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#### **East Catholic High School Administration**

Sean P. Brennan '85 - Chief Administrator Gina Burby - Dean of Academics Janice Reilly - Dean of Student Life





### A Note from the Chief Administrator

#### **DEAR EAST CATHOLIC FAMILY,**

Let me begin by thanking our extended East Catholic community for their collective patience as we worked through transitions in our Advancement and Communications offices. At long last we have a "double" issue of the Eagle to share with you here. Many thanks to all who worked to chronicle all that is happening on the Hill!

#### **Graduation 2022**

After sequestering graduates with their families at Graduation 2021, it was nice to get back to our normal seating arrangement with graduates sitting together. The Cathedral of St. Joseph was spectacular as ever, and Dr. Meaghan McGeary '12 delivered an inspirational and encouraging speech to the Class of 2022.

#### #JustHangingBanners

The saying "two are better than one" certainly is apropos when you are talking about State Championship banners. Our Girls Soccer Team had a dream season. After losing their first game with three starters out for injury, the team rallied to win or tie every game after that en route to a 1-0 victory over Lyman Memorial in the freezing cold to capture the Class S crown. Well done, girls! Our Boys Basketball team followed up their 2021 Championship to capture their third straight Division One state championship (COVID derailed 2019 and 2020). What a great showing by our loyal fans who trekked down to Mohegan Sun Arena to see our Eagles rally from an 18-point deficit at half-time to beat Northwest Catholic by two points! As has become tradition, the whole school was rewarded with a day off for both victories!

#### **Grit and Integrity**

Many of the articles in this issue highlight the amazing work being done by our students in the Arts, Robotics, Service, etc. Our students exemplify what it means to dedicate themselves to all that they do. In 2022-23 our school-wide theme was GRIT, and as you can see, many of our students persevere to great success. For 2023-24, the theme is INTEGRITY, and likewise, doing the right thing is a natural result of how we educate our students in Mind, Body, and Spirit.

#### **Graduation 2023**

This graduation truly felt like we are back to normal. On a beautiful evening, the Class of 2023 and their guests were able to celebrate this special class and all that they accomplished. The student speakers did a great job, and we were incredibly fortunate to have my classmate, Dr. Walter P. "Chip" Trymbulak, Jr. '85, MD, PhD as their Commencement speaker. His comments about how, "We Are EC" truly resonates when you realize how many East Catholic alumni are out in the world and always willing to help a fellow Eagle out.

#### Strategic Plan

Please take a moment to check out our current Strategic Plan for East Catholic. It is a three-year plan (2022-25), and we are well on our way to achieving much of what we laid out. Many thanks to our School Board, friends of the school, and current staff for creating such an aspirational plan.

#### Closing

Going forward, please look for The Eagle magazine to come out once per year in the Fall. If you need to update your current address, email, phone, etc. please reach out us at news@echs.com.

Peace and blessings,

# STATE OF THE SCHOOL ADDRESS

January 31, 2023

President Sean P. Brennan gave East Catholic's first State of the School Address as a way to introduce the new 2022-2025 Strategic Plan to the community.

The Strategic Plan is based on eight unique pillars and three doctrines that together lay the groundwork for the bright future and continued success of East.

With many faculty, family, and alumni in attendance, both virtually and in person, President Brennan spoke to the resounding success East Catholic has experienced since the pandemic and the greatness to come.

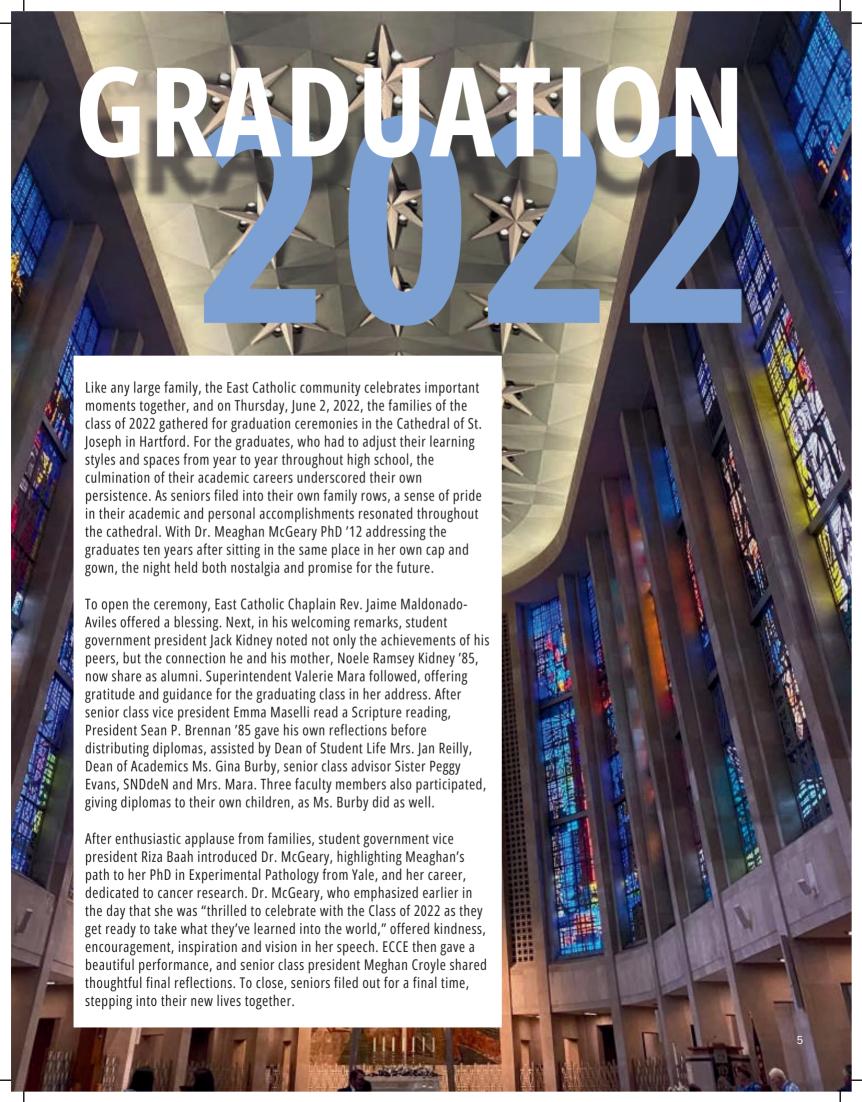
Under Brennan's leadership, East Catholic has been able to exceed fundraising goals and update its facilities - opening a new state of the art Integrated Technology Center for students, and new Weight Room. With enrollment numbers soaring and a filled freshmen class for Fall 2023, Brennan's words rang true: "For our students, East Catholic is a home for your



