremony to honor the CRU as they made their commitment to play.

Congratulations to the following athletes:

**Nick Browning - Wilmington College - baseball**  
**Austin Cutcher - College of the Holy Cross - swimming**  
**Luke Keipert - Midway University - baseball**  
**Kaelyn King - Hanover College - track & field**  
**Emma Littrell - Eastern Michigan University - swimming**  
**Autumn Logan - Midway University - soccer**  
**Amelia Lynn - Transylvania University - swimming**  
**Morgan Mueller - Thomas More University - cheerleading**  
**Izzy Nocero - Thomas More University - soccer**  
**Kyra Robess - University of Northern Colorado - swimming**  
**Dixon Ryan - Bellarmine University - cross country & track & field**  
**Amanda Schlueter - Ohio State University - soccer**  
**Josie Schroder - Wheeling University - volleyball**  
**Rachel Stancheck - Ashland University - swimming**  
**Kevin Tobergte - Spring Hill College - golf**  
**Kyle Ziegelmeyer - UC Clermont - soccer**





## Meet SHDHS's Campus Minister

"Faith is not a conclusion you reach...it's a journey you live"  
A.W. Tozer.

The students at SHDHS are blessed to have a mentor, teacher, and leader to walk with them and help guide them on their faith journey. Mrs. Annie Poat joined the Crusaders this past school year as the first full-time Campus Minister.

The role of campus minister is to provide faith support and encouragement to students through small groups, retreats, service, prayer services, and fun activities outside the classroom. Annie's goal is to meet students where they are on their faith journey and accompany them the way they best need to be supported. She says it is an honor to be able to be a witness and a guiding hand to so many wonderful people.

Annie's journey to becoming a Campus Minister began when she was a junior in high school trying to determine what she wanted to study in college. She said she had an amazing theology teacher who encouraged her in her faith journey and nudged her to consider studying theology. After many conversations, some awesome retreats, and a really powerful youth group, she decided that theology would be the right path. Annie attended Xavier University where she earned her Theology degree with minors in social work and peace and justice studies. At the time she wasn't sure exactly what she would do with her degree, but she knew she wanted to either do something in youth ministry or chaplaincy. While in college Annie volunteered for Bellarmine's youth group and quickly realized that she really enjoyed working with high school students. After school Annie worked in retreat ministry and then in youth ministry at a parish level and started fine tuning her youth ministry skills.

Annie says she didn't even know campus ministry was a path she could take until a few years ago. She always thought that youth ministry was only on the parish level, so she was thrilled to find out that she could work in a school and see students every day. One of the reasons Annie left youth ministry on the parish level was because she did not have enough "face time" with the students. So, when she heard about the campus ministry position at SHDHS, she jumped at the opportunity. Her favorite part of the job is being able to see students every day and talking with them when they stop into her office between classes or during flex (the time that used to be homeroom). She also enjoys going on retreats with the students because she gets to see them and know them in a different setting. She says watching them learn, play games, and let their guard down is a true privilege.

Joining the Crusader family wasn't the only big thing that happened in Annie's life last year. She and her husband, **Daniel '12**, welcomed their first baby, Theodore, into the



world. Daniel also works in ministry. He works at the Jesuit Spiritual Center and he helps lead retreats.

Annie has some big goals in mind for the campus ministry office including recruiting students for campus ministry club, refining and creating quality retreat experiences for the students, and to build personal relationships with students. She wants campus ministry at SHDHS to feel like an inclusive, introspective, and joyful community. Her mission is for students to be able to come as they are, ask difficult questions, and grow in their spiritual lives during their four years of high school.

Annie says she is overjoyed to be working in a school where she gets to build relationships with students and help guide them in their own unique faith journey. Being a campus minister is truly a dream position for her and she says she feels so blessed that she was able to discover it at SHDHS.

## Three Alums Named Crusader Champions

St. Paul tells us that while athletes are seeking a "perishable crown," those who want to be champions of faith seek an "imperishable" one, a crown that lasts forever in God's Kingdom. Champions of faith are ordinary people who live and work for Christ, building His Kingdom on earth. That is exactly what this year's Crusader Champions embody, and all three are SHDHS alumni.

Brian and Annie Duggan were named Crusader Champions



for their vocation to marriage and as college missionaries. After graduating from SHDHS in 2016 and 2017, Brian and Annie earned college degrees and worked in traditional jobs, but felt a calling from God to serve him in ministry.

Brian is a full-time

College Missionary at the University of Kentucky Catholic Newman Center. He is part of a team who reaches out to students on campus through bible studies, discipleship groups, and helps students to live their faith during college. Annie is a full-time mom to their two children, Judah and Therese. As a family, they strive to show students the joy of the vocation of marriage and parenting. Brian and Annie's lives are a witness of trust and service and their abandonment to God's providence, dedication to the Eucharist, and lives of service as a married couple personifies the SHDHS 2022-23 school theme, "Arise & Go Forth."

Fr. A.J. Gedney was named a Crusader Champion for accepting the call to serve the Diocese of Covington as a priest, dedication to young people, and service to SHDHS as a speaker, retreat leader, and prayer partner. After he graduated from Saint Henry in 2010, he earned a chemical engineering degree and worked in the public sector before attending seminary. He was ordained in June 2022 and serves at Holy Cross parish and is the Chaplain at Newport Central Catholic. He generously assists SHDHS as a speaker, retreat leader, musician, and prayer partner. Fr. AJ is a faithful servant who models the school theme "Arise & Go Forth."



