

ORA ET LABORA



A publication of **Benedictine High School** and **Saint Andrew Abbey** Winter 2024



LIGHTING *the* WAY: Beacon Program *Introduces* Benedictine Pathways

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ABBOT GARY'S REFLECTION

Rt. Rev. Gary A. Hoover, OSB '74

With the holy season of Advent and Christmas upon us, I found myself reflecting on the song Silent Night. The imagery of light stands out as a profound and central theme. The song paints a peaceful, almost mystical scene, where light takes on spiritual significance, especially as it relates to the birth of Christ.



In the opening lines, "All is calm, all is bright," light is presented as a beacon of serenity in the quiet of the night. The brightness isn't the harsh, glaring light of the world but a soft, heavenly glow—something gentle, warm, and comforting. This speaks to the light that Christ Himself brings into the world: a light of hope, peace, and salvation. In a time of darkness, symbolized by the world's struggles and uncertainties, the birth of Christ is like a single flame dispelling fear and anxiety.

Moreover, the light in *Silent Night* can be seen as the guiding star that led the shepherds and wise men to the manger. It speaks to a light that reaches beyond physical darkness, revealing God's presence and love in the midst of the ordinary.

The song's description of the "holy infant, so tender and mild" also invites reflection on the pure, innocent light of a newborn. This child is not just a source of physical light, but the embodiment of spiritual radiance—a light that shines through the darkness of sin, bringing redemption and grace into the world.

I encourage you to listen to the song with a new perspective and see how *Silent Night* isn't just about the quiet of the world, but about the transformative power of divine light, which continues to guide, comfort, and give us hope, even today.

I, along with my fellow monks of St. Andrew Abbey, extend our heartfelt wishes to you and your families for a very blessed season of light and joy.

Peace,

Abbot Gary, OSB '74



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Benedictine Friends and Family,

I am well into my second school year as President of Benedictine and while some of the newness and unknown of my job has subsided, I will tell you that my excitement, energy and optimism for Benedictine has not. I will be 53 in February and I can honestly say that for the first time in my career, I have found my passion. In fact, on a walk the other day, my wife Kathy said to me, "You are consumed with Benedictine, aren't you?" I had to stop and not only think about that one, but also choose my words very carefully on how I answered her. The reality is that yes, I am consumed by the specialness of this place, yes I am consumed by the mission that our monks took on over 98 years ago, and yes I am consumed by the fact that I have purposeful meaning in my life. I share that purpose with the dedicated faculty, staff, monastic community, parents, alumni and all of the supporters of Benedictine High School. I want to say thank you to my wife for allowing me to pursue my passion and thank her for her tremendous support over the past year and a half. Okay, that is me attempting to apologize to her, which of course I am not very good at. However, in my defense, the team and I have been hard at work so I wanted to share with you a quick update on what has been going on here at the Home of Champions.

December marks the halfway point of the school year which means our seniors are finalizing their plans for life after Benedictine, our juniors are making college visits and filling out applications, our sophomores are preparing for their college testing and our freshmen now have a good understanding of what it means to be a Man of Benedictine. A walk around campus, you will see continued improvements inside and outside of our building. This fall we celebrated the re-dedication and refurbishment of the Marian Grotto along with a major renovation to the Lois and Chuck St. John gardens thanks to the generous support of our benefactors. Inside the building you will find some cool new signage in our athletic wing as well as in our finance office, but most importantly, when you first enter the building you will be greeted by a beautiful new crest of St. Benedict welcoming you to Benedictine High School. Continuing your tour, you will notice new computer desks and furniture throughout as we continue to make investments in ourselves and our brand. Speaking of branding, we are spreading the word externally as well, including spots on Fox 8 news, commercials led by our students, and signage at Crocker Park and Legacy Village. On the programming side, we officially launched the Benedictine Pathways initiative which combines career ready opportunities to our already stellar college-prep curriculum as we look to expand our mission to not only prepare our students for college, but also for life. Lastly, we



Mr. Dave Schroeder '90

are very optimistic about our class of 2029; all metrics point to a very strong freshman class. The story is getting out there that Benedictine is back and we are being noticed.

My ask of this wonderful community is that you continue to do your part in supporting us. We have tremendous momentum, we have a vision and we have an incredible story to tell. There are a number of ways for you to get involved including reducing your state tax liability via our BengalSGO scholarship, attending this year's Blue & White Gala on March 8, 2025, planned giving, or simply by contributing to the Annual Fund. Don't forget that employer matching gifts will double your support. If financial support is not something you are interested in, please consider attending a sporting event, a school play or just stopping down to say hello and pick up some Bengal gear at our on-campus spirit store. Either way, we want to hear from you and see you!



I will close with a sincere thank you and Merry Christmas to all Benedictine students, alumni and friends. Thank you for your continued support and prayers.

Dave Schroeder '90



Thank You!

*For a successful Abbey Benefit
Honoring the Marian Grotto*

Written by FATHER MICHAEL
BRUNOVSKY, OSB

1954 was designated a “Marian Year” by Pope Pius XII to celebrate the role of the Blessed Virgin Mary in the Church. Along with the abbey leadership, the Benedictine Class of 1954 enthusiastically raised the \$3,000 needed for construction of a Marian grotto on campus to commemorate the event. Krusoe Studios designed the limestone and granite grotto and the 6-foot statue of the Blessed Mother made from Carrara marble was sculpted in Rome. The dedication ceremony took place on Sunday, May 30, 1954 with the student body forming a rosary procession down East Boulevard to the grotto site on campus. Benedictine principal Fr. Benedict Dobrancin, OSB gave the sermon on the occasion and Abbot Theodore Kojis, OSB blessed the grotto. During the ceremony, senior class president, Charles (Chuck) St. John, crowned the statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary with a wreath of flowers.

Since that time, the grotto has been a source of prayer and reflection for monks, students, faculty and staff, and guests alike. Coach Augie Bossu began the tradition of the football team praying at the grotto before and after practices, a tradition that continues to this day. To commemorate the 70th anniversary of the grotto construction and the Class of 1954 efforts to make it possible, the grotto and its surrounding gardens have been totally refurbished. It was re-dedicated during the Abbey Benefit on Sunday, September 29, 2024, by Bishop Roger Gries, OSB, who is also a member of the Class of 1954, and who served as a class officer that year.



