

The Tradition

December 2014

Family, Faith, For You...For Life!

Saint Albert Catholic Schools

Celebrating 50 years of excellence!

Anniversary Gift, 2-3
New Crucifix

3rd Annual 4-5
Community
Involvement Day

Mix It Up Lunch 6-7

Catholic Schools 8-10
Week, Jan 25-31

Benefit Auction 12-13

Scrip Program 14-15

Student News 16-17

Giving to Saint 18-19
Albert

In the classroom...



At Mass...



On the field...



In the community...



St. Albert Celebrates with New Crucifix

by Scott Stewart, Nonpareil Education Reporter

November 2014. St. Albert the Great was an intellectual, an academic known for his prowess for natural science, mathematics and theology.

Council Bluffs' Catholic school students and community members honored him on Wednesday – the Feast of St. Albert – and dedicated a new crucifix at the entrance of St. Albert High School, marking a half-century of education reflecting its patron saint's academic inspiration.

“The crucifix is meant to reflect the church's respect for tradition and embrace of innovation and learning,” artist Michael Montag said in prepared remarks.

Students at St. Albert learn about theology as well as the natural world, with advanced course offerings available to high-schoolers in religion, engineering and math, among other disciplines.

Montag said his 25-foot steel cross and bronzed clay corpus, the body of Jesus Christ nailed to the cross, reflect a mix of the modern and ancient.

Recycled steel for the cross was reclaimed from the bleachers at the former Rosenblatt Stadium in Omaha, with an abstracted design reflecting the razor's edge of modern art and technology.

The corpus, on the other hand, was made using bronze – with wax surrounded a clay mold and then melted away to make room for the metal – with a realistic depiction of Christ to reflect the past, present and future wrapped up together.

“We want this to look like Jesus,” he said. “He is



Our students, along with the wider community, honored our patron saint Albert on November 19 with the Feast of St. Albert and the dedication of a new crucifix at the entrance of St. Albert High School.

a person, and I wanted people to be able to relate to him.”

Montag said he sought to blend the old and the new, the traditional and the modern. He said he seeks to harmonize the abstract and realistic approaches in his artwork

“The cross is a not a relic of the past,” he said. “It is a part of this world.”

Bishop Richard Pates blessed the new crucifix following an all-school Mass at St. Albert on Wednesday morning. The event marked the Feast Day of St. Albert and celebrated the gift made possible by a St. Albert family in honor of the school's 50th anniversary.

"Our school's new crucifix will be an ongoing symbol of the school's past and a reminder of its religious roots," President Joe Connolly said in a statement to the school's families. "This gift provides a concrete way for the St. Albert family to illustrate our strong spirituality to the Catholic faith."

Love can be found in Montag's attention to detail, as well as literally in the inscription near the base of the cross reading "No Greater Love."

"It's a labor of love, but it's labor intensive," he said.

Other symbolism can also be found in the artwork, including Celtic circles to represent the infinite, and the use of recycled materials as a foundation.

"Scripture says that the stone rejected by the builders will become the cornerstone," Montag said in his remarks. "A cornerstone which our civilization of love is built on."

Montag's work can also be found in Woodbine, where he has two statues in the town center, among other regional communities. His other local work includes a 45-foot crucifix spire for the Holy Family Shrine near Gretna, Neb., a crucifix on the campus of College of St. Mary in Omaha and the St. Ignatius pilgrim sculpture at Creighton Preparatory High School in Omaha.

Knowing the commission for the crucifix came from a donation from a family with generations of stu-



Bishop Pates blessed the new crucifix during the dedication. Sculptor Michael Montag also spoke.

dents at St. Albert was important to Montag, who said the project was personal to him.

"My impression of Council Bluffs over the years is it really is a big extended family," he said. "We really do stand on those who come before us."

As a nod to his connection, he included a piece of recovered metal from his old shop, which burned down in October 2010. The piece with the letters "INRI" on the cross was salvaged from the fire, he said.

"He has had to rebuild himself out of that fire," said his wife, Joy Montag. "He lost all his molds of his previous works."

Michael Montag said he saved the piece now with "INRI" – Latin for "Jesus Nazarene, Rex Iudaeorum" or "Jesus the Nazarene, King of the Jews," referenced in John 19:20 – for a special project.

"I couldn't think of anything more special than this," he said.

Community Involvement Day

by Scott Stewart, Nonpareil Education Reporter

October 2014. Bryan Pope spent part of Thursday cleaning out a supply closet at St. Albert Catholic Schools.

The closet hadn't been sorted in at least a decade, the seventh-grader said, but was part of clearing out the school's auditorium so it could be vacuumed and deep-cleaned.

"It helps you from sticking your hand in gum during Mass," Pope said. "It keeps the places that we rarely use clean."

Pope was joined by Maggie Wettengel, an eighth-grader, and Nick Lee, a seventh-grader, among those working on the auditorium instead of hitting the books.

Secondary students at St. Albert spent the day cleaning, volunteering and working – sometimes out in the mud of a rainy fall morning – as part of the third-annual Community Involvement Day, held during homecoming week to offer one more opportunity for students to give back to their community.

