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Quick Facts about Aquinas Today:

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE:

90% of the Senior class of 2009 took the SAT exam with an average score of 1583 and the top 10% scoring 2010.

COLLEGE PLACEMENT RATE:

Over the past seven years we have had 98% of our seniors go on to college with 83% being accepted to 4 year colleges and universities.

AHTLETIC SUCCESS

88 League Championships
4 CIF Division Titles
1 State Championship

COLLEGE PREPARATORY CURRICULUM

13 Advanced Placement
courses

12:1 Teacher Student Ratio

46% of the faculty hold master's
degrees or higher

President's Advisory Council

In the fall of 2009, Aquinas High School established the President's Advisory Council (PAC) to help create and implement a strategic plan for institutional advancement. With the creation last year of the President Principal model of administration, this council was a key part of the change to help create a more sustainable future.

Unlike the School Advisory Board which helps to guide the principal of the school concerning students, parents and daily school operations, the PAC's focus is to create connections with local business, alumni and other supporters of Catholic education in the Inland Empire. The initial meeting of the PAC was held on November 18, 2009. The council at the meeting created four standing committees: Education, Marketing, Finance and the Executive Committee.

The tasks of each committee are focused on creating the resources and means to improve the school's position educationally, to reach out to a larger pool of students and families and to create scholarship and endowment opportunities to support our parents and students who desire a Catholic high school education.

The PAC membership includes alumni, former parents, and local business owners. We are truly grateful for their willingness to serve as members of the council.

President's Advisory Council:

Dan Carlone, Class of 1977, President, Carlone Construction

Austin Conley, Director, Donor Recruitment, Lifestream, Chairman of the Education and Welfare Corporate Board for the Diocese of San Bernardino.

Wilfrid Lemann, Class of 1969, Attorney, Law Offices of Fullerton, Lemann, Schaefer and Dominick, LLP.

Lynn Malotto, Public Relations, Special Events and Marketing for the City of Cathedral City.

Elsa Montes, Class of 1984, Vice President Corporate Sales, Arrowhead Credit Union.

Susan Patane, Owner, SLP Communications, Redlands, Vice Chair Governmental Affairs Division for the San Bernardino Chamber of Commerce.

Ron Rezek, Class of 1977, CEO of Rezek Incident Support Services.

Mike Riddell, Class of 1969, Attorney and Partner at Best, Best and Krieger, LLP

Michael Scaffidi, Attorney, Law Offices of Michael A. Scaffidi, parent of two Aquinas alumni.

John Thornes, Class of 1985, President and Owner of Thornes and Associates, Redlands.

John Ware, CFO Clement Brothers Glass and business partner and parent of two Aquinas alumni.

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Aquinas High School

Lux et Veritas

The Falconer

Last year also saw the renewal of a student newspaper called the Talon. This year, under the guidance of Ms. Amanda Egan, Class of 2000, our student newspaper was renamed The Falconer.

This student produced paper covers not only the events that happen on the Aquinas campus but features movie reviews, opinions, and even cartoons. Student by-lines also include reporting on national and world news from a student's perspective.

Students in the journalism class gather daily in the library to produce a first class student newspaper. For many young writers, this is the first time they are being published. To read The Falconer, visit our school website.



Building an enduring legacy

One of the greatest challenges facing Catholic education today is the ability to sustain our schools financially. Each year, schools like Aquinas, struggle to find ways to keep costs affordable so that we can fulfill our mission.

As costs rise, so does the amount of tuition needed from parents to support the school. In 2008, the University of Notre Dame published a study entitled "Faith, Finances and the Future" with purpose of surveying pastors and their views regarding Catholic education. The two major findings from the study that most concerned pastors were faith and finances.

These two are not mutually exclusive and in fact they are directly related to each other. Without financial support, a school, or any ministry of the Church, for that matter cannot function. However, without faith, our school would not need your financial support because our mission would cease to exist and with it a vital ministry of the Church. To quote the report: "these two categories can be understood as a manifestation of a single challenge facing the Catholic community" and therefore cannot be compartmentalized.

Aquinas has worked hard at addressing the first concern expressed by pastors. By focusing on the spiritual formation of our students, the Catholic identity on cam-

pus has grown stronger. Each class has the opportunity for a retreat during the school year. Our seniors have over the years had the opportunity to experience the three day Kairos retreat. We created last year small faith sharing groups called vicariates so that our students can discuss issues that are important in their lives.

The other challenge identified in the study was finances. While the cost to attend Aquinas remains one of the lowest in Southern California, many families are simply unable to send their students to receive the great Catholic college preparatory

"these two categories can be understood as a manifestation of a single challenge facing the Catholic community"

education we have to offer.