ABBEY BENEFIT



Brother Gregory Attends Summer Benedictine Institute

Written by **FATHER GERARD GONDA, OSB '71**



The 2024 Summer Benedictine Junior Institute pose in front of the iconic bell tower of St. John's Abbey Church in Minnesota. Brother Gregory is fourth from the right in the back row.

Brother Gregory Coyne, OSB joined 20 other junior professed monks from other U.S. abbeys for the annual Benedictine Junior Institute this summer from July 15-24 at Saint John's Abbey in Collegeville, Minnesota. The theme of this year's institute was "Synodality and Eucharistic Revival: What do these contemporary movements mean for Benedictine monks?"

In addition to attending classes and group discussions, Brother Gregory participated in a seminar on the famous Saint John's Bible, the first completely handwritten and illuminated Bible to be produced by a Benedictine abbey since the invention of the printing press. The project began in 1998 and was completed by 2011.

Brother Gregory and his fellow junior professed monks also enjoyed canoeing on Lake Sagatagan on the monastic campus and touring the St. John's Abbey organ-making shop as well as their wood shop. They also attended a Minnesota Twins baseball game in Minneapolis.

2023 By the Numbers

From 7/1/2023 – 6/30/2024

We are profoundly grateful for your generous support of St. Andrew Abbey. Your contributions allow us to continue our mission of prayer, hospitality, and service, sharing the Benedictine charism with our community. Thank you for partnering with us in this important work; your kindness truly makes a difference in the lives we touch. May God bless you abundantly for your generosity.

Abbey Appeal
\$141,978

Abbey Benefit
\$98,877

Endowment
\$1,510,237

TOTAL
\$1,751,092 + 856
gifts



Abbot Gary enjoys the company of several Naval Base chapel parishioners in Georgia.



Abbot Gary Visits Kings Bay Written by FATHER GERARD GONDA, OSB '71

Abbot Gary traveled to St. Marys, Georgia to cover Fr. Gerard's pastoral duties at Kings Bay Naval Submarine Base from October 22-November 1 while Fr. Gerard preached a private retreat to retired Carmelite nuns in Los Angeles (see picture). At his All Saints Day Mass, the abbot put aside his prepared homily and invited religious education students dressed as saints to come forward and tell the congregation about their heavenly patrons.

Something NEW Brewing at St. Andrew Abbey

Written by **BROTHER GREGORY COYNE, OSB**

Last November, I visited the home of friend Michael Merimee and got an unexpected invitation—to make mead together. Picturing an ancient Nordic brew from folklore, I eagerly agreed, ready to dive into the process. The next day, I shared my newfound excitement with Ed Luzniak, the maintenance director at the abbey. Without hesitation, Ed donated everything I needed to bring this brewing tradition back to the abbey.

Making mead is surprisingly straightforward. It starts with a simple mixture of water, honey, and yeast, but our recipe has a bit of a twist. We add raisins, lemon juice, and a few other ingredients that give it a unique flavor. Mead, often called "honey wine," ferments much like grape wine, but we use honey as the base instead of grapes. We use about three pounds of honey per gallon, creating a drink with an alcohol content of around 15%.

Since that first batch, I've had a lot of fun experimenting with different flavors. I've tried variations like a sweet "smoked honey" recipe and a dry "raspberry" mead—both delicious, yet distinct in their own ways. And of course, our regular show mead is quite tasty too!

It's been a rewarding experience. Attendees of the Abbey Benefit had an opportunity to be my original taste testers and reviews were positive. I look forward to the day when I can share these creations with more friends of the abbey.

Brother Gregory and Michael Merrimee toast their first batch.



Abbey Kitchen Produces Homemade Wild Plum Jam

Written by **FATHER GERARD**

Give your taste buds something sweet and tangy by trying Abbey Wild Plum Jam made from a wild plum tree in the courtyard of Saint Andrew Abbey produced by Abbey Prior Fr. Michael Brunovsky, OSB along with abbey chef Jeannie Sfiligoj, BHS Board of Trustees member Sister Helene Skrzyziarz, SSJ-TOSF, and junior monk Brother Gregory Coyne, OSB.

The Jamboree Team harvested 25 gallons (208.5 lbs) of plums from one tree, pitted them, cooked the jam, and canned 7.5 gallons of jam. The Abbey Jam is gluten free and made with no preservatives and no additives.

A 16 ounce jar costs \$8.00 and is available while the plums last by contacting Lisamarie at the abbey front desk, 217-721-5300, ext. 100.

Student Spotlight

Written by
LYNNE SCHROEDER

SHANE HOPKINS

Shane Hopkins '25 exemplifies hard work, leadership, and dedication both in and out of the classroom. A graduate of Brunswick Middle School, Shane's journey to Benedictine wasn't always a straight path. Although his grandfather, Charles Hopkins, graduated from Benedictine in 1965, Shane initially planned to stay in public school. Around middle school, however, he developed an interest in private schools, eventually exploring many options across NE Ohio. It was after a Bengal for a Day visit to Benedictine that he felt at home. Aiding in his decision was a full scholarship earned as a result of his high school placement test scores (HSPT).

Shane's involvement with the football team started during his freshman year, playing on the freshman team and working as the Varsity team's water boy. By sophomore year, however, he realized that while he loved the game, playing wasn't his true calling. Instead, he found a new passion as the team manager—a role where he could still be deeply connected to the sport he loved.

As the football team manager, Shane takes on a variety of responsibilities that are crucial to the team's success. He films all games, scrimmages, and nearly all practices from different angles. He is responsible for maintaining and repairing equipment, laundering jerseys, and handling logistics for both home and away games. From setting up equipment to tearing it down and ensuring everything is returned, Shane's attention to detail helps the team run smoothly.

Shane manages a crew of five people who assist in different tasks like filming and providing water for the players. His work includes ensuring live replay footage is available for the coaches to review during games and equipment failures are corrected on the spot. Road trips often present new challenges, but Shane embraces the unpredictability, adapting quickly to unfamiliar environments and field conditions.

Athletic Director John Carter said, "Shane's work ethic and dedication are truly commendable. He is often one of the first to arrive at school and the last to leave, staying late to make sure everything is cleaned up after events. His willingness to help out wherever needed exemplifies his commitment to Benedictine High School, and I am confident that this attitude will carry over into his future endeavors."