## Alum's Music Helps New Parish Outreach Program

**Brad Whittle '15** uses his music to help a local parish kickstart a new outreach program.

Whittle played a concert at St Timothy Church, in Union, in August. This is the third concert he's performed in the Diocese. Typically the concerts raise funds for the Franciscan Daughters of Mary and their wonderful work. However, this concert was very special, because the Pastor, Fr. Bolte, had a special vision for a new parish outreach. There are many people within the parish boundaries that have no connection with the parish and many of these people, not too far down the road, have many financial and physical needs. A candidate for the Diaconate at the parish, Dale Brockman, has been spearheading an outreach ministry to this area of Union in hopes of inviting people to Mass and aiding with any of their needs. Because of this concert, they were able to raise significant funds to aid the outreach ministry at the parish!



Whittle started holding the concerts last summer at Mother of God in Covington. At the request of the parishes, the concerts largely involve Whittle's own composed music, as well as a few pieces by others. Generally, he plays piano and sings for these, and invites a guitarist, female vocalists, a flute or violin player, and more. For the concert at St. Timothy he was accompanied by Rachel Barnes, vocalist, Sara Reisinger, vocalist, Trevor Johnson, guitar, and Matt Spencer, flute.

Whittle says "It is such a wonderful gift to be able to make music with friends, provide prayerful music for those attending, and raise funds for such wonderful ministries!"

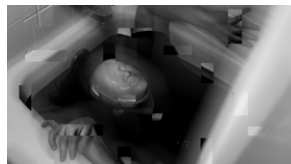


## Perfect AP Pass Rate Streak Continues

And the streak continues!

For the seventh year in a row SHDHS has had 100% of its AP Art students pass the Drawing and 2D Art exam.

The streak began when Art department chair, **Katie Baker VonHandorf '05**, began teaching AP Art. That's nearly 90 students receiving college credit.



## Summer Art Camp Big Success

The Art Department's summer art camp was such a success they decided to schedule a second one!

Department Chair, **Katie Baker VonHandorf '05**, said this year's camp was their biggest one yet with 27 campers choosing between drawing, painting, digital, or sculpture basics.



Campers enjoyed a week of several themed days including pajamas, red out, tie dye/neon, and "Welcome to the Jungle". Each student participated in several exercises and lessons to enhance their skills within the session they chose. The week ended with a show of all of their work in the Wilson Family Art Gallery where more than 70 people came to see their child's work.

The camp was so popular Katie will offer another one in November.

## Summer Drama Camp a Showstopper

Annie KIDS took center stage as the Drama department celebrated another successful summer camp.

Kids from second to eighth grade came together in June to learn from SHDHS students and then put their lessons to work with their performance of Annie KIDS.

to see so many young, talented voices come through to shine on our Drees Homes Auditorium Stage.

For those that were able to see the production, such reviews remarked as "outstanding", "fun for the family to enjoy", and "incredible young talent" were just a few of the statements given.

Chrissy said our students were given the challenge of putting on a well-known production in just a week, and not only did they pull it off, but it was a great experience for all who participated.



## Band Director's Final Curtain Call

The end of year Band Concert not only marked the end of the school year for students, but it marked the end of an era for its director.

The end of year concert, which is held in May, is always a spectacular performance as students showcase their talent they have worked all year to perfect. But this year Mr. Joe Payne, band director, and his students made the performance extra special for moms and grandmothers when they handed out red carnations in honor of Mother's Day.

This performance also marked the last one for Mr. Payne who officially retired at the end of the school year.

Thank you, Mr. Payne, for your years of dedication to SHDHS and its students.



# LEADERSHIP



## Cru Baseball Players Walk The Mile

**The Croyle family (Nick '15, Dominic '18, Vincent '21)** runs a charity called Walk the Mile, Inc. which provides meals, new clothing, blankets, sleeping bags, and other basic necessities to the homeless.

In March the varsity baseball team pitched in and handed out meals, blankets, socks, and toiletries outside the Parish Kitchen. One of the highlights of the day was when a family of women and children passed by. The boys offered them what they had, but the family continued walking without speaking. Sensing the family might not know English, the boys didn't give up and rattled off some relevant Spanish words, including comida (meal), pollo (chicken), and ropa (clothes). The family stopped, turned, smiled, and happily returned to collect what the boys had.

Bill Croyle said, "That's how this morning went—these young men took charge and worked hard. They put together 100 meals in less than 10 minutes and embraced every moment outside in the sub-freezing weather to help everyone they could."

## Crusader Part of Chamber's Youth Leadership Class

A Crusader is among those named to the Northern Kentucky Chamber of Commerce Regional Youth Leadership Class.

**Makayla Hagedorn '25**, was one of 50 high schoolers selected for the 2024 Regional Youth Leadership (RYL) class, representing nearly 40 schools in the Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky area. This class marks the 30th year of the NKY Chamber's signature program.