For the past 60 years, East Catholic has been educating students in mind, body, and spirit, and our alumni have gone on to achieve world-class accomplishments. The Eagle community expands far and wide, but we will always remember our time on the Hill.

Read the entire 2022-2025 Strategic Plan here:









# 2022 GRADUATES & ALUMNI FAMILY

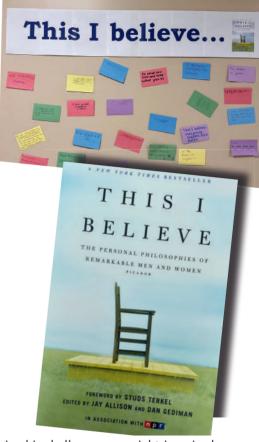
# ECHS Convocation 2022

At the beginning of the 2022-2023 school year, the East Catholic community came together for their annual Convocation program. The tradition serves to set the tone for the school year ahead by exploring the lessons of the One Book, One Community and introducing the year's theme.

Emerging from the pandemic with resiliency, Chief Administrator Sean P. Brennan thought the theme of grit would be the best encapsulation of rising through the adversity East Catholic and its students faced over the past two years. Along with English Department Chair Lisa Kirsche, they selected This I Believe: The Personal Philosophies of Remarkable Men and Women as the One Book, One Community. Over the summer, every student and faculty read the text, which showcased over 100 short essays from different people and perspectives.

The Convocation program began with an All-School Mass with our chaplain, Father Jaime Maldonado-Aviles, as celebrant. Mr. Brennan then addressed the school community to instill the theme of grit and emphasize how it would be interwoven into programming throughout the year.

Jade Colon '23 took the stage to share her own "This I Believe" philosophy, and how grit played a vital role in overcoming the challenges life threw her way. With her bravery, Colon shared with her peers the experience of losing her father to ALS at a very young age.



Next, Mr. John Urbanski spoke to the students and his colleagues about overcoming his challenges as a sight-impaired individual. Urbanski, more commonly called UrbJ amongst students and colleagues at East, is known in the halls as being full of joy and always willing to lend a helping hand. He hasn't let his blindness slow him down, but that doesn't mean it's been an easy journey. It was heartwarming and humbling to hear his story and learn more about him. Campus Ministry, and East Catholic as a whole, wouldn't be the same without him.

After the main assembly, students broke into their advisory groups to discuss the essays they read in <u>This I Believe</u> and shared which stories resonated with them most. Many teachers had their students write their thoughts on index cards and showcased them on the bulletin boards in front of their classroom for the first couple of months of the semester.

In choosing <u>This I Believe</u> as the One Book, One Community, Mr. Brennan had a bigger idea in mind to engage the entire school community and ground them in the theme of grit. In the beginning weeks of every English class, from freshmen through seniors across all levels, students were assigned to write their own "This I Believe" essay on a fundamental guiding principle that they live by. All faculty and staff were also asked to write their own essay to bring everyone together as one community.

As is the tradition, the Convocation program truly served to initiate the school year through the lens of grit and what it means to our community. From insightful guest speakers, including Chris Waddell and Steve Emt, to state championship wins, to stellar performances, to countless academic achievements, our students learned from one another, persevered through challenges in their way, and soared throughout the year.





# Veterans Day

Veterans Day, a day designated to honor those who serve in the US Armed Forces, typically is celebrated with a day off as a federal holiday. Spearheaded by Sean P. Brennan, Kathy O'Neill Reilly '86 (Mathematics), Adrienne Andrews (Mathematics), and Robert Link (Social Studies and Fine Arts), we chose to bring our students in for half a day to share with them stories of alumni and family who served or currently do, and participate in service projects to honor veterans in our local community.

The day started with a full school assembly, joined by alumni and family members that are Veterans. We played several interviews, conducted by our faculty. Chief Administrator Brennan interviewed his fellow Class of 1985 classmate, Brian Dunn. O'Neill-Reilly interviewed Timothy Dion '12 with assistance from Lesa Milas. Social Studies teacher, Ryan Healey, interviewed two of his former students, brothers Thomas '07 and Billy '12 Smith. All shared their stories on what called them to serve their country, and they shared vast experiences about their time in the armed forces. Dion and the Smith brothers are all actively serving.

Our keynote speaker, Colonel Lesbia Nieves of the Connecticut Army National Guard, took the stage to address the audience and share her commitment to service. We also invited Stage East Director and Religion teacher Jillian Quackenbush on stage alongside her father to show the tradition of the folding of the flag. Robert Link, also a Veteran, coordinated a performance by The 102nd Band who played the Armed Forces Salute. During each song, members in the audience were invited to stand to be honored for their service under their respective military branch.

