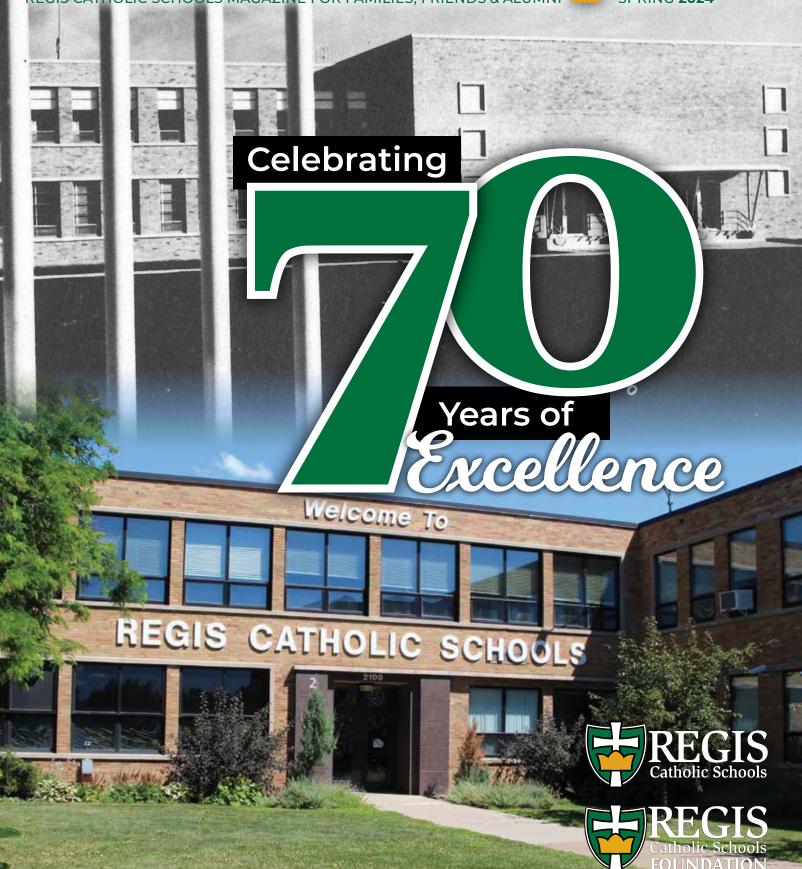
# REGIS CATHOLIC SCHOOLS MAGAZINE FOR FAMILIES, FRIENDS & ALUMNI SPRING 2024



Learning Today, Leading Tomorrow

### Rambler Report | Spring 2024

#### PUBLICATION

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Regis Catholic Schools is accredited by Wisconsin Religious and Independent Schools Accreditation (WRISA) for grades K-12.



### Celebrating 70 SRICK Years of Excellence

Join us as we celebrate the 70th graduating class from our current flagship Regis campus on Fenwick Avenue.





### The Man with the **2**8 **Golden Mic**

Learn the impact Joe Roach '75 has had on our Regis Ramblers athletic program over the years



# **A Look Inside**

### **Catholic Schools** Week 2024

See how our schools celebrated the gift of a Catholic education!



### **Regis Gymnasium** Project

We are excited to kick off a renovation project for our gymnasium on the Regis campus! Learn how you can show your support.





### What is the Heart of Discernment?

This edition of the Rambler Report focuses on how Regis students are being prepared for their future. The Regis vision statement of

"Learning Today, Leading Tomorrow" is a constant reminder that any Catholic school has as its mission not only the education and spiritual formation of our students but to do so in a manner that points them to a future vocation and calling as Christian disciples.

**From the Dean** 

Report

This preparation calls Catholic schools to help youth explore their vocation and calling. When we define the difference between these two terms, vocation speaks more to what state of life you are called to live - married life, committed single life, religious life, or priesthood. A vocation is where we find our lifelong grounding and stability to find happiness, holiness, and God's love.

A calling is something that happens in addition to our vocation, seeking to know what God asks us to embrace as our ministry. A calling can change throughout one's life and can range from pursuing a given profession, accepting a new job, or, for me as a priest, to serve as a Pastor or embrace the Bishop's invitation to be a Dean.

From this standpoint, Regis Catholic Schools has as part of its mission to invite students to explore both dimensions of a life in Christ - to discern their vocation and be open to the calls that come while living their vocation.

Something I've observed as a priest of 20 years is that there can be an unhealthy byproduct that emerges from this healthy and necessary exploration - an obsessive discerning that leads to fear and a feeling of vocation paralysis.

What do I mean? Here's an example. When I speak with a youth who is discerning whether or not God is calling them to priesthood, religious life, or marriage, they can develop a deep fear - "Fr. James, what if I make the wrong decision?" The question isn't a bad one since Scripture constantly speaks of the centrality of doing God's will. This sincere desire to do God's will can create a spiritual paralysis of not wanting to choose a direction in life out of fear of making the wrong choice. This is often expressed in the sentiment, "Fr. James, I

will not become a priest or get married unless I know 100% that I am supposed to embrace one of these vocations."

> How do I respond? "If you will not choose a vocation until you're 100% certain, then I fear you may never get married, become a priest, pursue a profession, or do basic things in life." The point is this - we live in a society that obsesses about certainty, but we all intuitively know that 100% certainty about anything is impossible. This is why one of the most paradoxical phrases used in the Catechism of the Catholic Church is "Certain Faith." Certain implies an ending point while faith implies a space between who we are and the God whom we love that needs time, growth, and clarity.