During the eight-month program, students will collaborate with local business and civic leaders to learn more about various topics, including arts and culture, diversity and human services, economic development, health, law, leadership, and local government.

Students were selected through an extensive application process that included a minimum GPA of 3.0, a demonstration of leadership potential in their school and/or community, an interest in furthering their knowledge about the region and community leadership and approval from their high school principal or guidance counselor.

"This class, like before them, includes an impressive group of motivated and talented students. We're excited to assist them along their journey to ensure they are properly equipped to make important leadership decisions in their careers and within their communities," said Ann Marie Whelan, Program Director of Regional Youth Leadership.

# SCHOLARSHIP

SHDHS held its first Academic Scholarship Signing in May. In order to qualify for the event students had to either earn a scholarship worth 50% of tuition to the school they are attending, or were admitted to a selective school with an acceptance rate of below 50%. 34 members (30%) of the Class of 2023 met this criteria. In addition, they accepted \$1.9 million of scholarship money directly from colleges and universities.

Paige Arthur - University of Louisville

Henry Barsan - University of Dayton

William Bartlett - University of Cincinnati

Ben Bisbee - University of Kentucky

Lucy Chaplin - Eastern Kentucky University

James Constant - Colgate University

Jadyn Danbury - Thomas More University

Julianne Dirst - Eastern Kentucky University

Maddy Durstock - Xavier University

Andrew Goodwin - University of Louisville

Jack Goodwin - University of Louisville

Jack Grayson - University of Kentucky

Thomas Haas - Thomas More University

Chilota Iloegbunam - University of Louisville

Ethan Kaiser - Gateway CTC

Kaelyn King - Hanover College

Savannah Koch - Western Kentucky University

Carson Kute - University of Louisville

Samantha Lewis - University of Georgia

Christina Marsh - Eastern Kentucky University

Reganne McMain - Eastern Kentucky University

Izzy Nocero - Thomas More University

Tess Parks - Ohio State University

Katelyn Payne - Eastern Kentucky University

Isaac Portwood - University of Louisville

Gabriella Rolfsen - University of Kentucky

Dixon Ryan - Bellarmine University

Megan Schoulthies - Eastern Kentucky University

Josie Schroder - Wheeling University

Rachel Stanchek - Ashland University

Ava Stich - Clemson University

Henri Verbrugghen - Thomas More University

Mitchell Wolking - Northern Kentucky University



# SCHOLARSHIP

## Teacher Named To Prestigious Council

SHDHS is proud to announce that one of our teachers is serving on the prestigious Teachers Council for the Bill of Rights Institute!

Bridget Kaiser-Munday is one of only 15 members nationwide to serve on the council. This achievement is a testament to Bridget's passion and hard work to make SHDHS a School of Excellence. Bridget's Government and AP Government students have participated in weekly "Think the Vote" competitions in the last five years and SHDHS had the highest winning percentage!

The Bill of Rights Institute is a nonprofit organization that teaches civics and equips students and teachers to live the ideals of a free and just society. The Institute develops educational resources on American history and government, provides professional development opportunities to teachers, and runs student programs and scholarship contests. Since its founding, the Institute has published over 4,000 resources, including hundreds of YouTube videos and current events lessons for middle and high school classrooms. All of its resources are designed to drive students to the United States Constitution and Founding documents as the foundation of their analysis of American history and current events.



## Crusader Named Trig-Star Champion

A Crusader is the best in the state for the third year in a row!

**Sam Baker '24**, was crowned Trig-Star champion for the state of Kentucky in May. Trig-Star is an annual extra-curricular mathematics competition sponsored by the National Society of Professional Surveyors based on the practical application of Trigonometry.

Tim Ryan presented Sam with his \$500 prize.



## Crusaders Get Inside Look At Medicine

Two Crusaders get an inside look at what their daily life will be in the future.

**Noah Francis '22** and **Faith McNamara '23** took part in the prestigious M.O.O.N. program at St. Elizabeth Healthcare. Created by General Surgeon Dr. Ryan Moon, the five-day program introduces teens to the world of healthcare by

observing a physician's day-to-day life. Over 50 St. Elizabeth practitioners allow participants to shadow in practice offices, inpatient units, and the operating room. Noah and Faith were two of only 20 students selected from a highly competitive pool of applicants from five counties in the Tri-State.

Noah said the program was definitely an impactful experience where he learned so much about the process of becoming a physician and the wide variety of careers in medicine.

"Overall, the M.O.O.N program expanded my horizons with regard to medicine," said Noah. "It gave me the opportunity to shadow several medical professionals from a variety of specialties. From watching knee surgeries to interacting with patients at a clinic, I picked up on the real-life skills physicians have to demonstrate in order to become a successful doctor. I am also very grateful for the connections and friends the experience has brought me. The program definitely lit a spark of inspiration in me as I began this 11-year process toward becoming a family medicine doctor."

Noah is currently a Biology major at Thomas More University. Faith will begin her journey to med school at Northern Kentucky University.



## Science Olympiad Celebrates Successful Season

The Cru Science Olympiad team ends its season with an impressive showing at state.

The team placed second in the Maysville Regional and out of the 27 teams that competed at state, the Crusaders placed eighth!

