



ST. EDWARD CENTRAL CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
SPRING 2025

WONARCH



Dundee Scottish Pipe Band leads St. Edward football to the field on Homecoming 2024



Dear Alumni and Friends of St. Edward,

St. Edward Central Catholic High School is home to generations of students who strive for growth in discipleship and educational excellence. As the Principal and Spiritual Director, we have had the gift of a front-row seat to witness the positive impact of a Christ-centered community coming together.

We recently celebrated the opening of the Fox Family Performing Arts Center. This expansion of our campus symbolizes the vibrant life of our school community and provides a dedicated space for celebrating Mass, staging theater productions, and gathering as a unified community. In addition to the new facility, we welcomed a remarkable class of freshmen and new staff members eager to jump into our mission. Whether in the classroom, at sporting events on the field or court, or during various extracurricular activities, our students truly embody what it means to be part of the Green Wave. We have no doubt that these students will make a lasting impact in the years to come, building upon the strong foundation provided at St. Edward.

It is so special to have the opportunity to step back and appreciate the many gifts within our school community. As we reflect on the past year and look forward to the future, we recognize that St. Edward is what it is today because of the students, staff, alumni, and friends who generously give of themselves. Countless sacrifices—both seen and unseen—are made daily for the well-being of the next generation. Please know that we are deeply grateful to each and every one of you. Enjoy this edition of *The Monarch*.

AnnMarie Woj-Dufelmeier ('98)
Principal /Area Superintendent

Fr. Robert Blood
Spiritual Director/Assistant Principal

Thank you to all those who contributed to *The Monarch*; your insight, memories, and support have made it truly special. We appreciate your help celebrating our history and achievements.

Any article suggestions, photos, or comments can be directed to the Director of Marketing, Dawn Pfaff, at dmetoyer-pfaff@stedhs.org.

Want to share *The Monarch* with family and friends? A digital edition is available on the St. Edward website: www.stedhs.org.

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TEACHING CATHOLIC VALUES

Mission Statement

Saint Edward Central Catholic High School is a college preparatory, faith-centered Catholic community. Our mission is to nurture the discipleship of Jesus Christ and to promote excellence in education. St. Edward CCHS enables its students to develop life-long skills and abilities that will help them become empathic, responsible, and productive citizens.

Faith Formation: An Experience

Aimee Adams, Megan Schmidt, Chris Gonzales

At St. Edward, our theology lessons do not end when the bell rings; we encourage a relationship with Christ through experiences. We strive to help our students - no matter their background - see that they can encounter Christ and hear His voice during everyday moments, the sacraments, and retreats.

Our students pause from the busyness of their lives during our retreat program. They step away from the school environment to reflect on their needs and relationships with each other and with God. Sophomores visit the Shrine of Christ's Passion in Indiana where they encounter 40 life-sized bronzed sculptures depicting the final days of Christ. Junior students visit the Art Institute of Chicago where art, relationship with Jesus, and self-reflection intersect. The retreat program culminates in our seniors attending the 3-day Kairos retreat, where staff and student leaders help them to experience the unique way God interacts with them every day of their lives.

“Experiencing faith in action and especially retreat experiences have given me the opportunity to know myself and truly grow closer with Jesus.”

**Annabelle Deang –
Class of 2026**

In school, we challenge our students to be Christ-like through participation in service project opportunities focused on the Works



Sophomores visit the Shrine of Christ's Passion in Indiana

of Mercy, partnerships with our local schools, and meaningful volunteer work. Various prayer experiences and faith building activities are led by our Catholic Outreach Club throughout the school year. By engaging with the world outside of school in this way, we emphasize the catholic nature of the Church to our students.

This was experienced in a particular way by six St. Edward students at the National Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis last summer. They joined two St. Edward teachers and thousands of Catholics to encounter Jesus in the Eucharist, Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity. Those who attended have seen their lives changed and have been called to build a deeper relationship with God. Our students know they are not the future of the Church, they **are** the Church.

The late Father Edward Seisser called us to, “Be disciples, make disciples.” Whether in the classroom, on a retreat, or through stewardship, St. Edward students live this authentically.

IN OUR OWN WORDS:

Reflecting on Teaching, Giving Back, and Building a Legacy

Staff and students share their personal stories about what inspires them to teach, coach, and give back to our community. These voices reflect on how St. Edward fosters both academic growth and personal development.