Benedictine Varsity quarterback Matthew Furst added this about Shane, "Shane is a phenomenal person and does so much for the football team. He really keeps the team together by always helping in his team manager role. He sets up for practices, he films them, and sends the film out for us to study. Shane also makes sure gameday is a breeze, he sets up the whole stadium and gets helpers to film the game, while he is on the field making sure everything runs smoothly, by keeping the headsets in check, keeping the coaches calm on the sideline, and makes sure players have everything they need to play in the game. 'What doesn't he do' is the definition of Shane. He is very motivated and everyone on the football team and in the school loves him."

Beyond football, Shane is a member of the baseball team, serving as a catcher for all four years. His leadership extends beyond athletics, as he is the president of both the Student Council and his senior class. Shane also serves as vice president of the National Honor Society, is an active member of the Key Club, and contributes to *The Bennet* and Benedictine's literary magazine.

In September, Shane learned that he is a National Merit Scholarship Semi-Finalist which is an honor bestowed on the top 1% of test takers in the country.

This fall, Shane is preparing for the challenges of college. He hopes to successfully complete the rigorous entrance requirements for admittance to West Point. He plans to study economics and has his sights set on working for the Finance Corps in the Army. He grew up watching his father work in public finance and has aspirations of a similar path for himself.

Shane's story reflects the values instilled at Benedictine: hard work, leadership, and a commitment to excellence. Even in tough times, like the football team's 0-10 season, he never wavered in his loyalty or dedication to his school and his teammates. His grandfather, Charles Hopkins, would no doubt be proud of the path Shane has chosen—one marked by perseverance, kindness, and an unwavering commitment to getting things done.



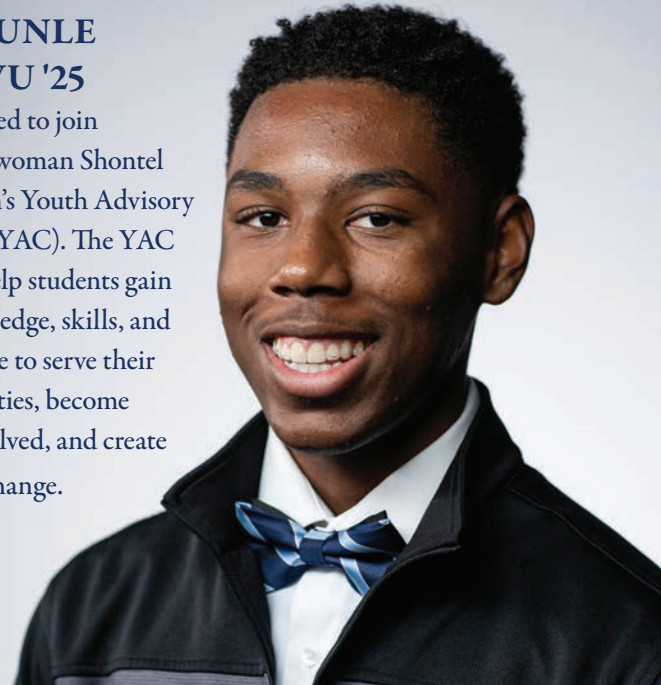
Campus Happenings



FALL SERVICE DAY: Friends and family gathered for Fall Service Cleanup day on Saturday, October 19, 2024.

OYEKUNLE OLOWU '25

was selected to join Congresswoman Shontel M. Brown's Youth Advisory Council (YAC). The YAC aims to help students gain the knowledge, skills, and confidence to serve their communities, become more involved, and create positive change.



ENGINEERING CLUB: Students were challenged to build a spaghetti and marshmallow tower. The tower had to be a minimum of 25 inches tall, and they only had 20 strands of spaghetti to work with!

VIDEO GAME CLUB:

In this club, aspiring student DJs had the opportunity to put their skills to the test and show off their mixing abilities using DJ Hero!





THE BAND

joined the Italian Heritage Club to march in the annual Columbus Day parade on 10/14.

Thank you!

THANK YOU, DR. ANTHONY DAHER '89,

for giving the gift of your time with our students. Dr. Daher is an active volunteer to Mr. Gambon's classroom, helping to give our students a glimpse into the life of a practicing physician. Last year, he led students in a pig-feet suturing demonstration. This year, he did a primer on emergency medicine and a demonstration of how to intubate an unconscious patient.



MR. BRIAN HALL AND MR. DONALD WHITT '08

returned to campus to introduce the Jordan Hall Society to the Men of Benedictine. Jordan Hall '08, who tragically passed away in a plane crash in 2022, left behind a legacy of passion and entrepreneurial spirit. In his memory, the Hall family has established the Jordan Hall Society to inspire and support young entrepreneurs, helping them explore

opportunities and fuel their dreams of success—just as Jordan did. We are honored to see his legacy live on through this incredible initiative.

JAYZAHN JONES '27 has become a “resident” artist in the art room. He does an amazing job of blending with colored pencils to make beautiful works of art.





LIGHTING *the* WAY: Beacon Program Introduces Benedictine Pathways

Written by **LYNNE SCHROEDER**

The Beacon Program at Benedictine High School is a way to guide students to their goals and dreams. Benedictine will provide intentional programming before 9th grade, between 9th and 12th grade, and beyond high school to give resources and wrap-around support necessary to not only change young men, but change lives, communities, and the world around them.

*The theme **BEFORE, BETWEEN, BEYOND** captures our intention to provide support services across their learning lifetime.*

PREPARING FOR SUCCESS

The Beacon Program starts by equipping students with the foundational skills and mindset necessary to succeed academically and personally. Before students enter the complex world of high school, they will have the opportunity to take enrichment classes, prepare for the high school placement test, and attend other academic camps on Benedictine's campus. In these programs, students are guided through self-assessment, goal setting, and essential study skills. This phase ensures that students are prepared to face challenges with confidence and clarity as they matriculate to high school.

