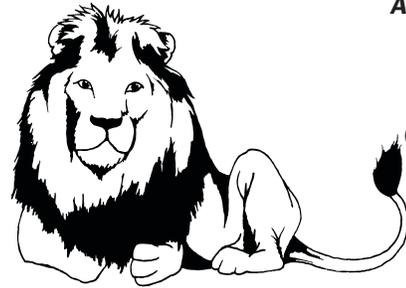


The Crown Prints

February 15, 2019 Volume 58; Issue 4



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Live. Serve. Lead. Succeed.



Bishop James. D Conley, bishop of the Lincoln Diocese, blesses Chief Administrative Officer Fr. Sean Timmerman at the beginning of the Mass for the student body of Aquinas and St. Mary's Catholic Schools. The theme of Catholic Schools Week worldwide was "Live. Serve. Lead. Succeed." Photo by J. Brown

By Hayden Schawang

Catholic Schools Week for Aquinas and St. Mary's Catholic Schools celebrated all aspects of Catholic education. The students and teachers recently participated in a variety of different activities during the special week.

Catholic Schools have one of the greatest impacts on our country and deserve celebration according to elementary school principal Mrs. Sarah Zook. "They are great for continuing our Catholic faith, and our church gives so much to social services, health care, and our communities. It's amazing to see how many hospitals and universities are Catholic."

Student council moderator Ms. Jean Brown said, "We live in a country where morals are questionable at times, and Catholic schools not only provide education, but also a good moral compass." Student council organizes the activities for the week at Aquinas. Zook, the spirit club director, and five teachers make up the Catholic Schools Week committee at St. Mary's.

The week kicked off on Sunday by celebrating the thirteen parishes that contribute to the school system. Students read a note of thanks at the Masses and handed out treats to the children of the parishes.

The Bishop's Mass at St. Mary's for both the elementary and high school students and faculty occurred on Monday. Brown said, "Our bishop is a tremendous leader and has a great view for the future of our Catholic Schools. We would be wise to listen to him." The National Honor Society took responsibility for the Bishop's Mass. Zook added more than 500 kids were participating in the Mass, and one could hear a pin drop because everyone recognized what was happening.



Live. Serve. Lead. Succeed.



Tuesday was a day in celebration of the community. Zook said, "We had a community workshop day on Tuesday. Some students went to the event center and learned how Catholic Schools impact the community. A representative from the 4-H office came in and did a wind workshop, there was a drumming session, and a nurse came in and taught how to take blood pressure. Joan Cech did an art project about how we share God's love in our schools."

"Celebrating the Nation" was Wednesday's theme. Students wore red, white, and blue to show appreciation. Students at Aquinas had a national trivia competition to earn a jean day.

Thursday celebrated the students at Aquinas and St. Mary's. Senior student council president Kloe Ruth said, "The Thursday activities allowed students to hang around with different people while doing something enjoyable. [Thursday] was a special

Continued from Page 1.

opportunity to celebrate a school filled with faith." Students at both St. Mary's and Aquinas had a comfortable dress-up day on Thursday.

Friday celebrated the faculties at each school. Teachers had a short retreat at the Newman Center in Lincoln and then went bowling. Zook added the elementary students made soup mixes for the Marian sisters, deanery priests, and sisters of Christ the King during the week to celebrate vocations.

The school celebrated parents on Saturday. Each parent received a coupon for a free popcorn at the Saturday evening's basketball game.