Regionals winners were Andrew Goodwin and Rachel Stanchek in Chemistry, Molly Krallman and Charlie Erwin in Codebusters, Rachel Stanchek and Wendy Daniels in Disease Detectives, Brennan Lemmond and Jason Bish in Forestry, Peter Holocher and Anay Sehgal in Remote





# SCHOLARSHIP



Sensing and Jason Bish and Stefany Nix in Rocks and Minerals.

The team had 14 top 10 finishes out of 23 events at the state competition. They are as follows: Anatomy-8th-Rachel Stancheck and Mikah Breetz, Astronomy-6th-Charlie Erwin and Stefany Nix, Chem Lab-9th-Andrew Goodwin and Sean Ihrig, Codebusters-5th-Molly Krallman, Keanu Ziolkowski, Gavin Bain, Detectors-5th-



Peter Holocher and Anay Sehgal, Disease Detective-3rd-Rachel Stancheck and Wendy Daniels, Env. Chemistry-9th-Nathan Francis and Sean Ihrig, Flight-6th-Sean Ihrig and Keanu Ziolkowski, Forensics-10th-Wendy Daniels and Nathan Francis, Forestry-3rd-Jason Bish and Mikah Breetz, Green Generation-9th-Molly Krallman and Gavin Bain, Time-

8th-Jason Bish and Keanu Ziolkowski, WIFI-6th-Nathan Francis, Write It, Do It-6th-Harry Barsan and Sean Ihrig.

## Shark Week, the SHDHS Version

Several Crusaders celebrated Shark Week early.

Several junior and senior Anatomy students went to Immaculate Heart of Mary School to help 7th grade science students dissect the dogfish shark as their end-of-the-year project. SHDHS students served as table leaders to guide students through the dissection and assist the 7th graders with structure identifications. It was a unique and rewarding learning opportunity for all the students.



# ADVANCEMENT



## The SHDHS Advancement Department has two new faces.

Welcome to **Toni Huser Lehan '85** who has taken over as Advancement Director.

Toni is a dedicated professional with over 20 years of administrative experience in faith-based organizations. She has served in various roles, including running

a Capital Campaign to build St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Draper, Utah—liaison to the Skaggs Catholic Center, the largest Catholic educational campus in the United States. Her journey includes being an Administrative Assistant to the Development Director at St. Cecelia School in Clearwater, Florida, and Office Manager at Christ by the Sea in Vero Beach, Florida.

As a proud 3rd generation alumna of St. Henry District High School, Toni is excited to return as a Crusader, now taking on the role of Director of Advancement. Her passion for Catholic Education and her unwavering faith in Christ have been driving forces throughout her career. Despite frequent moves across the country, she has found a deep connection and peace in her faith.

In her leisure time, Toni cherishes moments with her family, especially her two granddaughters, with one of them set to

become a 5th generation Crusader starting pre-K three this fall. Her commitment to her faith and her family makes her a valuable asset to any faith-based community she serves.

## Welcome also to Geri Aftanski who has taken on the role of Advancement Coordinator.

Geri and her family relocated to Northern Kentucky in early 2022; she worked at Thomas More University as Administrative Assistant to the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences and the Dean of St. Elizabeth College of Natural and Health Sciences.

Prior to that, she was employed by the Rapid City Catholic School System in South Dakota, simultaneously as the Design Assistant for the Development Office and as the Administrative Assistant to the Principal at St. Thomas More Middle School. She and her husband, Mark have 4 children; two sons, Nathaniel and Colton, who attend South Dakota State University, Caroline, a Junior at SHDHS, and Alyssa, a 7th grader at Mary, Queen of Heaven. Geri is very excited to be part of the Advancement Team and the SHDHS community, as a whole.



## Alumni Spotlight: John Helmle, Bengals CFO

There is a saying “Good things come from unexpected places” and for one Crusader alum this could not be more true.

**John Helmle ‘02** is the Chief Financial Officer of the Cincinnati Bengals, a dream job that he landed in 2022. But if you had asked the John that walked through the doors of SHDHS as a freshman if he thought that is where his career path would lead, he probably would have laughed at you.

John did not grow up in private school, so it was a bit of a shock when his dad, **John Helmle ‘77**, threw him a curveball and sent him to SHDHS. At first John was not happy, but he quickly made friends and connected with several teachers, including Mr. Gish, Mr. Faust, and Mr. Graue. He also found his calling... accounting.

John said when he went into high school, college wasn’t on his radar, “but when I got to St. Henry, the discussion among my friends wasn’t IF you were going to college, but WHERE you were going to college. It was a given that that would be our next step.”

So he did. John enrolled at Northern Kentucky University, but he and college didn’t get along and he found himself working several jobs. He said that is when he started considering other options like going into the workforce or possibly entering the Air Force. Then his aunt, **Tina Helmle Ryan ‘86**, former SHDHS Religion teacher, stepped up and said, “no”. She told John he was going to move in with her and her family and he was going to focus on and graduate from college. So, he did. John continued attending Northern Kentucky University where he earned his undergraduate degree and then received his MBA at Xavier University. When he graduated John set a goal for himself to be a CFO by the age of 40.

