

CONNECTIONS

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS



This past August, Father McGivney Catholic High School (FMCHS) marked its 10th Anniversary with a special Mass celebrated by Bishop Thomas John Paprocki and a social gathering with our Griffin Community, which included students, staff, families, supporters, and friends.



Our school was founded by a group of dedicated parents, grandparents, pastors and other faithful volunteers who began working on the “dream” of a school in 2005. In the fall of 2012, FMCHS opened its doors to a group of 19 students in a wing of St. John Neumann School before opening its own building three years later. This year, we welcomed 90 freshmen, our largest freshmen class yet, bringing our total enrollment to 300 students!

President of Father McGivney Catholic High School, Very Reverend Jeffrey H Goeckner VF, explains, “After many challenges, sacrifices, and much prayer, Father McGivney Catholic High School was the first new high school to open in the Diocese of Springfield in over 80 years. To date, FMCHS has successfully educated and faithfully formed over 400 students while promoting a culture of life. I believe this school is truly a miracle.”

Father McGivney Catholic High School is the only school in the United States named after Father Michael J.

McGivney. In choosing a name for the local Catholic high school, the founders wanted to



honor a person who was committed to the same values they hoped to instill in its future graduates. The search for a person who dedicated his life to service, family, and youth led them to an American parish priest, Father McGivney, who is also the founder of the Knights of Columbus. The pillars of this organization are very important to our school. Principal Joseph Lombardi, explains, “Their pillars of Unity, Charity, Fraternity, and Patriotism are the foundation of Father McGivney Catholic High School’s mission. We are very proud of what our school has accomplished, and we can’t wait to see where we are in another 10 years.” Ten years ago, we had a bold vision for a new Catholic high school with a state-of-the-art campus rich in academics, athletics, the arts, and most importantly, rich in our Catholic faith. We made the vision a reality, and we are here!

The top 30% of our students average 30 on the ACT; the overall average ACT score is 24 compared to the national average of 20.2. Additionally, the Class of 2022 had \$240,000 in scholarships offered per student. The reputation of FMCHS is growing not just locally but throughout the Dioceses of Springfield and Belleville. Families from our feeder schools and beyond want their children here at FMCHS, and 90% of our student population is Catholic.

However, our vision and mission continues. Looking to the future growth of FMCHS, we are focusing on the need for expansion. *Check out our plans for Expanding for Our Future inside.*



CALLED TO SERVE



At Father McGivney Catholic High School, we just don't learn about our faith; we live it. The motto of Father McGivney Catholic High School is "Serving the Culture of Life." Service to parishes, community, country, and the world are important, and service is a required part of every student's education.

School-wide service days are a hallmark of our Griffin community. In October, each community headed to four area parks to complete a variety of projects ranging from groundskeeping and painting to planting trees and mulching. Parks serviced included Drda Woods, Schon Park, Watershed Nature Preserve, and Silver Lake Park.

In February, all 12 Houses went out into the community to serve. Students made beds with Sleep in Heavenly Peace, prepared the trees and decorations for the Annual Festival of Trees benefitting Kellsie's Hope, and made blankets for A Beacon of Light. Students also visited with residents at Addington Place, helped with cleaning at the Edwardsville Fire Department, and dropped in at our local feeder schools and parishes to offer a hand. These experiences helped our students model the teachings of Jesus Christ as they serve in the community.

Do you know how many hours our students gave in service last year?

6,700
HOURS

Griffins Give Back

CANSGIVING



The National Honors Society (NHS) organized each McGivney House to host an all-school food drive. Students collected enough food so 12 families in neighboring communities could have a full Thanksgiving dinner.

CHANGE A CHILD'S CHRISTMAS



NHS, in conjunction with the Children's Home and Aid Society, raised funds for Change a Child's Christmas. Each House in the school generously donated gifts, home goods, clothing, and money to make dreams come true on Christmas for 12 families in our community.

DRESS DOWN DAYS FOR CHARITY



Six times a year, students are invited to "Dress Down" for a donation. Students enjoy being out of uniform, and all proceeds benefit a charitable cause. More than \$5,600 has already been donated to charities this year, and we still have 2 Dress Down days to go!

