

# *Crusader* CONNECTIONS

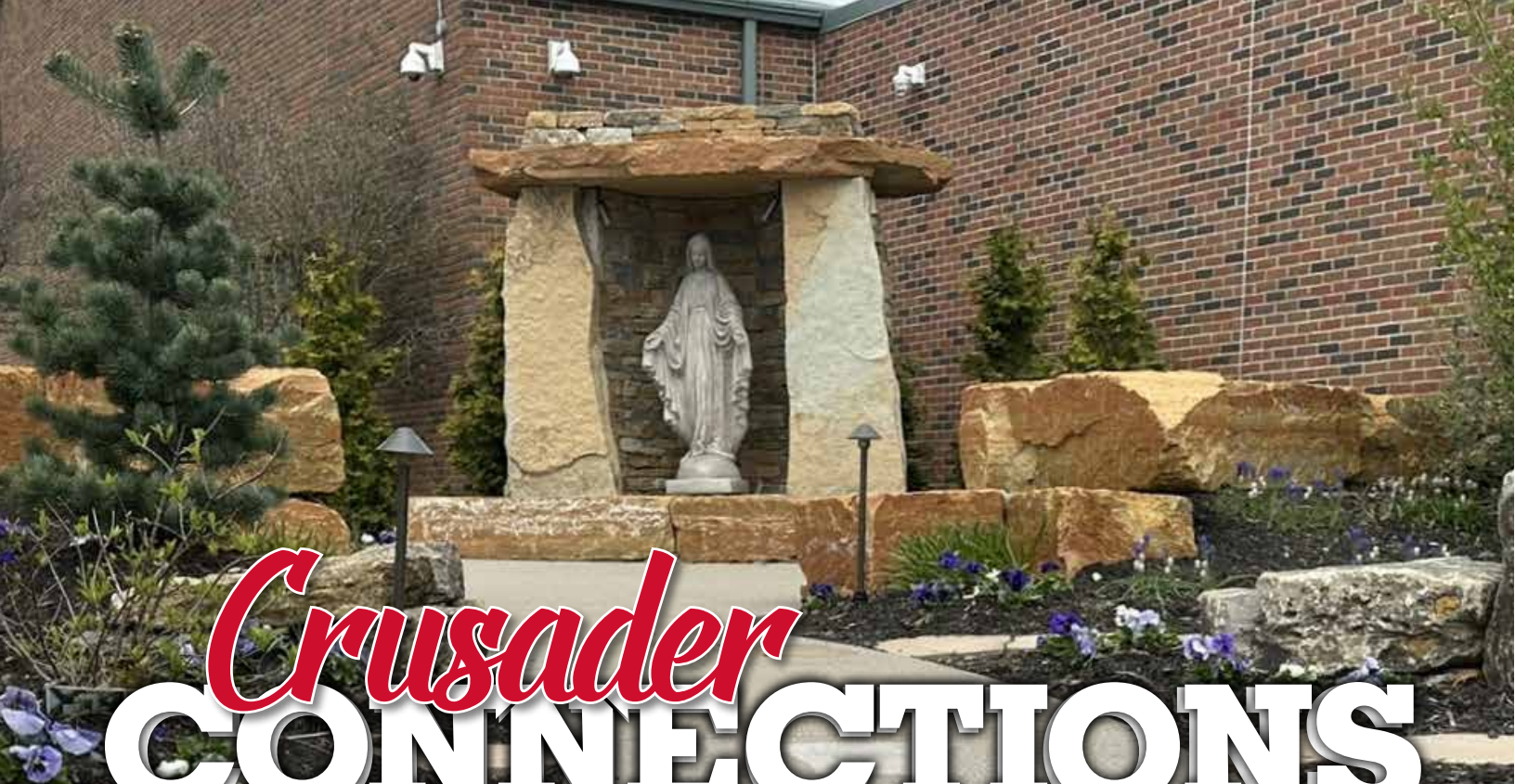


Summer 2025



*A Symbol of Faith and Community*

# THE GROTTTO



# *Crusader* CONNECTIONS



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# Leadership

## LETTER FROM YOUR PRINCIPAL

Dear Alumni and Friends,

I hope you and your loved ones have enjoyed a restful and joy-filled summer. While it's been both hot and rainy here in Northern Kentucky, there has been something truly beautiful about the energy on campus as we prepare for another exciting school year at St. Henry District High School.

First and foremost, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude for your continued support. Your generosity and love for this school have made a lasting impact on our students, our faculty, and our mission. Because of you, we raised a record-setting \$102,000 through our annual appeal. What an incredible blessing.

That support has allowed us to accomplish so much in a short amount of time. Over the past few months, we replaced HVAC systems that had been in place for more than 25 years, installed a new walk-in freezer in the kitchen, refreshed classrooms with new paint and desks, and added a brand-new digital scoreboard at Gumz Track and Field. We were also proud to complete and bless the Grotto on our campus, a beautiful and sacred reminder of our Catholic faith and the spirit that grounds all we do.

As with every new chapter, we celebrate both bittersweet goodbyes and hopeful beginnings. This year, we honored the retirement of three beloved teachers: Dave Faust, Ron Otte, and Jay Graue. Their dedication shaped generations of Crusaders. At the same time, we've been blessed with new faculty members who bring fresh energy and a shared commitment to our students. Please keep them in your prayers as they begin their journeys with us.

We joyfully graduated 125 students this past spring, and we look forward to welcoming another large freshman class this fall. Our enrollment continues to grow, with a freshman cap of 155 students. Our academic programs remain strong and thriving. With record participation in AP and dual credit courses, we are proud to share that our students achieved an outstanding 95% AP pass rate this past year. None of that would be possible without the incredible leadership of our AP instructors and the continued success of our AAIMS (Academic Achievement

Intervention & Mentoring Support) program, which has once again been recognized as one of the best in Northern Kentucky.

We are also excited about the ways we are blending tradition with innovation. This year, we'll be rebranding and reimagining our Athletic Hall of Fame. Our goal is to better honor the achievements of our alumni while inspiring the next generation of Crusaders. We'll be sharing more details with you soon.

And now, something truly historic: after 92 years, SHDHS will host its **first-ever varsity football game** under the Friday night lights. Please mark your calendars for **August 22, 2025, at 7:00 PM**. This will be a milestone moment in our school's history, and we would love for you to be there. If you haven't been back to campus in a while, this is the perfect opportunity to see the many ways your support has helped our school flourish.

Our theme for the 2025-2026 school year is "Pilgrims of Hope." Inspired by the words of Pope Francis, we are reminded that hope is not only a gift from God. It is also a direction, a promise, and a purpose. Even when life feels uncertain or challenging, we trust in the goodness of our Lord, who walks beside us, lightens our burdens, and guides us toward a bright future. With Pope Francis and Saint Henry as our intercessors, we look ahead with hearts full of faith and hope.