In 2015 John got a job offer in North Carolina, so he and his wife, Erica, moved. John said his wife deserves

a lot of credit because she packed up and moved into a house, sight unseen, so they could take advantage of the incredible opportunity. He quickly transitioned from a finance professional to Division President within the company. John said the best thing about the promotion was that the role taught him how to handle all of the

functions of a company, not just the numbers. He had to learn how to fix problems and make the numbers work. John said this knowledge was invaluable because it would help him be a better CFO.

In 2019 John and Erica welcomed their son, Merrick, and made an agreement that when he got to be school aged, they would move back to Northern Kentucky. As luck would have it, in September of 2021, a mentor of John’s reached out to him about the CFO position with the Cincinnati Bengals. John said he had a few phone calls with the front office that he thought went well, but he never heard anything. Turns out that was the year the Bengals went to the Super Bowl, so the season was a little longer than the typical Bengals season. As a lifelong Bengals fan, John said he wasn’t too upset about the delay. After the season ended the front office contacted him and offered him the job, which he, of course, accepted.

John, Erica, and Merrick moved back to NKY where they were happy to once again be with family, and where John would achieve the goal he set

for himself after college to be a CFO by the age of 40. Oh, and John’s first task as the Bengals CFO was to navigate the deal that would give Paycor naming rights to the stadium. Talk about being thrown right into the new role!

Since inking the Paycor deal, John has had his hand in several other team developments including working with data to customize the Bengals fan experience.

John credits a lot of his success to SHDHS and the education he received. “I am forever indebted to SHDHS. The teachers there and the friends I made pushed me to be more than I ever imagined I could be, including inspiring me to attend college. SHDHS completely changed the trajectory of not only my career, but also my life.”





## Alum, Former Coach Inducted Into NKY Sports Hall of Fame

A Crusader alum is a two-time Hall of Famer.

**Eric Neuhaus '97**, who is a member of the SHDHS Hall of Fame Class of 2021, was inducted into the NKY Sports Hall of Fame in February.

During his time at St. Henry Eric ran both cross country and track and helped lead the school to two cross country state titles, one track state title, one cross country state runner up, and one third place finish at the state track meet.

After high school he took his running abilities to the collegiate level. He was named the 1997 cross country MVP at Marian College, now Marian University, in Indianapolis, before transferring to Wilmington College where he continued to bring in accolades. Eric was named a three time Academic All-American, was the fourth fastest of all-time on Wilmington's performance list, placed 17th at the 1998 Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference, was the 1998 HCAC runner of the week, finished 6th at the HCAC in 1999 to lead his team to a second place finish, named to the 1999 all-conference team for both track and cross country, and in 2000 had the best overall finish by any Wilmington College athlete.

After college Eric came back to St. Henry to teach math and coach the cross country and track distance teams. The accomplishments of the cross country team under his leadership are numerous, but some of the highlights include - setting a Kentucky State record with five consecutive state titles and five regional titles; being named Kentucky Team of the Year; recorded the fourth best score in Kentucky State Meet history; and three times being named Kentucky Class A Team of the Year. Eric was also two time Kentucky Coach of the Year, four time Kentucky Class A Coach of the Year, and three time Region Five Coach of the Year.

After leaving SHDHS, Eric went to the University of Cincinnati where he coached 11 Big East qualifiers and one regional qualifier. His teams have finished the runner-up in the all-Ohio cross-country and all-Ohio track and field championships.

The Northern Kentucky Sports Hall of Fame was formed October, 1982 for the purpose to recognize and honor individuals for outstanding athletic achievements and overall contributions to the sports scene in Northern Kentucky.

## Crusader Inducted Into Xavier University Hall of Fame

A Crusader volleyball player who dominated the court while at SHDHS and then became one of the most



decorated players of all time at Xavier University is now a Hall of Famer.

**Abbey Bessler Schuster '13** was inducted into the XU Hall of Fame in February.

She was a two-time (2013 and 2016) American Volleyball Coaches

Association (AVCA) All-America Honorable Mention selection and named a three-time AVCA All-Region First Team, two-time AVCA All-Region Honorable Mention selection and 2013 ACVA East Region Rookie of the Year. Abbey was also named one of 30 candidates for the Senior Class Award in October of 2016 for her character, her work in the classroom, on the court and in the community.

Bessler was named the 2015 BIG EAST Player of the Year after being ranked fifth in the conference in points, fourth in kills and ninth in digs. During the 2015 season, she was also ranked nationally in total attacks and attacks per set. She finished the season with 1,267 total attacks, ranked sixth on the Xavier single-season list, and 490.5 total points, which ranked eighth in single-season history.

She was a four-time BIG EAST First Team member, a four-time selection to the BIG EAST All-Academic Team and a three-time BIG EAST All-Tournament Team selection. During the 2016 BIG EAST Semifinal against Marquette, she recorded 12 kills, three aces and five digs.

Bessler is Xavier Volleyball's all-time leader in attack attempts (5,094) and points (2010.0). She ranks second in kills (1,774), sixth in digs (1,392) and is a member of the 1,000-1,000 club for kills and digs. She also holds the school records for kills (33) and points (34.0) in a match.

Volleyball is definitely in Abbey's genes. Her mom, **Kathy Tepe Bessler '83** was on the St. Henry High School volleyball team that won the state tournament in 1981. She attended Miami University on a full volleyball scholarship where she racked up numerous records and honors. She, and her twin sister **Wendy Tepe Tobergte '83**, were inducted into the Miami Hall of Fame in 1994. Both Kathy and Wendy were also inducted into the SHDHS Hall of Fame in 2020.