"I like doing it," Wettengel said. "It makes the school look a lot nicer."

It's also an excuse to get to toss things in dumpsters, which is more fun than it might sound, Lee said. And it keeps the school looking nice for students, staff and visitors.

Junior high students spent the day cleaning up the school, but many high-schoolers left campus to give back to parishes and community organizations.

Jenna Carlson and Joe Sturm were two freshmen volunteering at St. Patrick's Catholic Church. They folded church bulletins, did yardwork and helped clean up the parish, Carlson said.



"I think it is a good idea because it puts our school in the community," Sturm said. "You learn how to do work better and learn how you can help people."

At nearby St. Peter's Catholic Church, Matthew Weiks, Emily Bardon and Molly Wirtz took a break from cleaning the building and stuffing papers for the parish to eat pizza. The group of seniors said they literally shoveled mud, which worked better than it might have had it not rained.

"It's rewarding seeing the people appreciative for what we're doing for them," Weiks said.

Kyle O'Neill and Kaitlyn Pearce joined other juniors in their homeroom at the Amelia House senior residence to visit with residents and help out around the facility.

They removed light fixtures to paint them, brought autumn decorations for the entrance and even performed some music for the residents.

"I really enjoy it because you get to connect with your community," O'Neill said.

Other Council Bluffs volunteer sites included



Holy Family Parish, Harmony Courts, Northcrest Manor, Phoenix House and Gabriel's Corner.

Groups also traveled to the Open Door Mission's Timber Lake Outreach Center in Omaha, On With Life rehabilitation in Glenwood, Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Church in Glenwood, Our Lady of Carter Lake Church in Carter Lake, Sacred Heart School in Omaha and St. Anne's Catholic Church in Logan.

The theme for the school's Community Involvement Day has remained the same since it was launched three years ago: "To whom much is given ... much is expected," a quote from the Bible's Gospel of St. Luke.

David Schweitzer, principal of the junior and senior high school, said in an email to families that St. Albert students provided more than 1,500 hours of community service through the annual event.

High school students at St. Albert also are required to document service hours as part of their graduation requirements. The requirements varies from at least 6 hours each per student volunteering for their parish and for their school or the wider community for freshmen to 9 hours each for their parish and for the community for seniors.

This year's Community Involvement Day also falls during a special homecoming week as the school celebrates its 50th anniversary. The anniversary has already seen gifts to the school of a new crucifix, to

be installed later this fall, and the renovation of about 20 classrooms, which was completed this summer.

To mark the school's golden anniversary, St. Albert will include school tours and class reunion photos before its homecoming game today.

Tours of the school begin at 4:30 p.m., with the game set for 7 p.m. at Al Leber Field, which has new bleachers salvaged from the former Rosenblatt Stadium in Omaha installed in late summer.

St. Albert's hallways resembled how they looked this summer on Thursday afternoon, with filing cabinets and desks filling the school's main lobby. Students assembled tables and hauled furniture back to classrooms, while others wrapped up cleaning chores.

Jack Eickholt, a seventh-grader, spent the day taking desks apart at St. Albert and helping second-graders log onto computers for the first time. Other students dusted crucifixes, cleaned glass and polished doors.

Senior Martin Shudak said giving back makes students more aware of what goes into keeping the school ready. Before installing new whiteboards into classrooms, Shudak spent the morning preparing for one of Thursday's key homecoming events.

"We helped clean the main gym because there is a volleyball game tonight," he said. "It is homecoming week, so it is pretty fitting."



St. Albert mixes up lunch groups for a day

by Scott Stewart, *Nonpareil Education Reporter*

October 2014. St. Albert Catholic Schools used an unusual strategy for a lesson Tuesday during its junior high and high school lunch periods: lying.

Students at the Council Bluffs private school joined more than 1 million students across the country for National Mix It Up at Lunch Day, a program designed by the Southern Poverty Law Center's Teaching Tolerance project.

The St. Albert students were randomly assigned a letter – written on their hands – as they entered the school cafeteria, and they sat at a table corresponding to that letter.

While eating lunch, students answered icebreaker questions to introduce themselves to classmates they may not interact with often, if at all, and played a round of “Two Truths and a Lie,” a party game where each person gives three statements and others guess which of them is not true.

“I have a cat,” student Bhavana Sunil said, taking her turn at the game. “I’ve been to Europe. I like Sundays.”

The others guessed that she didn’t like Sundays (she does) and that she has a dog (she does, but she also has a cat). They finally landed on the fib: Bhavana hasn’t been to Europe.

Another student, freshman Sophie Sykes, said the game was an interesting way to learn about people. A group of high-schoolers in music classes joined the junior high students for lunch.

“It’s fun,” Sophie said.



Thanks to Campus Ministry for preparing us for #MixLunch. Excited for students to Mix It Up and sit with someone new. @StAlbertSchools, October 27 tweet.

Not all the students were strangers to each other. The freshmen suspiciously clumped together, and a few students wandered among tables after finishing their meals. Bhavana said another student at her table shares her homeroom. But others appreciated breaking the normal lunch cliques.

