

The Tradition

September 2011

Family, Faith, For You...For Life!

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Welcome Back for the 2011-2012 School Year!

We at Saint Albert are excited to start another successful school year with our students. It's a great time to be a Falcon and Sainte! Our students are among the brightest in Southwest Iowa and benefit from being part of a dynamic, faith-filled community where the love of learning and strong spirituality extends beyond the classroom to extracurricular activities, community service, and athletics.

First, I want to thank the Saint Albert community for its warm welcome regarding my appointment as President of Saint Albert Catholic Schools. As an alumnus, past parent, past employee and supporter of the school, I embrace the family and faith-focused environment and look forward to serving the school, the students, and the Catholic community. I know difficult decisions and challenges lay ahead, and I assure you that I will always act in the best interest of the school and our supporting parishes.

With the 2011-2012 school year underway, our dedicated faculty, staff, and students begin another rigorous academic year. Saint Albert not only



instills religious and family values in its students, but also helps them grow spiritually, intellectually, and physically. Saint Albert continues to provide an outstanding college preparatory education that helps its students succeed in college and in their careers. Traditionally, Saint Albert boasts a 99% graduation rate with 96% of students pursuing higher education.

We are excited to begin this new school year together and look forward to the new accomplishments, challenges, and changes that the 2011-2012 year brings.

Strong Spirituality at Saint Albert Catholic School

Saint Albert Catholic School exists to teach the traditions and doctrines of the Catholic Church to its students and to embody the Gospel message of Jesus Christ. Saint Albert nurtures its students' faith and spirituality by integrating gospel values, daily prayer, and Christian principles into the curriculum.

Students also learn the ministries of Mass and may participate in Mass as lectors, Eucharistic ministers, altar servers, and Campus ministers. Saint Albert truly helps its students build a foundation of faith.

Saint Albert also offers religious celebrations that are open to all. Saint Albert offers Eucharistic Adoration in the Elementary Chapel on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month from 10:30 am to 3 pm. All are welcome.

The praying of the Rosary also takes place every

Friday at 8:15 am in the Elementary Chapel. All are also welcome to attend weekly masses in elementary gym at 8:45 am on Fridays or in the high school auditorium at 8:05 am on Thursdays.

First Friday Mass will also take place the first Friday of every month during the Elementary Mass. This Mass will commemorate loved ones who have passed away. At the Mass, special prayers will be said for the happy repose of the souls who have gone before us. A small reception will follow the Mass.

Saint Albert continues the tradition of strong spirituality and invites its students, families, and the community to participate in these faith-filled opportunities.



Installation and Blessing of President Joseph Connolly ('75)

On August 25th, the Most Reverend Bishop Pates blessed and installed Joseph Connolly (Class of 1975) as the president of Saint Albert Catholic School. The celebration occurred during the first all-school mass of the 2011-2012 school year. A reception hosted by the SA Ambassadors followed.

Friends, family, and the Saint Albert community joined the Bishop in welcoming President Connolly. In his blessing, Bishop Pates encouraged Connolly to embrace the family and faith focused environment and commended Connolly's dedication and love of the school.



“Joe Connolly brings the best of both worlds to the Saint Albert community,” said Bishop Pates. “As a graduate, a parent and a longtime supporter of Saint Albert Catholic School, he has a good understanding of the community. As a long-term executive at a premier financial institution, he has not only a solid grasp of the financial issues but strong leadership abilities that will enhance the school system.”

At his installation, Connolly addressed the past, present, and future challenges of Saint Albert as an organization and as a community.

“Saint Albert has a rich heritage and rich traditions – but there is something more than that – there is a closeness that develops in this community that is hard to describe,” Connolly said. “One of my jobs as president is to ensure these traditions continue.”

As the newly instated president, Connolly also spoke of the talented past presidents and of their leadership and devotion to Saint Albert. To further honor and recognize these former Saint Albert leaders, Connolly announced his wife Cindy and he will establish the first ever Saint Albert Presidential Scholarship through the Saint Albert Educational Foundation. The scholarship will start with a \$5,000 gift, and the Connollys will be looking for the help of friends to grow it through other donations. The scholarship will be a competitive scholarship awarded to students based upon their leadership abilities and potential.