> In short, we all know that there is a risk involved with any vocational decision we make. Catholic schools need to help our youth take those risks from a standpoint of prayerful discernment and a well-formed intellect so that they can take healthy risks in the future. I invite all of you to pray for our 2024 graduates of Regis Catholic Schools as they finish their high school careers. As they navigate their future risks, pray they do with minds and hearts rooted in sound discernment. And when they take that leap of faith, let us be there to support them. Let Regis not only be the alma mater of our graduates, but the maternal and paternal arms of support to walk with them into their futures.

Fr. James Kurzynski Dean, Eau Claire Deanery



### **Regis: The Next 70 Years**

I was recently asked by a Regis alumnus, 'So, what is the future of Regis'? With great joy I explained that Regis continues to prioritize the work of Bishop John Paul started in 1953 as its first principal. It was in September 1952 that construction began on the current Regis campus. Today, this building is 70 years old and stands strong. I am proud to be an alumnus who has the privilege to make sure that this building is ready for the next 70 years.

From academics to co-curricular activities, curriculum to athletics, and faith formation, Regis continues the time-honored traditions of the past. In addition to those attributes of a well-rounded education - Regis continues to focus on the physical building needs after the first 70 years.

Recent improvements on the Regis campus over the past decade or so include:

- Replacing the roof, boilers, and exterior windows
- Expanding the cafeteria to double its size
- Building a new chapel
- Replacing auditorium seating, the sound system, and curtains
- Renovating our outdoor field and athletic space
- A complete renovation of every classroom and library on the second floor

Next on the improvement list:

- Updating and remodeling the gym
- Replacing the back parking lot
- Updating the kitchen configuration with new appliances

It is amazing how well Regis was originally constructed back in the day. The architects and builders obviously knew what they were doing. A fun fact, the maple wood used in the gym today is the original flooring, and I know there are many of you out there reading this who played on it when it was first installed in 1953.

### Report

### **From the President**

Academically, I want to give an update on how Regis has also continued to maintain the rigors of traditional education while meeting the needs of students today and into the future. Regis students today not only have a 100% graduation rate, earning a Regis diploma, but on average more than half will graduate with university and technical school credits. I want to specifically thank Principal Machler for her dedication to growing the number of dual credit and post-high school opportunities for our students. Regis continues to adapt itself for the future of our students while maintaining the history and time-honored traditions we have always celebrated.

A quote made by Bishop John Paul in 2003, at the 50th anniversary of Regis celebration, "I believe that God has spoken through study to thousands of young people in these walls in the past; I pray He will continue to do so for many years to come." I believe Bishop John Paul would be proud to know we are getting Regis ready for the next 70 years. I am humbled to help keep the 'torch' (used in the original seal of Regis) burning and help lead our youth to continue seeking the Truth for generations to come.

Paul Pedersen

Paul Pedersen '89 President



Pope Francis announced in March that he accepted Bishop William Patrick Callahan's retirement request and appointed Bishop Gerard Battersby to succeed Bishop Callahan and serve as the 11th Bishop of the Diocese of La Crosse.

"It is with joy that I received the news that the Holy Father had named me the 11th Bishop of the Diocese of La Crosse, Wisconsin," Bishop Battersby said. "When I was baptized, ordained a priest and consecrated a bishop, I received a call within a call, an invitation to follow. The Risen One has bid me to follow him to western Wisconsin, to the banks of the mighty Mississippi. I leave with hope and anticipatory joy."

Bishop Battersby was born on May 15, 1960. In 1993, he entered Sacred Heart Major Seminary and received a Master of Divinity degree in 1998. After ordination to the priesthood, he served in parish ministry for ten years. Bishop Battersby then served as director of graduate seminarians and graduate pastoral formation at Sacred Heart Major Seminary, Detroit. In 2011, he was appointed Vice-Rector and Dean of Seminary Formation and was ordained to the Episcopacy as an Auxiliary Bishop of Detroit and Moderator of the South Region in January 2017.

"I have had the privilege of serving as a bishop in westcentral Wisconsin for fourteen years. Looking back, it is a great blessing, and I simply say 'thank you' to all the wonderful people who have been part of my journey, especially the priests, deacons, religious, and holy women who have been so kind to me over these 14 years. I look forward to continuing my service to Bishop Battersby and spiritual service to brother priests and deacons in La Crosse. I am grateful for the opportunity to remain in this wonderful community for as long as God allows, and I will cherish the memories and experiences I have had here," said Bishop Callahan.

Bishop Battersby will be installed as the Bishop of the Diocese of La Crosse on May 20 at the Cathedral of St. Joseph the Workman. 😴

Photo Credit: Diocese of La Crosse



### Regis Catholic Schools is excited to introduce Ellie Shaw as its first Director of Student Discipleship on the Regis Middle School and Regis High School campus.

As the Director of Student Discipleship, Ms. Shaw will not only coordinate our annual class retreats and other faith opportunities for students in grades 6-12, but she will also direct two new Regis initiatives: the Kairos retreat and the Ut Fidem discipleship ministry.

"Kairos is a three-night, four-day retreat that has consistently, in its six-decade-long history, been a powerful turning point in the faith lives of many young people. This retreat will be offered electively for our Regis juniors and seniors," said Regis Chaplain Fr. Levi Schmitt. "Through the Ut Fidem discipleship ministry, students, by meeting in small groups of their peers under the direction of an adult mentor, experience a genuine Christian community that energizes and enriches their relationship with Jesus Christ."

Ms. Shaw says filling a position like this has always been a deep desire of hers.