Here is where the alumni of Aquinas High School can help our current families attend your alma mater. We are asking for 150 alumni to donate \$500 to help sponsor an incoming freshmen or transfer student who otherwise would not be able to attend. Many alumni members of the President's Advisory Council have already pledged their support for this new initiative. Direct cash donations to help sponsor our current students is a necessary part of our operations.

The other way that alumni can help support your school is by donating towards our current endowments. Last year, members of the Class of 1969 began the Freiling-Lemann Class of 1969 endowment. Endowments are a way of creating a lasting legacy and to ensure the necessary resources are there in economic hard times as we are currently experiencing.

Finally, there are a variety of other planned gifts that can benefit not only your alma mater but also give you or your heirs some tax advantages while helping your school.

Major universities use these planned gifts to help insure funding for their programs and create the much needed third source income for the school. Here are a few of the kinds of planned gifts that Aquinas will be exploring in the next few months:

- Annuity or Charitable Remainder Trusts
- Charitable Lead Trusts
- Will Provisions
- Real Estate donations
- Stocks
- Specific and general bequests

If you would like to contribute to your school, please let us know or fill out the Scholarship Program page and return the insert.

President's Advisory Council cont.

John Belton, Attorney and School Board President, parent of two alumni.

Francis Herdlein, Principal (ex-officio)

Patricia Vesely, Superintendent of School, Diocese of San Bernardino. (ex-officio)

Sr. Sara Kane, Director of Ministry of Educational Services for the Diocese of San Bernardino (ex-officio)

After the first meeting, some initial goals were proposed. The education committee is focused on new course offerings, improving teacher training and teacher compen-

The marketing committee began evaluating our current public relations materials including the school's website to increase the awareness of the school in the community and to reach out to potential students and parents.

The finance committee is currently working on creating the resources necessary to fund the school without relying completely on tuition dollars. The focus has been on creating sponsored scholarships, building on existing endowments and continued support from the business community.

The last committee to be

formed is the executive committee whose task it will be to create and oversee the work of the entire council.

The council meets on a quarterly basis and individual members meet with the president between meetings to discuss each members' committee work.

If you are interested in being a part of the President's Advisory Council or would like to contribute your ideas to the four committees, please contact Daryl Sequeira, President, at 909-886-4659 ext. 260 or email him at msequeira@aquinashs.net.

Reconnecting with our missing Falcons and Crusaders

As mentioned in the initial Fall Falcon Times newsletter, we are looking to reconnect with as many alumni as possible to keep them updated on the progress of their alma mater. We also want to reach out to all of those graduates from St. Bernardine's High School since there has always been a close connection between the two schools. On May 8 we will be holding our first Aquinas Community Open House and Alumni day here. We want to gather as many Falcons and Crusaders that can be reached to attend this

event. This family friendly event is now in the process of being planned and we need your help to make its inaugural debut a success. If you are in contact with your classmates, please have them update their contact information through the Aquinas High School website at www.aquinashs.net. Since July of 2009, we have received 109 updates from our alumni. St. Bernardine's alumni, we would like to reconnect with as well. So let us know where you are.

Falcon Athletics: Fall and Winter

The Aquinas Falcons continue their winning streaks for this year and even accomplished a first in the school's history.

For three years in a row, our football team has won the Christian League title. In an amazing, down to the wire game, Senior James Jones returned an 85 yard kick off to clinch the title from rival Ontario Christian. Our Cross Country team this fall, won the first league title in Aquinas history. We are proud of our young men and women who accomplished greatness during the fall.

The winter season also saw our boys' basketball team win its third Christian league title in a row. Senior and National Honors Society member, Courtland Wharton, was voted Christian League player of the year and was selected for the All-League 1st team for his third year. Our Lady Falcons also had a successful season. The girls basketball team came in 2nd in league and both teams made CIF playoffs.

New Sports: Spring Season

In an effort to expand our athletic offerings, Aquinas began two new spring sports last year: Boys' tennis and swimming. Both of these programs have seen great student interest this year and will continue to grow in their abilities as has been a tradition at Aquinas.

Where are they now?

Dr. Paul Saarinen, AHS Class of 1960

Retired Orthodontist lives in Salem Oregon. Paul is currently helping organize the Class of 1960 50 year class reunion.

Mr. James Anderson, AHS Class of 1966

A graduate of St. Anne's and Aquinas who is currently a college instructor, author and retired fire fighter living in Orangevale CA.

Dr. Philip Gericke, St. Bernardine, Class of 1954

Retired professor from UCR who now resides in Apple Valley CA.

Mr. Matthew Huffine, AHS Class of 1977

High School Science Teacher who lives in Victorville.