In addition to the Presidential Scholarship, Connolly discussed exciting events and plans for the school's future. Saint Albert will soon embark upon a visioning project to give Saint Albert, as an institution, the opportunity to listen to the community and create the school the Catholic community wants. The process involves focus groups made up of diverse individuals of different ages, genders, professions, and backgrounds from the Saint Albert and greater Council Bluffs community to offer their experiences, concerns, and input about our school. The focus groups' feedback will help Saint Albert create a coherent, consistent vision for the future that meets the needs of its students, staff, and greater community.

As president, Connolly looks to build a foundation for the future and looks forward to serving the school, the students, and the Catholic community.

“Saint Albert is most fortunate to have Joe Connolly as its president,” said Bishop Pates.

Sr High: Saint Albert Implements Big Brother/Big Sister Program

For the 2011-2012 school year, Saint Albert Catholic School created a nurturing mentoring and leadership program called the Saint Albert Big Brother/Big Sister Program.

For this program, the current Saint Albert 8th grade students are matched with a current junior, who will act as their Big Brother/Big Sister, when the 8th graders enter into their freshman year of high school and throughout their high school career. This new mentoring and leadership program adds another level of excitement for

incoming freshman as they embark on their high school college preparatory curriculum.

The Big Brother/Big Sister will be available to answer any questions, make recommendations, and offer support and Christian fellowship to their mentees. Furthermore, the Big Brother/Big Sister will sharpen the upperclassmen's leadership and mentoring skills with this interactive opportunity and put into practice Catholic principles during this outstanding program.

Saint Albert Catholic School is

dedicated to building future strong, intelligent leaders. This program will act as a catalyst in the intellectual, spiritual, and moral growth of Saint Albert students.

Please join us in prayer for these young men and women during this very important transition in their lives. And may God continue to bless all those involved in the furthering of the mission of the Saint Albert Catholic School.

Elementary: Opening of an Additional Pre-Kindergarten Section

Saint Albert Catholic School opened an additional third section for its Pre-kindergarten 4-year-old program for the 2011-2012 school year.

The program features a five day, all-day, preschool program that prepares students for a life of learning. Our caring faculty and staff work together to create a personal, supportive atmosphere where all students can achieve their full potential.

The preschool program is located in the new addition of the elementary school and utilizes the state-of-the-art technology,

full-service kitchen, and renovated gymnasium. Saint Albert preschoolers also enjoy the age-appropriate playground equipment, sandbox, and tricycle track located on the school's campus.

For the curriculum, the faculty and staff offer a faith-based program that helps children develop interpersonal and social skills through interactions with their teacher and classmates. Students learn in a creative, disciplined atmosphere with the support and encouragement of their teacher.

The cost of the pre-kindergarten program is \$355/month and includes snacks and lunch.

With its disciplined atmosphere and caring staff, the pre-kindergarten program is extremely successful. Due to demand, the pre-kindergarten program opened an additional third section for the 2011-2012 school year. It currently has 65 students enrolled in the program compared to 48 students enrolled for the 2010-11 year.

Increased Enrollment for the 2011-2012 School Year

A key priority of Saint Albert Catholic School is to increase its system-wide enrollment. To recruit new students for the 2011-2012 school year, Saint Albert and the Enrollment Committee hosted numerous open houses, invited interested students to attend Shadow Days, and created a \$500 referral bonus to apply to the tuition bills of current Saint Albert families who refer new families to Saint Albert.

The enrollment efforts are paying off too! For the 2011-2012 school year, Saint Albert has increased enrollment to 778 students, pre-kindergarten to 12th grade, compared to 768 students system-wide for the 2010-2011 school year.

There has never been a more exciting time to attend Saint Albert! In 2009, we built a new, state-of-the-art elementary school and Sheryl K. Johnson Childcare Center. The elementary classrooms include wireless laptop labs, "Smart Boards" interactive learning systems, LCD televisions, ELMO systems and laptop computers for each teacher. These new additions allow Saint Albert to offer an exceptional education from cradle to college all on one campus!