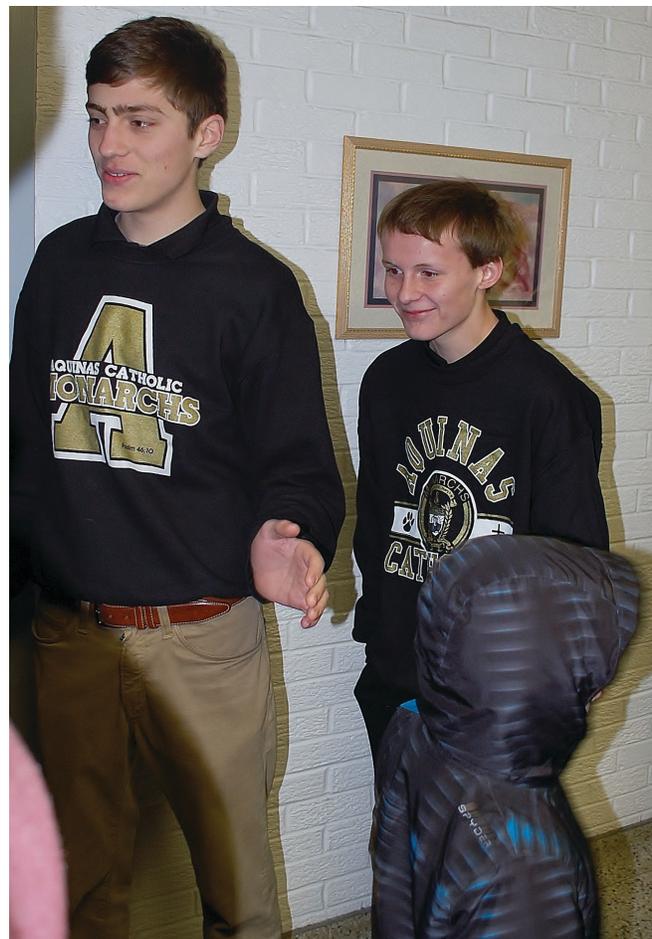
Switching the week back to having each day dedicated to a theme was Brown's idea. "I wanted to go back to having each day represent a different aspect of our Catholic school. The student council planned the days and carried them out. Each day was impactful because each day focused on a specific aspect of our system. Everything has to work together in order to have a successful school system."

According to Zook, Catholic Schools Week should focus on what makes Catholic schools unique. Brown added, "I think students who attend Catholic schools are some of the luckiest in the country. They may not realize it at the time, but they will when they get out in the world."

Junior Noah Burwell and freshman Hunter Stutzman take part in a tunnel walk for the grade school students. Elementary school principal Mrs. Sarah Zook said, "The grade school loved the tunnel the high school made." Photo by J. Brown



TOP: Bishop Conley and senior server Nolan Hartman distribute Holy Communion to over 500 members of Aquinas and St. Mary's faculty, staff, and students. Conley has been bishop of the Diocese of Lincoln for six and a half years. BOTTOM: Senior Emily Dalton presents the first reading at the Bishop's Mass. Each year the Mass of Catholic School's Week is typically celebrated on St. Thomas Aquinas feast day, Jan. 28. Photos by J. Brown





Taking steps to save lives

By John Dalton

Every year several thousands of people meet at Washington, DC to attend the March for Life. Thirty-nine Aquinas students attended this year's march.

The March for Life is a yearly event in which people protest abortion and march through Washington, DC. "The March for Life is a public demonstration that all life is sacred," said Aquinas religion teacher Father Michael Stec. "[The March] started in response to the legalization of abortion on January 33, 1973, with Roe v Wade." Stec added.

This year a group of thirty-eight students from Aquinas along with 187 other students from the Diocese of Lincoln joined several hundred thousand protesters in Washington, DC on Jan. 18 for the March according to Fr. Stec.

The students spent two days in Washington prior to the march. "We woke up early, went out touring, went to have food, had Mass and finished our day," said sophomore attendee Brett Kobza. The students got to see various museums and sites in the city. Kobza feels that some notable events were going on the metro, seeing the memorial of soldiers who died in the wars at Arlington, and the Holocaust Museum.

The students who attended felt that they had done something important. "I went, so I can save the unborn and the babies that need help," said freshman attendee Gabriel Schmid. "I wanted to show that we should all take a stand for babies," added Kobza.

Many marchers encourage other to go because of the welcoming community. "Seriously consider going on [the March for Life], you will come away energized by the enthusiasm of so many people who stand for life," Stec said. "If you have trouble with money you should still go; there are easy ways to raise money and [the trip] will be something you will remember," added Kobza.



FIRST L TO R: Natalie Semin, Ivy Schmid, Lindsey Nickolite, Hannah Moravec, Sydni Sylvester, Fr. Ben Holdren. SECOND: Emily Daltion, Mrs. Beth Nemece, Larissa Sellers, Dulcie Archuleta, Loren Hoelscher. THIRD: Brandon Soward, Luke Stara. FOURTH: Jaryed Fountain, Zachary Miller, Matthew Duke, Elias Reiter. SEEK is an annual conference for students in their senior year or older. Photo courtesy of Zach Hain

SEEKING improvement

By Hayden Schawang

SEEKING Christ! 17,000 people banded together at the Indianapolis Conference Center to attend SEEK in early January 2019. Sixteen students from Aquinas attended to satisfy their needs to encounter Jesus.