## Alum's Unique Football Book More Reliable Than Stock Market

Did you know the Bengals are 9-0 against the spread in Week 16 in the year that the average price for large Grade A eggs is at least \$2 per dozen in any month?

That is just one NFL "fun fact" found in Vincent Croyle's '21 book "The Cowboys are 14-0 in Games When...: 101 Wild Stats to Pick NFL Games in 2022". The book is filled with crazy statistics you won't find anywhere and every stat is specific to the 2022-23 NFL season.

Vincent got the idea when he mentioned to his dad that he should have known the Steelers would beat the Browns. When his dad asked why he should know that, Vincent replied with "because the Steelers were 10-0 in their first game after a road game after a home win after the release of any movie featuring Spider-Man since Sony took over in 1999."

After that realization, Croyle spent hundreds of hours and several months researching stats pertaining to games in 2022. The Bengals stat at the beginning of the story held true when the Bengals beat the Patriots 22-18 in Week 16, so it's now 10-0.

Another example "Since 2005, the Seahawks are 16-1 against the spread in their game closest to December 4." The Seahawks beat the Rams, in Los Angeles, on December 4, 2022.

The book hit number 1 on Amazon among all new

releases in sports betting and then, in August, it was ranked number 14 among all football books, new and old, including three spots ahead of Tom Brady's book.

Croyle said he is very happy with how the book turned out and with how well the stats performed. He kept an in-depth record of how everything played out and here are the results: his stats won at a rate of 56.9% (57-43-1); the stats that picked the winner of the game won at a rate of 64.3% (27-15); if someone bet \$1 on every stat, they would have lost \$1.08 over the course of the entire season (which is very impressive by casual sports betting standards).

Another fun fact, his book outperformed the stock market! From September 8 to January 8 (the beginning and end of the NFL regular season), the S&P 500 lost 2.77%. During the same time frame Vincent's stats only lost 1.07%. So, mathematically, his stats were a better investment.

Croyle is in the process of writing a second book. He said it will probably look very similar to his first one, but will, hopefully, have a positive return. However, he says, even if the stats don't perform well, he has found that just following along and rooting for the stats made the NFL season much more enjoyable. According to Vincent, most fans only care about 6% of games (the ones their favorite team is playing in), but these stats give fans reason to care about how many points are scored in a random afternoon game without the need to bet money.

## Alum Talks Baseball With Future Crusaders

An alum took time off the mound to impart baseball knowledge on future Crusaders.

Alex Shea '19 took part in this year's summer baseball camp. Shea pitches for the University of Cincinnati. In addition to helping kids perfect their skills he also talked to the boys about his journey to college and what they need to do to take their game to the next level.





# ALUMNI UPDATES

**Bill '58 and Judy (Terlau) '59 Wilson** celebrated 60 years of wedded bliss. They have eight children, 27 grandchildren, and 19 great grandchildren! Bill is a retired Naval Officer.

**Ed & Mary Jo (Schnorbus) Flick '70** welcomed their fourth grandchild in March.

**Kevin Shea '89** was on hand when the City of Erlanger, and Mayor Jessica Fette, declared September 7, 2022 as Erlanger Fun Center Putt-Putt Day. Kevin and his wife, Laci Shea, SHDHS teacher, own Putt-Putt Fun Center, which is an institution in the city. The mini golf course received the designation after it partnered with Guinness Book of World Records to set the record for most holes of mini golf played in 24 hours by a foursome. Kevin and the golfers used the record attempt as a fundraiser for Matthew 25 Ministries and the flood victims of Eastern Kentucky. Not only did they make the record books, but they also raised \$2,500!

During the City Council meeting Kevin got to see one of his favorite teachers at SHDHS, Mrs. Vicki Kyle.

**Andrew Wesselman '05** was inducted into the NKY Sports Hall of Fame as a goalkeeper in soccer and Chess Master. In soccer he was named to the All-District Team in 2003, 04 and 05. He was All Region and All State in 2004 and 2005, and a member of the 2004 State Championship team. He's been honored by SHDHS with a soccer award named after him.

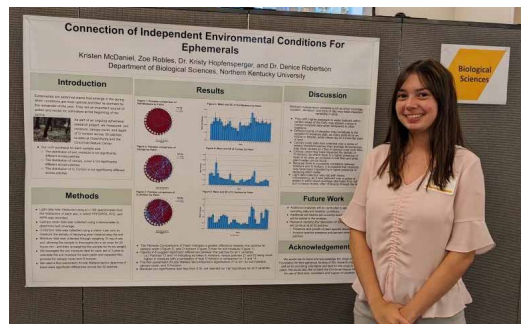
**Brodie Steigerwald '09** signed a three-year deal with the St. Louis Ambush, a Major Arena Soccer League team after he was drafted at the Pro Player Combine in October. He started playing soccer when he was six, played all four years at SHDHS, and then split his



collegiate career between Northern Kentucky University and the University of Rio Grande. He has played at the semi-pro and professional levels, including stops with the Kitsap Pumas, Olympic Force, and Vestri FC in Iceland.