"I have been a missionary with NET Ministries and Damascus Catholic Youth Summer Camp, as well as a Faith Formation intern at a parish, where I led Bible studies, small groups, and countless retreats," she said. "Serving God in these ways has grown the childlike spirit within me. All of these opportunities and gifts, but mostly God's grace, equip me for the adventure it will be to work at Regis."

Ms. Shaw says she is excited to walk alongside and mentor our middle and high school students as she acts as Christ's vessel of grace.

Please keep Ms. Shaw, these new endeavors, and the Regis school community in your daily prayers. 🔂

### Earlier this year, we sent a survey to our current Regis Catholic Schools families, asking them about their experience within our system.

We received a lot of positive feedback, with many families highlighting the impact our outstanding teachers and staff members have every single day.

## Here's some of what was said... "The level of devotion, love, and support of the teachers and staff are incredible." "Mrs. Daggett is an excellent teacher. She clearly cares about my daughter and her learning." "A special thank you to Beth in the office for always answering my many questions!" "Mr. Thalacker and Mr. Kent have both had a positive impact and have been very influential in my son's life this year. Not only are they adept teachers in their respective subjects, but they encourage students to consider life events, challenge them to be better human beings, and lead by example." "Mrs. Machler goes above and beyond! She is at almost every sporting event and school activity. She makes herself approachable and available and is always checking in with the kids. That makes an immense difference in the feel of the school and the comfort of the students and parents." "Mr. Talley makes learning fun! The Kids are excited for his class and he embraces teaching things they are interested in. He is doing a great job!" "All of the staff are amazing, truly!! I like that the staff show an interest in my family and are very supportive in our personal lives as well as school." Ms. Brey is an excellent and dedicated teacher who gives so much of her time to the students. She does this year after year." "Ms. Rosene and Ms. Bell each care so much about each student's individual needs. They go the extra mile to ensure the student is enjoying their school experience." Mrs. Smiskey really brings a welcoming feel to St. Mary's! Families feel comfortable coming into the school, which promotes communication and a community culture. "Mrs. Bahnub provides excellent leadership for my child's school. She puts in long hours and it shows."

# ALL SCHOOL MASS

# Ramblers gathered together in prayer.

All of our students in grades K-12 celebrated Mass on the Regis campus in January. It is always such a blessing to bring Ramblers of all ages together in this beautiful way!

> In December, Regis High School and Regis Middle School celebrated the annual Gold Mass. This time-honored tradition dates back to the beginning of Regis High School and was instituted by Bishop John Paul in 1953.

GOLD MASS

Students and staff donated food and toiletry items for the Sojourner House and the St. Francis Food Pantry in support of our local community. We were also happy to welcome our 5th grade students from Immaculate Conception Elementary School to this year's Gold Mass!



### Catholic Schools Week 2024 Thank you for your support of Catholic education! **January 28 - February 3**

Happening since 1974, National Catholic Schools Week is the annual celebration of Catholic education in the United States. Through various events, our schools focused on the value Catholic education provides to young people and its contributions to our church, our communities, and our nation.



## Regis Middle School and Regis High School

- 🖶 Thank you, neighbors! Students from Regis High School visited homes
- Students and staff on the Regis campus gathered donations in support
- 日 What is God calling you to do? That's the question Fr. Nate Kuhn, Director Schools Week visit.

# Immaculate Conception Elementary School

- Five in a row is the way to go! Students and parents enjoyed gathering together
- 🖶 The blue and gold taking on and fun tradition!







### St. James Elementary School

Students and staff enjoyed a variety of 'Minute To Win It" games as a school community...all while staying cozy in their pajamas!

Our students worked together as they enjoyed several games of Bingo!









### Regis Child Development Center

These mini sports fans showed off some big love for their team!

 Celebrating the magic of Catholic Schools Week! The Magic of Isaiah amazed our students and staff with his talent, while also inspiring our young learners to be leaders!

St. Mary's Elementary School

A sweet treat! Thank you to the Knights of Columbus for serving ice cream to our students and staff.

### Genesis Child Development Center

Our youngest learners enjoyed some unique (and messy!) sensory experiences!









It certainly was an exciting time when Regis was brand new! I continue to support Regis because I feel it is important for our youth today to get the educational opportunities and direction that I did. I want to tell this year's graduates that they can't go wrong if they take their academic and religious education forward and apply it to whatever vocation they are doing."

- Irene (Anibas) Wilson '54













### The Regis High School Class of 2024 is the 70th graduating class from our current flagship Regis campus on Fenwick Avenue in Eau Claire!

Our consistent academic achievements and our graduates' success in life are testaments to Regis High School's strong foundation of academics, service, and personal development.

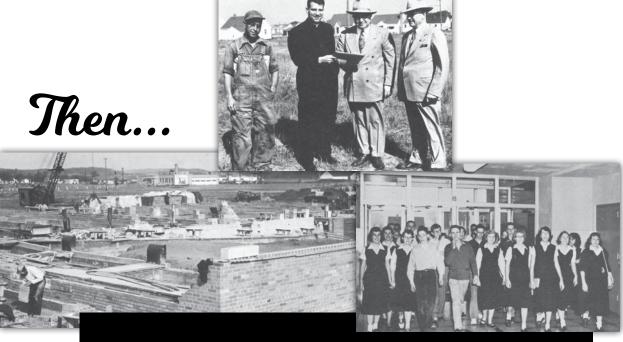
> "Regis was and still is a great school! I am so happy to see the continuous progress that is happening on the campus. I hope this year's graduates continue their education, find happiness in life, follow their dreams, and hold on to their faith." - Robert Carroll '54