BEFORE

- Sports Camps
- Summer Enrichment
- Academic Year Enrichment

STEM

Fine Arts

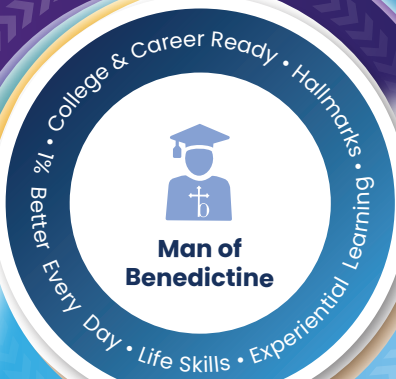
Entrepreneurial

Vocational

BETWEEN

FORMING A MAN OF BENEDICTINE

In the "Between" stage, the Beacon Program offers continuous support throughout a student's high school journey. This phase focuses on helping students explore various academic pathways, extracurricular activities, social responsibilities, and life skills. These pathways will allow our students to determine what they enjoy and dislike before graduation while also developing leadership skills and career readiness across many fields. The ability to explore and curate one's own path with guidance and engage in meaningful activities will help maximize the high school experience for each of Benedictine's students.



BEYOND

Relational Stewardship

Howley College Scholars

BUILDING A TRADITION OF SUCCESS

The "Beyond" phase of the Beacon Program supports and engages students post-graduation. Students will have support in those early years of college when they may not know the routines of FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) or how to utilize all of the academic and career services of their campus. Benedictine will provide opportunities for career planning, mentorship, and networking that will serve our graduates well into adulthood. The program ensures that students are not only ready to take the next step but are also equipped with the tools and confidence to thrive on whatever path they choose in life.



PATHWAYS OF SUCCESS:

A FOCUS ON THE BETWEEN (9th-12th GRADE)

In further support of the Between years, Benedictine High School announced the rollout of Benedictine Pathways as a cornerstone of our educational curriculum. This unique educational initiative empowers students to discover their personal strengths, develop leadership skills, and prepare for future success while also taking college prep coursework. Through personalized learning, mentorship, character-building activities, and Career Technical Education (CTE) exploration, students are guided along a pathway of personal growth towards the goal of becoming a Man of Benedictine.

Pat Lloyd '27 and Jacob Shean '25 commenting pregame during a BSN broadcast vs Defiance in the OHSAA playoffs. This game would also re-air on RESN, channel 22.1 and on 979 on Spectrum.

Photo by Will Mylen '27

4 PATHWAYS:



STEM



FINE ARTS



ENTREPRENEURIAL



VOCATIONAL

KEY FEATURES OF BENEDICTINE PATHWAYS:

Personalized Learning Tracks: Students can choose from multiple pathways that best suit their academic strengths and career goals. Each track includes a combination of core subjects, electives, and specialized courses.

Experiential Learning Opportunities: Benedictine Pathways integrates internships, mentorship programs, and project-based learning, allowing students to gain hands-on experience and build a strong professional network.

Academic and Career Guidance: Dedicated advisors and counselors support students throughout their journey, helping them navigate their academic choices and career planning.

Collaborative Learning Environment: The program fosters a collaborative atmosphere where students can work together on interdisciplinary projects, enhancing their problem-solving and teamwork skills.

We believe the benefits of Benedictine Pathways are many including:

- Enhanced student engagement and motivation through tailored learning experiences of their choice.
- Stronger connections between classroom learning and real-world applications.
- Improved academic performance and preparedness for higher education and careers and/or trades.
- After completing four years at Benedictine, our graduates are prepared for life.



FINE ARTS PATHWAY

is the first Pathway to roll out this school year and below captures the details of what that looks like.

	FRESHMEN	SOPHOMORES	JUNIORS	SENIORS	
COURSES	No Coursework Available Due to Freshman Scheduling	Journalism Film Animation 1 Animation 2	Journalism & Mass Communication Drawing 1 Drawing 2	Sports Literature Graphic Design Music Technology	Digital Portfolio
CLUBS	Yearbook The Bennet Literary Magazine Photography Media Production				
EXTRACURRICULARS, INDEPENDENT STUDY, & INTERNSHIPS	Sporting Event Broadcasts	Sporting Event Broadcasts Social Media Marketing	Sporting Event Broadcasts Social Media Marketing Playhouse Square Fox 8	Sporting Event Broadcasts Social Media Marketing Playhouse Square Fox 8	

By leveraging cutting-edge technology, Benedictine Pathways ensures that students have access to the latest tools and resources, preparing them for the digital world. Through coursework, experiential learning, and extracurriculars, students can immerse themselves in a pathway as deep or shallow as they want. By graduation, students will build out a digital portfolio that showcases their interests and talent, along with serving as a useful tool for future education or employment.

President Dave Schroeder '90 said, "We are excited about the integration of Meta Quest VR gear so Benedictine can begin to pilot our Vocational Pathway during the second half of the school year. Students will engage in career exploration and career technical education in the following industries:

Aviation Maintenance, Manufacturing & Construction: Skilled Trades, Diesel Technology, Hospitality & Tourism, Automotive Mechanics, Electrical Construction, and Healthcare."

Brian Stephenson, a member of our Admissions team, was named Beacon Director to ensure the program is launched successfully and executed with excellence. He said, "At Benedictine, we believe that every young man deserves not only the opportunity to succeed but the guidance and support to shape his own journey. The Beacon Program and Pathways Initiative light the way for our students to thrive before, between, and beyond their time with us—so that they may not only achieve personal success but also illuminate the lives of others."

OCCUPATIONS	MEDIAN SALARY	ANNUAL JOB OPENINGS	JOB GROWTH (2023–2033)
Broadcast Sound & Video Technicians	\$54,160	12,900	3%
Camera Operator & Video Editors	\$65,070	7,100	3%
Public Relations Specialists	\$66,750	27,100	6%
Technical Writer	\$80,050	4,100	4%
Producers & Directors	\$82,510	13,900	8%
Special Effects Artist & Animators	\$99,060	6,700	4%
Advertising, Promotions, & Marketing Managers	\$156,580	36,600	8%

From the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

WHY PATHWAYS?

Benedictine recognizes that life skills are essential to success no matter what pathway a student chooses to take on their way to becoming a Man of Benedictine. The Pathways curriculum is a dynamic, student-centered approach that integrates academic excellence with personal development. By offering tailored educational experiences, students are empowered to explore their passions, develop critical thinking skills, and prepare for future success in life.