SPRING MISSION TRIP: *THE HANDS OF CHRIST*

Over the last five years, students have had the opportunity to participate in summer mission camps. In 2022, a group of 60 students and parents spent a week in Louisiana. This year, a group of eight students went on a mission trip during Spring Break, instead. Under the leadership of *Catholic Mission Trips, Inc.*, the mission team traveled to Mercedes, TX.

The team consisted of eight students and three chaperones: seniors, Riley Strack and Madeline Burnett; juniors, Katie Greer, Anna and Ethan Henke, Olivia Klusas, Colin Moore, and Dominic Zamarione; and chaperones Beth Klusas, Jen Moore, and Craig Brummer. For six of the students, this was their third mission.

Hard work (like replacing a roof in the Texas sun) can provide a unique opportunity to grow in virtue, especially humility and generosity. When done as a team, it also offers a chance to develop deep relationships. One student said, "I think our passion for the project and strong desire to do God's will really brought us together." Another student added, "After a week of working side by...I can say that I have gotten to know every member of the group in a way that would not have otherwise been possible."

For most young people, the question, "*What do I do with my life?*" is a difficult one. One senior said, "I



gained a deeper understanding of what God wants me to do in life and how to use the skills he has blessed me with." Watching this young man grow has been a testament to the way mission work can mold people, especially teenagers.

For parents and students alike, the week provides ample opportunities to learn, reflect, and pray, all within a community working toward a common goal. Because these missions generally involve home repair projects, it can be a temptation to let the work become the goal. While he was pope, Saint John Paul II said, "Work is for man, not man for work."

One unique aspect to this year's mission was returning to school together the following week. On summer trips, the group generally disperses. This time, all of the students got to see each other a few days later. Most weeks, they meet for breakfast. The lessons from the mission get stronger every time they are together.

McGivney's House Model



FMCHS is organized into 12 Houses made up of a cross-section of students from each grade. They come together to form one faith-sharing community. Each House in turn belongs to one of four larger communities. This model allows for friendly competition, as well as the opportunity for mentoring one another in an environment that breaks down barriers between cliques and stereotypes - *building the McGivney Family.*

GRIFFINS FOR LIFE



More than 30 students and chaperones from FMCHS attended the Springfield March for Life on March 21st. Students attended Mass together and walked to the Capitol with other students from around the Springfield Diocese.



ANNUAL APPEAL



FUND A GRIFFIN!

Father McGivney Catholic High School (FMCHS) upholds a proud tradition of providing a quality and affordable Catholic education to area students. Since 2012, we have grown from 19 students to 300+ students. About 43% of these students have received financial assistance this year.

Annually, the *Fund a Griffin* Annual Appeal raises over \$75,000 to support operations and provide

tuition assistance for FMCHS students. We depend on our donors and friends of McGivney for the success of this campaign. *Would you consider answering the call to Fund a Griffin?* One-time gifts are always welcome. If you are called to give more, consider a monthly recurring gift. Go to McGivneyGriffins.com/Annual-Appeal to make your gift online or mail in the enclosed.

Thank you for your support!

BY THE NUMBERS - 2022-2023

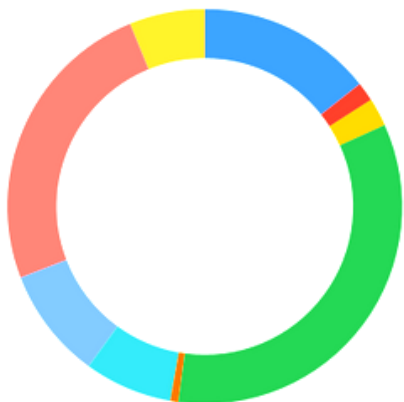
Tuition per Student:	\$7,800
**Avg. Cost to Educate:	\$9,900
Enrollment:	302
*Average Tuition Assistance:	\$1,400

**Whether it is need-based financial aid, multi-student discounts, or Diocesan employee discounts, we strive to meet families where they are and help them attain a Catholic education at FMCHS.*

***Average cost to educate shown is an eight year average.*



SUMMARY OF YEAR-TO-DATE FUNDRAISING EFFORTS



TOTAL RAISED YEAR-TO-DATE*: \$461,435
2022-2023 FUNDRAISING GOAL: \$500,000

*Fundraising amounts presented are based on the FY23, which runs July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023.

