

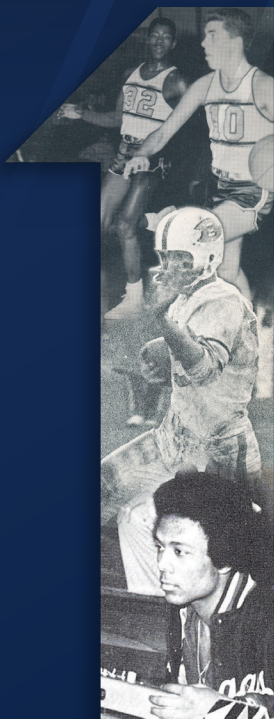
ORA ET LABORA



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

Spring 2026

CELEBRATING



YEARS

A CENTURY OF TRADITION. A FUTURE OF INNOVATION.

Benedictine Announces \$25 Million Centennial Campaign

ROOTED IN CHRIST, RENEWED FOR THE NEXT CENTURY

Each year, as spring unfolds, there is a quiet moment when everything begins again.

The trees bud, the grass returns, and what once seemed still and lifeless slowly comes back to life—like our beautiful Marian Grotto, once surrounded by the stillness of the winter snow, now gently returning to life again. It happens almost unnoticed—but it happens faithfully.

As we continue celebrating the Easter season of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, we are reminded that this is not simply something that once took place, but something that continues to unfold in our lives. The Risen Lord reveals to us that God is always at work—bringing life out of death, light out of darkness, and hope where it is most needed.

In many ways, this same quiet renewal can be seen here at the Abbey and at Benedictine High School.

As we look toward the celebration of the **centennial of Benedictine High School**—we give thanks for a remarkable journey that began on September 8, 1927, on the Feast of the Birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary. From those early days—rooted in the faith of Slovak immigrants and guided by Benedictine monks—something lasting was planted. What began as a small seed has, over the years, grown into a living tradition of faith, education, and community.

At the heart of that tradition is a simple yet powerful call from the Holy Rule of St. Benedict: to prefer nothing whatever to Christ. That call has shaped generations of young men—not only in the classroom, but in the deeper understanding of who they are as sons of God. Through prayer, study, and daily life—embracing the Benedictine rhythm of prayer and work—they come to discover that faith is not just something learned, but something lived.

The centennial is more than a milestone. It is a moment of gratitude.

We remember the monks who first built this foundation, often with limited means but great faith. We remember the teachers, staff, families, and benefactors whose quiet sacrifices have sustained and strengthened this mission through the years. Their dedication, often unseen, has made a lasting difference in countless lives.

And now, the responsibility—and the privilege—passes to us.

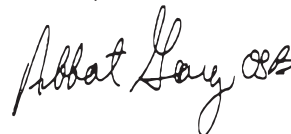
Like the renewal we see in nature, our work is never complete. Each generation is invited to build, to deepen, and to carry forward what has been entrusted to them. The **BHS100! Centennial Campaign** is one expression of that commitment—ensuring that future generations will encounter Christ here and be formed in His light.

Entrusted to the care of the Blessed Virgin Mary from the very beginning, we look to her still—she who first said “yes” to new life of for the world, Jesus, her Son and our Lord—as our model of faith, trust, and quiet fidelity.

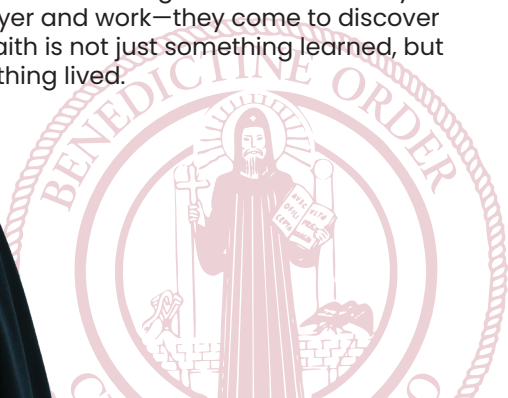
Easter reminds us that hope is not something we simply remember—it is something we live.

As we continue through this Easter season and look toward this important celebration, may we recognize the new life God is bringing forth among us. And may we, in our own way, continue to build upon what has been given—rooted in Christ, and renewed for the next century.

Peace,



Abbot Gary, OSB '74



A Community Built on Listening and Learning

Benedictine Community -

If you attended our record-breaking Blue and White Gala in March, you may recall my closing remarks where I shared the exciting news of our Centennial Campaign, appropriately titled "BHS 100: A Century of Tradition, a Future of Innovation." I quoted the famous prologue of the Rule of St. Benedict, citing his invitation to "listen with the ear of your heart." These simple words frame the idea of receiving wisdom from the past and acting faithfully toward the future. It is a posture that looks both backward and forward at once: backward to the wisdom entrusted to us by those who came before and forward to the life we are called to build together. As Benedictine High School approaches its 100th anniversary in 2027, we find ourselves in precisely that posture — listening carefully to what our history has taught us, and responding with faithful, hopeful action for the future.

The Benedictine tradition has never been one of mere preservation. It is a living tradition that honors the past not by freezing it in place, but by drawing from its depths the wisdom to meet each new moment with courage and creativity. Fifteen centuries have passed, yet this philosophy continues to resonate and guide us through moments of both challenge and success.

The Current State of Benedictine High School

I write to you today with transparency and with gratitude. Benedictine High School carries forward a strong legacy that generations of monks, educators, families, and alumni have built with extraordinary dedication and care. Our foundation is strong and, upon it, meaningful change is underway.

We find ourselves growing, with enrollment projected to be up 25% over three years, totaling 330 students, as we prepare to welcome the Class of 2030. We have maintained our tradition of representing a diverse community of young men from all corners of Northeast Ohio, who come together under the spirit of *Ora et Labora*, brotherhood and leadership. We remain the only Catholic high school to share a campus with our monastic community, including five monks who walk the hallways each day. Families value a traditional Catholic education where they know their sons will be challenged academically, athletically, and spiritually.

Changes We Have Made — Faithful Steps Forward

Saint Benedict understood that a community must adapt to thrive. He instructed his abbots: "So arrange everything that the strong have something to yearn for and the weak have nothing to run from." In that same spirit, the changes undertaken at Benedictine High School have been guided not by the pursuit of novelty, but by a deep commitment to our mission: forming young men of faith, scholarship, and character.