The Pathways curriculum is under the umbrella of the Beacon Program, an initiative that provides complete wrap-around support for students and alumni. The Beacon Program focuses on three phases of a student's journey: Before. Between. Beyond. The initiative's goal is to prepare students for success Before they enter Benedictine, help students navigate high school Between their four years as students, and plan for the future Beyond as Men of Benedictine in a supportive community.

According to the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), the U.S. Census Bureau, and the American Psychological Association (APA)

Only **44%**
of boys enroll in college
immediately after
high school

BOYS

are more likely to be
diagnosed with learning
disabilities

AND

they report lower levels of
interest and motivation in
high school

30%
of jobs
requiring a
trade or technical
education pay
above the median
income

Career and
Technical Education
participants have a
10% HIGHER
GRADUATION
RATE
AND
HIGHER RATES OF
EMPLOYMENT

3 MILLION
jobs in skilled trades going unfilled by 2028

UNLOCK YOUR POTENTIAL WITH HEROIC: A Partnership Rooted in Mind, Body, and Spirit



Written by **LYNNE SCHROEDER**

At Benedictine High School, the pursuit of **Mind, Body, and Spirit** guides everything we do. These core values inspire our students, faculty, and alumni to strive for greatness in every aspect of life. This commitment to developing the whole person is why Benedictine is proud to announce its partnership with **Heroic**, a groundbreaking platform designed to help individuals show up as the best, most heroic versions of themselves.

Heroic, founded in 2020, blends ancient wisdom, modern science, and world-class behavioral design to unlock human potential. Its tools and training programs are scientifically proven to create real, lasting change—empowering individuals to take purposeful action in their lives.

Through this partnership, Benedictine High School not only integrates Heroic into our curriculum to support student growth, but we are also excited to offer **free access to Heroic’s transformative resources** to our extended community. Now, students, parents, alumni, and friends of Benedictine can join a movement dedicated to personal growth, professional excellence, and living with a deeper sense of purpose.

Heroic is more than a platform—it’s a call to action. Whether you’re striving for personal development, leadership skills, or a greater alignment with your values, Heroic provides tools to help you take meaningful steps forward.

By embracing this partnership, we are reinforcing Benedictine’s mission to prepare students and families for lives of success, service, and significance. Together with Heroic, we can rise to meet the challenges of today and unlock the potential within ourselves to create a brighter tomorrow.

To join Heroic and begin your journey of transformation, visit <https://www.heroic.us/join>.

Let’s embrace the tools of the Heroic life and take one step closer to becoming the people we’re meant to be.

Heroic coach Jason Viyar working with students on self improvement skills.



Heroic has worked with partners like Notre Dame Football, The United States Military Academy, and the Chicago Bulls. Learn the Big Ideas from the best self-development books in 20 minutes or less with *Philosopher’s Notes*. Explore ancient wisdom classics and modern-day bestsellers on stoicism, productivity, habits, sleep, positive psychology, mental toughness, peak performance, and more.

“THE BEST SELF-DEVELOPMENT PLATFORM IN THE WORLD.”

— JOHN MACKEY, CO-FOUNDER & FORMER CEO OF WHOLE FOODS MARKET



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FOR FREE**





BENGAL FOR A DAY



benedictine
High School

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CBHS.EDU
TO LEARN MORE!

ALL ROADS LEAD TO BENEDICTINE

We are less than 2 miles from Opportunity Corridor, making access to families West and South much easier. Benedictine offers transportation to our families. Currently our routes include the following; *if you do not see a route, don't worry, we will reconfigure and pick you up!*

MENTOR/ WILLOUGHBY HILLS

Mentor Mall, Gales Garden Ctr, Chardon & Bishop/Cricket, Bishop & Lincoln/Euclid

STRONGSVILLE ROUTE

Boston & W 130th / Pearl Rd, Kensington Court, Berea

WESTSIDE ROUTE

Hayes Elementary, Berea & Lorain, Memphis & W 57th, W 19th & Denison

BAINBRIDGE/MACEDONIA/ GARFIELD HEIGHTS

St. Ritas School, Rt. 422 & Rt. 306, Turney & Willard/Orme/
Cuyahoga County Public Library

To learn more visit: www.cbhs.edu/routes-transportation





Coach Jill Thein



Coach Ainsley Gialamas

FEMALE COACHES are *Leading the Charge.*

At Benedictine, female coaches are having a positive impact on our Cross Country and Soccer athletes. Coaches Jill Thein and Ainsley Gialamas bring unique insights and approaches to coaching, offering our athletes a broader perspective on strategy, communication, and teamwork.

Coach Thein is in her first year as Cross Country coach and is responsible for bringing the sport back to Benedictine after a one-year hiatus. AD John Carter approached her a few times but it was the student interest and a few solid team leaders that helped sell her on the idea.

Coach Thein has enjoyed running since she was 12 years old and has coached CYO Cross Country for 15 years. She believes running is good for the soul and can be a great way for students to relieve stress and anxiety. She said, "While running cross country makes you part of a team, it is also an individual sport. It's a great way to set goals for oneself and feel accomplished once those goals are met." One of her personal goals for the program is to help create a lifelong habit for the athletes so they have a tool they can turn to when anxious or need a confidence boost.

The team this year is made up of 10 athletes, 8 of whom are new to running. The experience has created learning on both sides of the table. Coach Thein is teaching the athletes valuable skills and techniques to improve their times but they're teaching her a lot about motivation. She said, "Motivation looks very different between teenage boys and girls. One example is the idea to gamify the practices to make it more challenging and competitive."

Coach Thein is very proud of their season. Despite not winning in meets, there is a strong bond formed between the athletes and they are highly supportive of each other. Their stamina and endurance have greatly improved from the beginning of the season. "The boys are really hard workers with good work habits and unity as teammates. Going forward there is a foundation we can build on," she said. She is hoping to grow the program and increase the number of athletes.

Coach Gialamas brings her expertise as a former high school (Hawken) and college (John Carroll) soccer player. She also played Club soccer for Cleveland Soccer Academy for a number of years. Coach G, as the players call her, has played soccer since the age of 4 and was destined to choose this sport since her dad was a coach and her sisters also played, one at the collegiate level. The majority of her playing days were spent as a Center Back. One of her greatest memories was freshman year when her Hawken team went to State

and she got to play at Columbus' Crew Stadium. The Hawken soccer program was quite strong for both boys and girls the 4 years she was there.

