



News & Notes

April 2024
Volume #427

In this Issue:

| | |
|-----------------------|----|
| Business..... | 02 |
| Campus Ministry | 03 |
| Upcoming Events..... | 10 |

St. Francis Xavier High School
1600 W. Prospect Avenue
Appleton, WI 54914
920-733-6632

Fax: 920-735-1787

www.xaviercatholicschools.org



Xavier High School is a proud member of the St. Francis Xavier Catholic School System, and has been accredited by Cognia (formerly AdvanceED) since 1970.

Dear Xavier Family,

The educational world is forever changing. Remember cursive? I recently stumbled upon a Xavier course catalog from the early 1980's. Typing had its own class. Now typing is a skill much like sitting in a desk – we presume the knowledge before you come into high school. Sewing was listed twice in the course descriptions. Maybe we need to get back to that one! In the past decade, technology has made us reconsider what we need to learn in math versus what the computer would do for us anyway, or whether I need to physically be able to locate a book in the Bible within 10 seconds or just be able to search for that book in my online Bible. This year, the teachers are constantly learning, evolving and creating new assignments and assessments to deal with the phenomenon of AI. Ironically, we bemoan the challenge of having students write their own essays instead of using AI as a crutch while trying to master how to use AI to create better lesson plans and reading assignments! Preparing young people for the world in which they live instead of the world which we remember growing up is the tension between flexible responsiveness and rigid adherence to time-honored standards.

Such a process is not always a perfect science. Some of our teachers place themselves at the forefront of innovation. Their classes look and sound very little like the ones we remember. Their grading structures are different, requiring both parent and student to adjust their mindsets. These classrooms can be places of fascinating discovery and the introduction of new techniques as well as more student-driven learning. They can also be places of frustration for people who just like things the “old way,” knowing exactly what to expect and how to be successful. On the other side of the coin, some of our teachers remain fully committed to the recipe they have had success with for generations of Xavier students. They do what they’ve always done, assess as they’ve always assessed. Their classrooms tend to be stable and predictable, orderly and efficient. However, they are also the ones asking themselves the bigger questions – are students different today? Has the modern world left these concepts behind? Why *should* a student have to learn these things?

That’s why it is so important to remember that we are a learning community. There will be times when your student loves the teacher, raves about the class, and seems invigorated by the topic. There will be other times when your student’s learning style just does not mesh as easily with the teacher, or the expectations of the teacher do not match the level of effort your student is willing to invest in the class. You might find yourself staring at assignments and thinking “I’d love to be in high school to be able to do this!” or shaking your head with disgust, wondering what the point of the particular exercise is. That’s all fair. Just remember that educating a high school student is not as easy as doing what was done when you were in high school. It’s not even as simple as a teacher following her training from when she was in college. Heck, in most cases, a teacher can’t even pull out his lesson plans from last year without having to modify for the current realities of our community and our world. We are working together every day to do right by your student, to prepare your student to get to heaven, hopefully while also preparing them for college and career. If there are bumps along the road, know that those moments are experiences of effort and experiment, not apathy or absurdity.

As parents, you invest significant time and resources to make your child’s Xavier education possible. We take that sacrifice seriously. We want your student to have the best, most effective education possible. Pray for us as we continue to seek new avenues, uncover new areas of study, and evaluate students in new ways. To keep what has worked while also adjusting to the realities of 2024 is a goal that we strive for each day. As we wind down another school year, know that we are dedicated to continuing to grow the educational excellence which we offer your family.

For God’s Greater Glory,

Mike Mauthe
Principal



From the Business/ Attendance Office



Please be sure to **call by 8:00 a.m.** whenever your student is not going to be in school. We appreciate your cooperation.

Students returning to school from medical/dental appointments are reminded to bring an appointment confirmation card from that office. Seniors who are 18 may not self report.

ACT Test Prep Class

Attention Class of 2025 Parents and Students: ACT Test Prep will be offering a class at Xavier to prepare students for the upcoming ACT test on April 13th.