For the remainder of the day, students were split into groups to complete different service projects. Some students visited the local veterans' parks in Manchester to conduct clean up. Students also put together care packages and wrote letters for the local Veterans Home and Hospital in Rocky Hill, CT. Students also made signs and videos thanking veterans for their service and sacrifice. Veterans who joined us for the day were invited to a brunch with Mr. Brennan and faculty members in our conference room.

The day served as an opportunity to educate our students on their importance of honoring this holiday and celebrate those in our community who served and continue to serve our country. You can watch the assembly or the individual interviews on our East Catholic YouTube channel.



# Students & Service

### **JADE COLON '23 ALS FUNDRAISER**

Beginning in her junior year, Jade Colon '23 started a fundraiser to honor her father's battle with ALS. Each September, Jade sold t-shirts, bracelets and stickers to collect funds. She also partnered with the volleyball team to hold a "red-out" game, and she coordinated a walk around the school for students to show their support. Through her efforts, Jade raised hundreds of dollars that went toward her ultimate day of service -Hartford's Walk Against ALS.

# BENJAMIN CREAMER '23 & JILLIAN VICHI '23 AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

Also beginning in their junior year, Ben Creamer '23 and Jillian Vichi '23 organized a Red Cross blood drive to help the blood shortage in the United States. With help from East Catholic's Counseling Department, Ben and Jillian dedicated one day each year to the blood drive. Students, families and faculty donated over 100 pints of blood for those in need. Now that Ben and Jillian have graduated, Ben's siblings, Michael '24 and Samantha '25, will carry on this important event.

### Aetos Dios FIRST Robotics





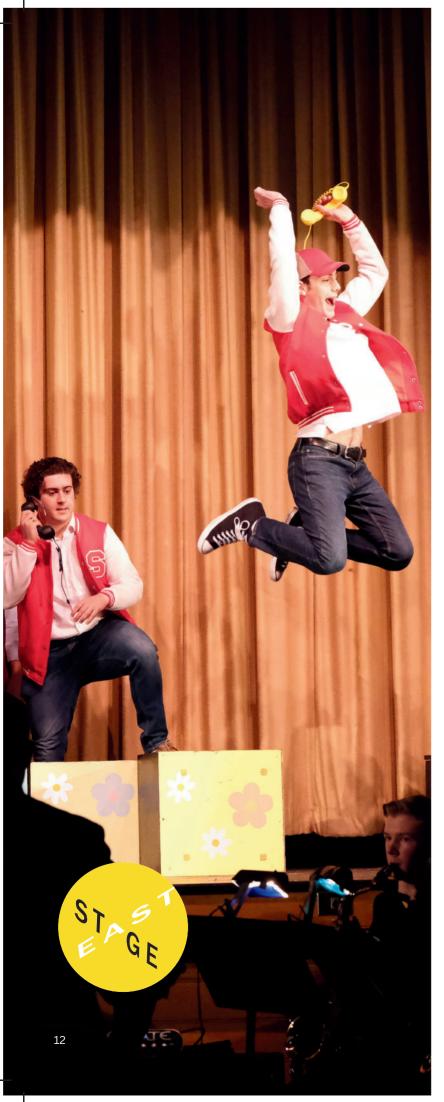


Since their start in 2018, East Catholic's FIRST Robotics team, Aetos Dios ("Eagles of Zeus"), has soared to new heights. FIRST Robotics, standing "For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology", is an international non-profit sport league designed to inspire the next generation of leaders in engineering and technology. Students from East Catholic, as well as several members from surrounding high schools, compete throughout the year by building a specially designed robot for competitions across New England and beyond.

Each year, the students are tasked with designing and constructing their own machine from scratch based around a specific prompt. It begins with brainstorming sessions, that then lead to time in the Robotics lab room at East. As Braden Rogers '23 said in an interview with News 8, "Everything is hand built. Nothing is machine made for us." It takes countless hours, sacrificing school nights and weekends, to create and understand the inner-workings of their robot. "When your robot is on the field moving around, you built that, and it's coming to life on the field," said Kyle Costa '25.

For the first time in program history, Aetos Dios raised the bar and qualified in 2022 to compete in the World Championships in Houston, TX. With this exceptional accomplishment, they worked hard throughout the 2023 season to make it back there – which they successfully did. The Aetos Dios team is excited to use our new Integrated Technology Center to enhance their learning and building process.

With a new season on the horizon, the Aetos Dios Robotics team will look to continue their program's success and qualify again in 2024. Learn more about the team at frc7153.com.



# The Arts at East

From performances at the XL center, to accolades at Jazz showcases, to packed houses in the East Catholic auditorium, the Fine Arts at East Catholic are a welcome place for students to expand and showcase their talents.

Our Stage East program, led by Jillian Quackenbush, put on lively and entertaining productions throughout the year. In the fall, Quackenbush chose a fun play based on a boardgame classic, Clue. Spurred by the desire to try something new, several students tried out for a Stage East production for the first time in their high school tenure. The inviting atmosphere, coupled with a familiar and fun whodunnit play, made for great opportunities for our students.

For the second semester, Quackenbush went with the Tony-Award winning comedic and upbeat Bye Bye Birdie. The production features fun music and an opportunity to let many students shine. Laura Hutchinson from News Channel 8 came to speak with our theater students, impressed by their talent and East's usage of a musical pit as opposed to audio tracks. Stage East gives our students the ability to shine onstage and learn as performers. When asked what his Stage East experience meant to him throughout high school, senior Brandon Macaluso said it best: "Being able to go from school, where I'm very quiet, to being loud and more of an extrovert than I really am is just very liberating."