Mr. James Knowlton, AHS Class of 1983

Software engineer for McAfee who resides in Portland OR with his wife and 11 children.

Mrs. Victoria Moss (Biedebach), AHS Class of 1982

Attorney who resides in Tustin CA.

Ms. Ashley Baugh, AHS Class of 2003

Event Planning and Administrative Developer living in Irvine CA.

We want to know more about our alumni. Update us online or send us the Alumni Update insert.

The Arts:

Aquinas this year greatly improved our performing and fine arts curriculum and will continue to seek new ways to expand the program.

Two years ago, we hired a part time music teacher, Mr. Dan Silva, to start a music program. While the original class consisted mostly of guitar players, we have expanded it this year to include a choir class, a drum line and a variety of other instruments including a tubular bells set and glockenspiel.

In December, Mr. Silva and the combined choir and instrumental music class also held its first Christmas music program. The final song was Carol of the Bells which combined all our musicians and singers which delighted the audience.

This year also saw the performing arts return to the Aquinas stage. In the fall, Mr. Mat Troy held a dinner mystery which included audience participation and live actors. With the help of Enko Systems, our stage was once again re-lit for our beginning thespians.

Our fine arts program also saw the addition of Advanced Photography and the reopening of the school's dark room. Mrs. Meliza Smith's photography class displayed their work on the night of the dinner theater along with Mr. Lorenzo Mota's art student creations.

It is safe to say that the arts are well and alive at Aquinas once again.

Crusader Connections

In 1972, Aquinas High School merged with its sister school, St. Bernardine High School. The integration of boys and girls into the coeducational institution that is today's Aquinas High School would not have been possible without the spirit and history that was St. Bernardine's.

Over the years, the distinct contribution of the Crusader experience has been lost to old year books and only a cursory understanding by the current Aquinas students that there once existed a high school that predates Aquinas.

While St. Bernardine's Church is still located in downtown San Bernardino, what remains of the school is not represented on the Aquinas campus. However, that will soon be changing.

A St. Bernardine's honorary wall will be dedicated to the memory and history of St. Bernardine's. Metal plaques that once marked the buildings at St. Bernardine's will be installed and a memorial plaque is planned to become a part of the Aquinas campus.

But creating a memorial wall is not the only thing that is desired for our St. Bernardine's sister and brothers. The Crusader Connection section of the Falcon Times will be solely dedicated to the alumni of St. Bernardine High School and to share their ongoing contributions to her alumni.

If you are a Crusader or are in contact with St. Bernardine's alumni, or a former teacher, please let them know that we want them to be a part of this alumni newsletter. We want to know

what you are currently doing and to help our current students understand better their own school's history.

We would also like to profile each quarter a St. Bernardine alumnus in this section as well. However, we cannot do this without your help. We would also like to help you plan class reunions and invite you to participate in our campus events especially our upcoming Community Open House and Alumni Day on May 8.

We will keep you informed of upcoming events through our quarterly newsletter as a well as in the Aquinas High School website.

Welcome back Crusaders! You are not forgotten. We want to get to know you once again as part of the Aquinas family.



Aquinas High School: The Future



Aquinas High School has created a master plan that will add major buildings that are necessary to the future of the school. The first major building we would like to construct is the St. Bernardine's Chapel. The chapel would be seen by all students and visitors as they enter the campus as a reminder that Christ is the center of life at Aquinas. Directly across from the chapel, we are proposing a new administration building and Performing Arts Center. This building would house the administrative offices of the school and would also contain a state of the art theater for school and community use. Finally, the last needed athletic facility to be added to the campus would be an aquatics center for swimming, diving and water polo. If you would like to contribute to these building projects, please contact us and help us build a better Aquinas High School.

Campus Improvements

Not wanting to rest, Aquinas has undergone over \$2.5 million in physical plant improvements. All of the improvements were accomplished through the generosity of the local business community and our alumni. Come and see how your campus has changed over the past five years.



The quad is the latest renovation which was completed in the fall of 2009.



Our baseball field was rededicated in honor of Fr. J. Edmund Andres in May of 2009.