The prep class is scheduled for April 8-11th from 4pm -7:15 pm. A practice exam, teacher-led instructional sessions, and materials will be provided to participating students. If you are interested in signing up for the **prep class**, please visit: www.act-testprep.com

This is a great opportunity for students who took the February exam to improve upon their scores. Any questions should be directed to Mrs. Jones.



AP Testing May 6 - May 11

Students who have signed up for 2024 AP tests need to be checking their email for instructions for the day of their exam. The College Board will be sending reminders about anything students need to complete prior to taking an exam. Students can expect an additional email from Mrs Schuh approximately one week prior to their exam. This email will remind them where and when to report for their tests, as well as cover what to bring with them for testing. Students who decide not to take an AP exam they have registered for are asked to let Mrs Schuh know as soon as that decision is made.

Students who are scheduled to take a **morning** exam should plan to report by 7:30 am. Students testing in the **afternoon** will report by 11:30 am.

Dates and tests being administered at Xavier are:

Tuesday 5/7 - 8 am exam- Human Geography
Noon exam - Statistics
Thursday 5/9 - Noon exam - Psychology
Friday 5/10 - 8 am exam - US History

Monday 5/13 - 8 am exam - Calculus AB
Calculus BC

Tuesday 5/14 - 8 am exam - English Language and Composition

Wednesday 5/15 - Noon exam - Modern World History

Thursday 5/16 - 8 am exam - Spanish Language and Culture

Noon exam - Biology

Friday 5/13 - 8 am exam - German Language and Culture

Noon exam—Physics 1 - Algebra-Based

If you have any questions or concerns, please connect with Mrs Schuh at (920)882-6912 or lschuh@xaviercatholicschools.org

News & Notes is a periodical which is published monthly by Xavier High School, 1600 W. Prospect Avenue, Appleton, WI 54914

Campus Ministry

Happy Easter!

“At Easter, on the morning of the first day of the week, God said once again: ‘Let there be light.’ The night on the Mount of Olives, the solar eclipse of Jesus’ passion and death, the night of the grave had all passed. Now it is the first day once again – creation is beginning anew. ‘Let there be light’, says God, ‘and there was light’: Jesus rises from the grave. Life is stronger than death. Good is stronger than evil. Love is stronger than hate. Truth is stronger than lies. The darkness of the previous days is driven away the moment Jesus rises from the grave and himself becomes God’s pure light. But this applies not only to him, not only to the darkness of those days. With the resurrection of Jesus, light itself is created anew. He draws all of us after him into the new light of the resurrection. He is God’s new day, new for all of us.” - *Pope Benedict XVI*

All-School Retreat Day - April 12!

Students will get to participate in an all-school retreat day on Friday, April 12. Please avoid scheduling appointments or time away from school that day. With any questions, please contact Kate Geenen (kgeenen@xaviercatholicschools.org).

Service Hours due next month!

- Service hours for this school year are DUE MAY 20! Participation in spring sports, musical, extracurriculars, graduation, et al may be in jeopardy if this requirement is not met.
- Service hour opportunities are posted in students’ MobileServe app, on Instagram ([xhscampusministry](https://www.instagram.com/xhscampusministry)), and every Tuesday in a “SPIRIT Stuff” email. Students are also welcome to reach out to their parishes and other community organizations on their own.
- It is up to students to follow up on any pending (not-yet-approved) hours.
- With any questions, please contact Mrs. Geenen (kgeenen@xaviercatholicschools.org).

Final All-School Masses for the Year

Our final all-school gatherings for liturgy this school year will be:

- 1) Retreat Day - Friday, April 12 at 8:10am in the theatre
- 2) Baccalaureate Mass - Tuesday, May 21 at 10:45am in the theatre.

Weekday Mass Opportunities

Join us for Mass: 1) during X on Tuesdays, 2) during X on Thursdays, and 3) Fridays at 7:15am.