“I normally sit with a bunch of seventh-graders,” seventh-grader Rylie Mortin said. “It is nice to have a change.”

Another seventh-grader at her table, Mary Milbrath, said the Mix It Up event broke down some unspoken taboos about fraternizing among younger and older students.

“There is this weird invisible rule that seventh-graders don’t sit with eighth-graders,” she said.

Mary agreed with Rylie and others playing the Two Truths game that deception was key to the

fun, with an innocent lie forming the basis of new bonds among students in the lunchroom.

Teacher Michelle Kavars said the goal was for the more than 100 junior high students participating Tuesday to talk to someone they normally would not normally seek a conversation with.

“We prepped them a little bit in homeroom,” she said.

Kavars said the activity provided an opportunity for a lesson about tolerance. She said she told her homeroom students that they do not need to like everyone at school, but they are expected to be polite and friendly. They just might find someone they previously judged has changed, she said.

Campus Minister Cindy Assmann said she found the Mix It Up idea on Teaching Tolerance’s website, and she wanted to bring it to St. Albert to support lessons like the one delivered in Kavars’ homeroom. The school’s Luke 10 program addresses bullying, and Mix It Up and related activities help to show those concepts in action.

She said she was surprised how quiet the high-schoolers were while having conversations, suggesting a shyness in talking to new people. She said the

activity, and other tolerance programs, may become a more regular occurrence at St. Albert.

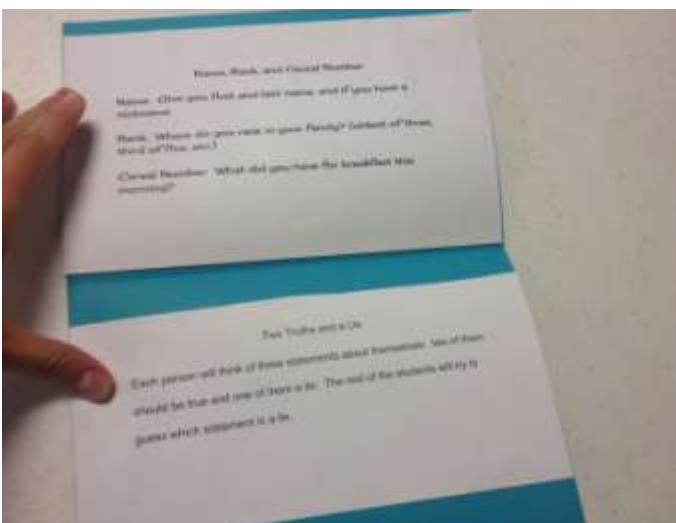
Nationally, the Southern Poverty Law Center project said in a release that cafeterias are a natural starting point for addressing tolerance because it is where a school’s social boundaries are most clearly on display, as students choose their friends and acquaintances.

“Each year we hear from teachers and students across the country about the positive impact of Mix It Up,” Teaching Tolerance Director Maureen Costello said in the release. “More and more students are discovering how much they have in common with their classmates.”

For more pictures and information on our school’s first Mix It Up Lunch, visit our Twitter page @StAlbertSchools and the hashtag #MixLunch.



@StAlbertSchools
#MixLunch



Our high school students mixing it up at lunch today, using some questions to get the conversation started [#MixLunch](#)

2015 Catholic Schools Week: *January 25-31, 2015*

January 25-31, 2014. As Saint Albert continues to celebrate its 50 anniversary, it also prepares for the annual celebration of Catholic Schools Week. We invite our students, parents, supporters, and community to join us in celebration!

This year, Catholic Schools Week begins on Sunday, January 25 and ends on January 31. The theme “**Catholic Schools: Communities of Faith, Knowledge, and Service**” highlights our focus on faith development, academic excellence, and commitment to community service.

In conjunction with the school’s 50th anniversary, the 2015 Catholic Schools Week will encompass many great events for our students, families, and the wider community.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 25

Students to serve at supporting parishes
Open House from 1 to 3 pm

MONDAY, JANUARY 26

Grandparent/Parent Lunch, Pre-K 4-3rd grade
Student Councils & Leadership Groups to send thank yous to our supporting Boards

TUESDAY, JANUARY 27

#SA_DAY to celebrate all things Saint Albert
SA Family Picture
Grandparent/Parent Lunch, 4-6th grade

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28

Grandparent/Parent Lunch, 7-12th grade

THURSDAY, JANUARY 29

All School Mass celebrated by Bishop Pates
Seniors as classroom aides in the elementary



FRIDAY, JANUARY 30

Green and Gold Spirit Day
Ice Cream Social

Please visit www.saintalbertschools.org and click on Calendar of Events for a fully updated calendar of activities.

We thank our families, our parishes, and our community for their support of Catholic education. In partnership with our parishes and parents, we strive to develop our students into future church and community leaders. We are so grateful for your prayers and contributions that allow Saint Albert to offer an outstanding Christ-centered education.

Celebrate the benefits of Catholic education and our school’s tradition of excellence for 50 years running during 2015 Catholic Schools Week!

SAINT ALBERT CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Open House



Inspiring Greatness



SAINT ALBERT CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

cradle to college
6 weeks to 12th grade

SUNDAY, JANUARY 25

1-3 pm
tour our campus, meet our teachers,
learn about our programs.