This season is her first year of coaching, but she is excited to help Coach Remi build up our program at Benedictine. Coach Gialamas has a competitive spirit and felt that she was missing some of that edge that playing soccer gave her. She said, "With soccer being such a big part of my youth, I felt coaching could reignite my passion for the sport I love." One of the things she most enjoys is getting to know the students on a more personal level. She added, "My role on the Advancement team doesn't necessarily lend itself to a lot of student interaction and I wanted to immerse myself more in the Benedictine Community."

Coach G says this season has taught her a lot about herself, for one to be more present, not just for the kids but also supporting the coaching staff. She has learned different ways to communicate with different personality types. She also believes that being a female coach has helped the athletes learn different ways to be coached. She is happy to be building relationships to support students on and off the field.

Despite a large group of seniors graduating this year, she sees an upward trajectory from this season. For one, this young coaching staff has complementary dynamics and they can leverage their strengths as they figure out how they best interact. As they look to next season, there is confidence in the camaraderie and teamwork that is cultivated. Coach Remi also has a strong pipeline of potential players thanks to his work with younger kids in Club.

The presence of Coaches Thein and Gialamas helps break down traditional gender roles, allowing male athletes to see that sports are inclusive and that leadership is not limited to one gender. John Carter, Athletic Director said, "***With Coach Thein and Coach Gialamas on staff, they bring a fresh perspective to our program. Their approach goes beyond technical training—they foster a culture of accountability and respect for others, and help develop young men who will carry these lessons far beyond the field. Their presence opens minds and fosters a culture of mutual respect and inclusion, aligning with the Benedictine mission to create strong Men of Benedictine.***"

SOCCER

The Soccer Team ended their season with a 1st round playoff loss to Salem High School after a 2-10-6 season. The Bengals were coming off a school best 14 win regular season but the loss of seniors and transfers left the Bengals with a new varsity lineup. They played hard with many tie scores and close games. Senior **Noah Whisler '25** had a great year in goal and **Mykel Henderson '26** was the leading goal scorer for the Bengals. The Bengals will look to build off of this year and the experience earned by many of the underclassmen.

Noah Whisler '25 with a save vs Salem in the playoffs >>>



GOLF

The Benedictine Golf Team ended their season at the OHSAA Sectional Tournament at Quail Hollow, finishing 7th overall as a team. **Will Misconish '25**, **Will Mylen '27**, **Luca Bucci '26**, **Zachary Ade '27**, and **Brady Foss '25** represented the Bengals in the tournament and played well for the Blue and White at Quail Hollow and all season. Misconish was the top scorer for Benedictine, shooting an 83 overall on the Devlin/Von Hagge course.

We'll miss seniors **Will Misconish**, **Brady Foss**, and **Charles Koppitch '25** and best of luck to them as they continue their senior year. Thank you for all you've done for Benedictine Golf.

Will Misconish '25 off his driver at Sectionals >>>



CROSS COUNTRY

New Head Coach **Jill Thein** jumpstarted the Cross Country Team after a year-long hiatus and the team experienced a lot of growth over the course of the season. Senior **Thaddeus Harris '25** and junior **Michael Grobelny '26** became the top performers and performed well at the District Meet but did not advance. **De'Chaun Mathis '25**, **Athenasius Fischer '25**, **Cyprian Fischer '27**, **Zeke Bartlett '27**, and **Rocco Walton '28** also ran in the district meet at Lorain County Community College. *Thaddeus Harris '25 at Districts >>>*



FOOTBALL

The Bengals had a great regular season going 8-2 with a lot of memorable moments. One of the most memorable came in round 1 of the OHSAA Playoffs when senior **Chris Maloney '25** ran for a school record 386 yards in a single game, not to mention 5 touchdowns in a 35-7 win over Columbian. He continued that success on the ground the week after against Defiance with 228 yards and 3 touchdowns.

The Benedictine Bengals fought hard this season, but our playoff journey came to an end with a tough Regional Semi-Final loss to Padua. Thank you to our players, coaches, and fans for an incredible season filled with determination and pride.

<<< Chris Maloney '25 with his first touchdown of the season vs Canton South at Benedictine's first game at Shula Stadium. Photo by Lex Herr '25

TOTAL FUNDS RAISED

\$4,242,576

Gifts from 7/1/2023 through 6/30/2024

ANNUAL FUND

1,970 Unique Donors	411 New Donors	Donors from 38 States
3,268 Gifts Processed	\$904 Average Gift Size	Alumni Class Giving 401 Donors raising a total of \$914,278

TOP 10 CLASS BY PARTICIPATION

CLASS OF	% GIVING
1974	48%
1964	36%
1957	27%
1958	25%
1966	25%
1959	25%
1955	23%
1953	23%
1972	22%
1990	21%





BengalSGO
 BENEDICTINE HIGH SCHOOL
 Scholarship Granting Organization

INAUGURAL YEAR

70 Donors raised
\$65,272

DAY of GIVING

305 Donors raised
\$106,399

Gala

38 Sponsors
 483 Attendees
\$705,000



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

*True Man
of Benedictine:*

KEVIN OWENS '85



Kevin Owens '85 exemplifies what it means to be a True Man of Benedictine, carrying the values instilled in him through his service in law enforcement and his leadership within the International Order of Alhambra. With a distinguished 34-year career in law enforcement, Kevin's deeper connection to service shines through his role as Grand Commander of the Cleveland-based Carmona Caravan of Alhambra. This Catholic organization, dedicated to serving individuals with disabilities, reflects the same Benedictine principles of faith, community, and service to others.

Kevin's introduction to Alhambra came early through his parents' involvement, but it wasn't until 2021 that he reconnected with the group after a long hiatus. Since then, he's led the Carmona Caravan through modern upgrades, establishing community partnerships and spearheading fundraising initiatives that support local programs like the Miracle League and the Peace, Love, Prom event. Under his leadership, the Caravan has embraced new communication tools and expanded its charitable efforts.

Kevin's leadership is rooted in the Benedictine values he learned during his time at the school, reinforcing the importance of serving others as a way to serve God. Through his work with the Alhambra, Kevin continues the legacy of service that connects Benedictine High

School alumni with the community. Kevin said, "Our members are dedicated to providing support to intellectually disabled children and adults and the non-profit services that assist them. We consider it a privilege to do so. By serving others, we can make a real difference in their lives and show them God's love and compassion. It is a way to honor and glorify God and to fulfill our purpose as His children."