“Duncan Donuts”

Join us from 7:20-7:40am Thursday mornings in Room 131 to share a faith moment from your week. Informal. Free doughnuts. All are welcome.

Bible Study

Students are invited to join Ms. Wesolek in Room 134 Wednesday morning at 7:25 for a bible excerpt and reflection.

Individual Reconciliation

Fr. Patrick is available during X on Thursdays for confessions in the chapel sacristy.

Eucharistic Adoration

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is held the first Friday of each month in the Chapel from 7:45am - 3:00pm. Please contact Katie Wesolek to sign up. (kwesolek@xaviercatholicschools.org).



Save the date and join us for #XavierDay2024.

Xavier Day is May 3, 2024. Are you ready to show and live your Xavier pride on Xavier Day? Check your closet and be sure you have your Xavier gear ready. Check your mailbox for the upcoming mailing that explains more about the day and ways to support Xavier. Consider a donation as donations from various groups will be matched by generous benefactors.

Additional information about Xavier Day will be coming to your mailbox and social media feeds soon!

Senior English

The senior English students of the Class of 2024 concluded the term with an impressive array of 5-minute presentations, showcasing their diverse interests and aspirations.

Topics ranged from the informal, like detailing a planted fish tank hobby and insights into "a day in the life" of the student, to reflective narratives detailing careers in Xavier athletics or theater, and forward-thinking topics such as "Why I Chose the Army National Guard" or where a student is headed now that she's achieved her pilot's license. One presentation even humorously imagined "Which Xavier Teacher Would Win the Hunger Games?!"

Though I'm a bit sad to say goodbye to this unique group of individuals, I'm also excited to witness their future journeys and accomplishments beyond high school...best of luck, Class of 2024!

Orchestra

May Concert News

Please be sure to mark your calendars for our final concert of the season on May 22nd at 7pm at Xavier High School. This will be a combined 7th through high school concert displaying all the students' hard work this school year. In addition, the concert will feature seniors **McKenna Andrews** in a viola concerto written by Bruch, **Pamela Barquet** in a violin concerto written by Brahms, **Alayna McKinnon** in a cello concerto by Vivaldi, **Grant Polzin** in a violin concerto by Lalo and **Gabby Schreiter** in a violin concerto by Accolay, all accompanied by the orchestra as well as other orchestra features.

Orchestra members will be advancing to State!

Congratulations to everyone for all their fine performances at the District Solo and Ensemble Festival. Congratulations especially to the Chamber Ensembles who also advanced to State. Anyone receiving a "First Star Rating" will perform at State. All the results are included in this newsletter. Great job!

Solo & Ensemble Results for Xavier High School Orchestra

Class A Events Receiving a "First Star Rating"

Ensembles

Trio – Keaton McKinley, Ryan Brown, Samu Dube
Quartet – Sophia Nevarez-Padilla, Gabby Schreiter, McKenna Andrews, Alayna McKinnon
Quintet – Nolan Henckel, Sophia Nevarez-Padilla, Gabby Schreiter, McKenna Andrews, Alayna McKinnon

Solos

McKenna Andrews, (viola)
 Emily Bakey, (viola)
 Halle Keesler, (violin)
 Keaton McKinley, (violin)
 Mariel Pante, (piano)
 Brock Polzin, (violin)
 Lydia Young, (violin)

Class A Events Receiving "First Ratings"

Solos

Samu Dube, (cello)
 Dana Keesler (violin)
 Gabby Schreiter, (violin)

World Languages

Congratulations to Ella Heyndrickx on her second place finish in the Wisconsin State division of the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese poster contest! Ella competed in the Grades 9-12 Hand-drawn Poster competition. Her poster now advances to the AATSP national competition, which will be judged in May. ¡Felicidades y buena suerte!"