David Brudz led our instrumental bands - Stage, Jazz, and Combo – at performances at various festivals throughout the year and received several awards and recognitions. At the University of New Hampshire Jazz Festival, Julia Vieria Reis '23 and Nina Crawford '26 both received awards. The Jazz Band also participated in the Greenwich High School/Essentially Ellington Festival, run in association with Jazz at Lincoln Center in New York City, with awards given to Adam Eskin '24, Julia Vieria Reis '23, Michael Machewirth '25, and the entire trombone section. At the University of Massachusetts festival. Stefan Poth '26 received an outstanding performance award for his work in the Stage Band. Three musicians were recognized for their playing and were awarded scholarships to the UMass "Jazz in July" summer music camp: Adam Eskin '24, Mary Poirier '23, and Julia Vieira Reis '23. The Jazz Band also was awarded first place and performed as the opening band for the evening concert by guest artist Sean Jones and his award-winning quartet. Marion Patsalides '24 was also selected to the All State Band as the first chair tenor.

Led by Robert Link, our choral groups had amazing opportunities throughout the year, performing at various venues and festivals. Our ECCE (East Catholic Choral Ensemble), East's most premier choir which requires an audition, performed the National Anthem in front of large crowds for the Hartford Wolfpack and the Harlem Globetrotters at the XL Center.

Each year, our choral and instrumental groups work hard during classroom instruction and after school hours to practice for these events. They also put on two major performances for the school community at our annual Christmas Concert and Spring Concert. Additionally, these concerts are complemented by the talented work of our art students – ranging across drawing, sculpture, and digital design. Throughout the year, Heather Brasche and Wurood Shaher work with their students to help them create compelling work to be showcased.









### A SHOW OF SPORTSMANSHIP: FIELD HOCKEY

In the Fall of 2022, the Girls' Field Hockey team took the field against Avon to play just as they would any night. What they didn't know was the impact they would have that night.

In the third quarter of the game, Avon put in one of their freshman players, Kaylee, who is autistic. Recognizing the situation, the East Catholic girls allowed Kaylee to have her moment. Junior Bree Upton '24 stepped aside as goalie and the rest of the team made way for Kaylee to score her first goal.

Avon's coach, Terri Ziemnicki, spoke on the moment afterwards stating: "The gesture of kindness was like something I've never seen in my 38 years of coaching. You look back over the years, and you have some memorable moments, and some great wins, but I've never had the feeling that I had being at that game. This is what athletics should be about."

When asked about her role as goalie, Bree reflected, saying "We realized as a team that it wasn't about us, it wasn't about winning or losing, it was about making the night special for her. To be able to do it with East, I think, is an amazing reflection of what we learn at school. They felt it was a safe place for her to be with East Catholic and that was really important to us as a team."

The Girls' Field Hockey team was honored with the Lucy Goodridge Sportsmanship Award at the CIAC All-State dinner. The team truly embodied the Eagle spirit with their actions on the field that September night.

The team was also honored with the Connecticut Association Athletic Directors Sportsmanship award for 2023.



### 2022 STATE CHAMPS

With an impressive record of 19-1-1 in the regular season, the 2022 Girls Soccer team entered the Class S State Tournament as the #2 seed. They won with a score of 1-0 over Lyman Memorial in the State Championship at Trinity Health Stadium, marking the second State Championship in program history.

The team was coached by Scott Raiola, and assisted by Carrie Bushnell, Hope Skahan '14, and Alyssa Parker '15 – who was a member of the 2014 team that won the program's last state title.

The team entered the season with a bolstering group of both senior leadership and new talent. A loss in their opening game against Tolland motivated the team early on to learn from their mistakes and get better. A winning streak and only one tied game later, the team was poised to make a run in the tournament.

Late in the first half, senior captain Sydney Ledoux scored a goal to put the Eagles up 1-0 over Lyman Memorial. With a strong defensive presence by the Eagles throughout the second half, Lyman Memorial wasn't able to answer with a goal of their own. On a chilly November Sunday, with a packed crowd of East Catholic fans, the Girls Soccer team celebrated their impressive season and state title win. Ledoux was named MVP for her instrumental goal.

When asked about the team's successful season, Raiola said "If you look at the stats, goals, defense, you name it, this is a special team. It's awesome." Raiola made the decision at the conclusion of the season to step away from coaching to focus on spending time with his family but said this will always be an unforgettable memory.

With the assistant coaching staff all making a return for the 2023 season, East Catholic hired experienced girls' coach Ken Goodale and are excited to continue to build on their success.



In 2019, the Boys Basketball team went on a dominant run in the tournament to win the Division I State Championship against Windsor High School. Excited to build on this success the following year, ranked #1 in the state, the team's hopes were cut short when the tournament was canceled in 2020 and 2021 due to the nationwide pandemic.

Ready to make their way back to the number one spot with almost a completely new team, the 2021-2022 Boys Basketball team recorded a 20-6 season and won the Division I State Championship, battling Notre Dame of West Haven down to the buzzer at Mohegan Sun Arena. The championship basketball banner was added to those of 1965, 1968, 1972, 2014, 2016, and 2019. In Coach Luke Reilly's mind, though, the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 teams were part of this championship as well. Coach Reilly wishes to share the success with those team members and past and present students because all Eagles were truly winners on championship night.

The team was young, learning on the fly, and facing adversity with some tough losses and an injury to major contributor Samson Reilly. James Jones believes that the best quality of the team was that "even when everything wasn't perfect or going according to plan, we never gave up. We always found a way." The Eagles lost an early season game at Mohegan Sun, and afterward, the players left the words, "Be back in March!" on the white board in the locker room. They did, indeed, come back, albeit as an eighth seed going into the tournament.

"We embraced the role of underdog," said Coach Reilly. James Jones had 14 points and 13 rebounds; freshman Preston Fowler gave the team a big lift off the bench, and Rob Elliott controlled the boards. "Our mantra all year was to fall back on our level of training. In the closing minutes of the game, we did just that," stated Coach Reilly. Luke Reilly, Jr. made a huge three from the corner to give East a six-point lead. Jones made two free throws with 19 seconds left. Leondre Sanchez refused to take the ball out of bounds to allow the clock to run out with East winning by one point. Coach Reilly was very proud of how the players came together as a team, saying, "When a team does that, they will always give themselves the best chance to win."