Benedictine's connection to Alhambra runs deep. Prominent alumni like Bishop Roger Gries '54, member & Spiritual Director, Kenny Kovac '72 and others along with Brother Nicholas Spisak, OSB have been active members of the Carmona Caravan. Together, they embody the mission of service and fellowship, making a lasting impact on the lives of those with disabilities.

As the Carmona Caravan moves forward from its 75th anniversary, they look ahead to continuing 75 more years of service to individuals with disabilities, while strengthening the bonds of Catholic faith and friendship. They invite you to join them—share your time and talents and experience the blessings that come with being part of their mission.

Membership is open to Catholic men and women 18 and over. To join or offer support, visit carmonacaravan.org.



Class of 1983

Dell Robinson '83 and current BHS Board Member was recently named Executive Director for the AECOM Center for Sports Administration at Ohio University.



Class of 2025

Congratulations to **Shane Hopkins '25** Semi Finalist and **James Tangen '25** Commended Student for National Merit Recognition due to their high performance on the PSAT Test.



Brian Sliwinski, former Benedictine baseball coach (2000-2015), was honored with the Dennis Woods Lifetime Achievement Award presented by the Northeast Ohio Baseball Coaches Association (NEOBCA) at Canal Park on June 24, 2024. Sliwinski's total of 230 wins at Benedictine places him second behind the legendary Augie Bossu's win total of 681. Bossu was the Bengals head baseball coach from 1954 to 1994. Additionally, Brian was the coach when Benedictine won its 1,000th baseball game in school history. While Brian is not a BHS grad, his dad, Roger, is a Class of 1960 graduate.

Class of 1992 & 2024

Like father, like son. Legacy at Benedictine shines through in the matching plaques earned by **Dan '92** and **Danny '24 Winterich**.



We are excited to share that legendary Coach Augie Bossu was inducted into the CYO Hall of Fame on September 22, 2024. Coach Bossu (1917-2008) retired with the most football wins in Ohio high school history when he retired in 1994 and continued on the coaching staff in various roles until his retirement in 2005. His impact went far beyond the final score on the field and we are pleased that he was recognized by the CYO.



Share Your News!

New Job? Engagement? Marriage? Baby? Professional Awards and Accolades?

We are always looking for fresh ideas and new content for our readers. Send your story ideas and personal updates to lschroeder@cbhs.edu.

IN MEMORIAM of alumni and friends of Saint Andrew Abbey and Benedictine High School



Charles John Hopkins Jr., 77, of the Class of 1965, passed away on July 24, 2024. After graduating from Benedictine, Chuck served the U.S. Army

from 1968-1972. He went on to earn a Bachelor's degree from John Carroll University and married Joyce Thrasher. They had four children, Patrick, Todd, Douglas, and Meghan. Although Chuck was unable to send any of his sons to Benedictine, he was very proud to let everybody know that his first grandson, Shane Hopkins, now attends Benedictine. He lived most of his adult life in Brooklyn, OH where he was president of the school board for several years. He was an avid sports fan and attended Benedictine football games until he was no longer able to.



Richard T. Mills, 91, of the Class of 1951, died on August 25, 2024. Richard served in the United States Navy during the Korean War 1951-1954. Richard worked for the East Ohio Gas Company and retired after 38 years. In retirement, Richard worked at Fairway Pines Golf Course for 10 years and later worked at Little Mountain Golf Course for 16 years. He hit a hole in one at Chardon Lakes

Golf Course. Richard served as a Eucharistic Minister since 1978. He was also active in various organizations, serving as Vice-President and Treasurer of the Holy Name Society at St. Mary Church in Painesville, past President and Treasurer of the Lake Geauga Serra Club, Treasurer of the Lake/Geauga Holy Name Society Deanery, and he was Treasurer of Canterbury Crossing Condo Association for 15 years. Richard gladly delivered Meals on Wheels in the Painesville area. Richard is survived by his wife, Mary, his six children: Richard (Debbie) Mills Jr., Edward (Heidi) Mills, Michael (Barbara) Mills, Scott (Ann Marie) Mills, Daniel (Nikki) Mills and Beth Ellen Mills. He was stepfather to Joseph (Kathie) Pohl, Terri Pohl Felger, Deborah (Bob) Grgic, and Roseanne (Ross) Varacelli. Richard leaves behind 26 grandchildren and 23, and counting, great-grandchildren. He was buried from St. Gabriel's Church in Concord Township.



George D. Sekerak, 87, of the Class of 1955, passed away August 23, 2024. He was the loving father of Brian Sekerak. George attended Benedictine High School where he lettered in baseball. He later declined a minor league baseball offer with the Pittsburgh Pirates. He was employed at Republic Steel and proudly served in the U.S. Army. George retired as a police officer

for the Cleveland Police Department where he began his career in law enforcement on basic patrol in Division Six. He was an expert marksman. He had also been a responder to the Hough Riots in July of 1966. He was recognized for bravery on July 23, 1968 during the night of the "Glenville Shootout." While under heavy weapons fire, he successfully dragged his critically wounded partner to safety while applying a lifesaving tourniquet. George's law enforcement career continued after retirement from the CPD and included positions on the federal level. An Eastern Rite parastas service was chanted at the Chambers Funeral Home in North Olmsted.



John Charles (JC) Sullivan, 81, of the Class of 1960, passed away on September 22, 2024. He was deeply rooted in his Irish heritage and history. He served as co-host of The Gerry Quinn Irish Radio Program on Sunday mornings. JC was the devoted husband to his late wife, Karen, with whom he shared over 50 years of memories and love. He was a guiding force in the lives of his children, Erin and

Fran Lally, Catherine (Kitty), and he held a special place in his heart for his late daughter, Mary. J.C. Sullivan was always proud to be a graduate of the Home of Champions. Perhaps JC's greatest passion was writing. He authored numerous articles and was published in the Irish Echo, Nordonica Hills, and DD214 newspapers. His Cleveland stories also appeared in the Mayo News (Ireland). His funeral Mass was celebrated at St. John Neumann Church in Strongsville, Ohio.