If you have not been to campus recently, a stroll through Rufus Courtyard will bring you to the doorstep of the brand new Greg & Kathy Rufus '74 Student Commons. The once drab cafeteria has been transformed into a vibrant hub of student life, community, and daily gathering. Continue your walk across our beautifully manicured grounds and you may find yourself standing before the new Student Experience Center (SEC), which offers a unique learning environment for young men who seek opportunities in fields such as technology, engineering, construction, and media. Paying respect to our past, the SEC was once home to the monastic chapel and then the monastic library before being reimaged as a one-of-a-kind innovation center. From there, follow the meandering walkways to a fully refreshed Marian Grotto, offered as a nod to the past and the Class of 1954. You will find new plantings, beautiful flowers, a freshly power-washed statue of Our Mother Mary, and signage that tells the story of Benedictine, St. Andrew's Abbey, and the Marian Grotto. Finally, turn south toward Bossu Field, where a brand-new turf surface invites every athlete who sets foot on it to perform at his highest level.

An Eye to the Future — Our Centennial and Beyond

"Listen carefully, my child, to the master's instructions, and attend to them with the ear of your heart. This is advice from a father who loves you; welcome it, and faithfully put it into practice." — Rule of St. Benedict, Prologue

The year 2027 will mark one hundred years of Benedictine High School standing as a witness to Catholic education on the east side of Cleveland. A centennial is, by its very nature, an act of memory and of hope. We remember the monks who arrived with modest means and immeasurable faith. We remember the young men who walked these halls and carried what they learned here out into the world. And we look ahead with confidence and hope, not because the road is easy, but because we do not walk it alone.

The Benedictine tradition reminds us that stability, conversion of life, and obedience are not merely personal commitments. They are communal ones. Our school, like the monastery, is a community bound together by shared purpose. As we enter this centennial season, we invite every member of our community, including the monks, faculty, alumni, parents, and friends, to renew that shared purpose and to walk with us into the next one hundred years.

Bengal Proud,



Dave Schroeder '90

President, Benedictine
High School



News from the Abbey

Br. Gregory Coyne, OSB, took the Pro-Life Club to the March for Life in Washington, DC on January 22–24, 2026. They stopped in at Christendom College for a visit to his Alma Mater, for a little “college tour.” Br. Gregory has also been leading a budding BHS Rugby team, partnering with the Mentor coaches and team and scheduling contests with local schools.



Bishop Roger Gries '54, OSB to Mark 25th Anniversary as a Bishop

On June 7, 2026, Bishop Roger Gries, OSB will mark his 25th anniversary of ordination as a bishop. He and Bishop Martin Amos were ordained as auxiliary bishops of the Diocese of Cleveland on June 7, 2001 by Bishop Anthony Pilla of Cleveland. Now 89 years old, Bishop Roger has been officially retired by the Pope since 2013, a year after he reached the age of 75 when bishops are required to submit their resignations. Since then he has continued, as his health permits, to celebrate some public liturgies in the diocese. He moved back to the abbey and lives in a special suite of rooms on the second floor



Fr. Thomas Sanders, OSB participated in the February 11–13 Damascus Retreat taking four students with him to train in campus ministry leadership. The retreat was held near Columbus, Ohio.

Fr. Finbar Ramsak, OSB led a post-Easter renewal weekend at Kings Bay Naval Submarine Base in Georgia from April 8–13 at the invitation of Fr. Gerard Gonda, OSB. The weekend included a Theology on Tap event attended by 35 sailors and veterans, preaching the weekend Masses, and getting a personal tour of a nuclear submarine from base commander Captain Bill Dull (see photo).





Fr. Michael Brunovsky, OSB has been assisting at Holy Resurrection Byzantine Catholic Parish (old St. Stephen in Euclid) since Christmas. While there he has connected with alumnus Brian Sheridan ('87), who is in training for minor orders, hopefully on the way to seminary training.

Fr. Michael also hosted Dr. Martin Javor of Prešov University along with Mr. Juraj Písarčík, Slovak entrepreneur (Tatrakon Corporation) with interest in the Slovak

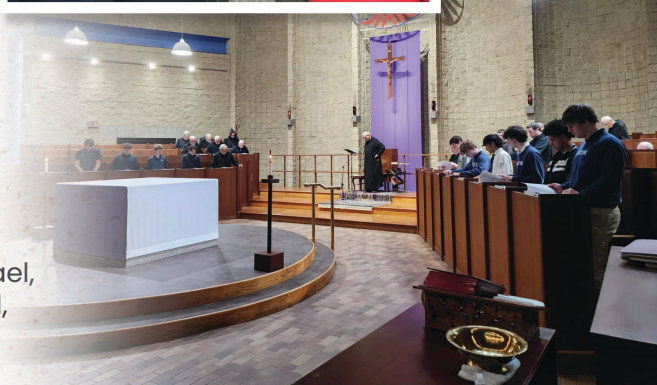
Institute project. Dr. Javor is the curator of the "Kasigarda" Museum in Slovakia, specializing in the Slovak immigrant experience. Dr. Javor is assisting the Slovak Institute in receiving a grant from the Slovak Government.



Dr. Javor, Fr. Michael, Milan Kobulsky (SI Director), Juraj Písarčík

On February 25, 2026, the monks of Saint Andrew Abbey hosted a "Maurus and Placid Dinner" to introduce select high school students to Benedictine monastic life. Maurus and Placid were two of St. Benedict's younger disciples. Twelve current BHS students attended.

The evening consisted of a presentation from Prior Michael Brunovsky, OSB, participation in chanted vespers, supper with the monks, a tour of the abbey, and a roundtable discussion where personal vocation stories were shared by Abbot Gary, Prior Michael, Fr. Anselm, Fr. Dismas, Bro. Gabriel, Fr. Thomas, and Bro. Gregory.



of the front wing of the monastery. Few bishops reach their Silver Jubilee as bishops because they are named bishops later in their priesthood.