The conference built a sense of family and unity according to senior attendee Matthew Duke. "The sense of community and being around so many people who shared my beliefs made the conference so powerful," Duke said. Aquinas campus minister Mrs. Beth Nemece added youth are "hungry for the truth and joy they've seen from people who have encountered Jesus."

SEEK provided various speakers on numerous subjects. Nemece said, "Sr. Mariam James Heidland gave an amazing talk with Fr. John Burns about healing and forgiveness. Her testimony and prayerfulness within her talk is what was so moving. Sarah Swafford and Fr. Mike Schmitz also spoke." Over 60 speakers presented at SEEK, 2019.

According to Duke, the conference ran smoothly. Nemece said, "[Our days] began with Mass every morning, and then the guys and girls were split and listened to speakers. After lunch, we could choose a speaker to listen to. Typically there were four speakers presenting," Duke added a

dance, a concert, movies, and comedians also provided entertainment for the large number of Catholic youth.

SEEK caters to both the youth and adult attendees. Senior Loren Hoelscher said, "[Anyone who is] looking for healing or acceptance, or struggling to love themselves should attend a SEEK conference. [SEEK] changed my life." Nemece said SEEK was a place to focus on and encounter Jesus through 17,000 unique individuals.

SEEK allowed Hoelscher to be more aware of her own life and those around her. "I go to the chapel more, and I've started paying attention to those around me more. I try to make everyone a little happier." Nemece added all members of the SEEK conference were sent to be strong, to be Christ-like to the world, and to be disciples for Jesus Christ.

Duke and Hoelscher both gained something from the conference. Duke said, "I gained a great experience of community in the Church. [SEEK] was a great reminder that no matter what challenges you face, there are other people going through the exact same thing." Hoelscher said she gained more trust in God and a deeper connection to Him and the saints.





Which quirks really work?

By Hayden Schawang

Several Aquinas students have had altered realities due to physical “quirks” since childhood. These abnormalities both help and hinder their perceptions of life.

According to senior Emily Dalton recognizing and accepting one’s own oddities is important in keeping a positive outlook. Junior Caden Kozisek added, “Some people’s oddities actually make that person even more interesting than they originally seemed.” Additionally Junior Nathan Junck said, “Using one’s own unique senses and talents is a good way to help get through life.”

Dalton suffers from “anosmia;” she cannot smell. “I’ve never known anything different, [not being able to smell] is just how the world is to me. I don’t feel like I’m missing out on anything.” Dalton added since she cannot smell bad odors, she laughs when others complain about them.

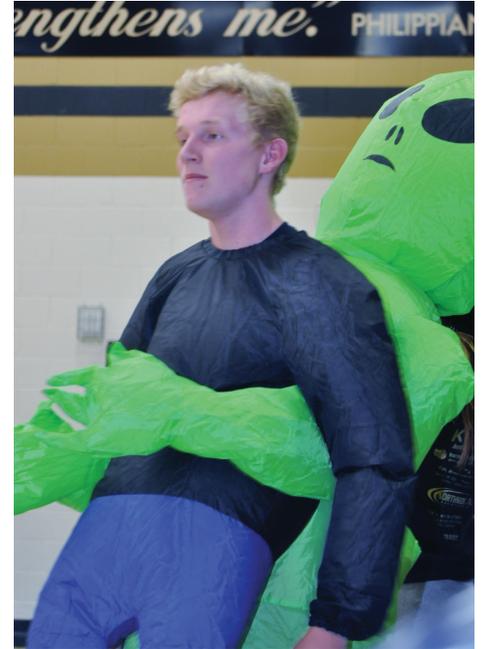
The condition Kozisek suffers from is colorblindness. Kozisek said, “I discovered [the condition] when I was learning colors, and I kept messing up. My parents had me take a color test on the computer, and I failed miserably.” Kozisek recognized his disability when he was six years old.

Junck has hyper-flexible joints; he is more flexible than the average human. Junck said, “[Being double-jointed] makes it easier to compete in sports. My legs and hips are super flexible, to the point where I can put both my legs behind my head. Everyone gets a laugh out of it.” Junck added his ability helps him “bust moves at school dances.”

Having a unique quirk can be advantageous. Kozisek said, “I honestly kind of like [my colorblindness] because people are more interested when they learn about this, so I can make new friends.”