Thank you again for your prayers, your generosity, and your enduring love for SHDHS. You remain an essential part of our community, and we could not do this important work without you.

*"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." - Jeremiah 29:11*

Yours in Christ,



**Grant Brannen**

Principal, SHDHS





## *A Sacred Space for Prayer and Devotion*

# THE GROTTTO

Grottoes have held spiritual significance since ancient times. In Greek and Roman cultures, these natural rock formations—often with springs—were seen as sacred and linked to various gods. As Christianity spread through the Roman Empire, many of these natural sites were transformed into places of Christian worship.

Grottoes took on special meaning in the Catholic faith in 1858, when a young girl named St. Bernadette Soubirous saw the Blessed Virgin Mary in a grotto near the town of Lourdes, France. During one of these visions, a spring of water emerged. Since then, the Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes has become a major pilgrimage site known for miraculous healings. Inspired by this event, Catholics around the world began building similar shrines to reflect the peace and holiness of Lourdes.

This rich tradition is now honored at St. Henry District High School, where a long-envisioned project has finally come to life.

### **A SYMBOL OF FAITH AND COMMUNITY**

What began as a shared vision in 2022 has now become a special place that connects the past, present, and future of the SHDHS community. Generously brought to life through the support of alumni, donors, faculty, families, and friends, the Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes was blessed on Thursday, May 8. The ceremony also included the traditional May Crowning, a beloved Catholic ritual honoring Mary as Queen of Heaven and Earth.

The Crusader community gathered together to celebrate the completion and blessing of the sacred space that now stands as a visible sign of Catholic identity and devotion on campus.

Principal Grant Brannen reflected on the significance of the moment, stating, “This project is more than stone and structure—it’s a symbol of our enduring faith and the strength of our St. Henry District High School community.” Following the blessing, guests gathered in the Drees Homes Auditorium lobby to enjoy coffee and cookies—a small but heartfelt thank you to all who contributed.

The Grotto is designed for active spiritual use—a place of peaceful reflection, spontaneous prayer, and communal gatherings. Students, staff, and visitors are invited to encounter Mary and, through her, draw closer to Jesus Christ. Its design even incorporates a creative rosary motif with stones at the entrance to form a rosary that winds into the surrounding flower beds, further emphasizing the site’s Marian character.

### **HONORING THE PAST, BUILDING THE FUTURE**

The decision to base St. Henry’s Grotto on the one at Lourdes is a deliberate choice, connecting the school to a powerful global tradition. The statue of Our Lady of Lourdes chosen for the site serves as a visual and spiritual reminder of Mary’s love and intercession.

The design itself was a collaborative effort. Drawing inspiration from the Lourdes shrine and the insights of St. Henry alumni, committee members, and devoted contributors, the grotto represents the fruit of many hearts and minds working as one. As a visible symbol of our school’s mission - Building on Excellence, Guided by Faith - the Grotto embodies our commitment to nurturing both minds and souls.

# THE GROTTO

SHDHS acknowledges with deep gratitude the many individuals and families who helped make the dream a reality, including:

**Richard Jansen and Stephanie Renaker-Jansen, John McCoy, Craig Zumnick, Chris Cook, Beckie Middendorf, Janet Gulla, Courtney Hoffer, Dave Otte, Tina Ryan, Mary Beth Beimesch, Vince and Kathy Bessler, Dennis and Angie Boh, Terry and Rosie Depenbrock, Paul and Anne Schneider, Dan and Wendy Tobergte, Louis and Jessie**

## A LIVING TRADITION

Now situated prominently in front of the school, the Grotto is passed daily by students and visitors entering SHDHS. It is already becoming a spiritual touchpoint for many. Whether it's a quiet moment of prayer before or after school or larger community events, the grotto serves as an invitation to pause, reflect, and reconnect with God.

One of the most powerful new traditions is led by Head Football Coach Tim Odom, whose team gathers in full uniform before games at the grotto for a player-led prayer. From there, they proceed to the football field. Coach Odom has stated that he wants to evoke the meaning behind the name Crusaders - the players are "prepared for battle," marching to the field having prepared themselves physically in practice and spiritually in prayer.

The Grotto at SHDHS is more than a structure—it is a living legacy. It stands as a tribute to the Blessed Mother's ongoing presence in the lives of the faithful and a call to a deeper spiritual life for everyone who encounters it. In the spirit of the Marian tradition, which reminds us that Mary always leads us to her Son, may the Grotto at St. Henry continue to be a sacred space where hearts are lifted, prayers are whispered, and lives are quietly transformed.



## GROTTO COMMITTEE

We are forming a Grotto Committee to help maintain and enhance this meaningful space, and we need your support! We are looking for volunteers who can help with light gardening, seasonal clean-ups, planting, watering, and sharing ideas for beautification throughout the year. Whether you're an experienced gardener or simply someone who appreciates the quiet grace of the Grotto, your time and talent are welcome.

This is a wonderful way to give back, honor our faith, and take part in preserving one of the most beloved areas of our school grounds. Let's keep the Grotto blooming with love and care! Please contact Toni Lehan at 859-525-5850 or [tlehan@shdhs.org](mailto:tlehan@shdhs.org) to learn more about the committee or to sign up.

*Our Lady of Lourdes, pray for us.*



# Annual Appeal

## "God In All Things." - Matthew 28:16-20

Thanks to your incredible support, we crossed the finish line and exceeded our Annual Appeal goal, ending with a record-breaking \$102,346.49!

To everyone who gave, thank you for hearing us and stepping up for SHDHS. Whether your gift was large or small, it made a difference. And if you were unable to give this time, please keep our school in your prayers. Your prayers are just as valuable as any donation.

From the bottom of our hearts, **THANK YOU!** Let's keep this momentum going and continue to build a foundation of Catholic faith, academic excellence, and moral responsibility for every student who walks through our doors.

As Crusaders, we know the future of SHDHS deserves the very best, and we are more than capable of raising the bar in the years to come. Just imagine what we can do if we all give a little.

Please contact our Advancement Department at 859-525-5850 or email [advancement@shdhs.org](mailto:advancement@shdhs.org) with for more information.



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Thomas & Barbara Zanin  
Paul Zembrodt  
Ray & Rita Zerhusen

# Support The Cru



## AN Emerald & GOLD SOIREE

Presented by **THE BID & CUBASH 2025** and **THE HIVE**

The Crusader Knight of Giving – An Emerald & Gold Soirée was a wonderful success, and we are incredibly grateful to everyone who attended and donated. A special thank you goes out to our generous sponsors—your support makes a meaningful difference in our school community!