Saint Albert provides:

- Excellent education
- Productive learning environment
- Smaller class sizes
- Foundation of faith
- Better preparation for college



Saint Albert prepares me for higher education by offering many courses that require critical thinking and problem solving as well as AP courses that challenge us more," Matthew ('15), current student.



#SA_DAY



TUESDAY, JANUARY 27

#SA_DAY is a day to celebrate all things Saint Albert.

On January 27, we will flood the campus and social media with Saint Albert spirit, pride, and photos! Taking place during Catholic Schools Week, #SA_Day celebrates our school's 50th anniversary and the benefits of Catholic education. Our goals for #SA_Day:

1. **Celebrate:** Show your Saint Albert spirit by wearing green and gold and share that spirit by posting photos to Facebook and Twitter using the hashtag #SA_Day.
2. **Connect:** Share your favorite Saint Albert memories and photos (get out those old yearbooks!) on Facebook to show your Saint Albert pride nationwide. If you are not active on social media, please send your photos to businessoffice@saintalbertschools.org, and we will post on your behalf.
3. **Support:** Give back to Saint Albert by donating online, on campus, or by mail. All donations must be received by January 27 to be considered an #SA_DAY donor. Our goal is to raise \$10,000 to upgrade our external surveillance cameras.



Donate online at www.saintalbertschools.org.
Fan us on Facebook at St. Albert or follow us
on Twitter at StAlbertSchools.



StAlbertSchools



St. Albert

Become a Host Family!

Do you have a big heart and extra room?

Educatus International is looking for loving families to host our sensational students coming to **ST. ALBERT**. We are able to offer a monthly stipend to help offset the costs of having another person in the home.

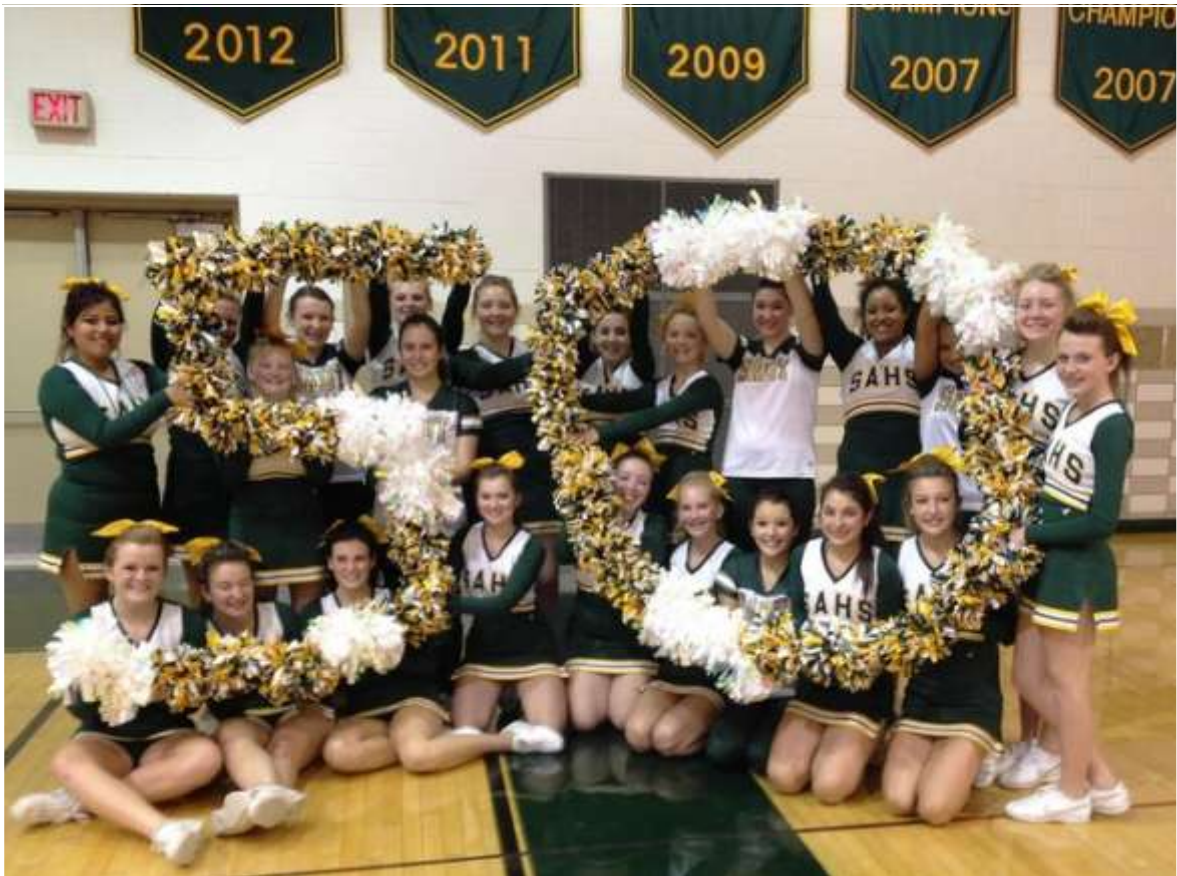
Please contact Paula Peters at ppeters.educatus@gmail.com or 402-689-0657



“Having exchange students in our home is a wonderful experience. It’s a chance for us to learn about new cultures, as well as, add positive dynamics to our family. I believe it has helped all family members to be more accepting of others around the world. We will always think openly and more positively towards the countries of origin of our exchange kids. We are thankful that we chose to participate in this program!”