Oddities often have a form of comedic relief within themselves. Kozisek said, “One day at school we were supposed to wear school colors, and since gold is one of our school colors, I thought I was wearing a gold outfit. [The outfit] turned out to be all green.” Dalton added she enjoys telling people she cannot smell because her audience freaks out, and she finds that funny.

Junck and Kozisek do not advise to hide one’s quirks, but rather showcase them. Junck said, “[Being a contortionist] makes me feel goofy in a good way. I like to surprise people with my strange talents.”



Junior Caden Kozisek dresses up as a human being abducted for this year’s homecoming. Kozisek has been color blind for most of his life. According to Kozisek, it has made things like art difficult. “I couldn’t tell which colors I was using so it made it difficult to color with the right ones.” Photo by J. Brown

This ‘party’ is hunting for the gold

By Emily Dalton

It’s time for a FIESTA! This year’s gold rush theme “Fiesta,” along with other fundraising events, help generate money to support Aquinas’ and St. Mary’s teachers and overall budget.

The biggest fundraiser Aquinas and St. Mary’s Catholic Schools holds is Gold Rush. Every year a different theme is chosen, and a committee decorates the Aquinas gym accordingly. Those in attendance enjoy a meal and can participate in silent and live auctions. According to Aquinas Gold Rush organizer, Mrs. Deb Svec, “Five hundred [people] is our max sell out; I don’t think we could get any more. They usually raise about \$250,000.”

To come up with the theme, the Gold Rush committee meets and discusses ideas. Svec said, “[The committee] usu-

ally go every other year, with one being more formal, and the next being more casual.” This year is a more casually themed year, so “Fiesta” was chosen for the theme.

Gold Rush has been a yearly tradition since 1998. The first year the theme was “Western.” The committee themed the event “Gold Rush,” and the name stuck. The continuous success of Gold Rush is in large part credited to Mr. and Mrs. Russ and Diane Moravec. According to Svec, “[Russ and Diane Moravec] are our auctioneers and do fundraiser auctions all over the U.S. They see other events and bring ideas to us.” This year’s Gold Rush is Apr. 6.

Svec said that the monies raised from the event “go towards the annual budget. That could include teachers’ salaries, expenditures or anything that goes to-

wards spending.” While Gold Rush provides much help in these areas, the fundraiser does not make enough to cover all school related expenses. In fall Aquinas holds another fundraising campaign, usually referred to as the “annual appeal.”

The annual appeal includes the alumni phonathon and a parish appeal. For the alumni phonathon, a group calls every possible Aquinas alumni. Svec said, “If we get ahold of them, we send out a form for them.” For the parish appeal, letters are sent to parishioners asking them to give what they can. Between the two fundraisers, last year the annual appeal raised \$125,000. The goal this year is \$140,000.

Timmerman said, “Support your parish. Be as supportive as you can to the annual appeal and Gold Rush.”



Monarchs push each other to victory



First year head coach Mr. Tony Smith game plans during a timeout against GICC. The varsity girls game against Hastings St. Cecilia was cancelled due to weather.

Photo by E. Dalton

By Keegan Lavicky

The Aquinas girls' basketball team battled through the Centennial Conference and the end of the regular season. The Monarchs looked to improve to earn a berth in the state tournament.

After a close loss to Grand Island Central Catholic (GICC) in their first conference

game against Bergan, so that was an exciting win."

In their last game before the conference tournament the Lady Monarchs took on the Kearney Catholic Stars. Aquinas would come out on top by a score of 52-30. The Monarchs also defeated Columbus Lakev-

iew 47-33. Vrbka said, "[Lakeview] exposed some of our weaknesses, but we were able to adjust our defense and keep up the tempo with a lot of fast breaks. The Monarchs won a thrilling game in their first match up with GICC with a final score of 56-53. Senior forward Morgan Birkel said, "We played really well together which helped us find our offensive rhythm. Our defense worked really hard and was able to shut down one of their better players." The Monarchs were also able to outlast the Twin River Titans in pre-conference action. Birkel said, "[Twin River] played great defense, so offensively we had to move the ball around and work for a good shot." The Monarchs won the game 49-41. The team has bonded around the season's motto "Together we..." Head coach Mr. Tony Smith said, "[The motto] was something I ran across and wanted it to be a different and fun experience for the girls." Birkel added, "[The motto] helps us focus on our goals no matter how a practice or a game is going."