Tim Brieger, Class of 1991, Social Studies Department Chair; Boys & Girls Soccer Coach

As a 1991 graduate, 30-year coach and 25-year teacher at St. Edward, this amazing place has been a core foundation of my life for the past 45 years. St. Edward has been home for our family since the 1980's when my siblings and I began school here. I returned in 1995 to coach, then moved to a full-time teaching position in 2000. The Green Wave is more than just a job, it is a way of life. I've had the opportunity to work alongside my wife Kelle as the dance team coach and during her tenure as the boys volleyball coach. My greatest joy was being able to coach

my sons, Chase ('20) and Ty ('22), to State Final appearances in boys soccer. St. Edward has given me and my sons

"The Green Wave is more than just a job, it is a way of life."

– Tim Brieger '91

the foundation for all our later successes, on and off the field.

There truly is no greater community than the St. Edward community – a family that spreads across generations and geography; no matter where you go, there is always someone asking, "You went to St. Ed's? So did I", and you break into the fight song or laugh over so many shared experiences in the classroom, the halls, on the athletic fields, or in the theater. No matter your graduation year, it is the traditions, history, and shared experiences that truly make the St. Edward community unique from all others.

Robby Sommer, Class of 2025 National Merit Finalist

St. Edward gave me the opportunity to grow in ways I never expected—on the field, in the classroom, and through service. The small-school environment let me be involved in everything I cared about, while the teachers, coaches, and community encouraged me every step of the way.

Coming from a public school, I started freshman year not knowing anyone. Soccer was familiar, so I joined the team, but when Coach Brieger started me in the first game, I was completely overwhelmed. My teammates and Coaches had my back, and by the end of the season, I had friendships that lasted all four years. Their encouragement pushed me to become a three-sport athlete, over the years picking up volleyball, basketball, wrestling and bowling.

That same encouragement carried over into the classroom. St. Ed's small class sizes mean our teachers truly know us and often tailor classes to fit our needs. When I wanted to study computer science and an online AP Computer Science course fell through, Ms. Buehler made sure I could still take it. At St. Ed's, if you want to learn something, there's always a way to make it happen.

Outside of class, I can be part of student government, math team, and Rock the Wave to name a few, while still doing Scouts or spending time with my family and friends. No one ever told me I had to pick one thing over another—instead, they asked how they could help. St. Ed's support extends beyond school activities as we are always encouraged to help the community. This led to many unexpected opportunities like judging middle school science fairs, performing at Tidal Wave, and attending a Rotary Youth Leadership retreat.

Looking back, I'm grateful for everything St. Edward gave me—the chance to be involved, the flexibility to explore my interests, and the support to push myself. What truly sets St. Edward apart is the commitment to offering a well-rounded, faith-based education that balances academics with everything else that makes high school fun.



Shane Finnane, Class of 2010

Attending St. Edward was driven by my football aspirations and grounded in eight years of Catholic education at St. Mary's and St. Thomas More in Elgin. As a 7th grader, I played Crusaders football for coaches who had the best interest of the kids at heart while still pushing us to be better versions of ourselves. My 8th grade year Coach Mike Rolando, Marc Rusinko, and Mike Childers got the call to coach at St. Edward High School. I followed those coaches to the school hoping to capitalize on their leadership and value-based coaching rooted in Respect, Pride, Teamwork, and Discipline. **These values are ever-present in my leadership philosophy and the values of St. Edward athletes today.**

Many of my teachers became mentors: Fr. Edward, Fr. Peck, Mr. Bimmerle, Mrs. Klein, Mr. Herrmann, Mr. O'Brien, and Coach Brieger to name a few. St. Edward teachers helped mold me from an average student to an Illinois State Scholar my senior year. Paired with my athletic achievements, this afforded me an opportunity to attend West Point, pursue my dream of playing football at the collegiate level, and serve in our nation's Army as an Engineer Officer.

During my time at West Point and in the Army I kept track of how the St. Edward's football team was performing. I always wanted to coach. One of the most critical mentors in my life, Coach Rolando, reached out looking for coaches. My passion for the game and helping develop future leaders into people of character is something I couldn't find anywhere else. Knowing they leave our program even 1% better is a lifetime reward, but I know they get so much more from being a part of the Green Wave community.



"St. Edward teachers helped mold me from an average student to an Illinois State Scholar my senior year."

– Shane Finnane '10

Preparing Students for the Future of College and Career

In the evolving landscape of today's education we are committed to offering students opportunities that go beyond traditional learning. We provide ways to earn college credit while still in high school, gain hands-on, real-world experience, and build the social, emotional, and spiritual skills that contribute to mental health resiliency.

Through our partnership with Benedictine University, juniors and seniors can enroll in dual-credit courses that take place during the regular school day at St. Edward. The credits earned count toward high school graduation and are transferable to other colleges and universities. Students can also earn college credit or skip introductory level classes at the college level through our nine Advanced Placement courses at St. Edward.