'Charles loved his time at Regis and was ever grateful to Sister Janet Mayhew, who guided his career." - Brigid Geroux, Wife of Late Charles Geroux '54

"During my time at Regis, I learned that there is more to living than just enjoying yourself. Of course, I do enjoy myself, but what has stuck with me for 70 years is the morals and principles I learned. To this year's graduates; hold on to your faith because your faith will guide you!" - Jerome Bauer '54





In September 1951, the commitment was made to begin a drive for a new central Catholic high school in the city. At the same time, St. Patrick's High School was made a central high school, with the name being changed to Regis, which is Latin for "Christ the King." Under the guidance of Fr. John Paul, who was the Regis principal at the time, construction of our current building began in September 1952. The Benedictine Sisters and Fr. Paul played a large role in designing the building, which was completed in time for the opening of the school on September 8, 1953.

The present building was dedicated on November 15, 1953. The dedication program was described as being "one of striking beauty and lasting momentum". In addition to His Excellency's blessing of the building, a pastor from each of the Eau Claire parishes also blessed each room inside the building. The ceremony featured speakers, music, and camaraderie.

The Regis High School Class of 1954 began their senior year on that September day in 1953, culminating with their graduation ceremony in the spring of 1954.

"After two years of waiting, students of Regis finally moved into their new and modern building. It has truly been, "A dream come true." His Excellency, Bishop Treacy blessed the new auditorium on dedication day, in which the student body has the great privilege of attending daily Ma - Excerpt From Regis High School Yearbook (1954)



(From 1953 Dedication Publication) Face Brick Used | 364,000 Glazed Tile Used | 91,000 Cement Blocks Used | 231,000 Cement Used | 9,600 Bbls. Steel Construction | 308 Tons **Building Occupied | September 8, 1953** Building Dedicated | November 15, 1953 Enrollment (1953-54 School Year) | 520 Students

### **Regis Campus Facts & Figures**

RegisCatholicSchools.com 15

























The Regis High School Class of 2024 is comprised of 44 students who are very active in school life and have bright futures ahead of them!

While the bones of the Regis campus remain the same, many improvements have been made over the years to upgrade the facility. Most recently, this included new seats in the Fr. Dowd Auditorium, an upgrade to our outdoor track and field, and a renovation this past summer of the second floor of the building.

The current Regis campus on Fenwick Avenue houses students in grades 6 through 12, with approximately 370 currently enrolled in those grades. Our 2024 Regis High School yearbook is dedicated to the Regis High School Class of 1954.

"Their history has inspired us and the tradition they began lives on inside of every Regis Catholic Schools student.70 years later, we honor them with our gratitude; we would not be the same school without the support of them and their families."





Regis is not just a school, it is a family. I am very proud to be a student of the 70th graduating class, and I feel truly blessed to have had the opportunity to represent Regis. It has been an honor competing in tennis, participating in forensics and band, and giving back to others as a student and as a Rambler. Regis has supported my journey and has taught me how to be a virtuous member of the community. I will strive to continue the long-standing tradition of, "Learning Today, Leading Tomorrow" as other alumni have done so in the past." - Teigan Petersilka '24





"70 years! Wow! It makes me so proud that my class and I can carry on this tradition of excellence that so many classes have before us. Being able to show others in our community the amazing things that Regis High School has to offer is one of the attributes of the school that I am most amazed by. I have talked to and heard stories about individuals who have graduated from Regis, and each person is very proud to have gone here. Regis is truly an amazing place to grow in our faith, knowledge, and excellence. Thank you, Regis High School, for all you have done!"



Class of 2024 has a very special and personal connection to the Regis High School Class of 1954.

Karen (Scheffler) Lokken '54 is the grandmother of Karenna Lokken '24. Karenna's father, Peter Lokken '92, is also a proud Regis High School graduate. (Fun fact! Karenna was even named after Karen!)

"I can recall my mother, Karen, being very proud to be part of the first class to graduate from the new Regis High School building," Peter said. "She also had many fond memories of me in high school, especially in 1991 when I was crowned homecoming king and she was able to see that in person."

Two of Karenna's siblings also recently graduated from Regis High School; MacArthur in 2021 and Truman in 2023.

Karenna plans to attend UW-La Crosse following graduation and says it is meaningful for her to carry on her family's tradition of representing the green and white.

"Not only did my grandmother, father, and siblings graduate from Regis High School, but many of my aunts, uncles, and cousins have, too," Karenna said. "I think it is really cool to see the tradition of a Catholic education live on through our family."

"It has been very fulfilling for me to see my kids not only graduate but succeed at Regis," Peter added. "It has been a blessing to have the opportunity to continue the tradition of being a Rambler."

Karen (Scheffler) Lokken '54



Peter Lokken '92



Karenna Lokken '24

- Cameron Olson '24

One graduate from the Regis High School













### **MPOWER EDUCATION: SUPPORT THE REGIS FUND**



Your support of the annual Regis Fund has already achieved remarkable milestones, from renovating the Regis campus second floor to granting tuition scholarships and funding impactful initiatives. As we approach the end of this year's annual giving appeal on June 30th, we urge you to join us once again.

Whether you're an alumnus, inspired by the role Regis Catholic Schools played in your success and eager to pay it forward, or a current member of our community, your contribution is invaluable. Every donation, regardless of size, helps

uphold our Catholic school mission and ensures accessibility for all students.

Don't miss this opportunity to be a part of something truly impactful. Your generosity shapes the future of Regis Catholic Schools and makes a profound difference in the lives of our students. Join us in accomplishing amazing things today!