### FINANCIAL RECAP

Revenue:	\$167,872.90
Gift Card Raffle:	\$5,176.04
\$10K Raffle:	\$71,967.07
Bourbon Raffle:	\$17,736.90
Event:	\$51,242.89
Fund-a-Need	\$21,750.00
Expenses:	\$30,555.43
Net:	\$137,317.47

**THANK YOU!**

**SAVE THE DATE for our next Crusader Knight of Giving Saturday, March 21, 2026**

# SH Commemorative BRICKS

At the Gumz Family Track & Field Stadium

UP TO 3 LINES OF TEXT HERE

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Visit [shdhs.org/brickseats](https://shdhs.org/brickseats) to get yours today!

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- CRUSADER LEVEL
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Our Sponsorship Packages include physical, digital, and printed acknowledgement throughout the SHDHS campus & beyond!



**TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A LASTING IMPACT ON CATHOLIC EDUCATION**

**ST. HENRY**  
DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL

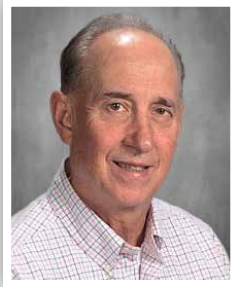
Scan the QR Code or email [Advancement@shdhs.org](mailto:Advancement@shdhs.org) for more info

## Dave Faust

After more than four decades of shaping young minds in the classroom and molding champions on the basketball court, Coach Dave Faust may be hanging up his whistle, but he leaves behind a legacy that few can match. With 43 years in education, including 33 at SHDHS, Faust has been a mentor, role model, and pillar of legacy built on dedication, character, and championship spirit.

Faust began teaching at Newport Junior High and later Newport Central Catholic before joining St. Henry in 1991, teaching Algebra I, Economics, Business Law, and other business courses. He states the most rewarding part of his career has always been working with the students - in the classroom and on the basketball court because watching them succeed well beyond high school is the real victory.

On the court, Faust became a regional icon. He coached freshman basketball at Newport and JV basketball and baseball at Newport Central Catholic. For the last 33 seasons, he led as St. Henry's head basketball coach,

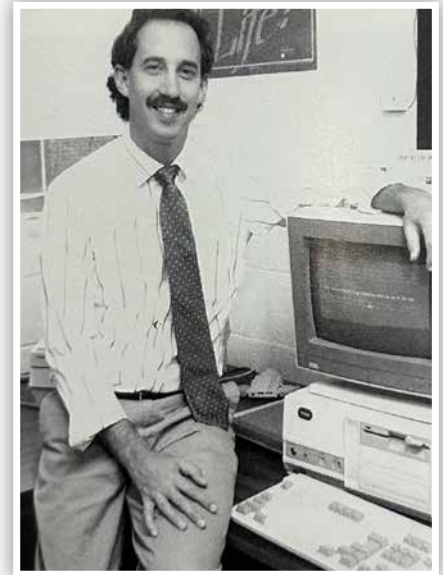


winning multiple All "A" Regional and State titles, a 9th Region Championship, and achieving 482 career wins - retiring as the 9th Region's all-time wins leader.

Off the court, Dave's impact is equally profound. He and his wife of 43 years, Karen, raised three children: **Molly Radcliff '02** and her husband **Matt '02** (Myles and Mia), daughter Emily, and son **Adam Faust '06** and his wife Ajla.

Looking ahead, Faust plans to travel, golf, and stay connected to St. Henry and the "awesome faculty" for a bit longer by contributing in the classroom as a substitute teacher.

Dave Faust is remembered not just for his wins but for his unwavering commitment to faith, excellence, and community. A true SHDHS legend - enjoy your well-earned retirement, Coach Faust!



## Ron Otte

After an incredible career in education, **Mr. Ron Otte '81** is retiring, having set a lasting standard of excellence in the classroom. His passion for teaching and lifelong commitment to student growth have made a meaningful impact on SHDHS and the Northern Kentucky educational community.

Otte began his teaching career at Simon Kenton High School, where he taught for 7 years before moving to Boone County High School, dedicating the next 23 years there. In 2014, he returned to his alma mater, St. Henry District High School, to spend the last 10 years of his career giving back to the community that shaped him as a 1981 graduate.

With a master's degree and Rank 1 certification, Otte brought a high level of expertise and enthusiasm to a wide range of science courses, including Biology,



Biology Honors, Environmental Science, Zoology, and AP Biology. He also led the Science Olympiad team for 7 years, encouraging critical thinking and teamwork among his students. Beyond the classroom, he coached middle school cross country for 13 years.

The Otte family has deep roots at St. Henry. He and his wife, **Jamie Voss Otte '82**, will celebrate 40 years of marriage this year. Their two daughters, **Lauren '07** and **Katelyn '10**, are proud St. Henry graduates as well and have blessed them with three granddaughters. Ron's brother, **Dave Otte '70**, was the former St. Henry principal.

Otte shared that the most rewarding part of his career has been hearing from former students who say something they learned in his class helped him later in life. As he enters retirement, Ron looks forward to spending more time with his family, especially his grandkids, gardening, relaxing at home, and growing his comic book collection.

It's with heartfelt appreciation, we thank Mr. Ron Otte for his years of dedicated service. Your presence at SHDHS has been a true blessing. Once A Crusader- Always A Crusader.

# Leadership

## Jay Graue

After 38 years of exceptional service, dedication, and heart, Mr. Jay Graue is retiring from SHDHS, leaving behind a lasting impression on generations of students, athletes, and future leaders.



Graue began his career at St. Henry as a student teacher and never looked back. Over nearly four decades, he taught a wide range of Social Studies courses, including World History, AP European History, AP Human Geography, Psychology, and even Physical Education. Known for bringing history to life, he emphasized civic responsibility, patriotism, and service through classroom projects focused on Veterans Day, the Wounded Warrior Project, and other acts of national appreciation, he instilled in his students a deep respect for those who serve.

Outside the classroom, he was a vital part of St. Henry athletics, serving as Athletic Director for 12 years over two terms. He coached a variety of sports, including 20 years with the boys' golf team and the last 7 years with the girls' golf team, as well as freshman boys basketball, girls tennis, and softball. Graue also led the school's Travel Club, guiding students through

over 30 countries across Europe, Asia, and Australia - deepening their understanding of other cultures and histories.

Reflecting on his career, Jay shared that one of his greatest joys has been seeing former students return to the school as teachers and colleagues. "Having former students come back to give back to the school—that's what it's all about," he said.

While Graue is stepping away from full-time teaching, he will continue to coach the girls' golf team to remain connected to the SHDHS community. When he's not on the golf course, he's looking forward to relaxing in Naples, Florida, and spending more time with family and friends.

On behalf of the entire SHDHS community, we sincerely thank Jay Graue for his incredible impact and unwavering Crusader spirit over the years. Best wishes in this exciting new chapter!