Starting in the 2025-2026 school year, the InCubatorEDU program will give students the chance to cultivate college and career readiness through an authentic entrepreneurship experience.



This hands-on program empowers students to identify problems, develop solutions, and pitch their ideas to real investors.

Rock the Wave, led by Assistant Principal Maureen Mann and Catholic Confidence Coach Jenny Krumdrick, fosters emotional and spiritual development for students, teachers, and parents.

The program offers peer-led workshops for students focused on important life skills such as self-awareness, managing overwhelm, improving communication, and emotional strength. Theology courses are integrating the study of apologetics, giving our students the ability to support and defend their Catholic faith choice as they enter secular learning and professional spaces.

As we continue to adapt to the needs of our students, we are proud to offer innovative programs that prepare them for academic success grounded in faith. St. Edward is dedicated to nurturing well-rounded individuals who are ready to face the challenges of both higher education and the professional world with confidence.

A YEAR OF MILESTONES: Achievements and New Beginnings

From unforgettable events to the grand opening of the Fox Family Performing Arts Center, this year has certainly been remarkable! We honored our Hall of Fame inductees and bid farewell to our graduating class, marking the end of an incredible journey and the start of a new adventure.

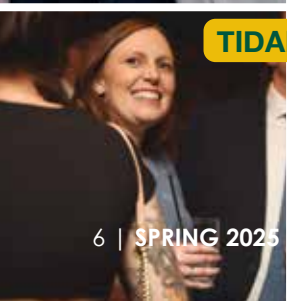
FOX FAMILY PERFORMING ARTS CENTER



BISHOP MALLOY CELEBRATES MASS IN THE FOX FAMILY PERFORMING ARTS CENTER



BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM '86-87 HALL OF FAME INDUCTION



TIDAL WAVE 2024





COMMENCEMENT 2024



POT OF GOLD SOCIAL: RAISING FUNDS FOR A NEW FITNESS ROOM



The Davis Family's End of An Era

Life reminds us to celebrate our kids' first steps, first words, first day of school. These moments mark the beginning of a chapter, full of promise and possibility. But today, it's about the lasts—the quiet goodbyes that often go unnoticed, the moments that slip by without fanfare, yet hold just as much significance. A wise mother once told me most of the 'lasts' go undocumented, hidden in the everyday shuffle of life. But if we counted them, we'd see an era unfolding.

For our family, this year isn't just the end of a chapter—it's the end of an era. Nine students, 26 calendar years. Along the way, we forgot them somewhere 12 times, celebrated 28 graduations and 78 Christmas programs. Coaching consumed 113 seasons, while 114 back-to-school nights and 122 finals weeks kept our evenings full. We navigated 139 last days of school, gifted 214 teachers, packed 16,020 school lunches, and spent 25,020 mornings making sure everyone had their shoes, backpacks, homework, and sports gear before heading out the door.

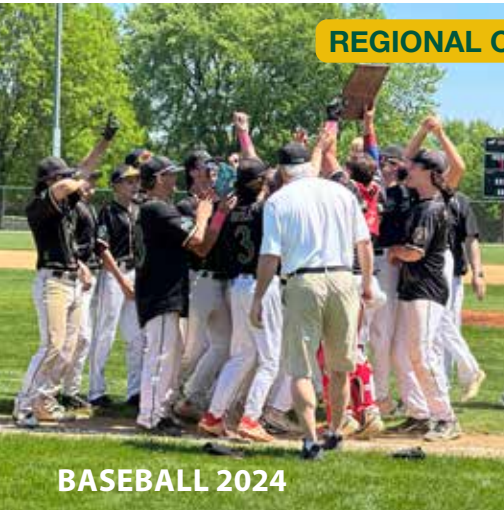
May 8, 2025, will be the LAST day of school for the Davis clan and the FIRST day of our journey as an alumni family. We see the lasting impact of our Catholic school decision every day—in the character, faith, and friendships of our children, the bonds we've built as a family. These years have woven us into the fabric of this school's legacy. We are forever grateful for the opportunity to be part of the Green Wave and for each teacher, staff member, and religious leader who shaped our journey. Go Green Wave!

Jennifer Davis



ARTS & ATHLETICS

CELEBRATING ST. EDWARD SCHOOL SPIRIT: A showcase of remarkable dedication, talent, and the values of teamwork, discipline, and perseverance.