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Installing fundamentals and competitiveness

By Braden Smith

The Aquinas Middle School boys' basketball teams began their season using the basic fundamentals and competitive drive. The team's goals are to improve every day, and win as many games as possible.

The teams recently faced the Milford Eagles. The eighth grade team lost a close, physical game. Eighth grader Krae Lavicky said, "[Milford] played really good defense, so it was tough to score." The seventh grade won their game by a very close margin of only one point. Head coach Mr. Alan Zavodny said, "The seventh grade was challenged in a late game situation, we had a lead, but won by one."

In the game against Shelby-Rising City, the seventh grade team only played one quarter, due to the lack of players from Shelby-Rising City. The Aquinas seventh grade did win the quarter. The eighth grade team won their game against the Huskies. Zavodny said, "Our eighth graders moved

the ball very well, and we hit some three pointers."

All of the teams started their seasons at home against the Twin River Titans. The teams only had five practices before the game, but Zavodny said "I felt like we were very prepared. Everyone had early game jitters, but everyone overcame them quickly." Seventh grader Lydon DeWispelare said, "Everyone played really good. It was a good team win." Both the seventh and the eighth grade teams won their respective games.

Coach Zavodny is in his first year as being the head coach of the middle school program. His goal has been to develop players, and prepare them for high school. He does this by "introducing the same terminology and system as the high school team." Zavodny said he preaches "basketball is an unforgiving sport; if they want to be successful they have to put a ton of work in the off-season."



Seventh grader Dylan Andel shoots the basketball against Milford. The middle school team practices during the last two periods of the school day. Photo by B. Smith



Hoopsters 'shoot' for sub-districts

By Braden Smith

The Aquinas boys' basketball team is using a "heart over height" mentality to overcome obstacles. They will prepare for a tough sub-district starting on Feb. 19.

The boys' team entered the Centennial Conference tournament as the eighth seed. As a reward, they got to play a home game against the Hastings St. Cecelia Bluehawks. Aquinas pulled out a thriller in overtime, winning 43-39. Sophomore guard Kyle Napier said, "The St. Cecelia game was the highlight of the season. The student section was as loud as it's ever been. It was packed, and we won in overtime, which was awesome."

The win against Hasting St. Cecelia sent the Monarchs to the next round of the tournament, and on the road to Kearney for the second time this year to face the Stars of Kearney Catholic. The Monarchs were eliminated from the conference tournament losing 57-68.

During the Monarchs first trip to Kearney Catholic, the Monarchs faced another tight competition. However, the Stars bested the Monarchs 61-51 in the regular season game. Head Coach Mr. Trevor Weiss said, "We did a good job of breaking their press, but then

we took quick shots that hurt us."

The team also traveled to Columbus Lakeview, prior to the conference tournament. The Monarchs lit up the scoreboard scoring seventy-seven points, and winning by a margin of twenty two points with a final score of 77-55. Senior guard Zach Zavodny said the highlight of the game was, "Seeing Jack (Jakub) make a three, because hes such a good shooter, but he hadn't hit one in a long time. So that was a big confidence booster for all of us. We were all going nuts on the bench."

The night before the game against Lakeview, the Monarchs hosted the ranked Crusaders of Grand Island Central Catholic. Zavodny said, "It's fun to face [ranked] teams. They force you to play your best; anything short of that and you won't have a chance to win." The Monarchs, however, fell short, losing the contest 40-59.

The Monarchs also hosted a home game against the Twin River Titans. The Monarchs got the victory in front of their home crowd, winning by a score of 46-38. Coach Weiss he said the highlight of the game was "Braden Smith finally hitting his free throws." Smith was nine for ten from the line in the contest.