## CONGRATULATIONS TO MRS. MANDY FINKE, OUR 2025 TEACHER OF THE YEAR!

For the past seven years, Mrs. Finke has been an integral part of the SHDHS Math Department, teaching Algebra 1, College-Prep 1 & 2, and Algebra 2 College-Prep 2. Beyond the classroom, she leads the summer math enhancement program and plays a vital role in the AAIMS program, providing extra support to students who need it most. Her commitment to St. Henry extends beyond academics, as she has also served as the Freshman Girls Basketball Coach for the past four years. We are grateful for Mrs. Finke's dedication, passion, and unwavering support of her students and school community.





## *Your Legacy. Their Future.*

### CONSIDER SHDHS IN YOUR PLANNED GIVING.

At St. Henry District High School, our alumni are the foundation of our past—and the key to our future. As a graduate of SHDHS, you carry with you the values of Faith, Scholarship, Leadership, Arts, and Athletics. These pillars not only shaped your life, but continue to guide every Crusader who walks our halls.

One powerful way to ensure the strength and vitality of SHDHS for generations to come is through planned giving. By including the school in your estate plans, you can leave a legacy that reflects your commitment to Catholic education and helps future students flourish.

Whether through a bequest, a life insurance policy, a charitable trust, or naming SHDHS as a beneficiary of a retirement account, planned gifts provide long-term support that strengthens tuition assistance, academic programs, extracurriculars, and campus improvements.

Recently, we were honored to establish the Robert Jacob Rebitski Memorial Scholarship, made possible through a planned gift left to SHDHS as a legacy beneficiary of the Catholic Order of Foresters. His generosity is already changing lives—and it's a powerful reminder of how one act of foresight can leave a lasting impact.

If you've ever considered giving back in a meaningful way, we invite you to explore how a planned gift can reflect your values and preserve the SHDHS experience for years to come. For confidential information about options or to notify us of your intentions, please contact our Advancement Office at 859-525-5850 or [advancement@shdhs.org](mailto:advancement@shdhs.org).

Make your legacy one of faith, purpose, and opportunity.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### 2025

- ▶ August 2 - Alumni Volleyball Tournament
- ▶ August 22 - First Varsity Football game
- ▶ September - Annual Appeal 25-26 Begins
- ▶ September 12 - Golf Outing
- ▶ October 18 - Craft Fair
- ▶ November 9 - Open House
- ▶ November 21, 22, 23 - Fall Musical
- ▶ December 3 - Benefactors Mass/Brunch

#### 2026

- ▶ January 26 - Senior Grandparent Mass
- ▶ March 21 - A Crusader Knight of Giving (formally Cru Bid & Bash)
- ▶ March 26 - Junior Grandparent Mass
- ▶ March 27, 28 & 29 - Spring Play
- ▶ April 16 - Sophomore Grandparent Mass
- ▶ April 23 - Freshman Grandparent Mass
- ▶ April 24 & 25 - Alumni Men's Basketball Tournament

Mark your calendars and stay tuned for more details about these exciting events. We look forward to seeing you and celebrating St. Henry District High School

# Scholarship

## HONORING ROBERT JACOB REBITSKI '16: PERPETUAL SUPPORT OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION AT SHDHS

St. Henry District High School is honored to announce the establishment of the Robert Jacob Rebitski Scholarship, supporting Catholic education, as a tribute to the life and impact of Robert, Class of 2016.

*“Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.” — John 15:13*

This scholarship honors the memory of Robert Rebitski, a 26-year-old SHDHS graduate who was wicked smart and lived with quiet strength, selfless love, and a deep appreciation for the everyday. He found joy in the ordinary and wasn’t afraid to be a little ornery—in the best way. He had an infectious smile and giggle.

Robert brought humor, grit, and determination to everything he did—especially when it came to caring for others. He would lay down his life for his brother or sister and lived out his Catholic faith through humility, service, and devotion to family. He thought outside the box—not just in business, where he boldly purchased and ran his father’s legacy company—but also in how he loved, solved problems, and made others feel seen and valued through his quiet acts of kindness. Robert lived Jesus’ commandment to the fullest “Love your neighbor as yourself” with random acts of kindness such a buying chalk, bubbles and balls to take to the children in need on his fiancé’s mail route and staying to play for a bit, brightening their day. He earned the Boy Scouts’ highest honor of Eagle Scout and stayed true to the Scout Oath.

Robert was guided in his faith by his Grams, who taught him to “kindly, gently, softly” and to evangelize when given the opportunity. He worked to incorporate lessons from his Catholic upbringing and education, such as the following: there is only one goal in life, and that is to get to heaven; trust in the Lord with all your heart and

being; and kindness is putting another’s needs first. Robert had a great gift of being present. He loved well.

Robert’s untimely death reminds us “Therefore, stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come.” Matthew 24:42.

Robert’s legacy continues to bring others to Christ through the St. Henry District High School scholarship supporting Catholic Education, which was instrumental in his life, and St. Robert’s chapel, built in memory of Robert in Kenya by the Ed Colina Foundation, serving the poorest of the poor. For more information on the Ed Colina Foundation, please visit <https://www.edcolinafoundation.org>.

Those who wish to support the ROBERT JACOB REBITSKI Memorial Scholarship can donate here or visit <https://secure.qgiv.com/for/robertjacobrebitskischolarship>



# Faith & Service

## ST. HENRY GIVES BACK

At St. Henry, our service program helps students live out their Catholic/Christian faith by following Christ's command to "love your neighbor as yourself". Guided by 1 Peter 4:10, "As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace", students are encouraged to use their time and talents to serve others as faithful stewards of God.

This year, our school community supported many local organizations through volunteering and fundraising efforts. These acts of service not only benefit those in need but also deepen students' understanding of faith in action. Some of the organizations we have supported this year include: All Abilities Sports, All Saints Pantry, Buddy Walk, BeConcerned, DPAA, Emergency Cold Shelter, Go Pantry, Hopeful Lutheran Pantry of Hope, Hosea House, Housing Opportunities of NKY, IHM Pantry, Mary's Meals, MQH Pantry, Mary Rose Mission, Parish Kitchen, Rose Garden Mission, Special Olympics, St. Barbara Pantry, St. Henry Pantry, St. Jude Research, St. Paul Pantry, St. Timothy Pantry, St. Vincent and Walk the Mile. Our students logged 18,200 service hours.