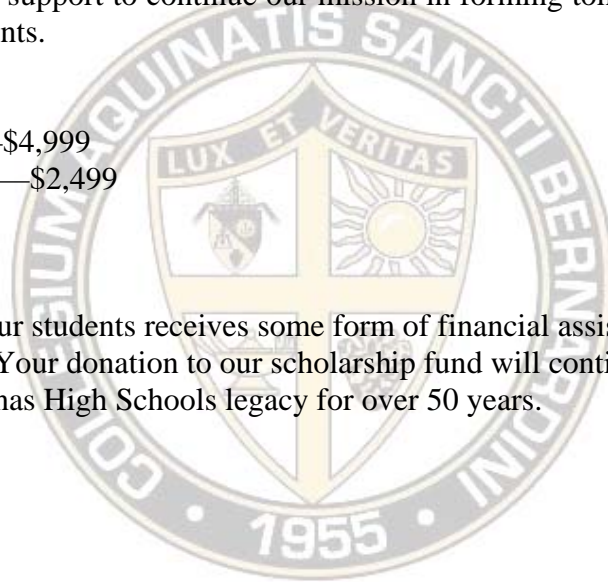
The varsity baseball field was renovated and dedicated in honor of Bill Lemann, Class of 1969

Support Aquinas High School's Scholarship Program

Aquinas High School is committed to helping families gain a Catholic college preparatory high school education. We need your help and support to continue our mission in forming tomorrow's leaders today. Your gift will directly benefit our students.

President's Scholar: \$5,000 +
 Principal's Scholar: \$2,500—\$4,999
 Blue and White Club: \$1,000—\$2,499
 Falcon Club: \$999—\$500
 Talon Club: \$1—\$499

Approximately one third of our students receives some form of financial assistance from the school or from the Diocese of San Bernardino. Your donation to our scholarship fund will continue the great tradition of Catholic education that has been Aquinas High Schools legacy for over 50 years.



Yes! I want to contribute the Aquinas High School Scholarship Fund! Please make my donation anonymous.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Email Address: _____

Phone # (____) _____

Enclosed is my gift for:

- \$5,000 + President's Scholar
- \$2,500—\$4,999 Principal's Scholar
- \$1,000—\$2,499 Blue and White Club
- \$999—\$500 Falcon Club
- \$1—\$499 Talon Club

Please make my gift in honor/memory of:

In honor of: _____

In memory of: _____

Check enclosed (Make payable to Aquinas High School)

Please charge my Visa Mastercard Discover
 American Express

Card # _____ Security
 Code _____

Exp. Date _____ Signature: _____

Does your company offer a matching gift program?

Many companies offer a matching gift program for charitable contributions. Please check with your Human Resources Department to see if they offer a matching gift program for their

Please send me information

I am interested in making automatic, monthly donations through my bank.

I am interested in obtaining information regarding Aquinas High School's Alumni Association.

I am interested in creating a one-time or annual scholarship in the name of:

Alumni: Don't forget to update your information online at www.aquinashs.net. Register yourself on our alumni page.



Aquinas Alumni!
Help us stay in touch with you! *Update your information!*

First Middle Maiden Last

Spouse Name:

Current Address City State ZIP

Email Address:

Home Phone: (____) _____
Work Phone: (____) _____
Cell Phone: (____) _____
Other Phone: (____) _____

Graduating Class Year School: Aquinas St. Bernardine's

What school activities did you participate in?

What sports did you play?

Tell us about you.

Please mail or FAX this form to:
Aquinas High School, 2772 Sterling Avenue, San Bernardino CA, 92404
FAX: 909-886-7717
Or update your information online at www.aquinashs.net.



Our Mission

"To form through education young men and women as leaders in the Light and Truth of the Gospel."

Upcoming Events

- **Aquinas High School Golf Classic, April 17, 2010**

Come and join us at the Arrowhead Country Club in San Bernardino for the 18th Annual Golf Classic on April 17, 2010. Enjoy one of the best private golf courses in the Inland Empire.

- **Aquinas Community Open House and Alumni Day: May 8, 2010**

Bring the whole family to your Alma Mater for a day of celebration. There will be games, food, classic cars, and entertainment. Stick around in the evening for our 2nd Annual Alumni Baseball Game under the stadium lights.

- **Class of 1960 Reunion**

Calling all members of the Class of 1960: Your reunion is being planned for May 29, 2010. Contact Dr. Paul (Anderson) Saariren at (503) 364-3494 or email him at palosaars@aol.com or Brandi Williford, AHS Director of Events and Public Relations at (909) 886-4659 ext. 282 or email her at mwilliford@aquinashs.net.

- **Graduation 2010**

Aquinas High School proudly celebrates the achievements of its 51st graduating class. The Baccalaureate Mass will take place at Holy Rosary Cathedral in San Bernardino on Thursday, June 3. The graduation ceremony will take place on Saturday, June 5 at 6:30 p.m. on Cadden Field.

Falcon Times Issue 2 Winter 2010



Aquinas High School

Lux et Veritas

2772 Sterling Avenue
San Bernardino CA 92404
909.886.4659 ph
909.886.7717 fax
www.aquinashs.net