It is also unusual for a Benedictine monk to be selected to serve as the bishop of a diocese. Currently there are only two active Benedictine bishops in the U.S.: Bishop Elias Lorenzo, OSB of Newark, New Jersey and Bishop Godfrey Mullin, OSB of Belleville, Illinois. Bishop Roger

had completed 20 years as the Abbot of St. Andrew Abbey (1981-2001) and was preparing to retire when he reached his 65th birthday in 2002, when he received a surprise phone call on the Feast of St. Benedict, March 21, in 2001 from Bishop Pilla who had received a phone call from the Pope's representative in Washington, DC telling him that Pope St. John Paul II had appointed Abbot Roger as one of the two new auxiliary bishops of Cleveland.



This year's Abbey Benefit, in honor of Bishop Gries' 25th Anniversary of ordination as a bishop, will be held on July 30, 2026. Please save the date and join us for a very special celebration!

Abbot Gary Hoover, OSB '74 and Fr. Michael attended the Spring meeting of the Slovak Catholic Federation in Danville, PA, March 7-8, 2026. The SCF is an umbrella organization for Slovak Catholic organizations that helps promote the Catholic faith and Slovak Heritage.



Abbot Gary is also hot on the Confirmation trail, already officiating at Holy Martyrs in Weymouth, St. Angela Merici in Fairview Park, St. Luke in Lakewood, and Gesu in University Heights. He has 10 more confirmations through the Spring.



A NIGHT TO REMEMBER



24th Annual

*Blue &
White*
GALA

ER, A LEGACY BEGINS



What is Benedictine and what does it mean to you? That question was answered in so many different ways on Saturday, March 14th, during our 24th Annual Blue & White Gala. From those who sponsored the event, to those who bid on auction items and raised their paddle, to those who volunteered to be a part of the night, the resounding answer was that ***Benedictine means everything!***



It was a record-breaking night across the board with an **all-time high 562 guests** in attendance and **83 student volunteers**, raising **over \$876,000 dollars**.



719

Supporters



566

Attendees



72

Sponsors & Advertisers





60 +
Faculty, Staff
& Spouses



170 +
Auction &
Raffle Items

Over
\$876,000
Raised!

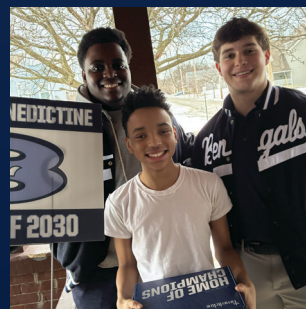


Thank You

to our sponsors, donors, attendees, and volunteers - we couldn't exist without your investment of money, time, energy, and effort. Our community continues to prove, again and again, why Benedictine is a special and life changing place.

BENGAL KNOCK

On February 12th, the Men of Benedictine hand delivered Acceptance packages to their new brothers, members of the Class of 2030. It was a proud moment for students and families and an incredible opportunity to welcome those who will be joining us over the coming months!



At Benedictine, the word “brotherhood” is heard often. It is an all-encompassing term that seeks to capture the support and connection we share with our fellow classmates. The sense of Acceptance we experience from our peers and our school is not something easily found in life.

At Benedictine, we strive to include every member of our community — not only because it is the right thing to do, but because it is essential to who we are. We rely on one another — our classmates, teammates, teachers, and coaches — to build the foundation of our success. In turn, we become that same foundation for others.

Together, we can accomplish great things — and it all begins with Acceptance.

To the members of the Class of 2030, you are **Accepted**. Welcome to Benedictine. We look forward to you joining us.

WINTER SPORTS RECAP



Wrestling

The Wrestling Program completed another year with notable team and individual success. The season concluded on March 15th with two OHSAA placements in the State Tournament: **Devion Coffin '26** and **John Paul Hatgas '27**.

The Bengals advanced 10 wrestlers to the District Tournament after placing 2nd overall as a team at Sectionals. LJ Mayes '29 (120 lbs) made it as an alternate. Jayzahn Jones '27 (138 lbs), Joey Paletta '27 (144 lbs), Gabe Dolan '27 (157 lbs), Kyle Mcneely '29 (107 lbs), Jordan Huff '29 (113 lbs) were all District Qualifiers. **John Jones '26** (165 lbs) was Sectional Champion and **Shepard Charlton '26** (285 lbs), John Paul Hatgas '27 (126

lbs), Devion Coffin '26 (132 lbs) were all runner-ups.

Out of the District Tournament, John Jones, Shepard Charlton, Hatgas, and Coffin all qualified for the State Tournament. Charlton was a 4 year wrestling standout and John Jones returned to the team for his senior season and went on an impressive run with only 4 losses the year. All 4 of these student-athletes won matches in Columbus, but Coffin and Hatgas both advanced to the final day in 7th place matches.

Devion Coffin finished his illustrious wrestling career as one of the most successful in Benedictine history. He finished his senior season with a win to

secure a 7th place finish and his place in the record books. Coffin was also named a NCHSA All-American.

John Paul Hatgas returned from injury this season and provided many memorable moments. He finished 8th in State of Ohio (D2) and is well positioned to have a very successful senior campaign in 26-27.

At the conclusion of this successful season, Coach Terrence Cheeks was awarded the Greater Cleveland Wrestling Coaches and Officials Association D2 Coach of the Year.

Thank you to seniors Coffin, Jones, Charlton, and Luke Dolan '26 for all of their hard work and contributions to Benedictine Wrestling.

Basketball



Benedictine Basketball finished 14-10 this season in Coach Winston Grays '12 first year and showed a lot of promise and fight in a memorable first year as part of the North Coast Conference.

Junior guard **Stephon Bohanon '27** finished First Team All District and All-Conference and was a D4 All-Ohio Special Mention. Xander Smith '27, Jonathan Spikes '26, Bryant Duffy '27, and Antwan Livingston '27 were All-District Honorable Mentions.

The Bengals season finished in a tough loss in the District Semi-Final to Woodridge, 62-43. The Bengals will graduate Spikes, Khaled Thompson '26, and Tyrell O'Neal '26. Thanks to them for their contributions to the program.

Photographed by Antwine Smith '27



Photographed by Terence Johnson '26

Hockey



The Bengal Hockey Team fought hard all season with mixed results. After some early year tournament success, the Bengals struggled to convert their chances during regular season play while playing some of Ohio's top competition. The highlight of the year was an overtime playoff win vs Normandy, 5-4 thanks to two clutch goals by Junior Aiden Haug '27.