ST. JUDE RESEARCH HOSPITAL



HOPEFUL LUTHERAN PANTRY OF HOPE



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ST. VINCENT DEPAUL



## PILGRIMAGE TO ITALY

Over Spring Break, Mr. Patti and Mrs. Aftanski led students Nate Bessler, Emily Gross, Sophia Hunt, Caden Kunstek, Eileen Michels, Evan Parhad, Maddie Ritchie, and Claire Schild on a nine-day pilgrimage to Italy. They visited Padua, Venice, Florence, Assisi, Rome, and Vatican City, engaging in meaningful cultural and spiritual experiences. Highlights included Easter Mass in Padua, visits to the tombs of St. Francis of Assisi and Blessed Carlo Acutis, gondola rides in Venice, and exploring Florence's Uffizi Gallery. In Rome, the group saw major landmarks like the Pantheon and Colosseum, and although St. Peter's Basilica was closed due to the Pope's funeral, they were able to visit the Vatican Museums and Sistine Chapel. The trip offered a powerful blend of faith, history, reflection, and fellowship.



# Fine Arts



## ANNE OF GREEN GABLES

Based on the beloved best-selling novel, *Anne of Green Gables* came to life on stage through the incredible talent, passion, and hard work of the entire cast and crew. Congratulations to Mrs. Heinrich and Ms. Vollmer on a truly special and memorable production!

Cast: **Caroline Aftanski '25, Alejandra Decima '25, Nora Ernst '25, Makayla Hagedorn '25, Addison Millsap '25, Stefany Nix '25, Ainsley Potter '25, Sophia Wash '25, Olive Williams '25, Austin Wood '25, Ian Bowman, Alaina Fabre, Jackie Fernandez, Aggie Aasen, Riley Clark, Sonata Brazaite, Logan Holocher, Gwendolyn Ogonek, Sophia Scheben, Addison Collins, Katie Cripe, Dominic Dibari, Claire Fergusson, AJ Hagedorn, Caitlin Houston, Luke Jankowski, Olivia Spaulding, Caitlin Warner.**



## SHDHS CHOIR

The SHDHS Choir delivered a stunning concert this April, delighting the audience with beloved music from movie classics. Congratulations to the following students for their outstanding performances and contributions to a memorable evening:

**Caroline Aftanski '25, Wendy Daniels '25, Eileen Michels '25, Sophia Walsh '25, Makayla Hagedorn '25, Cameron Darnell '25, Nora Ernst '25, Ainsley Potter '25, Jeffrey Pilcher '25, Elizabeth Addington, Samantha Morgan, Jada Purcell, Kaitlyn McDermott, Maggie Aasen, Sophia Scheben, Addyson Wambaja, Allison Dressman, Dominic Dibari, Jayda Reis, Molly Witham.**



## SHDHS BAND

Beginning and Advanced Bands rocked the stage at their spring concert with exciting music of popular soundtracks, including selections from *Star Wars*, *Ghostbusters* and *Pirates of The Caribbean*.

Cadet Band: **Max Popil, Isaac Cripe, Cooper McIntire, Noah Miller, Lukas Noble, Zachary Cline, Brady Flanagan, Austin Gumz, Tristan Krenner, Ryne Ravenscraft, Ethan Stover, Jonathan Summers, Leo Crawford, Trevor Middendorf, Noah Baker, Andrew Price, Nikos Carter, Meredith Comte, Ronald Miller, Nicholas Petty, Gavin Bain, Colby Hollman**

Advanced Band: **Preston Gumz '25, Adam Lubert '25, Jack Runkel '25, Emily Gross, Jonathan Simkus, Trey Fedders, Sam Dirksing, Andrew Stewart, Nolan Townsend, Jaxon Moore, Luke Jeffery, Madelyn Ritchie.**



## THE ART CLUB

The Art Club, led by Seniors **Lucy Bolton '25** and **Magdalene Jump '25**, participated in a service project at Legacy Living in Florence to teach the residents how to do a Bob Ross style painting. The residents had a great time and the students learned a lot about giving back to our elderly.

# Athletics

## WINTER SPORTS

### ARCHERY

Archery showed sportsmanship and continued improvement throughout the season. Congratulations to the players and coaching staff on many achievements.



### BASKETBALL BOYS

Boys Basketball had another great year on the court! A big congratulations to Coach Faust on his final season at SHDHS!



### BASKETBALL GIRLS

Girls Basketball finished the season as District Runner-up with a record of 14-17. Congratulations to Head Coach Trame and the entire coaching staff.



### BOWLING

Bowling had a fun-filled season this winter with strong sportsmanship and player growth. Congratulations to Coach Spille and the team.



### SWIMMING

The Swim team had notable performances in relay and individual events. Congratulations to the entire team and coaching staff on a special season



## SPRING SPORTS

### BASEBALL

Baseball led with dedication and team spirit this season. Special thanks to the coaching staff and all the players for a memorable year.



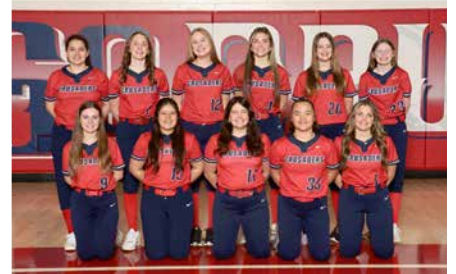
### LACROSSE

Lacrosse wrapped up a standout season, highlighted by major accolades to **Brady Dickman '25**. Congratulations to Head Coach McKee, the coaching staff, and the team on an impressive season on the field!



### SOFTBALL

The softball team brought home the Division A Bulldog Bash Runner up trophy, and had several players recognized for their outstanding tournament performances. Congrats to Head Coach Feigh and the team!



### BOYS TENNIS

Boys Tennis had several new players but they competed hard and finished with a record of 4-6. Thanks to Head Coach Meier and the team on a great season!



### GIRLS TENNIS

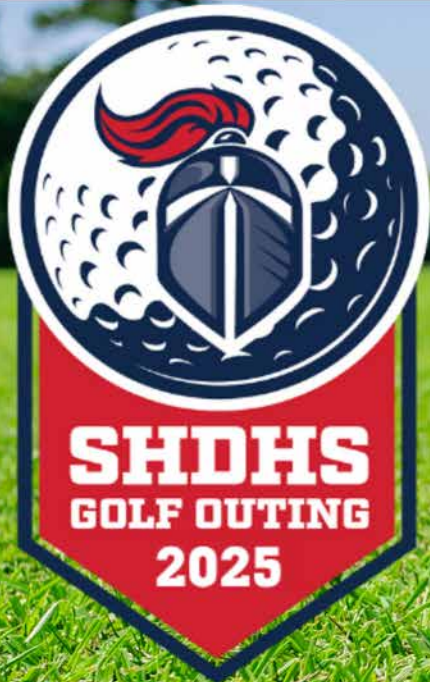
Girls Tennis finished with a winning record of 9-6. Doubles players, **Maggie Kute '25** and **Lyndsey Payne '25**, won All A Championship, Regional Semi-finalists and qualified for state. Congratulations to Head Coach Payne and the team on a successful season.