Kimberly Bowman
Hosting international students Dan and Anh

2015 Benefit Auction *Cheers to 50 Years!*



The 34th annual Saint Albert Benefit Auction will be held on April 25, 2015. With Saint Albert celebrating its 50th anniversary this year, we as a community celebrate our school, our team spirit, and our tradition of excellence with the theme **Cheers to 50 Years!**

We have a wonderful leadership team in place for this year's event. Mark and Kim Otto are this year's Chair Couple, and Tim and Ellen Ross are the Mentor Chair Couple.

How You Can Help

As all who have volunteered for the Benefit Auction in the past know, this is a yearlong process that involves the entire Saint Albert community. It may seem early to be talking about an event

that takes place in April, but there is a great deal of work to be done starting now.

Many committees are already planning and working to make this auction the wonderful event that it always is. We ask you to join us by volunteering for a committee, selling raffle tickets, hosting a class party, or attending the many auction events we will host throughout the year!

So many great ways to support Saint Albert and the 2015 Benefit Auction:

- Donate an item
- Purchase a sponsorship
- Host a class party
- Invite friends from the wider community to attend

2015 Benefit Auction *Cheers to 50 Years!*

- Fan us on Facebook at "St. Albert" and share our posts

Sponsorships

We are offering exciting new sponsorship opportunities this year! As a sponsor, you will gain business exposure to over 800 people, advertisement in the auction catalog, receive premier first choice seating, build a foundation for our students' futures, and many more benefits. All donations are tax-deductible.

Want reserved seating? The top four levels let you reserve your party's table. Want advertising in the auction catalog? Choose your sponsorship and your ad size! From the top-level Forever Faithful to Saint Albert Supporter, there is a sponsorship level suitable for everyone. See the attachment to view the benefits for each level.

Each level includes great benefits for our sponsors. The top level Forever Faithful provides each sponsor with exclusive advertising prior to and during the event. **Please note: if you wish to be a Forever Faithful sponsor, take advantage of the raffle ticket advertising and send in your payment by December 1, 2014.**

We welcome each and every one of you to help! Contact us at (712) 329-9000 or at 2015BenefitAuction@saintalbertschools.org to sign up for a committee or learn more about this fantastic event! Being a part of this event is one of the best ways to get to know each other and to further build the community that is Saint Albert.

History of the Benefit Auction

From the first 'Round-Up' Auction in 1982, the Benefit Auction has enjoyed many memorable

themes: Under the Big Top, Once Upon a Time, Luau on the Hill, Mardi Gras Masquerade and so many more!

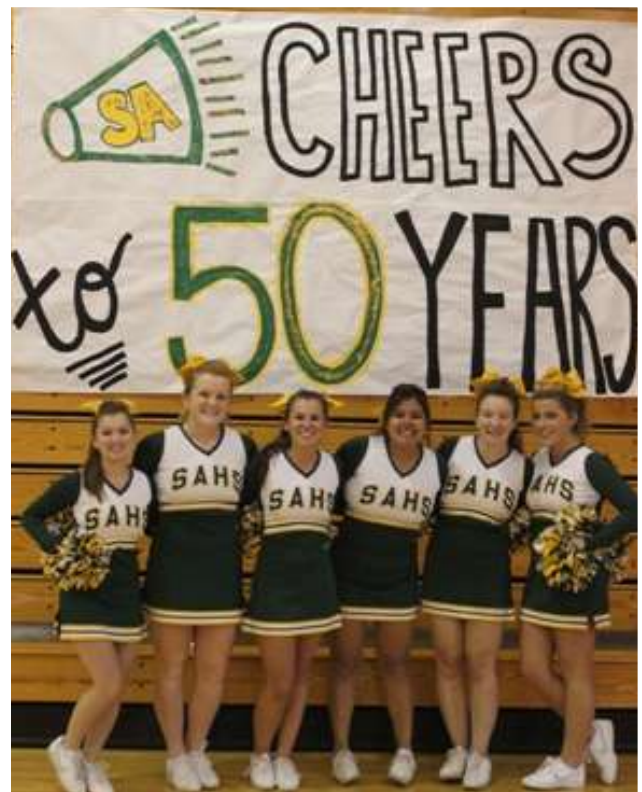
As creative and ever-changing as our themes are, the purpose stays the same: to help Saint Albert continue its long-standing tradition of academic excellence. Saint Albert uses the fundraisers' proceeds for its general operating budget, which allows the school to offer many high quality programs for its students. The auction and raffle also help Saint Albert keep its tuition affordable for families throughout southwest Iowa.

Thanks for your support!