Seniors Luca Bucci '26, Mason Rzepka '26, and Jeremy Ade '26 led this team admirably under the strong direction of Head Coach **Bob Kehres '91**. Defensemen Bucci was named to the GCHSHL First Team with Goalie Ade named to the Second Team and Forward Rzepka was Third Team.

Thank you to these seniors for all your contributions to Benedictine Hockey, including key contributions to back-to-back Baron Cup Championships in 2023 and 2024.

Read about the Bowling Season on Page 18

CELEBRATING



YEARS

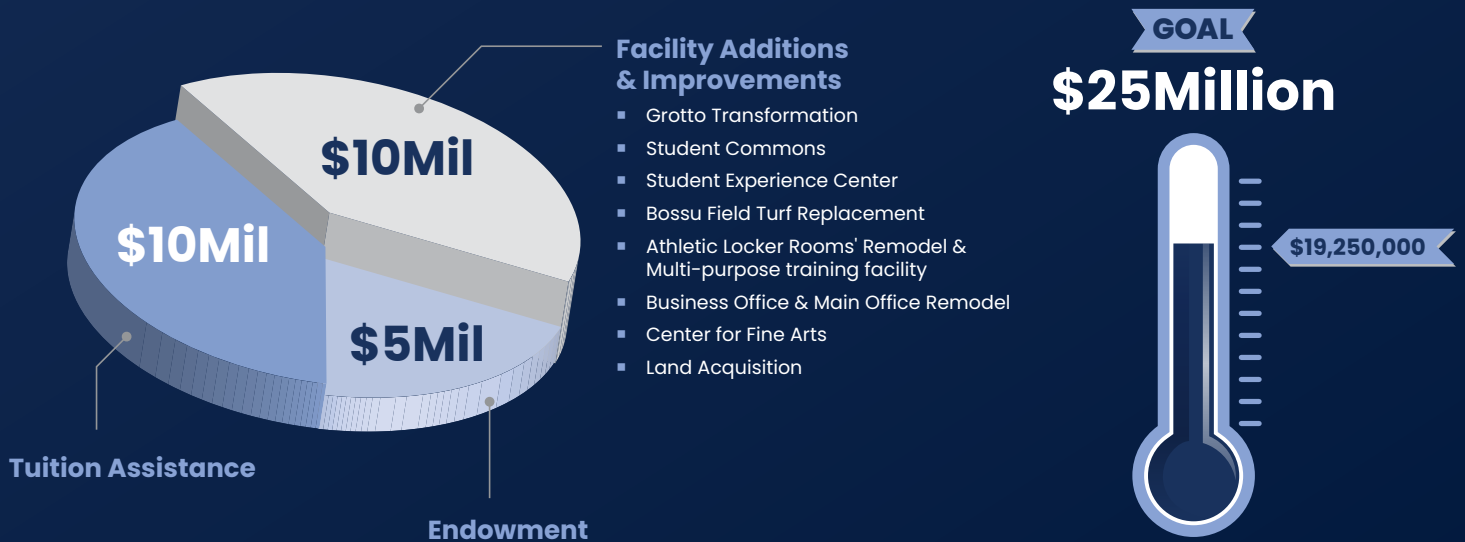
A CENTURY OF TRADITION, A FUTURE OF INNOVATION

As we approach Benedictine High School's Centennial Celebration (1927-2027), The Board of Trustees, Abbey Senior Council, School Leadership and Steering Committee are pleased to announce *BHS100! – A Century of Tradition, a Future of Innovation.*



Through extensive research, strategic planning, feasibility studies, and site analysis, the programs, projects, and capital investments identified below will successfully propel the mission of Benedictine High School towards our second century of educating young men in mind, body, and spirit. The **\$25 million dollar** comprehensive campaign includes \$10 million towards tuition assistance and operations, \$10 million in capital improvements, and \$5 million to the endowment.

PROJECTS AND COSTS



AREAS OF FOCUS IN THE NEXT 5 YEARS



Academic Achievement & Career Skills

Shift from 'college-prep' to 'life-ready', regardless of path

Benedictine believes in developing students who are prepared for the challenges of life. We have successfully augmented our traditional curriculum with professional life skills, career readiness and personal development.



Student Growth & Fundraising

Investment & Innovation lead to steady, sustained growth

We are a landing spot for young men and families interested in a faith based education that's diverse, provides college-preparatory and career pathway opportunities, as well as a smaller faculty: student ratio for personalization.



Campus Expansion, Modernization & Safety

Collegiate experience on a safe and inviting campus

Prospective families feel welcome and experience a safe campus that is modern and promotes learning in a dynamic environment. Our open, expansive campus offers areas such as the Rufus Courtyard for gathering and recreation or the Marian Grotto for spiritual reflection.



Spiritual Formation & Integration

Humility, Service, Family & Faith

Benedictine provides opportunities to engage, learn, and develop the spiritual life in concert with the tradition of the Catholic Church. Through the Benedictine experience, we are called to first observe the elements of faith and the spiritual life.



Operational Excellence & Customer Focus

Our approach and our people are the difference

Benedictine has successfully implemented systematic professionalism at all levels of the organization. We are streamlining processes and using technology to improve the customer experience.



Brand, Image & Marketing

We are a Top Choice

Our brand is recognized across NE Ohio and the state. We are known as the Home of Champions, not only for athletics but also for academics and innovative programs and our branding must reflect that.

THE FUTURE BENEDICTINE HIGH SCHOOL

Student Experience Center

The Student Experience Center, located in the former Abbey Library, offers students a unique learning environment for Career Technical Education (CTE) programs that integrate core academic knowledge with technical and occupational knowledge and skills. The aim is to provide students a pathway to postsecondary education and careers in various fields.

To the right are renderings that were created early in the design process of the SEC. See the completed project photos on pages 16-17.



Student Commons

The Student Commons, formerly the cafeteria at Benedictine High School, has been transformed into a dynamic, multi-purpose space where students gather for meals, collaboration, and social activities. It fosters our Hallmark of community and serves as a central hub for daily student life.



Bossu Field Turf Replacement & Athletic Facility Upgrades

Bossu field received a brand-new turf surface in the Spring of 2026, marking a major upgrade to one of our most cherished athletic spaces. This improvement will enhance safety, performance, and year-round usability for our student-athletes. It's another exciting step in our ongoing investment in excellence, pride, and opportunity on campus.