Coming into the 2022-2023 season, with a title to defend, the Eagles weren't the underdog anymore. Throughout the regular season, they only lost one game in a close match-up with St. Augustine High School in California at the annual Hoophall Classic at Springfield College.

East Catholic entered the CCC (Central Connecticut Conference) tournament at the University of Hartford with a record of 23-1 and a mission to take home the title in route to the state tournament. East Catholic went on to defeat Bloomfield High School, the 2022 Division IV champion, by a score of 78-64 to win its fifth CCC boys basketball title. When asked about the team's performance in the tournament, Coach Reilly said, "It helps solidify the wonderful season we've had so far."

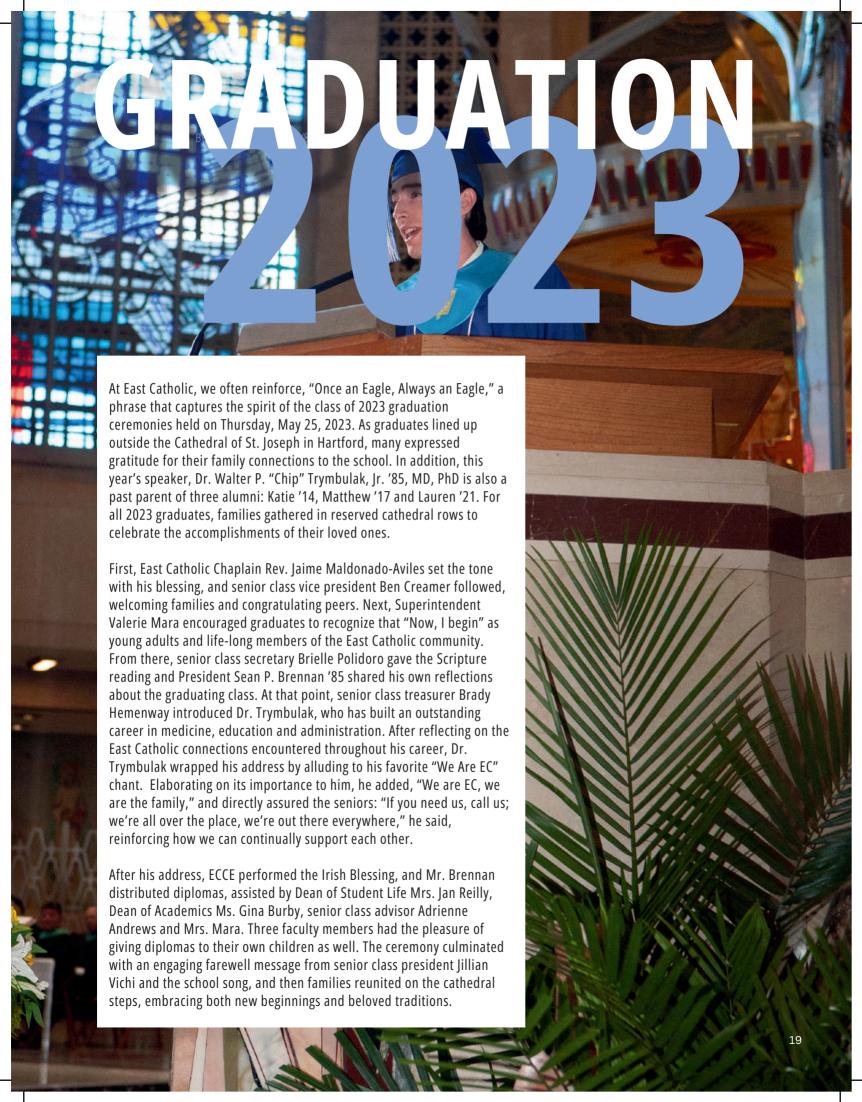
Next up for the Eagles was the state tournament. With impressive wins over Westhill, Wilbur Cross, and Ridgefield, East Catholic earned their way back to the court at Mohegan Sun for the Division I Championship – this time competing against rival Northwest Catholic High School. Down by double digits at the end of the first half, the Eagles emerged in the second half with grit and determination. After fighting back, the lead continued to change hands in a nail-biter match up. "It was a high-level game with a lot of high-level players out there," said Coach Reilly.

With the fourth quarter winding down, James Jones made a crucial lay-up and East Catholic went up 48-47 over Northwest with less than a minute remaining. The strong defense that defined East's second half needed to hold up in order to finish the game. After getting fouled with less than a second left, Jones made a free throw to put East up 49-47. Northwest had one opportunity to make a quick shot and missed. You could feel the energy from the packed stands as the boys rushed the court to celebrate their hard-earned championship victory.

Coach Reilly's impressive teams continue to operate with greatness as they hang State Championship banners in the gymnasium. Each year the team looks a little different, but one fact remains true – East Catholic boys basketball is a team with greatness instilled in them, and it's not luck that brings them to Mohegan Sun year after year. Coach Reilly and his team are ready and excited to get back out on the court in the 2023-2024 season, with the hope of another state championship on the horizon.