Mark & Kim Otto

2015 Benefit Auction Chair Couple

2015BenefitAuction@saintalbertschools.org



Scrip Program Saves YOU Money on Tuition!

Let's start with a simple scenario—you buy the following items weekly for your household:

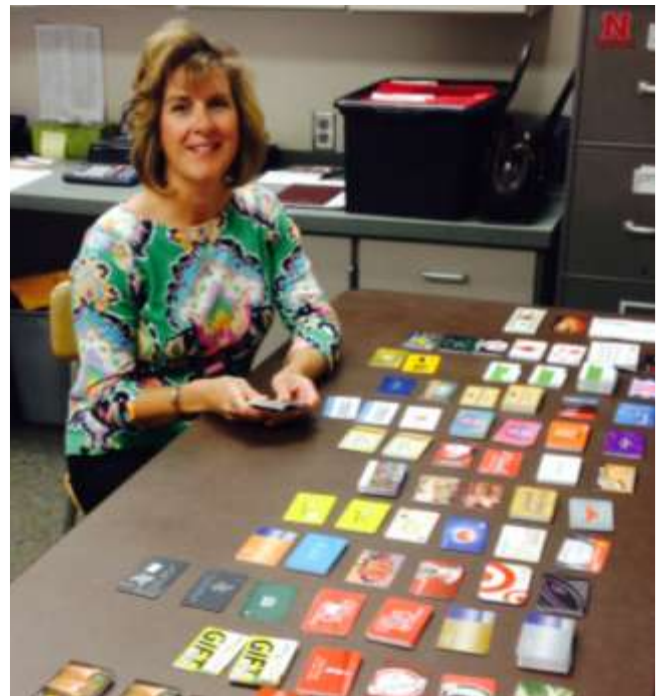
	Purchase	Rebate
Grocery Store	\$200.00	\$6.00
Gas BP	\$100.00	\$1.50
Total:	\$300.00	\$7.50

In one week, you earned \$3.75 off your tuition bill and \$3.75 for the school. ***In one month, you personally save \$15 off your tuition, and in one year, you personally save \$200 off your tuition.***

If you are not a current Scrip user, we encourage you to sign up for the program! You could save hundreds off your tuition bill (for a current or future child) simply by purchasing gas and groceries each week.

“The Scrip program is a wonderful opportunity to reduce your tuition bill and raise money! With a minimal amount of planning you can make a BIG difference to your tuition bill and help support SA without selling or buying anything that you don't already use (e.g. groceries, gas, clothes, prescriptions & restaurants!)” TJ Pattermann, Saint Albert parent and past president of the Saint Albert Educational Foundation.

Mrs. Gronstal encourages all families to start saving on their tuition. Scrip is a gift certificate or pre-paid card that can be used just like cash at the retailer named on the card. The cards are sold to Saint Albert at a discounted rate. This discounted rate is from 2% to 25%. Saint Albert sells them to people, like you, at face value. Saint Albert then splits the discount between the school's operating budget and wherever the person buying



the scrip designates on their registration form—for a student's tuition, parish or tuition assistance.

For example, if you purchase a \$100 No Frills gift card, which gives back 4%, \$2 goes straight off your tuition bill and \$2 goes to the school. Imagine how much you could save off your tuition if you ordered just \$100 for groceries weekly!

There are over 250 national retailers who sell scrip to Saint Albert. In addition, we have close to 30 local retailers that sell us gift cards. A complete list of retailers can be found on the Scrip page of the school's website. There are no fees to buy scrip. The scrip order form shows the amount of the discount the retailer gives to the school.

We welcome Mrs. Gronstal as the new Scrip Coordinator and look forward to her ideas to help the Scrip Program continue to grow.

“It's exciting to see how the Scrip Program is

Scrip Program Saves YOU Money on Tuition

keeping up with technology and people's needs by offering various ways for people to order and receive their gift cards – such as Scrip Now, Presto Pay, and now Mobile Apps.”

Look for more news from Mrs. Gronstal and check out the program details on www.saintalbertschools.org under the Scrip Program tab.

Please feel free to contact our Scrip office with any questions at scrip@saintalbertschools.org or by phone at 712-329-9000, extension 3.

Join the program today and start saving money!

Frequently Asked Questions

How does Scrip generate revenue for Saint Albert?

Participating retailers agree to sell gift certificates to Saint Albert at a discount. Families buy the certificates at Saint Albert and redeem the certificates for full face value. Saint Albert keeps the difference in the revenue. The percentage of profit returned to Saint Albert varies from 2 to 17 percent depending on the retailer.

How does my family benefit from Scrip?

The revenue returned to Saint Albert from the retailers will be split between the school's general operating budget and tuition for a student or students specified by participating families.

How many retailers are involved in the Scrip program?

More than 200 retailers are involved in the program. A list of local retailers (Council Bluffs and Omaha) will be provided to participating families when they sign up, and a complete list of all participating retailers is available on the Shop with Scrip website at www.shopwithscrip.com

How do I sign up?

Families can sign up by completing the Scrip Waiver Form and returning it to the Business Office. The Scrip Office is open Mondays from 8 AM to 2 PM and Thursdays from 8 AM to 5:30 PM.