Ella Heyndrickx - Opening the Door and Mind to Greater Opportunities Using Spanish and Portuguese Languages

Multiple elements of art were incorporated in my poster including color. Texture, space, lines, and shape. As attempting to create a piece of art where each element matched one another, I emphasized the principles of unity, variety, and balance. The studio habit that I focused on during my project was the expression of personal meaning. I drew what is seen on the poster because I wanted to portray the effects of what happens when opening yourself to the doors of learning new languages, specifically Spanish and Portuguese. I hope the viewers of my poster don't only see the drawings as pictures on a page, but as inspiration for the different opportunities and benefits there are to learning other languages.

Science Scholars

First year participants complete a variety of science activities in six different fields of science in order to provide opportunities to explore their interests in different formats. They are asked to read a book, listen to a podcast, read current research, complete a career analysis, analyze a video explaining a science concept, participate in an active online project and complete a hands-on project for science concepts in which they are initially unfamiliar. They are expected to complete six of the seven types of activities to fulfill their first year requirements. The culmination of the first year is presenting one of these activities to the group which includes the other participants, the science faculty, and other guests. This year we learned about NASA's spacecraft, Dragonfly, and its planned mission to the surface of Saturn's largest moon, Titan, an explanation on the benefits of Nuclear Power, and why people cannot regrow limbs. The students that completed the first year of the science scholars program are: Abby Ourada, Sophia VanStraten, and Allie Knutson.

Second year participants take part in a camp of their choosing, and then are expected to present what their experience entailed and what they learned to the group. Ava Gilligan presented her summer experiences in Maine at the Acadia Institute of

Oceanography, Ella Merritt described her experience with the Summer Academy of Medicine at St. Norbert, Elsa Thiel and Ryan Brown reported on their participation in the Summer Academy of Medicine at St. Norbert and MSOE Engineering Explore, and Ryan outlined his participation in the ThedaCare Summer Volunteering program. Quinton Lumsden described his responsibilities and accomplishments with his Engineering Youth Apprenticeship at Plexus.

Participation in the Science Scholars program aims to give students exposure to the widespread areas of science with the hope of expanding their familiarity with each area as well as honing in on areas of particular interest to steer them towards potential career goals. Each year the program starts in the summer with culminating presentations occurring in March. Interested students should see their science teacher for more information on how to participate.



Athletics

HAWKS WINTER SPORTS UPDATE 2023-24

Boys' Basketball – The Hawks were champions of the Bay conference and were victorious over Brillion to secure their second straight regional title. Senior Tyler Brightman was named unanimous first team all Bay conference and was the league's player of the year. Seniors Sam Pfefferle and Hayden Quimby earned second team all-conference nods and senior Luke Krull took home the conference defensive player of the year award along with honorable mention recognition.

Girls' Basketball – The Hawks captured the conference, regional, and sectional championships. The state-qualifying Hawks were triumphant in their state semi-final game and finished the season as state runners-up. For the second time in her career senior, Carsyn Stempa earned unanimous first team all-conference recognition and was the Bay conference defensive player of the year. Halle Vande Hey was also named first team all-conference. Senior Molly Martine and sophomore Joy Krull earned honorable mention recognition.

Girls' Hockey –Xavier members were Pamela Barquet, Naomi Barquet, Ella Merritt, and Olivia Merritt. The team placed 3rd in the conference with a 13-11 overall record.

Boys' Hockey –The Stars finished in 6th place in the conference on saw improved success on the ice. Xavier players were Aiden Eckes, Fernando Elko and Luke Tretinyak.

Wrestling – The Hawks had three athletes qualify for the sectional wrestling meet after a very challenging regional at Two Rivers. John Faulkner, Madeline Faulkner and Cristian Rodriguez Salgado represented the Hawks at Oconto Falls. John and Madeline were also named first team all Bay conference.

Powerlifting – Xavier had twelve individuals qualify for the state powerlifting tournament in Appleton. Those qualifying were Gabby Wasco, Elizabeth Munao, Addy Lumsden, Anna Kaufman, Kojo Norman, Cyrus Foth, Quinton Lumsden, Alex Mueller, Mason Hesse, John Vanden Heuvel, Nathan Welter, and Mason Martin-Rankin.