### Notes of Hope: A Glimpse into Regis **Campus Spirit**

During a recent visit to the Regis campus, I was struck by the visible impact of your support. However, as I was walking the halls, something else caught my eye – a multitude of notes on students' lockers, each carrying a message of encouragement and positivity.

These weren't just random scribbles; they were heartfelt words crafted by fellow students, resonating with wisdom and warmth. "Do what most enables you to fly and makes you glad to be alive," read one. Another proclaimed, "You are braver than you believe, stronger than you seem, and smarter than you think." And then there was the simple yet profound reminder, "Love yourself and everything else falls into place."

In those moments, I realized how fortunate we are to have such a safe and enriching learning community for our students. It's these simple acts of kindness and support that remind us of the profound impact we can have on one another. As I left campus that day, my heart was filled with gratitude for the privilege of being a part of such a wonderful community, where every note serves as a testament to the strength of our collective spirit.

Jackie Bachmeier Advancement Director Regis Catholic Schools Foundation





Are you passionate about sharing the future of education and making a meaningful impact on the lives of students at Regis Catholic Schools? We invite you to consider establishing a scholarship that will leave a lasting legacy for generations to come.

The Regis Catholic Schools Foundation, in collaboration with our Catholic schools, is dedicated to empowering supporters like you to create enduring scholarships. With a minimum gift of \$12,500, you can establish an annual scholarship through the RCS Foundation, ensuring ongoing support for students in need.

Thank you to the following supporters who recently started new scholarships that will be awarded for the first time this spring!

- Regis High School Class of 1958 Scholarship
- Duane Hull Memorial Scholarship
- Michael John Fedie Memorial Scholarship
- Michael C. Longsdorf Memorial Scholarship

Sometimes the smallest step in the right direction ends up being the biggest step of your life.

"Do what most enables you to fly and makes you glad to be alive"

"Love yourself and everything else falls into line."

"You are braver than you believe, stronger than you seem, and smarter than

you think."

"Be gentle with yourself. You are doing the best you can."

### 🖵 🍑 Giving doesn't get any easier!

As a qualified 501(c) (3) organization, all gifts to the Regis Catholic Schools Foundation are tax-deductible.

### **Donate by Mail**

Please return the enclosed envelope included with this issue of the Rambler Report.

### **Donate Online**

Visit RegisCatholicSchoolsFoundation.com. Click the "DONATE NOW" button to make a secure credit card gift or scan the code below.

Please call the Regis **Catholic Schools Foundation** at (715) 830-2273, ext. 1407 to donate by phone or inquire about a gift of stock.



# REGIS

# Leave a Lasting Legacy

The Regis Catholic Schools Foundation is excited to introduce you to our new planned giving website. Whether you have already made a gift this year or supported us in the past, planned giving is an avenue to leave a lasting legacy. It aligns your personal, financial, and estate planning goals with the mission of Regis Catholic Schools, providing you with potential tax and income benefits.







# **The Heart of Planned Giving**

We would like to share a story that illustrates the profound impact of planned giving. Mary is a cherished supporter of Regis Catholic Schools who crafted a legacy of love and generosity through planned giving.

Mary, a Regis alumna, understands the life-changing influence of a Catholic school education. Having received scholarships that made her education possible, she decided to pay it forward. In addition to including Regis Catholic Schools in her will, Mary established a scholarship endowment to ensure that other families, like hers, can access the quality education that shaped her life. Mary's story is one of gratitude, resilience, and commitment. Her legacy, supported by planned giving, echoes through the halls of Regis, creating opportunities for generations to come!

### Thank you, Mary!\*

\*The name of the donor in this story has been changed to protect their privacy as they wish to remain anonymous. We invite you to consider the transformative power of planned giving.

Stay connected and informed about the impact of your support by subscribing to our free e-newsletter featuring updates from:

- Washington
- Savvy Living
- Gift Stories
- Finance News
- Timely Articles

It's a valuable resource for staving connected with the positive changes your generosity brings.

A Story of Impact :

"There is nothing more beautiful than someone who goes out of their way to make life beautiful for others." - Mandy Hale

Visit **rcsfgiving.org** or scan the QR code to subscribe to our free newsletter and explore the possibilities of planned giving.





**Exciting news!** We are kicking off a renovation project for our gymnasium on the Regis campus!

### **Improvements Include:**

- New gym floor
- New bleachers
- New hoops & scoreboards
- Painted walls/ceilings
- New LED lighting
- New speakers/sound system
- New audio visual screen

### **PROJECT TIMELINE:**

Renovation During Summer 2024 Work Finished by End of August

### FUNDRAISING GOAL:

\$900,000

### 100% FUNDED BY GENEROUS SUPPORTERS LIKE YOU!

Donations at a minimum amount of \$1,000 are now being accepted. Ready to show your financial support?

### Please contact Randy Risler at (715) 830-9522.



### **DOUBLE YOUR GIFT!**

The Risler family has generously pledged a \$300,000 matching gift in support of this project!

All donations made in the amount of \$1,000 or more will be matched up to a total of \$300,000. The deadline to make your qualifying pledge is June 1, 2024.

We are grateful to the Risler family for their support!

"The gymnasium at Fenwick Avenue has been the Regis family's "living room" for over 70 years. Since opening its doors in 1953, it has been the setting for countless memories including championship victories, special dances, gym classes, pep rallies, religious services, and school assemblies. It is, inarguably, the most versatile, visible, and heavily used space on the Regis campus.