Additionally, the locker rooms, coaches' offices, and athletic training room will be updated to reflect a more modern appearance.



Center for Fine Arts

A re-imagined Fine Arts Center at Benedictine High School will provide state-of-the-art facilities for students to explore their creativity in visual arts and performance. This innovative space will support artistic expression and skill development, enhancing the school's commitment to a well-rounded education.



Join Us in Building the Foundation for Another Century of Excellence



Tuition Assistance – \$10 Million

Over the next five years, Benedictine High School strives to financially assist the roughly 97% of families who seek need aid by raising \$10M specific to tuition assistance and scholarships. We provide a range of funding opportunities to support the cost of educating our students—through state scholarships, endowed scholarships, and generous annual giving.



Capital and Programming Improvements – \$10 Million

As we expand our campus, enrich our programs, and elevate our facilities, these capital projects will advance our mission of developing young men in mind, body, and spirit.

Facility Additions & Improvements:

- Grotto Transformation
- Student Commons
- Student Experience Center
- Bossu Field Turf Replacement
- Athletic Locker Rooms' Remodel & Multi-purpose training facility
- Business Office & Main Office Remodel
- Center for Fine Arts
- Land Acquisition



Endowment – \$5 Million

With the cost to educate, along with the increased monies awarded annually for tuition assistance and scholarships, Benedictine High School has made the commitment to invest in our endowment. This will provide better predictability for our annual operating budget while also establishing more financial resources to award scholarships and financial aid to prospective families.



SHAPING THE FUTURE OF LEARNING

THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE CENTER

Set within the historic walls of St. Andrew Abbey, the new Student Experience Center reimagines what learning can look like at Benedictine High School. This innovative space brings together tradition and transformation—honoring the past while preparing students for the future.

Designed as a hub for exploration, creativity, and hands-on discovery, the Student Experience Center expands opportunities for students to engage more deeply with their interests and aspirations. It reflects Benedictine's commitment to forming young men who are not only academically prepared, but equipped with the practical skills and experiences needed to thrive beyond high school.

Purpose with Direction

At its core, the Student Experience Center is built to support Career Technical Education (CTE)—an approach that blends rigorous academic study with real-world application. Here, students move beyond theory, applying classroom knowledge to meaningful projects and problem-solving experiences.

The goal is clear: to provide every student with a pathway—whether toward college, a career, or both—grounded in confidence, competence, and curiosity.

Spaces that Inspire

The Student Experience Center is more than a classroom—it is a collection of dynamic environments designed to support innovation and discovery:



Engineering Makerspace

A hands-on workshop where ideas take shape. Students will design, build, and test projects that connect principles of engineering, science, and mathematics to real-world challenges.



Technology & Innovation Hub

A flexible learning space dedicated to emerging technologies and forward-thinking programs, encouraging students to explore fields that are shaping the future.



Media Center

A creative studio for storytelling and communication. From digital media production to broadcasting and design, students will explore how to create and share content in meaningful and impactful ways.

(Media Center space to be completed by Summer 2026)

Learning by Doing

Programming within the Student Experience Center will emphasize experiential learning—giving students the opportunity to engage directly with the tools, technologies, and concepts that define today's workforce.

Courses and experiences will be designed to:

- ▶ Connect academic subjects with practical application
- ▶ Introduce students to industry-relevant tools and technologies
- ▶ Foster creativity, innovation, and entrepreneurial thinking
- ▶ Prepare students for both postsecondary education and career opportunities

A Foundation for the Future

The Student Experience Center represents a key investment in Benedictine's future through the **BHS100!** campaign. It is a space where students will discover talents, develop skills, and begin to envision their place in the world.

Winter Sports Recap *(Continued)*

Bowling

The Bowling Team made solid progress with underclassmen and freshmen making strong contributions throughout the year. The team was led by seniors **Paul Karboski '26** and Terence Johnson '26 with contributions from sophomores Caiden Lockwood, Brooklyn Libran, and Devin Kimbrell. Freshmen Nick Duda and Connor Ungvarsky performed well, with Duda achieving the best 3 game series at OHSAA Sectionals with a score of 412, mostly thanks to his final game with a score of 205. Ungvarsky was second at Sectionals with a 402 series, followed closely by Karboski with 401. Thanks to Paul and Terence for their leadership this season and throughout their time bowling for Benedictine.



CLASS NOTES

Class of 1960



George Perz '60 and his wife Phyllis have been married 57 years. They enjoy visits with their two children and three grandchildren. Although George officially retired from Alcoa 30 years ago, he continues to give of his time and talent to many organizations such as the Knights of Columbus, the "Thank God It's First Friday" West Club, and Holy Trinity Parish in Avon, Ohio where he has been a member for 50 years and attends daily Mass, serves as a Eucharistic minister, choir member, lector, parish council member, Bingo volunteer, and founding member of the Men's Prayer group. He is also an active and consistent supporter of the Home of Champions and thinks of his BHS German teacher (and founder of Benedictine High School), Fr. George Luba, OSB, every time he makes the sign of the cross in German.



Class of 1977



Benjamin I. Holbert III '77 recently concluded eight years of service as Mayor of the Village of Woodmere in Cuyahoga County. A longtime public servant, he was first elected to Woodmere Village Council in 2012 and elected Mayor in 2018.

Due to charter-imposed term limits, he is no longer eligible to serve in that capacity.

Mayor Holbert continues his commitment to public service and civic leadership. He currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council (NOPEC) and as Chairman of Voter Registration, Education, and Mobilization for the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., Fourth District (Ohio and West Virginia).

Class of 1977

Ed Tomba '77 has retired after a 40-year career in Law Enforcement. Ed worked for the City of Cleveland for 32 years, retiring in 2027 as the Deputy Chief of Homeland Security and Special Operations. He spent the last 8 years as the Chief of Police for the City of Middleburg Heights. Chief Tomba is grateful for the opportunity to serve the



Cleveland and Middleburg Heights communities and credits his time at Benedictine High School, along with his great teachers and coaches, for providing him a pathway to success through their example of prayer and work. He looks forward to being more involved with his two grandsons, James and Harrison.

Class of 2002

Detective T.J. Powell '02 volunteers his time every year, taking Christmas wishes from kids to Santa, but while he's spreading Christmas cheer, he's also investigating how he can change lives.