### BOYS/GIRLS TRACK & FIELD

Track & Field had a remarkable year with many accomplishments. The girls team finished second place at regionals and took sixth place at State. Congratulations to Head Coach Durrett, the entire coaching staff and the athletes on a fantastic season!





## Friday, September 12, 2025

Registration starts at 8 AM  
Shotgun Start at 9 AM

Location: **WILLOWS**

The Golf Courses of Kenton County  
3908 Richardson Rd, Independence

[shdhs.org/golfouting](http://shdhs.org/golfouting)

Sponsored by



DATE	OPPONENT	LOCATION	TIME
Fri 8/22	Holy Cross	Home	7:00 PM
Fri 8/29	Boone County	Away	7:00 PM
Fri 9/5	Bishop Brossart	Home	7:00 PM
Fri 9/12	Bellevue	Away	7:00 PM
Fri 9/19	BYE		
Fri 9/26	Gallatin County	Home	7:00 PM
Thurs 10/2	Owen County (HC)	Home	7:00 PM
Fri 10/10	Beechwood	Away	7:30 PM
Fri 10/17	Bracken County	Away	7:30 PM
Fri 10/24	Walton Verona	Home	7:00 PM
Fri 10/31	Ludlow	Home	7:00 PM



## BE A PART OF SHDHS HISTORY

**CUSTOMIZED CRU FOOTBALL JERSEY FOR VARSITY FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS!**



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CHOOSE YOUR PATCH: STUDENT, ALUMNI, OR FAN

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**ORDER TODAY!**

Support our Football Fundraiser  
[cruspiritshop.shdhs.org](http://cruspiritshop.shdhs.org)

## Look for the rebranding of our Hall of Fame! Coming in 2026

The St. Henry Athletic Hall of Fame honors individuals and teams who have significantly contributed to the rich tradition of athletic excellence at St. Henry.

The rebranding will reflect the heart, the history, and the future of what it means to be in the Hall of Fame. With a fresh identity, renewed mission, and deeper commitment to honoring the legends who shape our legacy.



# Tuesday for Teachers

## Supporting The Heart of SHDHS

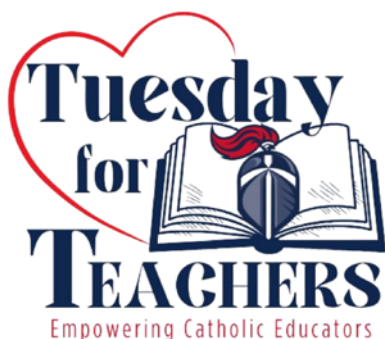
This past December, St. Henry District High School launched an exciting new initiative to show appreciation for the heart of our school—our dedicated teachers. The Tuesday for Teachers Fund, which debuted on Giving Tuesday, December 3, 2024, is designed to celebrate and support our educators in meaningful and lasting ways.



## What is the Teachers Initiative Fund?

This fund is dedicated to retaining and rewarding the exceptional teachers who inspire our students to live out the five pillars of SHDHS: Faith, Scholarship, Athletics, Arts, and Leadership. With your support, this fund provides:

- ✓ Bonuses and holiday gifts to recognize their hard work
- ✓ Classroom supplies to enhance the learning experience
- ✓ Professional development opportunities
- ✓ Wellness programs to support their well-being



[www.shdhs.org/tuesdayforteachers](http://www.shdhs.org/tuesdayforteachers)

## Our Ongoing Commitment

Each year on Giving Tuesday, we will relaunch the Teachers Initiative Endowment Fund, building momentum and support for our educators. Throughout the school year, we spotlight teachers, departments, and clubs on select Tuesdays so you can see firsthand why SHDHS is such a special place. We are committed to transparency and want you to clearly see what you are giving to—and why it matters.

## Why Is This Fund So Important?



Our teachers are the backbone of SHDHS. By investing in them, we invest in the quality of education our students receive, the strength of our community, and the future of our school. Your generosity makes it possible for us to recruit, support, and retain the best and brightest educators. As we look ahead to the new school year, we are filled with gratitude for the continued support of our alumni, parents, and friends. You make all of this possible.

We are still accepting donations to help grow this important fund. Visit [www.shdhs.org/tuesdayforteachers](http://www.shdhs.org/tuesdayforteachers) to make your gift today and join us in supporting those who give so much to our students every day.

Toni Huser Lehan '85  
*Advancement and Enrollment Director*

## ENGLISH DEPARTMENT



## FINE ARTS DEPARTMENT



## WORLD LANGUAGES DEPARTMENT



## MATH DEPARTMENT



## RELIGION DEPARTMENT



## SCIENCE DEPARTMENT



Stay tuned! We'll be featuring upcoming spotlights on the following departments:  
AAIMS, Social Studies, and Technology/Business/Physical Education.

# Class of 2025



Caroline Marie Aftanski  
Carly Morgan Apgar  
Emilia Marie Arias  
Corrine Elizabeth Blackburn  
Lucille Claire Bolton  
Madeline Elise Bray  
Jordyn Kristine Brockman  
Josephine Riley Brothers  
Isabella Marie Carota  
Elizabeth Marie Casey  
Rachel Nicole Corcoran  
Wendy Anne Daniels  
Alejandra Elvecia Decima  
Mallory Trace Dendy  
Mckenna Ann Egan  
Elinor Ann Ernst  
Delaney Nicole Evans  
Maggie Bryana Farmer  
Brianna Isabella Farwick  
Julia Fernandez-Bella  
Karol Lizeth Fernandez  
Hailey Marie Finke  
Samantha Lynn Freking  
Megan Louise Gonzalez  
Grace Elizabeth Gulla  
Abigail Victoria Hackman  
Makayla Ellen Hagedorn  
Gabrielle Marie Hayden  
Sasha Ann Holbrook  
Madison Ryan Hunt  
Chloe Elizabeth Hurm  
Kosi Alexis Iloegbunam  
Ella Marie Johnson  
Magdalene Rosemarie Jump  
Ashley Marie Kessans  
Eva Lynn Klein

Maggie Elizabeth Kute  
Maya Christine Lawson  
Sarah Renee Littrell  
Taylor Leigh Maselli  
Keylee Rose McDaniel  
Reece Kelly McMahan  
Mackenzie Caroline McMMain  
Eileen Kennedy Michels  
Isabella Jae Miller  
Addison Elizabeth Millsap  
Stefany Rose Nix  
Ava Rose Oleson  
Lyndsey Anne Payne  
Gabrielle Eliese Pitsic  
Avery Grace Pleiman  
Ainsley Louise Potter  
Maria Ann Rapp  
Reese Emilee Rigsby  
Retal Talal Saadawi  
Claire Lucille Schild  
Macianne Alexis Schlueter  
Olivia Dianne Schmitt  
Katherine Elizabeth Schwalbach  
Chloe Madelyn Shea  
Clare Olivia Slocum  
Jordan Nicole Toebbe  
Allison Torres-Guzman  
Makenzie Rene Unkraut  
Cassidy Grace Ursillo  
Katelyn Andria Ursillo  
Sophia Rose Wash  
Madelyn Grace Welch  
Allison Elizabeth Wells  
Olive Marie Williams  
Olivia Therese Wulfeck