REGIONAL CHAMPIONS

BASEBALL 2024



DOMINIC SAVINI ('24)



SECTIONAL FINAL APPEARANCE

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL 2024



REG/SEC/SUPER-SECTIONAL CHAMPS 2025

GIRLS BASKETBALL



IHSA STATE FOURTH PLACE 2025



ALICE'S ADVENTURES IN WONDERLAND





STATE QUALIFIERS



Returning Home Yssa Sto. Domingo (2018)

Being back at St. Edward in this capacity has been such a “full circle” moment. From being a player under Coach Dawson, to now being on the sidelines with her as a coach - I give all the credit to how devoted Coach Dawson is to the St. Edward’s girls basketball program. The sense of trust that I felt she had for me as a player to now calling out plays/having matchups is truly special.



Pictured from Left to Right Sto. Domingo, Layne Dawson ('27), Taylor Dawson ('27), Michelle Dawson ('92)

When I got a call from Coach Dawson with this opportunity, my heart filled with joy. St. Edward holds a special place in my heart, and I’m honored to be able to give back to the school and program. It’s been especially fun working with Layne and Taylor, who were just grade schoolers when our team went to the State Finals in 2017. To be able to coach the 2025 team in the state finals was a true blessing.

Over the past few years, women’s sports have garnered well-deserved recognition. My journey as an NCAA collegiate player and now as a high school coach during this rise has been an unforgettable and rewarding experience.

ADMINISTRATION & Faculty Department Chairpersons



Mrs. AnnMarie Dufelmeier
Principal/Area Superintendent



Fr. Robert Blood
Spiritual Director/
Assistant Principal



Ms. Jessica Buehler
Math Department Chair



Mr. James Driscoll
Science Department Chair



Mrs. Maureen Mann
Assistant Principal/
Academic Dean



Mrs. Megan Schmidt
Dean of Students/English &
Fine Arts Department Chair



Mr. Tim Brieger
Social Studies & Business
Department Chair



Ms. Aimee Adams
Theology Department Chair

The Heart of St. Edward: Our Dedicated Faculty and Staff

Behind every lesson and every success is a team of passionate educators and staff who make it all possible.

Administration/Staff

- Mrs. Siobhan Cottone
Director of Advancement/Development
- Mr. Michael Delaney
Counselor
- Mrs. Joyce Gudino
Administrative Assistant
- Mrs. Dawn Metoyer-Pfaff
Director of Marketing
- Mrs. Pamela Rosslein
Registrar/Receptionist
- Mr. Joseph Salchert
Director of Technology
- Mrs. Jan Schroeder
Business Manager
- Mr. John Schroeder
Facility Manager
- Mr. PJ White
Athletic Director/Dean of Students

Faculty

- Ms. Colleen Hogan – Art
- Mrs. Bethany Reed – English
- Mr. Michael Noga – English
- Mr. Salvador Macias – Foreign Language
- Ms. Vanesa Roimicher – Foreign Language
- Mr. Mathew Nicholson – Math
- Mr. Joe Bedard – Math/Science
- Mr. Greg Comonal – Music
- Mr. Mike Aydt – Assistant AD and PE
- Ms. Cristina Page – Science
- Mr. Gerald Powers – Social Studies
- Ms. Erin Reda – Social Studies
- Mr. Christopher Gonzales – Theology



Reunion, Community and Support: Strengthening St. Edward's Legacy

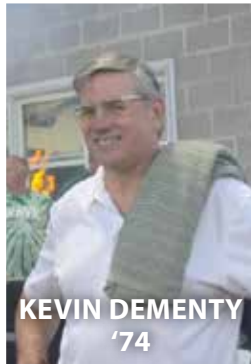
Honoring the bonds that keep us connected – from class reunions to the tireless efforts of the parent volunteers and Booster club members, united in their commitment to our school's success and spirit.



1969 & 1970 CLASS REUNION



BOOSTER CLUB 2024 GOLF OUTING



KEVIN DEMENTY '74



1974 CLASS REUNION



DENNIS WARD '66



FOX VALLEY ARTS HALL OF FAME



CLASS OF 1994 AT THE ALUMNI TENT



1973 CLASS REUNION



ELGIN POLICE DETECTIVES BETH STERRICKER ('95) AND BRYAN POWELL ('04) ST. EDWARD CAREER SERIES PRESENTERS



ST. EDWARD CCHS

335 Locust Street
Elgin, IL 60123

Join Us for Upcoming Events

Day of Blessings – March 13

Prospective Family Open House – April 10

Spring Musical *The Addams Family* – April 10, 11, 12

Fine Arts Festival – May 10

Visit www.stedhs.org for more information.



Stay Connected!

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MONARCH