For the third year in a row, Fox 8 found Detective T.J. Powell helping Santa and talking to kids on Cleveland's east side at Robert Jamison School. When they asked him who he does it for he said, "The KIDS!" "I still reminisce about my childhood struggles & for that reason, I'm forever HUMBLE!"



Class of 2006



Congratulations to **Dr. Jeff Kuerbitz '06**, a fellow in the lab of Dr. Hsiao-Tuan Chao, who has been awarded a K12 grant through the Child Neurologist Career Development Program. This highly competitive national award will support Dr. Kuerbitz as he advances his career in child neurology and neurodevelopmental disabilities.

His project is titled, "EBF3-mediated transcriptional regulation of cerebellar circuitry."

Class of 2006

Jeffrey Chartier '06 married Katie Wilkinson (daughter of Bill Wilkinson '82) on November 22, 2025. Matthew O'Brien '06 served as best man and Lewis Alvis '06 was a groomsman. The couple lives in New York City on the Upper West side.



Class of 2007

Kevin Connelly '07 and his wife Maggie welcomed their fourth son - Daniel - on December 30, 2025. In the photo at the baptism at Holy Trinity Church in Avon are brothers: Theodore, Kevin, and Flynn.



Class of 2008

Brian Rinz '08 and his wife Beth pose after Palm Sunday Mass with son Titus (foreground) and newly born (March 12, 2026) twins daughter Kira (with Beth) and son Sebastian (with Brian). Brian graduated from BHS in 2008 with his fraternal twin Patrick. His older brother Kevin graduated in 2006.



Class of 2017

Nick Moner '17 and his wife Jess welcomed Oliver Andrew Moner into the world on February 20th, 2026. They thank God for the gift of a happy and healthy child.

Class of 2017

Tim Sean '17 and his wife Megan announced the birth of their first child Annabelle on St. Valentine's Day, February 14, 2026.





In Memoriam

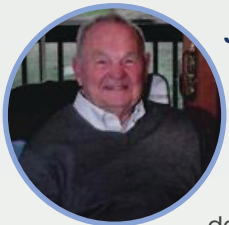
of alumni and friends of Saint Andrew Abbey and Benedictine High School



Andy Hudak, 83, of the Class of 1960, passed away on December 26, 2025. He is survived by Judy, his wife of 27 years. For over 50 years he worked as a CPA. He also played accordion with the Polka Pirates band. He was a proud Man of Benedictine and a devoted fan of Bengal teams. For 38 years, he kept varsity football stats for BHS in press boxes, all over Ohio, along with his partner and

friend Wally Mieskoski '71. Andy was a humorist at heart and could be very amusing. He could find subtle humor in the littlest things. At the start of each football season, he always had a special request for the coach: He would say, "We're not asking for much...All you have to do is win one game a week." At the final home game of the 2025 season, Andy was honored on the field for his decades of service, accompanied by his wife Judy. His family was there to share the happy occasion and that last game was a Bengal victory. His funeral Mass was celebrated at St. Christopher's Church in Rocky River, Ohio. Abbot Gary Hoover, O.S.B. represented Benedictine at the service.

George Martin, 90, of the Class of 1954, passed away on January 24, 2026. George married his wife Anne in 1966 and they raised eight children. He pursued his college studies at St. John's University in Minnesota and John Carroll University and became a reading specialist and teacher, as well as a long-time realtor. George was also engaged in countless ministries including the American Red Cross, Gesu Parish, and the Gottscheer Heimatchor (German choir) with his wife. He spent more than 25 years ministering to individuals in the criminal justice system at the Justice Center in Cleveland and volunteering with Restorative Justice groups throughout the country. He was an active alumnus of Benedictine High School, attending and supporting most alumni and abbey events. His funeral Mass was celebrated at the Church of the Gesu in University Heights.



John Gibel, 91, of the Class of 1953 passed away on April 1, 2026. He is survived by Marilyn, his wife of 58 years and four children. He was born in Lakewood into a Slovak-American family and crossed to the east side to attend Benedictine. Following service in the army, he earned a degree in accounting from Miami University of Ohio. Jack built a distinguished career in

accounting, beginning with the IRS and establishing himself as a self-employed Certified Public Accountant. Beyond his career, Jack was a man of many passions including golf, bowling, and tennis. He was a devout Catholic and passed that faith on to his family. His funeral Mass was celebrated at Holy Trinity Church in Avon, Ohio.

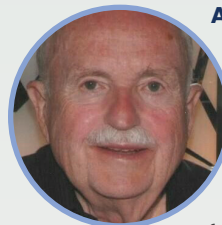


Philip Gutkoski, 86, of the Class of 1957, died on January 25, 2026 in Sandusky, Ohio.

His wife of 41 years, Jean, passed away in 1999. Shortly after they married, they moved to Catawba Island where they raised their four children with strong morals and values. They were members of Immaculate Conception Church in Port Clinton. While in the Army, he received specialized training in radar, electronics, and early computers. After his military years, he worked at NASA's Plum Brook Station in Sandusky, testing the strength of rocket materials. After joining the Federal Aviation Administration, he was a supervisor for data communications. He retired after 40 years of federal service. In 1983, "Captain Phil" began his charter boat service on Catawba Island that continued for 20 years. He enjoyed his time with his 14 grandchildren and 20 great-grandchildren.

William Kecskemety, 70, of the Class of 1972, passed away October 29, 2025.

He is survived by Patricia, his wife of 45 years and two daughters. He grew up in the Buckeye Road neighborhood and attended St. Margaret of Hungary Parish and School. He was an alumnus of John Carroll University and owned and operated his own insurance agency. Bill was a dedicated insurance professional who served as President of the National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors Ohio (NAIFA). He was a passionate advocate for the industry, frequently lobbying with legislators in Columbus and Washington, DC. He was active in the South Euclid-Lyndhurst community at St. Margaret Mary and later St. Clare's Parish, where his funeral Mass was celebrated.



Al Schmiederer, 84, former business manager of Benedictine High School from 2003-2011, passed away on April 6, 2026.