Zachary William Arlinghaus  
Gavin Paul Armbruster  
Samuel Craig Baker  
Carson Riley Baldock  
Nathaniel Leo Bessler  
Paulo Biazzin Villar  
Ryan Charles Bihl  
Jason Grant Bish  
Benjamin Wilson Carter  
William Eamon Carter  
Cody Ray Crowder  
Austin Bryce Danbury  
Cameron Matthew Darnell  
Jesus Zaid Diaz-Hernandez  
Brady Reece Dickman  
Nikolas Árpád Eder  
Braeden Matthew Francis  
Nathan David Francis  
Edward Paul Gruener  
Jacob Thomas Guertin  
Preston Christopher Gumz  
William George Hammond  
Peter Edward Holoher  
John Thomas Houston III  
Brayden Ray Ingram  
Kaleb Michael Janiszewski  
Alexander Wallace Kruer

Joshua Tyler Kruger  
John Domenick Lehmkuhl  
Nicholas Allen Leming  
Adam Joseph Lubert  
Connor Christopher McKinley  
Bryan Patrick Miller  
Caleb Christopher Moher  
Nicholas Patrick Parnitzke  
Catcher Ray Pearce  
Jeffrey Robert Pilcher  
Jackson Thomas Popil  
Jacob Allen Reis  
Samuel Parker Richmond  
Eric William Robinson  
Nicholas Anthony Rodino  
Jack Daniel Runkel  
Patrick Thomas Sedler  
Jack Michael Stich  
Jonah Thomas Tally  
Noah Alexander Thelen  
Jackson David Theus  
Luke Michael Tobler  
Kayden Le Trieu  
Nathan Edward Verkamp  
Kyle Jacob Warner  
Tyler David Williams  
Austin Timothy Wood



*Awarded* **\$13.7 MILLION** in Scholarships

**97%** are attending a 2- or 4-year college

**95%** AP exam pass rate

**2%** are enrolling in a skilled trade program

**1%** are entering the workforce directly

## SCHOLARSHIP ACADEMIC SIGNING

To participate, these students met one or both of the following criteria: The student is accepted to a university with an admissions rate of 50% or less and/or the student earned a merit-based scholarship and/or athletic scholarship worth 50% or more of the listed tuition price (*The total amount of scholarships awarded does not include the KEES scholarship or any other need-based financial assistance.*)

Carly Apgar	University of Alabama	Abigail Hackman	Morehead State University
Samuel Baker	Centre College	Peter Holocher	Thomas More University
Nathaniel Bessler	Thomas More University	Kosi Iloegbunam	University of Louisville
Jason Bish	University of Louisville	Maggie Kute	The University of Tennessee
Corrine Blackburn	West Point	Keylee McDaniel	Franciscan University of
Lucille Bolton	Morehead State University	Steubenville	
Jordyn Brockman	Thomas More University	Connor McKinley	Thomas More University
Josie Brothers	Morehead State University	Stafany Nix	Bowling Green State University
Cody Crowder	Eastern Kentucky University	Catcher Pearce	Miami University (Oxford)
Wendy Daniels	University of Louisville	Gabrielle Pitsic	Transylvania University
Cameron Darnell	University of Dayton	Avery Pleiman	Oregon State University
Alejandra Decima	University of Georgia	Claire Schild	Eastern Kentucky University
Brady Dickman	Thomas More University	Katherine Schwalbach	Xavier University
Nathan Francis	United States Air Force Academy	Clare Slocum	Bellarmine University
Megan Gonzalez	Eastern Kentucky University	Noah Thelen	Xavier University
Grace Gulla	University of Kentucky	Makenzie Unkraut	Ohio University



## ATHLETIC COLLEGE COMMITMENTS

Sam Baker	Centre College	DIVING	Will Hammond	Kentucky Wesleyan College	GOLF
Corrine Blackburn	West Point	VOLLEYBALL	Sara Littrell	Northern Kentucky University	SWIMMING
Jordyn Brockman	Thomas More University	XC & TRACK	Eileen Michels	Thomas More University	SOCCER
Ben Carter	Kentucky Wesleyan	GOLF	Gabrielle Pitsic	Transylvania University	SOCCER
Will Carter	Transylvania University	GOLF	Avery Pleiman	Oregon State University	SOCCER
Lizzie Casey	Northern Kentucky University	TRACK			
Brady Dickman	Thomas More University	LACROSSE			



# Alumni



**Kelly Alcorn Eibel '88** was recognized in April as Boone County Teacher of the Year by the Florence Rotary Club. For winning the award, \$500 is going to the charity of her choice, the Special Olympics of Northern Kentucky. Congratulations Kelly!

**Dawn Bolte '89**, senior director of travel industry sales at Unique Vacations Inc, was honored with the Chairman's Award at the prestigious Sandals Resorts International awards ceremony in January. This award recognizes outstanding leaders in the travel industry. Congratulations Dawn!



**Patrick Fette '04** has claimed the title of 2025 English Style Mustache World Champion! Looking good, Patrick!



**Sean Ryan '20** claimed a first-place victory in the 2025 Flying Pig Marathon with an impressive time of 2:22:41—his debut at the event and the seventh fastest winning time in the race's history.



In recognition of the Independence, Kentucky native's achievement, the city declared May 6 as "Sean Ryan Day," celebrating his inspiring performance and the positive pride he brought to the community. Ryan, a former standout athlete at Lewis University, expressed interest in returning to defend his title next year.

**Griffin Gould '21**, a Mechanical Engineering graduate from the University of Louisville, was honored in May as the "Speed School Outstanding Senior" and chosen as the Commencement Speaker and Valedictorian at his graduation ceremony. Earning Summa Cum Laude honors, he demonstrated outstanding leadership across multiple organizations, including the Student Government Association, Speed School Student Council, Phi Kappa Tau, and Tau Beta Pi, leaving a lasting impact on his university community. Congrats Griffin!



**Noah Francis '22**, co-director of the Thomas More University Compassion Pantry, led a successful donation drive that collected over 200 pairs of shoes for the Emergency Shelter of Northern Kentucky.



His leadership and commitment to serving the community turned the event into the largest donation in the organization's history, providing much needed support to individuals in need. This remarkable achievement highlights Noah's dedication to making a difference and how acts of kindness can bring about meaningful change.



**Annie Beck Kaliin '04** and **Courtney Hentz Cremons '06** recently crossed the finish line of the Boston Marathon in April, marking a significant milestone. Known as the world's oldest annual marathon, this accomplishment serves as an inspiring reminder of the power of determination, dedication and hard work. Congratulations Annie and Courtney!