The gymnasium also gives our 'first impression' to many guests and visitors who visit the Regis campus and based on it, they make assumptions about the rest of our facilities and the overall quality of our school system. Unfortunately, right now, that impression is being conveyed by a worn-out court, peeling paint, mildew-stained walls, antiquated bleachers, poor lighting, and outdated scoreboards.

I support this project because something must be done immediately so that the Regis gymnasium can continue to serve our system's needs, as well as project an image that is consistent with the quality of our educational programs. I invite you to join me in supporting this legacy project that will enhance the pride of the Regis family and serve as our vibrant "living room" for years to come."

Randy Risler

Regis Catholic Schools Parent & Coach

"The need for renovating our gym is long overdue. For decades, our athletes have trained and competed on the same aging floor, which is showing signs of wear and tear. It's time to provide them with a safer and more conducive environment to hone their skills and achieve their goals.

This renovation isn't just about aesthetics; it's about functionality and pride. With updated facilities, our student-athletes will have access to modern equipment, enhancing their training experience and improving performance.

By investing in this renovation, we're not only investing in the present but also the future of Ramblers athletics. It ensures that our athletes have the resources they need to succeed and continue the rich tradition and excellence of Regis. Together, let's create a gym that our entire community can be proud of."

Kyle Seyer '10

Regis High School Athletic Director & Coach

"The renovation of the Regis gym is truly an exciting development for the improvement and existence of Regis Catholic Schools. Athletically, all of our teams will benefit from an improved and modernized facility for both games and practices. Equally important, however, will be our physical education classes and the Regis Child Development Center, all of whom will now be able to enjoy the perks of a new gym, new floor, and enhanced activities."

Andy Niese '92

K-12 Physical Education Teacher, Middle School Athletic Director & Coach

"This project will give all students and the Regis community a modernized gymnasium to be proud of. I encourage all past, present, and future Ramblers families to come together to make this renovation a reality!"

#### Teddy Joas '99

Regis Catholic Schools Parent & Head Girls Basketball Coach

"The gymnasium is in many ways the "face" of the Regis system for the public. Right now, it's not a pretty face. The gym floor, which dates to the opening of the school, has many "dead spots" and can no longer be maintained or refinished to WIAA standards. A major overhaul is required. While this is a significant investment, we firmly believe that it is necessary to keep Eau Claire's premier private school competitive with facilities offered by other local public and private schools."

**Bill Spangler & Jeff Kassing '97** | Regis Catholic Schools Parents

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### **Athletics & Activities**

# Report



### **Girls Basketball**

The Regis Girls Basketball team entered the 2023-24 season with lofty expectations. Poised by four strong senior leaders in Ashley Chilson, Ava Highman, Emma Klink, and Ashley Schroeder, the Lady Ramblers set their sights on the top of the conference and a deep playoff run.

A strong junior and sophomore class including Carly Borst, Abby Hawker, Malia Kassing, Cara Olson, and Izzy Reichert rounded out the main varsity team. These juniors and one sophomore were the perfect complement to the four seniors.

The Lady Ramblers finished the regular season with an overall record of 19-5 with a 10-4 mark in the Western Cloverbelt Conference. This gave the team sole possession of 3rd place. As the postseason started, the Ramblers were awarded the 3-seed and received a firstround bye. The second round began with the Ramblers defeating Shell Lake 70-33 in what would be the last home Lady Ramblers game

ever played on the current gym floor. That victory propelled them into Durand for the Regional Championship. The Ramblers got the revenge they sought by defeating Durand 37-29, as Durand ended the Rambler's season last year in the same game. This win captured the program's first Regional Championship since the 2016-17 season.

Unfortunately, the Ramblers were defeated in the Sectional Semi-Final by Fall Creek by a score of 32-29. The team's final record of 21-6 was also the first 20-win season since 2016-17 and a springboard for what is to come in this program. Three Ramblers were recognized with All-Conference honors: Ashley Chilson – 1st Team, and Ava Highman and Carly Borst – 2nd Team.

The Lady Ramblers would like to thank the Regis community for their great support throughout the season and the playoffs. They especially are thankful for the awesome student section that traveled to Osseo to support them in the Sectional Semi-Final game.



### **Boys Basketball**

The varsity 2023-24 Boys Basketball team finished with a 10-16 overall record. The Ramblers finished 5th overall in the Western Cloverbelt standings. The team was led in scoring by guards Blake Risler (SO) with 20 ppg and Owen Weisenberger (JR) with 17 ppg. Blake received 1st Team All Cloverbelt Conference and Owen received 2nd Team All Cloverbelt Conference honors.

Senior Alex Ciulla led the team in rebounds with 7.5 per game and played a vital role in the team's



### Hockey

The 2023-24 RAM Hockey team's home ice was located in Altoona Hobbs Sports Center, with 21 student-athletes making up the team: Regis (2), Altoona (17), McDonell (1), and Fall Creek (1). The team lost twelve seniors from the year before and this year's squad was made up of one senior, four juniors, twelve sophomores, and four freshmen. The team was also led by an entirely new coaching staff with Head Coach Travis Obrycki and Assistant Coaches Marty Hickey and Mick Podruch.

The team outperformed expectations and was

success throughout the season. The following saw significant playing time throughout the year; juniors Harrison Haas, Noah Tarras, Andrew Bershback, David Ricciardi, and sophomores George Wolterstorff and Ty Gehling. Freshmen who earned a spot on the varsity roster were Joey Brahmer, Chase Brogelman, and Ben Balts.