He is survived by his wife Marie and sons John and Tom. Born and raised in Chicago where he began his career in accounting, Al later embraced an opportunity to live and work abroad in Italy for five years. He then came to Cleveland where he married in 1976. He reorganized the business operations of BHS and strengthened its financial standing. He loved the outdoors and especially biking in the Cleveland Metroparks. He also liked different types of music and passed that interest on to his sons. His funeral Mass was celebrated at St. Albert the Great Church in North Royalton.

Robert F. Moran Jr., 87, of the Class of 1956, died on November 18, 2025. Robert received his MLS from Catholic University in Washington DC and an MBA from the University of Chicago. He retired from Indiana University Northwest as Director of Library Services and Vice Chancellor for Technology. In retirement, he worked on social justice issues in the Archdiocese of Chicago and in his parish in Palos Heights, IL, Incarnation Catholic Church, where his funeral Mass was celebrated.





Charles Adam, 80, of the Class of 1963, died on December 2, 2025 in Cedar Park, Texas. He is survived by his wife Janet whom he met at a Valentine’s Day dance at Benedictine and married in 1967 at Nativity BVM Slovak Parish in Cleveland. They were blessed with 58 years of marriage and two children. Chuck graduated from The Ohio State University with an MBA in Logistics in 1972. Chuck served five years in the United States Air Force attaining the rank of Captain. He was a three-time recipient of the Air Force Commendation Medal. After he left the Air Force, he moved to Pittsburgh where he worked for Westinghouse Bettis Atomic Power Laboratory as a procurement officer on the nuclear-powered submarine project, spearheaded by Admiral Hyman Rickover, which transformed submarine warfare. Later in his life he became an entrepreneur, starting and owning several businesses in various states. He was also active in St. Thomas More Parish in Cedar Park, Texas, where his funeral Mass was celebrated.

James Patrick Peppard, 87, of the Class of 1956, entered eternal rest on December 22, 2025. He was preceded in death by Carol, his wife of 65 years. He grew up in St. Rocco’s Parish on Cleveland’s West Side and was very close to the Mercedarian Friars and Trinitarian Sisters. He played an active role in building the new church during its reconstruction. After graduating from Benedictine, he pursued studies in mechanical engineering at Fenn College and eventually was offered a job as a Designer/Project Engineer in Santa Ana, California. He then worked in engineering and manufacturing supervisory positions in various states including developing the Double Changeable Safe Deposit Lock. After establishing his own company in Solon, Ohio, he became a Project Engineer with Automated Packaging Systems in Streetsboro, Ohio, where he was responsible for the design of special food packaging systems. His funeral Mass was celebrated at Saints Robert and William Church in Euclid.



John “Jack” McNally, 91, of the Class of 1952, passed away on February 7, 2026. He was preceded in death by his wife of 59 years, Sheila A. McNally (nee McDonald). Jack grew up on the east side of Cleveland where he attended St. Thomas Aquinas grade school and was a proud graduate of Benedictine High School. After attending John Carroll University for two years, he joined

the trades to help support his family after the passing of his father, and worked as a pipefitter for 40 years. Jack began his second career in the file room at the Cuyahoga County Probate Court. Jack worked proudly for 20+ years for Judges John E. Corrigan, John J. Donnelly and John Russo. He retired at the age of 82. His funeral mass was celebrated at St. Christopher Church in Rocky River.

RECENTLY DECEASED

The following members of our Benedictine Community have gone on to Eternal Rest between September 1, 2025 and April 6, 2026. May they rest in peace.

Class Of	Name	Deceased
1948	George Bacik	12/26/2025
1951	Norbert Roglin	9/6/2025
1951	Allen Hayes	2/18/2026
1951	Leon Lasky	3/13/2026
1952	John McNally	1/26/2026
1953	James Molnar	9/3/2025
1953	John Krebs	11/20/2025
1953	John Gibel	4/1/2026
1954	Vincent Marino	10/26/2025
1954	George Martin	12/24/2025
1954	Edward Matuszak	1/31/2026
1956	James Peppard	12/22/2025
1957	Lawrence Gruss	12/30/2025
1957	Philip Gutkoski	1/25/2026
1957	Richard Hrach	2/1/2026
1958	John Lewis	10/21/2025
1958	Paul Gura	1/15/2026
1959	Salvatore Palumbo	3/14/2026
1960	James Raden	9/25/2025
1960	Fr. Joachim Pastirik, OSB	10/19/2025
1960	Andrew Hudak	12/26/2025
1961	Guy Mascio	11/20/2025
1963	Alfred Wiederwohl	10/26/2025
1963	Charles Adam	12/2/2025
1963	Ronald Konkoly	12/30/2025
1963	David Kopkas	3/30/2026
1963	Frank Kozel	4/1/2026
1965	Joseph Benovich	10/6/2025
1965	Frank Rozic	10/19/2025
1966	Richard Madansky	10/24/2025
1968	Dale Gibbons	10/16/2025
1971	John Vargo	1/1/2026
1972	William Kecskemety	10/29/2025
1977	Leonard Skowronski	12/10/2025
1978	Walter Hugley	9/11/2025
1985	Terence Williams	11/9/2025
2012	Kevin Barillas	12/15/2025
2016	Jordan Jackiewicz	2/17/2026
BHS friend	James Onorato	11/8/2025
BHS friend	Carol Tollis	11/17/2025
BHS friend	Robert Cooperrider	3/11/2026
BHS friend	Alan Schmiederer	4/6/2026
BHS Friend	Suzanne Wrobel	2/6/2026

If anyone knows of other recently deceased alumni or friends, please contact the alumni office at **216-421-2080 ext. 342** or alumni@cbhs.edu.

SAVE THE DATE

REUNION WEEKEND

2026

Celebrating Classes Ending in '01 and '06

FRIDAY
06/12

Stag Night

SATURDAY
06/13

Halls Of Excellence
Induction

Halls Of Excellence Induction

HALL OF FAME



Art Bortnick



Papis Joh '01



Najee Goode '07

HALL OF HONORS



Tony Russ '66

HALL OF DISTINCTION



Tony Musso '64



Dr. Greg Mack '63

PLEASE RSVP BY **TUESDAY, MAY 26, 2026**



Scan the QR code or visit
<https://onecau.se/reunion26>
to register.