**Zoe Robles '19** is working on research that could help out local ecology. She is part of an ongoing research study on how ephemerals can repopulate areas

where invasive plants have been removed. Ephemerals are a group of perennial plants that are the first to emerge in the spring. The study takes place across 30 patches and she collected data on soil moisture, canopy cover, and O-horizon for each of them. She and her classmates then ran a statistical test to compare each of these variables across the 30 patches. They found that there were significant differences across the patches for soil moisture, canopy cover, and O-horizon and these differences could affect the future of the study. Zoe is studying at Northern Kentucky University.



**Meghan Pawsat '20** took part in the University of Kentucky's Showcase of Undergraduate Scholars. More than 500 students took part in the showcase that gives them the opportunity to share their research discoveries, ideas and creative works with the campus community and the public. Meghan's presentation was titled "Implicit Theories of Interest Among Academic Advisors and Undergraduate Students."

**Taylor Preston '21** is honored for her impressive volleyball career at SHDHS with a banner in the gym. The Athletic Department recognized her in January. Preston has continued her volleyball career at the University of Oklahoma where she continues to impress. As a freshman she became one of the Sooners' most reliable outside hitters and finished the season third on the team for kills and second in attacks. She was also the only OU



player this season to have over 60 attacks in a match, which she did twice. She also helped the team snap a six-game losing streak, and received Big 12 Rookie of the Week honors for her work in that game.

**Abby Enzwiler '22** saw her artwork published in the National Spanish Honor Society publication, *Albricias*. As part of her graduation requirement for the SHDHS Spanish Honor Society, members of La Sociedad Honoraria Hispánica must submit a work to be published by *Albricias*. Abby's piece, titled *España: Una cultura de celebraciones* appeared in the November 2022 issue. It

depicted various scenes of traditional Spanish holidays and she wrote a brief synopsis and biography in Spanish. Abby was Secretary of Spanish Honor Society and an active member of both SHH and Spanish Club during her time at SHDHS. She currently studies Engineering and Spanish at the University of Tennessee.

## 4 CULTURA DE CELEBRACIONES



Abby es estudiante de último año. Ha tomado clases de español durante cuatro años desde el nivel AP. Ella planea estudiar español en la Universidad de Tennessee. También planea obtener una licenciatura en ingeniería en civil y ambiental.

Abby Enzwiler  
Capítulo La Sociedad Española  
Saint Henry District High School  
Evansville, IN  
Elizabeth Henson, asesora



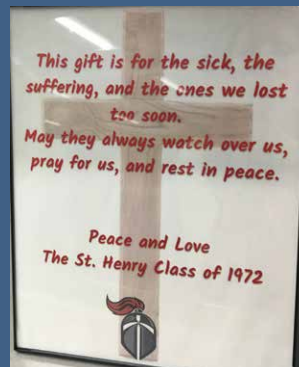
## Reunions

**The Class of 1972** celebrated their 50th reunion with a two day party.

The class held a golf outing on Friday and then a party on Saturday at Jack Kenkel's farm. Organizers say the weather was perfect as over 40 of the 89 classmates got reacquainted and shared many fond memories of their days at St. Henry. In addition to the classmates, they invited some special guests including Mr. Bill Code and Mr. Jan Prickett as well as several classmates who moved on prior to graduation, but still remained part of their class family. They said everyone had a great time catching up.

The group also honored 16 of their classmates with a memorial tree designed by Jeanene (Rauch) Dedden for those who have unfortunately passed but remain cherished friends not to be ever forgotten. That tree was then donated to SHDHS and stands in the glass case in the Alumni Gallery.

Even after 50 years, the classmates remain "young at heart" even though their celebration ended much earlier than the "old days" with a new curfew of 9:00 p.m.!



**The Class of 2008** celebrated their 15 year reunion this year!

The classmates got together at The Bark Park & Patio in April. The Bark Park & Patio is a pet friendly bar owned by Lee Cahill '08.

The group said everyone had a great time catching up.



## Upcoming Reunion:

Class of 1999 is working on their 25th reunion, which is tentatively planned for February 2024. If you would like to help or would like more information, please contact Stephanie Tewes as [stephaniemtewes@gmail.com](mailto:stephaniemtewes@gmail.com).



# IN MEMORIAM

**Raymond Hoffman '45** passed in July. Ray was known for his storytelling, oftentimes the same story over and over. He would proudly tell anyone who would listen about his winning the state golf high school championship as a senior at St. Henry High School in 1945. "The first from Elsmere to ever win a state championship, according to his brother Bob Hoffman. Ray joined the Merchant Marines right out of high school and went on to serve as a Sergeant in the Army, where most of the action he faced was on the enlisted men's golf course at Fort Bragg. He was an owner-operator of Tri-State Sheet Metal Erecting Company. How fitting that Ray would pass peacefully right next to his beloved golf course, Twin Oaks.

**Rita Schmidt Ryan '47** passed away at the age of 94 on June 10, 2023 - the anniversary date of her wedding to her beloved late husband John. Rita was a long-time Greater Cincinnati Ambassador greeting international travelers entering the United States and a volunteer at Mary Queen of Heaven Church. Rita is survived by her four children, 9 grandchildren, and 13 great-grandchildren.