# Alumni



**Amanda Schlueter '23**, a standout forward for The Ohio State University Women's Soccer team, has achieved remarkable accolades this year. She was named to the All-Big Ten First Team for her exceptional performance on the field, and also earned Academic All-Big Ten Honors for

her excellence in education. Adding to her continued achievements, she received an invitation to the USA U20 Women's National Team, further showcasing her talent and potential at the national level. Congratulations Amanda!



Members of the **1975 St. Henry Cross Country State Championship Team** reunited to celebrate 50 years since their victory! Pictured: **Terry Lunn '76, Joe Lunn '76, Ray Zerhusen '77, Jim Staverman '77, Greg Davis '77, Chuck Robinson '78, Peter Lussi '79, Keith McMMain '79, Coach Bob Murdock, Father Jeff VonLehman and Rita Zerhusen.**

## ALUMNI BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

Thank you to everyone who came out to participate and support the 15th Annual SHDHS Alumni Basketball Tournament! Your enthusiasm and participation are what make this event such a special tradition year after year. We couldn't do it without you!

A very special thank you goes out to Brett Bibbins and Adam Conradi for organizing an incredible tournament! Your dedication and commitment means so much to your fellow alumni and the entire Crusader Community!

We look forward to seeing you at next year's tournament on April 24 & 25, 2026!



## In Memoriam

**William “Bill” Scheben ‘55** passed away in April. He was an all-state basketball player in high school as well as a golfer in college at UC and UK. After college, he served as Lt. Commander in the United States Navy. He was deeply committed to his community, serving on several boards, as well as establishing the Bill and Betsy Sheben Care Center. One of Bill’s proudest accomplishments was the development of the Triple Crown Country Club golf course and surrounding neighborhood. Bill was preceded in death by his beloved wife of 61 years, Betsy. He is survived by their two sons, Lee and Scott.

**Joseph Fugazzi ‘61** passed away in January. He will be lovingly remembered for his kindness, generosity and delicious meals lovingly served and shared with family and friends. He leaves behind his wife of 59 years, **Verna Viotor Fugazzi ‘63**, whom he married at St. Henry Church. Together they raised five children. He also leaves behind many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

**Richard “Dick” Roenker ‘64** passed away in July. He was a dedicated teacher for 34 years and also coached softball, volleyball, and water polo. In his free time, he enjoyed fishing, cheering for UK basketball, and spending time with his beloved grandchildren. Dick was known for his kindness and generosity. He regularly brought his three therapy dogs to visit local hospitals, nursing homes, and the Kenton County Library. He is survived by his wife of 39 years, Pat, as well as three children and six grandchildren.

**Glenn Taylor ‘64** passed away in May, predeceased by his late wife, Maxine, whom he spent many devoted years with. He cherished time with his family creating lasting memories for years to come. One of his favorite pastimes was fishing. His faith and church community was the cornerstone of his life. In his career, he served his community as a firefighter, and worked in HVAC, sheet metal, and fabrication. He leaves behind two daughters, 4 stepchildren, and numerous grandchildren who will miss his presence deeply.

**Donald Buring ‘67** passed away in May after a courageous battle with cancer. He was actively involved in the community and devoted to justice throughout his life. He served as Commonwealth’s Attorney for Kenton County for 16 years, member of Kenton County Jaycees and the local Democratic community. Don also served as Development Director and Treasurer at Covington Catholic High School. He loved playing poker with his St. Henry buddies, golfing

and vacationing with family in Hilton Head. He is survived by his beloved children, Carrie and David and four grandchildren.

**Julianne Glattig Parry ‘74** passed away in February. She was known for her kind and gentle spirit who spent her life nurturing friendships and cherishing the simple joys that made life beautiful. She held a notable career as a clerk tax examiner with the IRS. She had a passion for collecting whimsical trinkets and found joy in reading. Her love for her cat filled her home with warmth and affection. She is survived by her loving husband of 30 years, and son who brought her immense happiness.

**Kimberly Martin Prussia ‘86** passed away in June, after a sudden and brief battle cerebral amyloid angiopathy. Kim was a true competitor, resilient spirit, and devoted advocate. After a life-changing injury at 15, she faced every challenge with courage, earning Paralympic medals as a member of the U.S. Women’s Wheelchair Basketball Team and later mentoring others as a coach and leader. With grace, grit, and unwavering positivity, Kim inspired all who knew her. She leaves behind her husband, Scott and daughter, Abbi.

**Matthew Flaherty ‘95** passed away in May. He served his country by enlisting in the US Navy and served honorably during the Gulf War. He was committed to his community as firefighter for the City of Elsmere and active parishioner of St. Henry Catholic Church. He was a hardworking entrepreneur as the owner and operator of Flaherty Lawn Care. His big heart and outgoing spirit will be missed greatly by his family and two children.

**Gregory Kleiman ‘95** passed away peacefully in April. He was known for bringing joy and kindness into the lives of all who knew him. He cherished time spent with his family, especially trips to Myrtle Beach and moments outdoors. He is survived by his wife, Regina, with whom he shared 23 beautiful years of marriage, and their two daughters, who brought him immense pride and joy.

**Robert Rebitski ‘16** unexpectedly passed away in February of a tragic car accident. He was the owner of Predictable Surgical Tech and a dedicated professional who made a significant impact in his field. His caring personality, love, and laughter touched the lives of everyone who knew him. He will be profoundly missed, but the legacy he leaves behind will forever remain in the hearts of those who were blessed to know him.

# ST. HENRY ALUMNI!

# Stay CRU nconnected

Want to know what your fellow Crusaders have been up to? Join CRUnconnected - our exclusive platform for SHDHS alumni, parents, and friends! Whether you're looking for the latest school news, reconnect with classmates, or grow your Crusader network - CRUnconnected is the place to be!

Visit: [shdhs.org/st-henry-district-high-school-alumni](https://shdhs.org/st-henry-district-high-school-alumni) or scan the QR code to:

- Join the CRUnconnected group
- Update your contact information
- Share exciting news for our next newsletter

We can't wait to hear from you and keep the Crusader connection strong!



COME AS **MANY**, LEAVE AS **ONE**

## UPCOMING 2025 REUNIONS



**CLASS OF  
1975**

*September 27  
2025*

**CLASS OF  
1980**

*Details  
Coming Soon*

**CLASS OF  
1985**

*September 5-6  
2025*

**CLASS OF  
1995**

*September 26  
2025*

**CLASS OF  
2000**

*September 27  
2025*

**CLASS OF  
2005**

*October 3  
2025*

**CLASS OF  
2020**

*Details  
Coming Soon*

COME AS **MANY**, LEAVE AS **ONE**



# St. Henry District High School

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