Remember, if you refer a new family, you can earn a \$500 tuition credit! For the \$500 referral bonus, the new family must list your name as a referral on their enrollment agreement. Then the Business Office will take \$500 off your tuition bill. It's a "win-win-win" situation. The new family enrolls in an excellent school system, Saint Albert gets more students, and you save a bundle on your tuition -- what could be better than that?

We appreciate the efforts and support from our parents as we continue to increase enrollment. Please invite prospective families to any of the enrollment events listed on our website or contact Abby Jares at (712) 329-9000, Ext 5 or jaresa@saintalbertschools.org. Thanks again for your efforts and support!





There has never been a more exciting time to attend Saint Albert Catholic School! In 2009, Saint Albert built a brand new, state-of-the-art elementary school and early childhood care center. The Sheryl K. Johnson Childcare Center is 6,000 square feet, and the elementary school addition adds another 30,000 square feet and includes 10 classrooms, a gymnasium, and a multi-purpose room. These additions allow Saint Albert to provide an excellent faith-based education from cradle to college all on one campus.

The new additions have not only created extra space but they are also equipped with state-of-the-art technology. The elementary classrooms include wireless laptop labs, “Smart Boards” interactive learning systems, LCD televisions, ELMO systems and laptop computers for each teacher. Saint Albert’s elite learning environment is unrivaled in the Council Bluffs area and allows the school to continue its tradition of academic excellence by providing a high quality, technologically advanced education to its students.

The new addition of the Sheryl K. Johnson Childcare Center also allows Saint Albert to serve a new age-group of students: 6 weeks to 4 years old. The center is opened all year round, 6 am to 6 pm Monday through Friday.

The childcare center cultivates a child’s spiritual and developmental growth. Its curriculum offers a faith-based program that includes daily prayer and Bible activities in a supportive and nurturing environment. The childcare center also provides a rich assortment of multi-dimensional materials; guides children towards self-discipline; develops a child’s interpersonal and social skills through constant interaction with classmates and

teachers; and offers age-appropriate outdoor playground equipment and play area.

Our students are among the brightest in Southwest Iowa and benefit from being part of a dynamic, faith-filled community where the love of learning and strong spirituality extends beyond the classroom to extracurricular activities, community service, and athletics.

Academic Excellence: Small class sizes and challenging college preparatory curriculum help Saint Albert students consistently score higher on standardized tests, including ITBS, ITEDS, and ACT, than their public school peers and prepare them for successful college and professional careers.

Strong Spirituality: We nurture students’ faith and spirituality by integrating gospel values into the curriculum, adhering to the Christian principles of love and respect in the classroom, and teaching the ministries of Mass.

Commitment to Community: By offering active campus ministry programs, we raise students’ awareness of service opportunities in their community and encourage them to volunteer in Council Bluffs, Southwest Iowa, their parishes, and their local communities.

Involvement in Extracurricular and Enrichment Programs: With over 25 award-winning extracurricular clubs, activities, and teams, Saint Albert strives to engage students in heart, mind, and body.

Traditionally, Saint Albert boasts a 99% graduation rate with 96% of students pursuing higher education. The Class of 2011 earned approximately \$300,000 in college scholarships. Saint Albert continues to provide an outstanding college preparatory education that helps its students succeed in college and in their careers.

Saint Albert Embarks Upon a Prolific Visioning Project

On August 17th, students ranging from 3 years-old to 12th grade walked through the front doors of Saint Albert for their first day of the 2011-2012 school year.

In addition to beginning a new academic year, Saint Albert Catholic School will also embark upon another new journey: a visioning process. The purpose of this visioning process is to give Saint Albert an opportunity to listen to the community and create the school they want. The process will ask diverse individuals of different ages, genders, professions, and backgrounds from the Saint Albert and greater Council Bluffs community to participate in focus groups and offer their experiences, concerns, and input about our school. The focus groups' feedback will help shape a successful vision for the school and its students.

Saint Albert will invite various individuals to participate in these focus groups. The visioning process includes over 30 focus groups, and these groups will include students, parents, alumni, former faculty, donors, volunteers, local business-owners, and more. The focus groups will remain anonymous and consist of seven to ten members. Each focus group will participate in a one-time 90 minute round-table discussion that will address different opportunities, concerns, and aspirations for Saint Albert.