Marc Williams, 58, father to math instructor Adam Williams, passed away October 9, 2024 after a four-year battle with ALS. Marc's professional life's work was the growth and success of Highland Consulting Associates, which he founded in 1994 alongside Rich Veres and Bill Kinde. Fr. Gerard knew Marc and his family from the many years that Fr. Gerard assisted at Holy Trinity Parish in Avon.

Father Anselm and Father Thomas concelebrated the funeral mass at St. Joseph Church in Avon Lake. Father Gerard celebrated a Mass for Marc at Kings Bay Naval Base in Georgia in conjunction with his funeral in Avon Lake.

RECENTLY DECEASED

The following members of our Benedictine Community have gone on to Eternal Rest between July 1, 2024 and October 15, 2024. May they all Rest in Peace.

Class of	Name	Deceased
Class of 1951	Richard T. Mills	8/1/2024
Class of 1953	Donald C. Matousek	8/11/2024
Class of 1955	George D. Sekerak	8/23/2024
Class of 1955	Walter M. Szczecinski	10/3/2024
Class of 1960	James F. Janiak	8/19/2024
Class of 1960	John C. Sullivan	9/22/2024
Class of 1964	Joseph W. Palagyi	9/16/2024
Class of 1965	Charles J. Hopkins	7/24/2024
BHS friend	Sr. Catherine Britton	7/10/2024
BHS friend	Marc Williams	10/9/2024

Recently notified of earlier deaths

Class of 1968	James Tomkowski	2/23/2023
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If anyone knows of other recently deceased alumni, please contact the alumni office at 216-421-2080 ext. 342 or alumni@cbhs.edu.

Introducing

a New Tradition at

REUNION WEEKEND!

Saturday, June 14th at Benedictine High School

We are thrilled to unveil the Benedictine Halls of Excellence, a celebration of Fame, Honor, and Distinction. This exciting addition to Reunion Weekend will spotlight the remarkable achievements of our Benedictine Community.

Nominations are being carefully reviewed, and we can't wait to reveal the inductees who embody the very best of Benedictine!

Stay tuned—this will be a celebration you won't want to miss!



NEW TO

REUNION WEEKEND

HALLS OF EXCELLENCE INDUCTIONS

HALL OF
FAME

HALL OF
DISTINCTION

HALL OF
HONORS

SAVE THE DATE

REUNION WEEKEND 2025

JUNE 13-14, 2025

Celebrating classes ending in '5 and '0

2020

5 YEAR REUNION

1980

45 YEAR REUNION

2015

10 YEAR REUNION

1975

**50 YEAR
GOLDEN
REUNION**

2010

15 YEAR REUNION

1970

55 YEAR REUNION

2005

20 YEAR REUNION

1965

60 YEAR REUNION

2000

25 YEAR REUNION

1960

65 YEAR REUNION

1995

30 YEAR REUNION

1955

70 YEAR REUNION

1990

35 YEAR REUNION

1950

75 YEAR REUNION

1985

40 YEAR REUNION

1945

80 YEAR REUNION

2025 Reunion Weekend Dates

STAG NIGHT
MR BENEDICTINE
DINNER

FRIDAY
JUNE 13, 2025

CLASS PLANNED
ACTIVITIES
HALLS OF EXCELLENCE
INDUCTION

SATURDAY
JUNE 14, 2025

REUNION 2025

We are looking for class leaders and ambassadors from the above classes to help get the best out of the celebration of your reunion milestone during Reunion Weekend 2025.

Please contact alumni@cbhs.edu.

Dear Alumni and Friends,

At the highest point of the City of Cleveland, Benedictine High School & St. Andrew Abbey have arguably one of the best views of downtown in Northeast Ohio. In addition to the opportunity to watch air shows, Guardians' gameday fireworks, etc., we have been blessed over the years to see the beautiful change of seasons, specifically with the colorful tree leaves that surround both the monastery and campus.

This year, we were extremely grateful to add to that view with the transformation of the grotto along with the landscape and garden restoration. After 70 years, and as one of the most iconic sites on campus, The Marian Grotto along with Grotto Garden received a top-notch beautification thanks to the generosity of many including the Petitti, Kurtz, Serio, Schwartz, St. John, and Schroeder families. Over 200 guests got to see the grounds and join in on the Grotto's 70 year anniversary firsthand at our annual Abbey Benefit held at the end of September!

The Grotto Garden was rededicated in loving memory and honor of Lois & Chuck St. John '54 and Family for their *100 years* of commitment to both the high school and abbey. Yes, you read the bold, italicized number correctly: 100 years. Along with Urban's Flowers, The St. John Family has supported the Benedictine Community since 1922 (*St. Andrew Abbey beginning in 1922 and then Benedictine High School beginning in 1927*)!

Although it is the time of year where we can no longer see the beautiful leaves on the trees, we switch our attention to another season, the Christmas Season. Like the St. John's, thousands of you, including our dedicated alumni and friends, have allowed the corner of MLK Jr. Dr. and Buckeye Rd. to remain as pillars of Northeast Ohio through your kind gifts of talent, time, and treasure. Your Christmas gifts allow us to educate the students in mind, body, and spirit; and, for the monks, your continued support aids in their vocation to provide God's service. As we change seasons, we don't change our appreciation. Thank you to each of you for your loyalty!

I wish you and your loved ones a Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!
Yours in St. Benedict,

Chi L '04

Mr. Chris Lorber '04 | Chief Operating Officer



Mr. Chris Lorber '04



The St. John Family poses for a picture at the 70 year Grotto anniversary celebration.

2024 TAX SAVINGS OPPORTUNITY! CONTRIBUTE TO BENGALSGO. HOW? THREE SIMPLE STEPS!



Estimate Your Tax Liability

To estimate how much you might owe the state in taxes, review line 8C on the 1040 form you filed for the previous year.



Make Your Contribution

Give securely on our website or by check to the "BengalSGO" to benefit our students in transforming to Men of Benedictine.



Claim Your Ohio Tax Credit

Claim your tax credit on your Ohio tax form and be sure to submit the tax credit receipt that you receive from us.

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benedictine
HIGH SCHOOL

Blue & White

GALA

SATURDAY
MARCH 8th, 2025
6:00 pm

HILTON CLEVELAND
DOWNTOWN

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CLEVELAND, OHIO 44114



Sponsorships and
tickets are now
available.