Zoe Allyn, Mark Allyn '84, and Phoebe Allyn '21



Brayden Collazo and Kelly Kuschman '01



Faith Crawford and Pam Crawford '89



Emma DeSautels and Michael DeSautels '84



Brady Dodge, Michael Dodge '12, and Briana Dodge '14



Brady Hemenway and Tyrell White-Hemenway '87



Karly Hevner and Sean Hevner '85



Brandon Macaluso and Jillmarie Macaluso '87



Jack Mitchell, Mary Aitken Mitchell '87, and Hannah Mitchell '18



Kaeden O'Connell, Janice Heldmann-O'Connell '85, and Madison O'Connell '18



Mary Poirier and Sarah Thiery Poirier '89



Luke Reilly Jr and Natalie Reilly '93



Jacob Taylor and Michelle Gagnon Taylor '89



Lauren Toomey and Aiden Toomey '21

# 2023 GRADUATES & ALUMNI FAMILY

### ONCE AN EAGLE



ALWAYS AN EAGLE

### The Today Fund



Dear East Catholic Family,

East Catholic is thriving as a school community. We continue to send our well-prepared graduates off to excellent colleges and universities, our athletic and arts programs continue to shine, and our community finds strength in each and every member. I hope you will join your fellow Eagles in making a gift to our wonderful school!

Wishing you God's peace!

Sincerely, Sean P. Brennan '85 President "We make a living by what we get, we make a life by what we give."

- Winston Churchill

#### How to Contribute

Visit our website at www.echs.com and select the "Support Us" tab.

Complete the attached remittance envelope. ECHS Advancement Office, 115 New State Road, Manchester, CT 06042.

Call the ECHS Advancement Office at (860) 649-5336 for over-the-phone donations.



### Consider Making a Matching Gift

Your employer's matching gift program may double your donation to the school. Request a matching gift form from your Human Resource or Public Affairs Office and mail it to East Catholic with your contribution. You can also call the ECHS Advancement Office at (860) 649-5336 with questions on matching gift programs or visit www.matchinggifts.com/search/echs/





**East Catholic High School** 

# For Annual Giving

### The Today Fund



### **Annual Gift Levels:**

REV. CHARLES SHAW SOCIETY: \$10,000 AND ABOVE

BLUE & PLATINUM: \$5,000 - \$9,999

HONORARY FOUNDERS: \$2,500 - \$4,999

CENTURY: \$1,000 - \$2,499 THE HILL: \$500 - \$999

PATRONS: \$250 - \$499

BLUE & WHITE: \$100 - \$249

SPONSORS: \$5 - \$99

The Today Fund for Annual Giving provides vital resources and helps sustain the hallmarks of an East Catholic education. The following represent opportunities to provide budget relief for some of East Catholic's most fundamental programs:

Tuition only covers a portion of educating our students. You may direct your gift to the area(s) that speak to you. Or, you can select to let us put your gift to work for the program of greatest need.

**Studio and Performing Arts** – engage students in the creation and appreciation of visual, vocal and instrumental arts.



Athletics and Wellness – support the physical education program, health and wellness programs for students and athletes, and the equipment, uniforms, field and court maintenance, and travel for our student-athletes (over 83% of East Catholic students participate in school-sponsored team sports).

**Faith Formation** – help East Catholic guide students in their personal discovery of who God intends them to be. Support East Catholic's service to others through Campus Ministry outreach projects.



#### Tuition Assistance/Scholarships - help

East Catholic insure a diverse, motivated and talented student body by providing tuition assistance to those in need and who may not otherwise be able to attend.

**Technology** – provide a strong technology infrastructure as well as training and support for students, faculty and staff. Help our students be prepared for technological advances in our global society.



The Today Fund for Annual Giving supports the school's operating budget. Should designated contributions exceed a program's need, we will redirect the gift to the area of greatest need which may also include facility maintenance and campus improvements as well as academic programing and initiatives.

# For Annual Giving

1970 ▶

Jacqueline (FitzGerald '70) Gryphon was recently selected as the featured artist for The Art Gallery at Peaks Island Library, Peaks Island, Maine. Eight of her paintings were on display and sold, with a percentage of the funds going to support library projects. Jackie has sold and provided to auctions, paintings whose proceeds benefitted survivors of 9/11, Sandy Hook families, and other non-profit organizations.



**▼** 1972

In celebration of the 50th anniversary of their own graduation, members of the Class of 1972 joined in the processional of the 2022 commencement ceremony.

1973

In celebration of the 50th anniversary of their own graduation, members of the Class of 1973 joined in the processional of the 2023 commencement ceremony.



**▼** 1986



Daniel Halloran won the 2022-2023 Sports Emmy Award for Outstanding Studio Show as Editor of ESPN Sportscenter. He currently works for ESPN as the Lead Video Editor and Animator.

**2001** 

Christopher Roberson lives in Methuen, Massachusetts, with his wife, Lisa, and their son, Nicholas. He has been in journalism for 20 years now and is currently a reporter for *The Nashua Telegraph* in New Hampshire.

2006 ▶

Kristin Sargent Calamaro and her husband, Brendan Calamaro, welcomed their first child- a baby boy named Wyatt Charles- on June 16, 2023.



### **■** 2007

The Boy Scouts of America awarded Joseph Conaci the Silver Beaver for service to the Connecticut Rivers Council. The Silver Beaver is an adult recognition that is presented to a volunteer for exemplary service in a local council. The Connecticut Rivers Council provides scouting programs to more than 8,000 young men and women in Hartford, Litchfield, Middlesex, New London, Tolland, and Windham Counties.

**2008** 

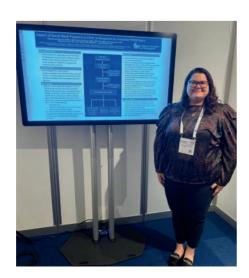
Kerry Fitzgerald married Harrison Maxfield on June 24, 2022, at the Wychmere Beach Club on Cape Cod. Many East alums were in attendance.