Jeff Johnson, current president and CEO of the Iowa State Alumni Association, will assist Saint Albert with its visioning process by serving as an experienced consultant for the process and as a facilitator for the focus groups. With a master's degree in higher education administration, a doctorate in higher education administration in progress, and 28 years experience in higher education, Jeff Johnson brings relevant and qualified knowledge to this process to ensure its success. Additionally, Jeff has also acted as a visioning process consultant for numerous clients, including Dowling Catholic High School in West Des Moines and Xavier High School in Cedar Rapids.

Inspired by the success of Dowling and Xavier's visioning processes, Saint Albert is excited to begin this prolific and positive journey with Jeff, the Saint Albert family, and the greater Council Bluffs community. By participating in this process, Saint Albert will create a coherent, consistent vision for the future that meets the needs of our students, staff, and greater community. As an integral part of the Catholic and Council Bluffs community, Saint Albert strives to positively impact itself and the surrounding areas by partaking in this profound and thorough visioning process.

Giving To Saint Albert Catholic School

Saint Albert Catholic School is very fortunate to have tremendous financial support from our parents, alumni, parishes, and the community. This support greatly enhances our ability to offer our students excellent academic programs, strong spiritual opportunities, and engaging enrichment and extracurricular activities.

If you are considering giving to Saint Albert, please remember that your gift goes to a wonderful cause: our mission of fostering spiritual, moral, intellectual and physical growth for students. We are grateful to our donors who have invested in the education and future of our students. If you are thinking of giving to Saint Albert, please review some available giving options below.

1. The Capital Campaign — Join the 300 Club!

Help Saint Albert complete its capital campaign for the new elementary school by becoming a member of the 300 Club. The Club is a group of Saint Albert supporters who are committed to continuing the tradition of academic excellence at the school. It's called the 300 Club because we need 300 members to meet our goal.

For more information, please contact Abby Jares at (712) 329-9000, Ext. 5

2. Catholic Tuition Organization Donation — Help Make Catholic Tuition Affordable!

Help provide low income families with the opportunity to give their children a Catholic education by giving a financial contribution to the Catholic Tuition Organization. You'll also receive a tax credit on both your Iowa and federal taxes.

For more information, please visit https://www.ctodsmdiocese.org/online_donation.html

3. Scholarships and Tuition Assistance

Each year, more than 30 percent of the families at Saint Albert receive assistance in the form of family grants, student scholarships, and work study programs. With your support, we can strengthen our student scholarships and tuition assistance to ensure that a Saint Albert education is accessible to any student who desires it, regardless of their financial resources.

For more information, please contact Cathy Faurot at (712) 329-9000, Ext. 2

4. Bequests — Remember Saint Albert Schools In Your Will

Here is a sample bequest wording for your will (Please share with your attorney):

"I, [your name] or [city, state, zip] give and bequeath to the Saint Albert Catholic School Foundation, whose legal address is 400 Gleason Avenue, Council Bluffs, Iowa 51503, the rest, residue, and remainder of my estate (or a specific percentage); or the sum of ___ dollars; or the following described property: _____ to support the mission of Saint Albert Catholic School.

5. Corporate Matches

Check with your company to see if it sponsors a matching gifts program. A matching gifts program is a company-sponsored benefit that doubles or even triples an employee's gift to the school by matching his or her contribution.

For a list of companies in our area that offer matching gifts programs, please visit our website at www.saintalbertschools.org and click on the "Giving to Saint Albert" tab.



Saint Albert Catholic Schools

SA BACKERS

A 2011-2012 SA Backers membership includes:
(varies according to membership level)

Legacy Level — \$5,000

- One family pass and three guest passes to all fine arts productions and sporting events (PAL and Jr/Sr High School)
- \$500 scholarship in member's name
- Admission to tailgate parties before certain extracurricular events
- Recognition in all theater and sports programs
- Preferred parking for two vehicles for all home sporting events
- Ad signage on the Saint Albert field/court of your choice