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The Ramblers won their first-round home playoff game against Augusta 78-38 before falling to Aquinas 37-57. Senior Alex Ciulla will be greatly missed as the lone graduating senior.

competitive in many games, including against stateranked opponents. RAM lost to Lakeland, who was ranked 4th in the state in a very close 2-3 game at home. The season also included four overtime losses and one overtime win on the road in West Salem. The season came to a close with a loss to state-bound River Falls in section 3 playoffs.

#### Season honors included:

- Middle Border Conference Honorable Mention Dallen Robinson – Junior, Altoona
- Team Academic Sectional Champion for Division 2 Section 3 (GPA 3.74)

### **Athletics & Activities**



### "As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another." Proverbs 27:17

### Wrestling

The 2023-24 season was another record-breaking year for the Regis/Altoona Wresting (RAW) team. The team was runner-up in its conference this season with a dual record of 9-1 along with taking second as a team in the conference tournament. The RAW team posted a 15-4 overall dual record for the season as well. The team also had five All-Conference athletes. (1st Team -Chase Kostka at 138, Jackson Wesner at 144, Brayden Albee at 190, 2nd Team - Brandon Myher at 157, Mason Tomesh at 165.)

This year, the team moved up to Division 1 for the postseason which was a big move having to compete against some of the biggest schools in the state. At the regional tournament, the team gualified 8 wrestlers; Cillian O'Connell at 113, Chase Kostka at 138, Jackson Wesner at 144, Mark Mauer at 150, Brandon Myher at 157, Brayden Albee at 190, Gavin Lofgren at 215, and Ben Roth at HWT. This was the most wrestlers RAW has had advance to the sectional tournament in team history. From there, Albee and Kostka gualified for the Division 1 WIAA state tournament held in Madison. They both finished in the top 8 of their weight class brackets, which is an amazing accomplishment!

Senior Brayden Albee made RAW wrestling team history by becoming the 1st wrestler to achieve 150(+) career wins in high school. Teammates and fellow seniors Chase Kostka and Brandon Myher both achieved 100 career wins this season which is also a remarkable achievement, especially with the COVID seasons these athletes had.

We want to thank our seniors Brayden Albee, Chase Kostka, Brandon Myher, Mark Mauer, Ethan Eager, Brody Larson, Alex Burdick, Cole Cillson, Jackson Berg, and Ben Roth for all of their hard work and dedication to the program. Without athletes like them the program would not be what it is, a growing and thriving team stronger with each year. The team's coaches are proud of how far each athlete pushed themselves to improve not only personally but their teammates as well, rising to each challenge that was given to them.

RAW is already looking forward to the 2024-25 season with excitement, anticipating the return of 20 returning wrestlers, including 3 sectional qualifiers.

### Report





In January, nine Regis High School Band and Choir members participated in the 41st annual Cloverbelt All-Conference Music Festival, held at McDonell High School in Chippewa Falls. This event featured 170 student musicians from 14 schools in the Cloverbelt Conference, who joined together to perform challenging music they rehearsed throughout the entire day.

Congratulations to these students on a rewarding day of music-making and an outstanding performance!

### **Dance Team**

The Regis High School Dance team had a successful 2023-24 season! Sophomores Juliana Martin, Avery Paul, and Grace Frederick competed and placed with two routines at three competitions this winter. They then finished off their season by performing with the middle school team at several home basketball games. The team enjoyed sharing their love of dance with the student bod and Regis fans.

#### 2024 Cloverbelt All-Conference Choir & Band Members (Regis High School)

Choir: Calista Danielson, Bernie Falbo, Mariska Remington, Dominic Santine

Band: Keenan Olson, Ashley Chilson, DeShawn Hairston, Saki Kunishige, Teigan Petersilka

**Directors:** Becky Santine, Matt Talley

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ARTICLE BY | Allan Brown (Leader-Telegram Sports) (Reprinted with Permission from Leader-Telegram)

THE MAN

WITH THE

You may not know the face — though most Regis fans most certainly do recognize him — but for anyone who has ever attended a Ramblers football or basketball game in the past 30 years, the booming voice of Joe Roach that comes over the loudspeakers is unmistakable.

It's a voice full of confidence.

It's also one filled with a bravado that complements his knowledge of both sports that he announces.

In a world where public address announcers are a dime a dozen, Roach is worth a million bucks.

A native of Eau Claire, Roach always knew broadcasting would be the path he wanted to take and even used milk bottles as microphones as a kid practicing the sports announcing that he long ago perfected.

"Broadcasting was something I wanted to do as a kid," Roach told the Leader-Telegram in a phone interview. "My earliest memory is listening to Gary Knafelc, a former wide receiver/tight end for the Green Bay Packers, who served as the public address announcer at Lambeau Field for over 40 years.

Mission accomplished for the 1975 Regis High School grad.

While at Regis, Roach was active in forensics and then was graduated from UWEC in May 1979 having majored in journalism (with a broadcast emphasis) and a minor in radio-TV-film.

"I worked for a couple of radio stations in town and the area, mostly in announcing and sales," he said.

Roach began announcing Regis boys basketball games in his junior and senior years in high school and returned to the microphone at the invitation of then-athletic director Terry Allen in November of 199

"I did 14 games during my junior and senior years at Regis (1973-74 and 1974-75). Then didn't start again until November 29, 1994. That was a Tuesday night home game against Rice Lake. The Regis athletic director at the time, Terry Allen, had called me at home the week before and asked if I'd be interested in doing some games. I said yes...and so it began," Roach said.

Flash forward to the autumn of 1995, when Roach began in earnest the pursuit of the achievement he celebrated.