A.J. Rataic '08, Lisa Donato '08, Carolyn Giuliano Mohan '09, Debbie Beaulieu Fitzgerald '77, Liz Palmer '84, Kerry Fitzgerald Maxfield '08, Leigh Weisse '08, Stephanie Lin Greene '09, Kyle Gerber '07, Kelly Fitzgerald Mercurio '07, Kathleen Fitzgerald '05, Shirley Beaulieu Lepage '70

Missing from Photo: Bob Fitzgerald '80 and Jack Fitzgerald '83



2011



In October 2023, Stephanie Nickerson presented research at the International Society for Pediatric and Adolescent Diabetes (ISPAD) conference in Rotterdam, The Netherlands. Her research focused on the impact of social work in a pediatric health care setting at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.

### 2012

In May 2022, Guiliana Zaccardelli completed her joint MD-MBA program at Northwestern University's Feinberg School of Medicine and Kellogg School of Business. Guiliana will remain in Chicago where she is the co-founder and CEO of a fertility company startup called Zuri Fertility.



### 2015



On October 17, 2021, James Mello, now Brother Bruno Mello, O.S.B., professed his first vows and began his life as a monk of Newark Abbey in Newark, NJ. The ceremony took place at the Abbey Church of St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception, with the monastic community, faculty and students of St. Benedict's Prep, and Brother Bruno's family and friends in attendance.

Brother Bruno met the Newark Abbey community when he was a sophomore in college. Before entering the monastery, he served as a Benedictine volunteer, teaching religion and history at St.

Benedict's Prep. He currently serves the community as refectorian, social media and publicity coordinator, and one of the abbey's organists. Brother Bruno is also pursuing graduate studies at The Immaculate Conception Seminary and School of Theology at Seton Hall University.

2015



Rebekah Strand married Brian McDuffee at their home in Union, CT on July 22, 2023. East Catholic alumni in attendance included Sarah Marek '15, Brenna Gordon '14, Torie Taylor Bernier '11, Scott Bernier '09, Julie Carlo '07, Joan Rataic Gordon '79, Deb Vivenzio '78.



2016

Jillian Wilson received a post-master's degree in psychology. She recently started a career in psychology at East Hartford Middle School.



**■** 2018

Morgan Oberly Monti was married at the Water's Edge Resort and Spa to David Monti on July 15, 2023.

**▼**2019

This past May, Erin Cullinane graduated from Curry College with her Bachelor of Science in biology with triple minors in math, chemistry, and dance. She is now at Boston University studying for her PhD in biomedical sciences.



**▼** 2019

Following her time at ECHS, Skylar Blackman has gone on to complete her Bachelor's Degree in English and Creative Writing at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. During her time there, she has had numerous opportunities, including helping students and faculty become better and more confident writers by working at the campus Writing Center, getting a few poems and short stories published in the school's literary magazine, running a student group of journalists for The Odyssey Online where she would also promote work and edit submitted articles, and she was an International Honors student in the United Kingdom. All of this brought immense amounts of joy and growth to her life and to others. She is grateful for ECHS and UNCG for providing her with those opportunities.

Currently Skylar works as a Production Administrative Assistant at a basement repair company. She was recently accepted into an online MFA in Writing program at Lindenwood University where she hopes to grow and develop her skills to pursue a career in book editing and publishing.

### SPRING FLING

Spring in the air is one of the best times at East Catholic. Formerly the "Taste of East" event, post-pandemic we chose to shift to a new theme each year.

In 2022, celebrating our 60th anniversary, we hosted our Denim & Diamonds event. The 2023 year marked our Boots & Blooms theme. The nights were filled with great laughs, amazing auction prizes, and lively music courtesy of the Silver Fox String Band.

Our spring fling event wouldn't be possible without the support of our sponsors. Highland Park Market donated groceries for a year, and George Agnelli of Anderson Jewelers donated a generous diamond necklace prize.

Events like our spring fling raise impactful funds that benefit our students each year. As a time-honored tradition, we are grateful each year for the generosity of our community and for the enjoyment of an evening spent together.





The Tom Malin Eagle Invitational, named for Athletic Director Emeritus and long-time Boys's Golf Coach, Tom Malin, raises funds to benefit our ECHS Athletics Department each year. Blessed with sunshine in 2022 and 2023 at Blackledge Country Club, we had two phenomenal honorees and were able to raise the funds to build a new state of the art weight room for our student athletes.

In a tournament first, Frank Usseglio, our Girls' Hockey Coach, shot a hole-in-one at our 2022 tournament.





Kathy O'Neill Reilly was honored at the 31st Annual Tom Malin Eagle Invitational. She retired after 34 dedicated years of coaching cross country. She began coaching at 21 years old and leaned on her fellow East coaches and XC colleagues for their guidance and support. Her coaching career was filled with many accomplishments and accolades, but what Kathy holds nearest to her is the connections she was able to make with her athletes. She will be missed as a coach, but we are lucky to still have her teaching in our classroom!



**KEVIN KEENA** 

Kevin Keena was honored at the 32nd Annual Tom Malin Eagle Invitational. Kevin spent many years as the Girls' Softball Coach and had three children graduate in 2001, 2005, and 2008. Keena Memorials has been a longtime supporter of East Catholic, and it was wonderful to see such a great showing of support for Kevin at the 2023 tournament.