Platinum Level — \$2,500

- One family pass and three guest passes to all fine arts productions and sporting events (PAL and Jr/Sr High School)
- \$250 scholarship in member's name
- Admission to tailgate parties before certain extracurricular events
- Recognition in all theater and sports programs
- Preferred parking for one vehicle for all home sporting events
- Ad signage on the football, baseball or softball field

Diamond Level — \$1,000

- One family pass and two guest passes to all fine arts productions and sporting events (PAL and Jr/Sr High School)
- \$100 in SA Bucks, redeemable for concession stand

food or Spirit Store apparel

- Admission to tailgate parties before certain extracurricular events
- Recognition in all theater and sports programs
- 1/4 page ad in all sports programs

Gold Level — \$500

- One family pass and one guest pass to all fine arts productions and sporting events (PAL and Jr/Sr High School)
- \$50 in SA Bucks, redeemable for concession stand food or Spirit Store apparel
- Admission to tailgate parties before certain extracurricular events
- Recognition in all theater and sports programs
- Business card ad in all sports programs

Green Level — \$200

- One family pass to all fine arts productions and sporting events (PAL and Jr/Sr High School)
- \$20 in SA Bucks, redeemable for concession stand food or Spirit Store apparel
- Admission to tailgate parties before certain extracurricular events
- Recognition in all theater and sports programs

Rookie Club — \$25

- Open to Saint Albert alumni who graduated from 2005 to 2011
- One individual pass to all fine arts productions and sporting events (PAL and Jr/Sr High School)



Saint Albert Catholic School

SA BACKERS

Support Saint Albert extracurricular activities and academic enrichment programs by becoming a member of the SA Backers!

Please select membership level:

- Legacy Level — \$5,000
 - Platinum Level — \$2,500
 - Diamond Level — \$1,000
 - Gold Level — \$500
 - Green Level — \$200
 - Rookie Club — \$25
- Class of _____

Please complete the following information:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Please select payment method:

- Cash
- Check
- Credit Card (MasterCard or Visa)

Email: _____

If paying by credit card:

Amount:

Card Number:

Expiration Date:

Signature:

AWARD WINNING PROGRAMS

Saint Albert boasts state



- Band
- Baseball
- Basketball
- Choir
- Cross Country
- Dance
- Football
- One-Act plays
- Soccer
- Speech

Please send form and payment to:

Saint Albert Catholic Schools
SA Backers
400 Gleason Ave
Council Bluffs, IA 51503

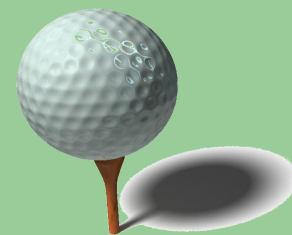
*****Please allow for one week after you purchase your SA Backers membership to receive it by mail.**

SEPTEMBER 25: 16th ANNUAL ALUMNI GOLF TOURNAMENT

The 16th annual Alumni and Friends Golf Tournament will be held Sunday, September 25 at 1 pm at the Council Bluffs Country Club. The cost is \$70/player and includes a brat and burger lunch which will be served prior to the tournament!

Congratulations to Nate Kirkman, Trent Tiessen, Tucker Evers, and Drew Evers who walked away with the title of the 2010 Saint Albert Alumni and Friends Golf Tournament Champions! Who will claim the title this year?

To sign your team up, please contact Charlie Narmi at charles.m.narmi@mssb.com



Join us on September 25th for golf, friends, food, and FUN!



Nate Kirkman, Trent Tiessen, Tucker Evers, and Drew Evers



John Larchick ('79)

Be a fan on Saint Albert Sports Fan: www.stalbertsportsfan.com

Saint Albert Sports Fan is a website with all the latest Saint Albert sports news, schedules, game videos, live broadcasts, and photos. Managed by Saint Albert alums Owen Burgin ('76) and Charlie Narmi ('97), Saint Albert Sports Fan provides a weekly schedule of all

Saint Albert sporting events along with many other interesting and fun features.

Sports Fan includes a daily poll asking questions, ranging from game predictions to past sports championship teams to favorite Saint Albert mo-

ments. It also has video and audio archives so you can watch and listen to games you missed and/or want to relive! Sports Fan also has announcers who broadcast live during sporting events. For all things Saint Albert sports, visit Sports Fan at www.stalbertsportsfan.com.