**Martin Code '51** passed away in December. He retired from Lorillard Tobacco Company after 27 years as a salesman. Mary was an avid golfer and enjoyed aviation. He was a member of the Fr. Bealer Knights of Columbus and the Walton Lion's Club.

**Mildred Rauen Fangman '51** passed away in March. Millie loved Park Hills, Ky so much that she was known as "Mrs. Park Hills". She had a vision for Trolley Park across the street from her house and the entry to Park Hills. She thought it would be a great place for children to play, so with hard work, fundraising and persistence, she made it happen. She was also active in the Park Hills Civic Club, planning events, fundraisers and greeting new residents with a Welcome basket that she put together herself from businesses in the city. Millie founded the garden club of Park Hills, The Avant Gardeners, and spearheaded the growth of the club by organizing Garden Tours and Home Tours. She also worked to establish Luminary Night and formed the Village Green Committee which beautified the city's public spaces. She also was a big supporter of Redwood School.

**Edna Margaret Aylor Kleier '54** gained her angel wings in March 2022. Her husband, George, whom she met at a Valentine's Day dance in 1954, was by her side. Margaret worked at H. & S. Pogue Company, Cincinnati Bell Telephone, Potter's Stride Rite Shoes, and Wool Shoes located in Hess's Department Store. She leaves behind three children, six grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

**Ronald "Buck" Studer '55** passed away in May. At the age of 14, he built and operated his own "Ham" radio and talked to people all around the world. In 1954, he enlisted in the US Marine Corp, where he graduated at the top of his class in radio telegraph operators' training. Buck was stationed in San Diego, CA as a Corporal until 1957. He attended an engineering school in Washington, D.C., before returning to Kentucky where he accepted a position with General Electric. He worked for over 40 years at GE as an aeronautical control engineer before retiring in 1999. Buck enjoyed hunting and fishing on his farm, working in his garden and raising a few heads of cattle.

**Ann Marie Duncan Kunkel '57** gained her angel wings in April. Anna loved to sew, cook, tend to flower gardens, and help on the farm as the in-house veterinarian. Anna met her husband, Louis, at St. Henry High School and the pair moved to a dairy farm in Wisconsin where they lived for 40 years.

**Louis Kunkel '57** passed away in May, less than two months after his beloved wife, **Ann '57**. Louis loved his family and his dairy farm. His strength and love of life allowed him to tackle a long and difficult battle with blood cancer (Multiple Myeloma) and a stem cell transplant, and he maintained remission for the

remainder of his life. In addition to raising his children with Ann, they also raised dairy cattle, sows, horses, chickens, sheep and ducks. Louis and Ann leave behind four children and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

**Jean Ann Carter Bresser '58** passed away in February. She is survived by her five children and seven grandchildren.

**Charlene Trame Guenther '60** passed away in December. Charlene shared her love through food by working as a lunch lady at Erlanger Elsmere Schools. She was preceded in death by her husband **Gary Guenther '60**. She is survived by their four children and eight grandchildren.

**Linda Finn Dean '62** passed in June. She leaves behind her two children and five grandchildren.

**Dennis Nolan '62** passed away on October 31. He served his country as a member of the U.S Army. He was an usher at St. Henry Church and was involved with their "That Man is You" men's group. He was also a member of the Knights of Columbus and the Bishop Flaget Assembly. In his free time, Dennis enjoyed fishing, woodworking, and reading. He leaves behind his wife, **Anne Fay Nolan '64**.

**Joseph "Mike" Manning '66** passed away on November 17. Mike loved sports and coached his two sons' teams, loved the Cincinnati Bengals and Reds as well as the Kansas City Chiefs and Royals. He even played baseball professionally for a short time for the Washington Senators. He is survived by his wife, two sons, and five grandchildren.

**Sandra Lang Horton '70** gained her angel wings in December. She worked for the IRS, enjoyed vacationing and reading, and loved to cook for her family. She leaves behind her husband, three children, and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

**Sandra Gunning Rosenberger '72** passed away in November. She worked for Heidelberg Distributing and enjoyed golfing. She leaves behind her husband, four children and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

**Donald Kampe '75** passed peacefully in March. He is survived by his wife, their two children and four grandchildren.

**Charles "Chuck" Ebenschweiger '77** passed away in February. He was an avid fisherman and was the first volunteer at Our Farm Sanctuary in Tipp, OH which provides shelter, food, veterinary, and adoption services for rescued, unwanted, abandoned, and abused animals from domestic pets to farm animals and everything in-between.

**Jenny Gutzeit Unkraut '77** gained her angel wings in May. She was a registered nurse with Children's Hospital for 26 years. She is survived by her three daughters and one grandson.

**Richard Staverman '78** passed away in April after a 18-month battle with cancer. He is survived by his three children and three grandchildren.

**Joe Dusing '96** passed away in August after a battle with cancer.

**Tara Meyer Kleier '97** passed away on November 26. She dedicated her life to serving her community. She began her career volunteering on the Ft. Mitchell Life Squad and Fire Department before joining the Hebron Fire Department where she worked as a firefighter and paramedic for 18 years. She is survived by her two children and fiancé.

**Brian Curley '01** passed away in August.



## St. Henry District High School

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