How do I order Scrip?

You may place your order online at www.shopwithscrip.com or contact Lisa Gronstal, the Scrip Coordinator, at (712) 329-9000. Orders are due by 12 PM (noon) each Monday and then available for pick up on Thursdays. Your order can also be sent home with your child. *Note: If you have more than one child enrolled at Saint Albert, please specify which child the Scrip should be sent home with.*

Lisa Gronstal, Scrip Coordinator

scrip@saintalbertschools.org

(712) 329-9000, ext 3

Hours: 8am—2pm Mondays

8am—5:30pm Thursdays

FAN “ST. ALBERT” ON FACEBOOK!

Fan us on Facebook to learn the latest and greatest news that is happening on the hill. New pictures, new stories, and new links are posted each day! Join the 1,500+ alumni, parents, students, and supporters who like us on Facebook!

If you are not yet a fan of St. Albert on Facebook, take a peek at the different posts that have been published this month.

Search “St. Albert” to fan us on Facebook.



Find us on
Facebook

Today, our students delivered 20 boxes of canned goods and clothing (collected as part of our Feast Day and Thanksgiving Masses) to Micah House. We thank all the families and students who participated, as the Micah House is very grateful for this donation.

November 24



Fr. Monahan visited students in Mrs. Assmann's Sacraments class to explain and to answer questions about the priesthood. He talked to them about Holy Orders and his experiences of formation and being a priest. Fr. Monahan currently serves as our school's Senior Chaplain.

November 21



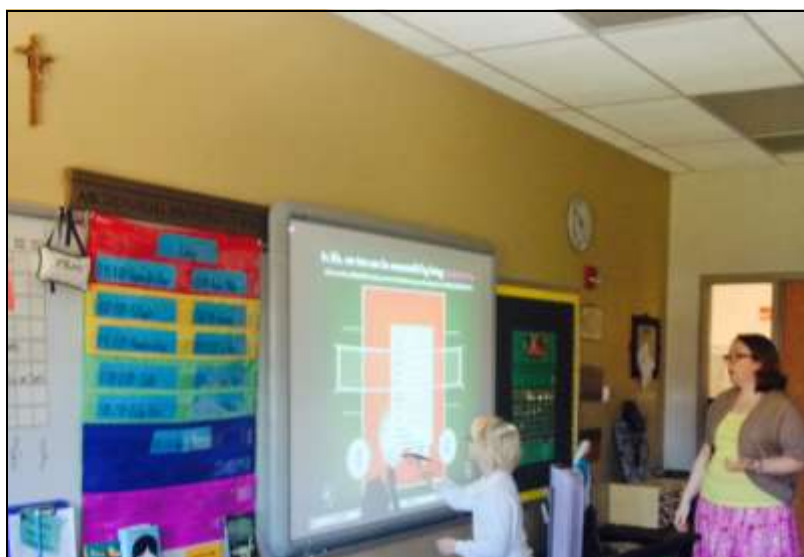


Senior Manny Onate prepares for the rigorous auditions of the UNO BOCH Festival, an event that brings more than 500 high school students from the Midwest to work with nationally renowned clinicians. Manny will join us tomorrow on 102.7 FM to discuss his fine arts experience at Saint Albert. Tune in from 6:40 am - 9 am! *November 12*



Our new engineering program, Project Lead the Way, brings challenging hands-on learning for our students. Our junior high students built a prototype of a playground in their Gateway to Technology course.

November 11



Using the Promethean Smart Board, elementary counselor Ms. Baldwin and our 5th grade students engaged in an interactive discussion about the importance of cooperation in the classroom, in group activities, and in life.

November 4

Ways to Give to Saint Albert

Saint Albert Catholic Schools is very fortunate to have tremendous financial support from our parents, alumni, parishes, and the community. This support greatly enhances our ability to offer students an exceptional learning experience that instills religious and family values in our students.

If you are consider giving to Saint Albert, please remember that your gift goes to a wonderful cause: our mission of fostering spiritual, intellectual and physical growth for students. We are grateful to our donors who have invested in the education and future of our students.

Annual Giving: Gifts to our annual appeal, the Hilltop Fund, are the most effective way to improve the student experience on our Gleason campus.

The 2014 appeal used the first \$20,000 raised for the general operating budget and to maintain our facilities. All funds over \$20,000 will be used to enhance our current campus-wide safety and security system by upgrading building access protection and cameras. We currently have raised over \$35,000.

Benefit Auction & Raffle: This annual event is the school's largest fundraiser, and its proceeds are used to improve the school's general operating budget.

The 2015 Benefit Auction *Cheers to 50 Years* is April 25, 2015, at the Mid-America Center in Council Bluffs.

Catholic Tuition Organization Donation: Help provide low income families with the opportunity to give their children a Catholic education by giving a financial contribution to the Catholic Tuition Organization. You'll also receive a tax credit on both your Iowa and federal taxes.

Planned Giving: Thoughtful, long-term gift planning helps secure the future of Saint Albert and the high-quality education it provides. Remember Saint Albert in your will.