Visit St. Albert Sports Fan for all the latest and greatest in Saint Albert sports!

ENGAGEMENTS

Brandon Fischer ('05) announced his engagement to Megan Staley. They are planning a wedding for September 2011.

Katie Jares ('03) announced her engagement to Chris Hail. They are planning a wedding for June 2011 in Grinnell, Iowa.

Jill Gantt ('05) announced her engagement to Mike Duncan. They are planning a wedding for October 2012 in Council Bluffs, IA.

Kyla Kenkel ('05) announced her engagement to Eric Shea ('04). They are planning a wedding for October 2011 in Council Bluffs, IA.

Megan Conlon ('06) announced her engagement to Clayton Larmie. They are planning a wedding for November 2011 in Council Bluffs, IA.

Danielle Wickersham ('03) announced her engagement to Zach Stachon.

Marty Hughes ('97) announced his engagement to Gwen Allen. They are planning a wedding for September 2011.

Ashley Peterson ('05) announced her engagement to Tom Cornell.

WEDDINGS

Nathan Fischer ('03) married Nikki Bradfield on July 9, 2011 in Wichita, KS. They are currently living in Wichita.

Jeff Gorman ('05) married Stephanie Dadura in May 2011 in Council Bluffs, IA. They are currently living in Council Bluffs.

Aileen Mooney ('06) married Jake Gorman on July 30, 2011 at St. Patrick's in Council Bluffs.

Brent Lorkovic ('02) married Gina Assmann ('06) on July 23, 2011 at Queen of Apostles Church. They are currently living in New York.

Tony Leick ('99) married Jane Jorgenson on July 15, 2011 in Council Bluffs, IA.

BIRTHS

Melissa (Respeliers) Fidone ('01) and her husband, Mark, welcomed a son Sebastiano on Friday, July 1, 2011.

Melissa (Kroll) Narmi ('97) and her husband Charlie Narmi ('97) welcomed a daughter, Kathryn Ann, on August 11, 2011.

Longtime supporters Joe and Sally Narmi welcomed a daughter, Ruby Elizabeth, on July 18, 2011.

Katie (Fischer) Grudle ('04) and her husband Ryan welcomed a son, Will, on August 15, 2011.

BITS & PIECES

Bob Mathiasen ('70) has been named to the *Who's Who in College University Professional Continuing Education* 2010-2011 edition. He has over 30 years of experience in higher education and has worked with UNL since 1987. He currently works as the assistant director of distance/online undergraduate programs.

Alan Wickersham ('05) passed his CPA exam in July. He currently works at Valmont Industries, Inc. in Omaha, NE as a Corporate Accountant.

Dan ('77) and Natalie (Hutcheson) ('80) Burkey celebrated their 26th wedding anniversary on August 10, 2011.

Sister Patricia McDermott, a past faculty member at Saint Albert, has been elected president of the Institute of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas. The 20-year-old institute is made up of six communities with more than 3,800 sisters. In 1990, McDermott was named president of the Omaha province/regional community. After eight years, she moved to leadership work at the institute level.

TELL US YOUR NEWS...under the Alumni tab on the website or email Abby at jaresa@saintalbertschools.org



Saint Albert
Catholic School
400 Gleason Ave
Council Bluffs, IA



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under "St. Albert"



Follow us on Twitter
under "StAlbertSchools"

NON-PROFIT
U. S.
POSTAGE

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Mark your calendars for these upcoming Saint Albert events!

2nd & 4th Thursday
10:30 to 3 pm
Eucharistic Adoration in the Maurice
and Marie O'Neill Elementary Chapel

Every Friday
8:15 am
Praying of the Rosary in the Maurice
and Marie O'Neill Elementary Chapel

Sept 9
5:30 pm
Football Tailgate at the Elementary
Playground

Week of Sept 19
Homecoming Week

Sept 30
Shadow Day for prospective students

October 7
Grandparents Day in the Elementary

October 16
12 to 2 pm
Open House for prospective families

October 28
Shadow Day for prospective students

Saint Albert Catholic Schools
400 Gleason Avenue
RETURN SERVICE