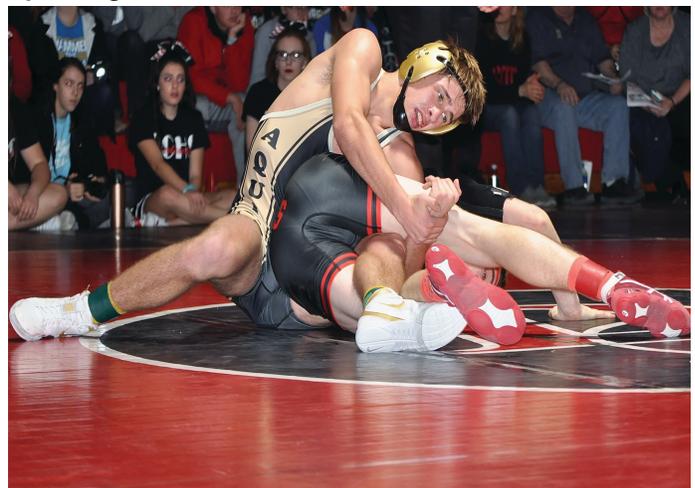


Senior post Simon Krenk drives around a defender in the game against Twin River on Jan. 8. The boys team will begin postseason play with sub-districts at Schuyler on Feb. 19.

Photo by E. Dalton

Wrestling sends eleven to state

Monarchs have three district champions, as they bring home the team title



Sophomores Zach Zitek (left) and Cameron Schrad (right) perfect their moves toward a district championship. State qualifiers for the Monarchs include Hunter Vandenburg (106), Zach Zitek (113), Cameron Schrad (126), Christopher Nickolite (132), Creighton Redler (138), Nolan Eller (152), Ben Kment (170), Joseph Reimers (182), Nolan Schultz (195), Tad Naiberk (220), and Owen Schramm (285). The State tournament will be held at the CHI Health Center in Omaha on Feb. 14 through Feb. 16.

Photos by M. Littlefield and I. Schmid



Future success demands computer science

An increasingly technological world calls students to be informed

By Emily Dalton

From work to entertainment, we use computers for nearly every part of our lives. However, if someone were to ask, “how does the internet work?”, would you be able to answer?

Currently, Aquinas high school does not offer a computer science course. Computer science is the study of computers and how they work. The one computing class offered at Aquinas is computer applications, but instead of covering computers as a whole, the class generally focuses on using application software like Word and PowerPoint.

Larger schools are slowly adding more computer classes, but at smaller schools it can be harder to find teachers or funds to offer the additional courses.

This editor would argue that the skills learned in a computer science course are beneficial enough to warrant a new addition to Aquinas’ offered curriculum. High school is meant to prepare students for college and future careers, and today, few jobs

exist that will not use computers.

As Hadi Partovi, CEO of Code.org, an organization that works to bring computer science programs to schools across America, said, “Understanding things like what is the ‘cloud,’ or what ‘cookies’ are or how ‘encryption’ works- these are useful for every student.”

According to the Chicago Tribune in an article from January 2016, “Computer science is one of the fastest-growing and most lucrative sectors of the American economy, and half a million jobs remain unfilled.” Students who do not plan on majoring in computer science would also benefit from taking a computer class.

CNBC reported in 2017 that 90% of all jobs in the U.S. economy require digital skills, and the more digital skills required, generally the better paying a career is.

Computer science teaches problem solving, which can help students trouble shoot their own computer or find solutions for

problems that do not involve computers.

A study done by Microsoft in 2018 found that 88% of teachers agree computer science is important to a student’s career, yet only 40% of schools have computer science courses.

Because of these benefits, some states such as Arkansas, Virginia and Indiana are beginning to require that students take a computer class before they graduate. Some schools are going so far as to incorporate computer science classes into K-8 curriculum.

While some schools are making the class mandatory to graduate, at a smaller school like Aquinas, simply having the option for students would be enough.

A new computing class would not need to go into depth about the interworking parts of a computer or learn advanced coding. However, a basic understanding of how these powerful machines do what they do would be a useful class for everyone.

A growl... or a roar. Monarchs sound off. Should Aquinas offer more technology based classes? Why or why not?



Freshman Aubrey Novacek
“Yes, I think they should because the world is surrounded by technology, and it is constantly being invented.”



Junior Noah Burwell
“Yes, because that’s something that a lot of people are going to be interested in; it is something I am interested in. There is computer apps, but this is more for every day applications.”



Senior Zachary Chromy
“I think there should be a base coding class offered; coding is a basic step into computer classes in college.”



Computer Teacher Mr. Matt Grady
“It would be nice to have a class for coding, specifically for the creation of apps, because there is a possibility of doing great good through the creation of apps.”

CrownPrints

The *Crown Prints* is published eight times a year to inform, educate, and entertain the Aquinas community. We urge letters to the editor. Letters should be given to Ms. Jean A. Brown in Room 16. Letters must be signed; however, anonymity, if requested, will be granted if deemed necessary.

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