Questions about
Reunion Weekend?
Contact **Elaine O'Connell**

✉ oconnell@cbhs.edu
☎ 216-421-2080 ext. 230

Interested in becoming a
class representative?
Contact **Bill Wilkinson '82**

✉ Wilkinson@cbhs.edu
☎ 216-421-2080 ext. 342

5 YEAR REUNION
2021

10 YEAR REUNION
2016

15 YEAR REUNION
2011

20 YEAR REUNION
2006

25 YEAR REUNION
2001

30 YEAR REUNION
1996

35 YEAR REUNION
1991

40 YEAR REUNION
1986

45 YEAR REUNION
1981

50 YEAR
GOLDEN REUNION
1976

55 YEAR REUNION
1971

60 YEAR REUNION
1966

65 YEAR REUNION
1961

70 YEAR REUNION
1956

75 YEAR REUNION
1951

80 YEAR REUNION
1946

Dear Alumni & Friends,

As Benedictine High School approaches its centennial milestone, we stand at a defining moment in our history. For nearly 100 years, Benedictine has formed young men in faith, scholarship, and brotherhood, guided by the enduring values of the Benedictine tradition. Today, we are called to build upon that foundation in a way that ensures our mission thrives for the next century and beyond!

It is with great excitement that we announce **BHS100! – A Century of Tradition, a Future of Innovation**, a comprehensive \$25 million campaign that will shape the future of Benedictine High School for generations to come. We were proud to unveil this historic initiative for the first time on March 14 at the Blue & White Gala—an extraordinary evening that brought together alumni, friends, community leaders, and faculty & staff in celebration of our shared mission. The energy, generosity, and spirit of that night was a powerful reminder of what makes the Benedictine Community so special, and we are deeply grateful to all who made it such a memorable and meaningful occasion.

You have read, throughout this publication, about what makes up this five-year transformative investment in our students, our campus, and our long-term sustainability.

At the heart of this campaign are three critical priorities:

- » **\$10M for Tuition Assistance & General Operations** – Ensuring that a Benedictine education remains accessible to talented young men from all backgrounds, while sustaining the day-to-day excellence that defines our academic and spiritual formation.
- » **\$10M for Capital Improvements & New Facilities** – Enhancing and modernizing our campus to create dynamic learning environments that support innovation, student life, and the evolving needs of education.
- » **\$5M for Endowment Growth** – Strengthening our financial foundation to provide long-term stability, expand opportunities, and secure Benedictine’s mission for future generations.

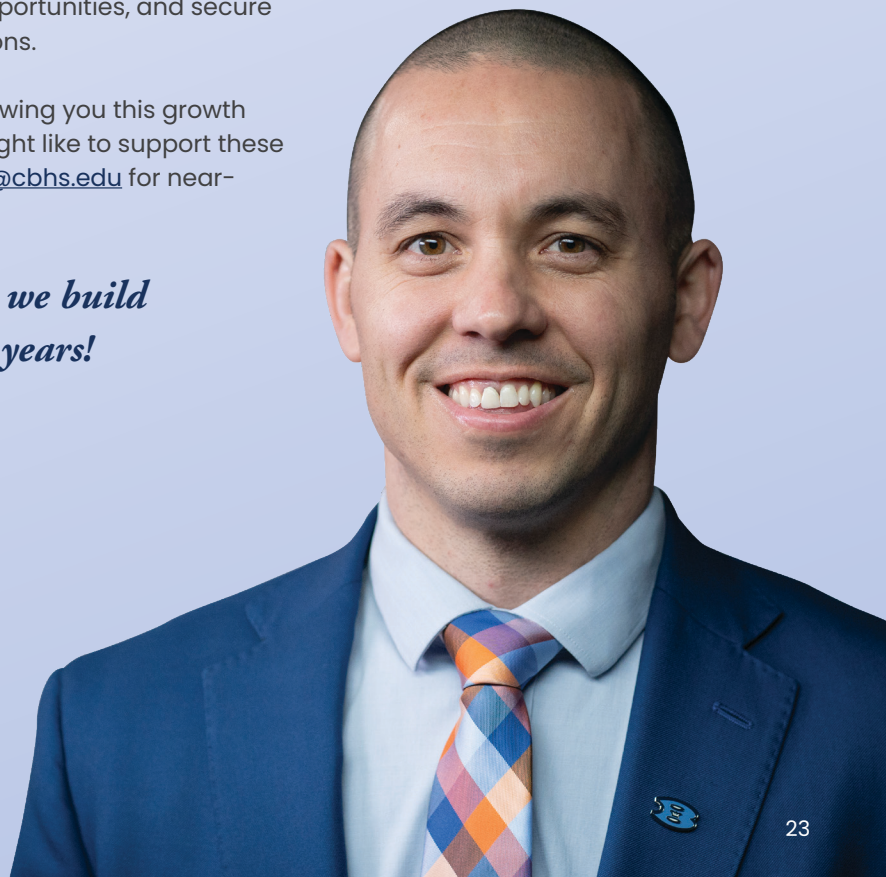
We look forward to hosting you on campus, showing you this growth firsthand, and learning more about how you might like to support these exciting initiatives. Please contact me at lorber@cbhs.edu for near-future opportunities to visit!

Together, we will honor our past as we build a visionary future for the next 100 years!

Yours in St. Benedict,



Mr. Chris Lorber '04
Chief Operating Officer



St. Andrew Abbey/Benedictine High School

2900 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive
Cleveland, Ohio 44104-4898

Change Service Requested

Ora et Labora: A publication of
Benedictine High School and
Saint Andrew Abbey

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Marketing and Events Manager

Bill Wilkinson '82
*Associate Director of
Development and Alumni
Relations*

Benedictine High School Summer Camps are now open for registration!



Youth Football Combine Camp

Grades 5-8

Date: June 22

Time: 5:30-7:00pm (5-6 Grade)
7:00-8:45pm (7-8 Grade)

Cost: \$45/camper



Youth Basketball Camp

Grades 5-8

Date: June 8-11

Time: 9:00am-1:00pm
Cost: \$150/camper



Youth Wrestling Camp

Grades K-8

Date: July 25

Time: 10:00am - 1:00pm
Cost: \$45/camper



3D Design and Manufacturing Camp

Grades 6-8

Date: June 15-18

Time: 9:00am-10:00am
Cost: \$100/camper

Scan the QR or visit the website below to register.

cbhs.edu/camps