### In Memory

#### **Alumni**

Ann June Romanowski '70, died 10/26/21

Robert Rioux '69, died 11/27/21 Gregory Bareisa '68, brother of Deborah Bareisa Foster '71, died 11/30/21

**Bryce Dumond '01,** brother of Jake Dumond '04, died 12/24/21

Glenn Gabriele, '73, died 12/29/21 Sharon Magnotta Sledesky '72, died 12/31/21

Cecily Sheehan '70, died 12/31/21 John Peloso III '82, died 2/27/22

Joseph Wehr '65, husband of Patricia Rook Wehr '65, father of Allison Wehr '90, brother of James Wehr '75, died 3/20/22

**David Blanchard '71,** brother of Donna Blanchard Nakos '72, died 5/4/22

Marilyn Aleo Boccaccio '67, mother of Joseph Boccaccio '96 and Nicholas Boccaccio '99, died 5/26/22

**Gary Boulay '65**, husband of Kathleen Dunn Boulay '65, father of Geoffrey Boulay '85, died 5/27/22

**Anthony Sledesky '83**, brother of Rev. Stephen Sledesky '84, died 5/31/22

Thomas Moorcroft '83, died 7/31/22 Jack Bishop '16, died 8/3/22

**Anthony Ficaro '65,** died 8/24/22

Julie Byron Zoppi '82, died 9/26/22 Donna Hahn Howell '68, died 9/28/22

Gordon Kempe '70, died 10/12/22

**Laurie Robison '86**, died 10/19/22

**Philip Ozimek '86**, brother of David Ozimek '71 and Thomas Ozimek '82, 10/29/22

Alan Pescik '72, died 11/8/22

**Joseph Olcavage** '68, brother of Margaret Olcavage Kielbania '70, died 11/23/22

Anne Yarusewicz '82, died 11/28/22 Anthony Gryk '77, brother of Susan Gryk Robinson '67 and Evelyn Gryk Frolich '72, died 2/1/23

Thomas Richter '77, brother of Terence Richter '68, Linda Richter Petersen '71, Bruce Richter '72, Barton Richter '81, and Tyler Richter '86 (deceased), died 2/3/23

Michael Scollan '65, died 4/4/23 Lori White Kelliher '76, died 4/6/23 Timothy Hogan '66, husband of Joan Haney Hogan '66, died 5/1/23 Susan Lussier O'Neill '68, died 5/13/23 Susan Rossow Janton '88, wife of David Janton '87, sister of Rachel Rossow '84 and Michael Rossow '00, died 6/8/23 Thomas Mac '71, brother of John Mac '66, Joan Mac Minor '67, Nancy Mac Dewhurst '74, Tammy Mac Wehr '75, Donna Mac Knaust '77, died 8/25/23 Michael Smith '77, died 9/12/23 William Correia '75, died 9/28/23

### **Faculty & Staff**

**Lisa Heaney**, former health teacher, mother of William Heaney '14 and Natalie Heaney '17; died 11/23/21 **Norma Gallagher**, former science teacher, died 1/13/22

J. Riley O'Donnell, former teacher and guidance counselor, died 1/19/22
Virginia Wehner, former business

teacher, mother of David Wehner '75, Paul Wehner '77, and Joyce Wehner Berzle '78, died 4/27/22

Joseph Clisham, former English teacher, father of Kristin Clisham Fowler '83, Joseph Clisham, Jr. '86, and Kathryn Clisham Caruolo '89, grandfather of Michael Fowler '08, Joseph Fowler '10, and Kathryn Fowler '11, died 7/22/22

**Thomas Maynard,** former Head of School, died 9/1/22

**Dorothy Fleming,** former guidance secretary, died 5/27/23

Richard Zawada, former science teacher, died 6/17/23

### Family of Alumni & Current Students

Lyn Ello, mother of Greg Ello '85, Julie Ello Yepes '87 and grandmother of Brandon Ello '19; died 12/1/21 Constance Shea, mother of Brian Shea '79, Elizabeth Shea '81, grandmother of Kelly Shea '08 and Emily Shea '10, died 1/2/22

Richard Harvey, father of Dr. Richard Harvey '66, Robert Harvey '69, Susan Harvey Fornabi '72, Sandra Harvey Flavell '75, and Sheryl Harvey Sylvester '85, died 10/29/22

Howard Pumerantz, husband of Bonnie Pumerantz. died 6/13/23 Anthony Wasilefsky, father of Mark Wasilefsky '84 and Nicole Wasilefsky Waicunus '87. died 6/22/23 Frank Ello, father of F. Greg Ello '85, Julie Ello Yepes '87, grandfather of Brandon Ello '19. died 7/8/23 Gerard Thibodeau, father of Susan Thibodeau '90, died 7/14/23 Richard Rossitto, father of Jane Rossitto Golino '80, grandfather of Samuel Golino '14, Madelyn Golino '16, and Jack Golino '19, died 7/17/23 William Zdanis. father of Cara Zdanis '92, Julie Zdanis '94, William Zdanis, III '03, died 8/8/23

Jason Morin, died 8/23/23 William Leslie III, father of William Leslie IV '82, Joseph Leslie '84, Meg Leslie Warren '86, Beth Leslie '88, grandfather to Caroline Warren '18, died 8/28/23

Kathryn Thibodeau, mother of Susan Thibodeau '90, died 8/30/23 Rita Bolduc, grandparent of Christopher Bolduc '89, Karen Bolduc Brown '90, and Brian Bolduc '06, greatgrandmother of Madeline Bolduc '21 and Brooke Bolduc '27, died 9/6/23 James McAuley, father of Brian McAuley '83 and Kelley McAuley Gronda '85, died 9/21/23

George Frankenberger, parent of Nancy Frankenberger '85, died 9/24/23 Jack Murphy, father of John Murphy '77, Kathleen Murphy Cronin '78, Michael Murphy '86, died 9/26/23 Lucy Silvergleid, mother of Arlene Silvergleid Bumb '71 and Karen Silvergleid '74, died 10/8/23 Thomas Madden, father of Eileen Madden Turbessi '84, Kevin Madden '86, Elizabeth Madden Gallagher '87, and Colleen Madden Lynch '89, died

Raymond Ramsey, father of Noele Ramsey Kidney '85, grandfather of Caroline Kidney '18 and Jack Kidney '22 died 11/15/23

10/12/23

If we have missed your loved one in error, please let us know by contacting Julie Scalora, Director of Advancement, at 860-649-5336 x6234 or via email scaloraj@echs.com.



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