Here is a sample bequest wording for your will (please share with your attorney): "I, [your name] or [city, state, zip] give and bequeath to the Saint Albert Catholic School Foundation, whose legal address is 400 Gleason Avenue, Council Bluffs, Iowa 51503, the rest, residue, and remainder of my estate (or a specific percentage); or the sum of ___ dollars; or the following described property: _____ to support the mission of Saint Albert Catholic School.

Scholarships and Tuition Assistance: Your financial support ensures that a Saint Albert education is accessible to any student who desires it, regardless of their financial resources. Approximately 30% of our students receive tuition assistance.

Scrip Program: Families purchase the gift cards at face value and a percentage of the purchase is applied to the school's operating budget and a percentage is applied to a tuition bill or parish of the customer's choosing.

For more information on these giving options, please visit the Giving to Saint Albert tab on our website or contact us at (712) 329-9000.

Thank you to all who celebrated our school's 50th anniversary this fall. We are blessed with active alumni, hundreds of who attended some or all of the homecoming festivities earlier this month, who continue to uphold our school's tradition of excellence.

We have also been blessed by your donations to the 2014 Hilltop Fund. The Saint Albert community raised \$25,510 in the first two weeks of our annual appeal and has currently exceeded **\$35,000** for this year's appeal.

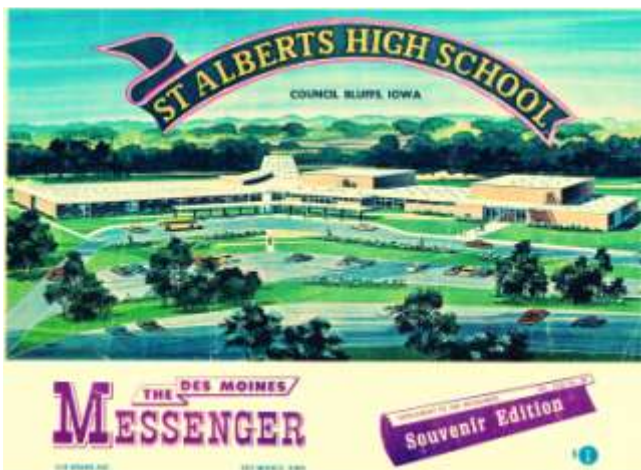
The first \$20,000 we raised will be used for our general operating budget and to maintain our facilities. All funds over \$20,000 will be used to enhance our current campus-wide safety and security system by upgrading building access protection and cameras.

Our 50th anniversary celebrates a rich history of student, faculty, and community achievements. Just as their predecessors did, our students today strive to excel in the classroom, on the stage, in their parish pews, and on the field.

With new enhancements, Saint Albert continues striving for excellence on our dynamic cradle to college campus. The 2014-15 year brings renovations to the 7-12th grade wings, a new engineering program Project Lead the Way, new academic pathways individually designed to help students meet their collegiate and professional goals, and hybrid schedules that allow for increased religion time.

Help our students continue this love of learning and spirit of success by giving to the Saint Albert Hilltop Fund. Gifts to the Hilltop Fund go to Saint Albert's most immediate and greatest needs, such as enhancing our academic programs, increasing tuition assistance and scholarship support, and maintaining our facilities.

Please consider giving—your gift goes to a wonderful cause: our mission of fostering spiritual, intellectual and physical growth for students. Give online at <http://bidpal.net/sahilltopfund> or send in your donation to Saint Albert, Attn Hilltop Fund, 400 Gleason Ave, Council Bluffs, IA 51503.



THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING CATHOLIC EDUCATION!

A DOZEN REASONS to Choose Catholic Schools



1

We offer an education that combines Catholic faith and teachings with academic excellence.

2

We partner with parents in the faith formation of their children.

3

We set high standards for student achievement and help them succeed.

4

We provide a balanced academic curriculum that integrates faith, culture and life.

5

We use technology effectively to enhance education.

6

We instill in students the value of service to others.

7

We teach children respect of self and others.

8

We emphasize moral development and self-discipline.

9

We prepare students to be productive citizens and future leaders.

10

We have a 99 percent high school graduation rate. 85 percent of our graduates go to college.

11

We cultivate a faculty and staff of people who are dedicated, caring and effective.

12

We provide a safe and welcoming environment for all.



Saint Albert

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

1

school

SERVE

FAITH

Weekly Mass

PATRON SAINT

ALBERT THE GREAT

Community

Falcons & Saintes

FAMILY The Hill

St. Albert, pray for us

99% graduation rate

Inspiring **CATHOLIC**

Academic Excellence

Alumni LEADERSHIP

WE GOT SPIRIT!

Our Parishes *The Lord's Prayer*

Freddie Falcon **VOCATIONS**

Love of learning *Pride* Teacher

CATHOLIC EDUCATION 50 years

Priests **VOLUNTEERS**

6 weeks old to 12th grade

Strong Spirituality **GIVING** Campus Ministry

TRADITION Cross *Green and Gold*

Unity
School
CHRIST

SAINT ALBERT CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Family, Faith, For You...For Life!



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Catholic Schools
400 Gleason Ave
Council Bluffs, IA
(712) 329-9000
saintalbertschools.org



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