SPONSORSHIPS	\$66,350
TAILGATE TRIVIA	\$7,286
GOLF CLASSIC	\$10,632
GUARDIANS GUILD*	\$155,950
<small>*\$103,550 Empower Illinois Gifts</small>	
ORNAMENT SALES	\$2,940
MEGA RAFFLE	\$33,362
EPIPHANY SCHOLARSHIPS*	\$42,155
<small>*\$2,500 Empower Illinois Gifts</small>	
GRIFFIN GALA	\$114,173
ANNUAL APPEAL	\$28,587

Your Gift Makes a Difference

FMCHS depends on our annual fundraisers to generate \$500,000. This is the amount needed to close the gap between the amount of tuition paid and the actual cost to educate students while also providing financial assistance. *Your gift truly helps Fund a Griffin! Thank you!*



STUDENT SUCCESS



ISAC
Illinois Student Assistance Commission

Illinois State Scholar Program

ACT SCORES

FMCHS AVERAGES

26.5

Avg of Top 30%
of the Class of '22

22.3

Avg Current Seniors
and graduates

20.6

National
Average

\$62 million

Scholarship offerings to the first seven
graduating classes (260 graduates).

\$238,000

Average scholarship award per graduate
for the first seven graduating classes.

\$235,000

Average Scholarship award
per 2022 graduate (48 students).

FMCHS has 16 students from the Class of 2023 that have been recognized as Illinois State Scholars. This award is given annually to those high school seniors ranked in the top 10% of the state. Selection is based on a combination of ACT or SAT scores and class rank at the end of junior year. McGivney recipients are: Madeline Burkart, Keira Cope, Michael Cummins, Mallori Dempsey, Caroline Foppe, Tanner Garner, Daniel Gierer, Jacob Huber, Amelia Hylla, Lauren Jones, Mae Klusas, Jackson Rodgers, Abigail Root, Evan Schrage, Claire Stanhaus, and Sophia Tutt.

REDUCE YOUR TAXES & HELP FMCHS

Making a gift through Empower Illinois and the Invest in Kids Tax Credit program is a great way to reduce your tax liability while benefiting FMCHS students in the form of scholarship funds for eligible students.

If you have a source of taxable income from the state of Illinois, then this program could reduce that tax bill to zero, and you would be helping a family who otherwise might not be able to enjoy a Father McGivney experience. *There is no minimum amount in order to take advantage of the credit.*

Who can benefit from the tax credit? Almost anyone who earns any income in Illinois has a tax liability, including:

- Individuals who have taxes withheld from paychecks and normally get a refund when they file their Illinois return, because they've overpaid their tax liability. You could potentially increase your refund by reducing your tax liability with a tax credit.

- Individuals who have taxes withheld from paychecks and normally write a check to pay even more taxes when they file their Illinois return. You can reduce the additional amount you owe, by reducing your tax liability with a tax credit.

Who benefits from the scholarships? Students with verified financial need. Last year, 34 students at FMCHS benefitted from scholarships through Empower Illinois.

If you would like to find out how to maximize your philanthropic gift and minimize your tax bill, contact us at your earliest convenience and we can talk through the process or go to McGivneyGriffins.com/invest-in-kids-act for more resources.





CAMPAIGN UPDATE

\$3.25 MIL
\$3.0 MIL
\$2.75 MIL
\$2.5 MIL
\$2.25 MIL
\$2.0 MIL
\$1.75 MIL
\$1.5 MIL
\$1.25 MIL
\$1 MIL
\$750 K
\$500K



EXPANDING FOR OUR FUTURE *Celebrating 10 years and Beyond*

In November, we launched a capital campaign to fund construction of *The Commons*. We have raised \$2.6 million of the \$3.2 million needed to complete the project. We have \$572,245 left to raise so we can provide this needed space for our growing student body.