Xavier Children's Theatre presents *The Emperor's New Clothes*

Directed by Maureen Milbach

The Emperor's New Clothes by Kathryn Schultz Miller is a clever play within a play based on the original Hans Christian Anderson story. The Emperor of Kostrama cares for nothing but wearing the fanciest clothing. He loves his extravagant clothes so much that he even wakes up several times each night to change his pajamas. One day, a lowly tailor seeking his fortune arrives and convinces the royal family that he can make the most extravagant clothes from his "magic" cloth. The emperor is tricked and both he and the tailor learn a lesson about vanity and greed. Told with humor and some audience participation, this play promises to be fun for children and entertaining for all ages.

The story is enriched by full scenic and costume design by the Children's Theatre Production class and assistant artists.

Friday, May 17

7:00 PM public performance

Tickets available beginning April 19th online at www.xaviertheatre.com beginning at 9:00 am.

Also available through the box office, (920) 733-8840, open from noon to 3:00 pm Wednesdays, April 17-May 15

Also open Monday, May 13 and Thursday, May 17.

Xavier Fine Arts Theatre, 1600 W. Prospect Avenue, Appleton.

A program of the St. Francis Xavier Catholic School System

Open Auditions for Christmas Stars!



Performing in Christmas Stars is a fun way to celebrate the Christmas season and support fine arts programs in the St. Francis Xavier Catholic School System.

Christmas Stars has provided well over **one million dollars** to enhance fine arts in the system schools through disbursements to the XCS schools and by funding Christmas Stars scholarships to assist XCS students in pursuing fine arts enrichment activities.

Sign up online!

Auditions will be held by appointment Thursday, May 9 and Saturday morning, May 11. It's easy to get started, here's what you need to do:

1. Go to www.christmasstars.com
2. Click or tap the "Join Our Cast" button.
3. Fill out a brief, online application and submit.
4. Follow the link to schedule an audition.

Practice music and additional info is on the audition page. Accompaniment is provided at auditions.

What else should you know?

- Auditions, rehearsals and performances are held at the Xavier Fine Arts Theatre at St. Francis Xavier High School.
- Students entering Kindergarten through 12th grade in the 2024-2025 school year and adults of any age who love to sing and dance are welcome to audition. There are four choirs; Adult: high school and up, Youth: grades 6-8, Children: grades 3-5; Cherub: grades K-2.
- Parents of students are invited to participate as a cast member or as a volunteer. Please note: all adults volunteering to participate in Christmas Stars in any capacity, including cast, are required to complete VIRTUS training.
- Most rehearsals are Sunday evenings, beginning at the end of August for the Adult choir and mid-September for the Cherub, Children and Youth choirs.
- Show dates for 2024 are December 5-15.
- Auditions, rehearsals and performances are held at the Xavier Fine Arts Theatre.

Upcoming Events

| | |
|----------------|---|
| April 1-7 | No School – Easter Break |
| April 12 | Xavier Retreat Day |
| April 24 | KaBoom! (7:00 in theatre) |
| April 27 | Prom |
| April 29–May 3 | Blue & White Week |
| May 3 | Xavier Day |
| May 6 | No School – Teacher Inservice |
| May 8 | Spring Choir Concert (7:00 in theatre) |
| May 15 | Spring Band Concert (7:00 in theatre) |
| May 17 | Theatre Production Class Public Performance (7:00 in theatre) |
| May 19 | Senior Awards Night (7:00 in theatre) |
| May 20 | XSC Blood Drive |
| May 21 | Baccalaureate Mass (10:45 in theatre) |
| May 22 | Spring Orchestra Concert (7:00 in theatre) |
| May 29 | Graduation (7:00 at PAC) |
| June 3-4 | Half Days – Final Exams |



HAPPY
EASTER