PLEDGE YOUR SUPPORT.



GO TO MCGIVNEYGRIFFINS.COM/EXPANDING-FOR-OUR-FUTURE.



The new Commons building will provide a new location for daily lunch, all-school Mass, and fine arts performances. The addition of the Commons would allow for existing space to be converted to needed classrooms & offices.

THANK YOU TO OUR CAMPAIGN DONORS

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Maryann Allred
Anonymous
The Arvola Family
Ladimir & Shirley Aubrecht
Mr. & Mrs. Julius Balsai
Joachim & Anida Bauer
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Shirley & William Lanhan
Ken & Nicole Lanter
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Al & Bobbie Lewis ~ *In Honor of Nick (2019) & Nate (2024) MacLaughlin*
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Robert & Kathy Lombardi
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Tim & Bobbie Madura
Joe & Sharon Mangiaracino
Rod & Laura May

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James & Mary Lou Meridith
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Campaign Donor list reflects all donor pledges received by March 30, 2023.



With 14 IHSA sports and more than 25 different clubs, students are able to find their niche at FMCHS to flourish and grow.

Fall Sports Round-up: Our student athletes and teams had a lot to celebrate this fall with Metro Conference Champion titles in Girls Volleyball, Girls Cross Country, Boys Cross Country, and Girls Tennis. The Girls and Boys Cross Country teams qualified and competed at the IHSA State Competition. The Girls Tennis team competed at regionals and sectionals. The Griffin doubles team, Kennedy Taylor and Natalie Beck, advanced to State. The Boys and Girls Golf teams finished their seasons qualifying for sectionals. Sarah Hyten was the first Griffin to win a regional golf title. Hyten ended the season competing at State with a 13th place finish. Boys Soccer capped off their 15-8-2 season earning the title of Regional Champion.

Winter Sports Round-up: The Cheer Team and Pep Band kept the crowds on their feet during the busy basketball season. Girls Basketball had a fantastic season with a record of 29-4. The Boys Basketball team had their first winning season in school history with a 16-15 record. Ethan Henke (Class of 2024) represented McGivney Swim with an 8th overall finish in the 50 and 100 free events at sectionals.

Fine Arts: Six McGivney students auditioned and were selected to participate in the Illinois Music Education Association (ILMEA) District Music Festival. The choir earned a First Place at the IHSA Solo & Ensemble

Competition with several individual first place finishes. Recently, the McGivney Choir had the honor of performing at the Old Cathedral in St. Louis. On the stage, the Drama Club presented riveting productions of *The Lottery* and *12 Angry Men* in the fall. This spring, they danced their way to sell out crowds with the musical *Meet Me in St. Louis*.

Brains over Brawn: The McGivney Scholar Bowl team was crowned Catholic School Champion. The FMCHS 16-person Math Team competed in the Southwest Math Conference this fall. The team took third place overall with several individual first, second, and third place finishes. Newton's Finest and Team (L)lama, consisting of 8 seniors, competed in the 16th Annual Trebuchet Contest. Newton's Finest won third place in journals and overall.

Signing Day! McGivney was excited to have our first athletes signed to Division 1 schools. Gabe Smith will pitch for Ole Miss, and Jackson Rodgers will be pitching at Western Illinois University. Adelyn Speight signed to play soccer at University of North Alabama.

The Spring sports season should not disappoint. Track and Field team has their eye set on another State finish this year, and the Griffin Baseball team just returned from Memphis bearing the title of Perfect Game Mid-South High School Showdown Champions. The Girls Softball and Boys Volleyball teams had their first-ever varsity conference wins, and the Girls Soccer team is off to a solid start! *It's great to be a Griffin!*



For more information, call (618)-855-9010 or visit our website at **McGivneyGriffins.com**.

MOVING? LET US KNOW!

Please remember to email the Development Office at development@mcgivneygriffins.com to update our records with your new address.

FATHER MCGIVNEY CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Connecting Griffin Donors, Alumni & Supporters

APRIL 2023

CONNECTIONS



See what's happening at McGivney, and find out how you can *Fund a Griffin!*

IT'S GREAT TO BE A GRIFFIN!