"At halftime there was a buzz going around the gymnasium. What had happened was that Jayme "The following fall I began doing the Rambler football Closs, the Barron teenager who had been kidnapped games, and then on January 10, 2012, I took on the from her home the previous October, after her Lady Ramblers basketball games. That came about parents were murdered, had been found safe. Once when a group of the varsity players asked if I could we verified that story and I made the announcement do their games. because they quote "liked my style," to the fans in the gymnasium, the reaction was Roach said. electrifying," he said.

- Needless to say the Regis faithful en masse liked Roach's style from the get go and he has participated in many championship and important moments in Ramblers' athletic history during the past 50 years.
  - And, of course, Roach has several of those moments in particular that stand out to him.

"The one that tops them all was against La Crosse Aquinas in 1975. This was in the days of the old Central Wisconsin Catholic Conference. (CWCC 1956-2000). Regis and Aquinas were huge rivals. Aquinas had a 6-11 senior center named Mark Newburg. He led the conference in scoring both his junior and senior years. We were tied for first place in the conference. This was the first game I actually remember announcing to the fans to please squeeze together in the bleachers so everyone could sit, because the game officials didn't want fans standing along



the baselines," Roach recounted just as if the game had been played yesterday.

"We had the Regis Pep Band playing polkas before the game and kids from both schools were dancing on the floor before the game. Regis ended up winning the game 92-63.. and won the conference championship," Roach remembered.

	Other games that Roach fondly recalled include the
94.	2015 Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association (WIAA) Division 4 basketball sectional semifinal against Fall Creek.
	"Doing the PA at Zorn Arena — a 59-51 Rambler win — where so many great UWEC Blugold teams had

- played," is memorable to Roach as are "The 2003 and 2022 Rambler football teams that brought back WIAA State championships."
- One of the most emotional moments, though, that Roach announced actually had nothing to do with sports and came in January of 2019 — a boys basketball game against Chippewa Falls McDonell.

Having announced so many games, one might think Roach would forget more than he remembered about the contests, but that is simply not the case. With almost total recall and a photographic memory, he can answer just about any question asked about any contest he has witnessed.

And he has grown to appreciate those games and the memories they invoke even more so as time has passed.

"For a few years, I thought of games like some people regard postage stamps — you put them on a letter and never see them again. But as I've gotten older, I've grown to appreciate them more."

While Roach is now a staple at both Regis football and basketball games, he actually got his start in the booth a few years prior to announcing his first Ramblers' game.

passed away and one when I was sick," he said.

Another testament to his professionalism, one could confidently say.

As Buckli told the Leader-Telegram, "I worked behind him on the bench for 20 or 30 years and I don't recall him missing a game. He was an iron man. I was impressed with his enthusiasm and the way he kept the crowd entertained and informed. He is a pro."

Married to his wife, Laurie, for 42 years, Roach credits his longevity to her understanding how much of a passion this 'past time' of Roach's means to him

"As far as "balancing" a life, my wife, Laurie, is very understanding. She knows that I enjoy doing it," he said, adding "and parents, fans and students also enjoy me doing it. Parents are really appreciative that someone commits to doing this year in and year out — and that gives me a lot of satisfaction."

#### The parents of a daughter, Carolyn, Roach and Laurie met when they were six-yearsold and despite the fact that Joe is an avid Packers fan and his wife, who was born in Minneapolis, is a Vikings rooter,

their marriage has stood the test of time, just as his stint at the microphone has at Regis. Now working in customer service at the front desk at

the Hampton Inn and Suites, Roach has been able to balance his work schedule with his announcing duties, which don't start when he gets to the stadium or arena, but rather begin with intense preparation beforehand.

"It was pretty hectic last year with the state (football) championship," which came on the heels of the start of the 2022-23 basketball season, but other than that, he made it work.

And he plans to continue to make both of his jobs work and has no plans in slowing down.

"At the Hampton Inn, I meet the most interesting people. I wish I had gotten that job 10 years ago," Roach, who has been employed at the hotel for about three years now, said.

As for the announcing, Roach explained why he has continued to step up to the microphone during every home game.

"I've continued doing it mainly because I love doing it and I'm confident in my ability," Roach said, adding, "I

had a couple of very good role models. The earliest was Jack Gallo, who was the original public address announcer for the Milwaukee Bucks from 1968 until around 1990. I actually met him in Milwaukee in the mid 1970's when Regis went to the WISAA basketball tournament, which was at that time held in the old Milwaukee Arena.

"I was always impressed with how he announced "Basket by Al-cin-dor!" and also gave credit for assists. I've tried to incorporate that in my own basketball repertoire but easier said than done sometimes," Roach remarked. "Another role model was Marsh Nelson, who was the pa announcer for the Minnesota Vikings from the early 1960s at old Metropolitan Stadium through the mid-1980s at the Hubert H. Humphrey Metrodome."

As with any person who has accomplished any of their goals over the years, there are many people behind the scenes who work as a team to contribute to an individual's success.

And Roach is no exception.

"Any PA announcer at any level needs a solid team behind (and alongside of) them," Roach said, adding, that I'd be remiss not to recognize four people who've been so very helpful to me over the years. Bruce Schafer (a friend for over 45 years), was my first football spotter for several years back in the mid-late 1990s. My current football spotters are Mike Brunig, (a freshman English teacher at Regis), and Michael Walter (a friend since second grade at the old St. Patrick's Grade School). For Regis boys and girls basketball games, a Regis classmate, Laurie Zukaitis — who has manned the home scorebook for countless athletic events at RHS over the years has been a big help as well."

While Roach admits that the thought of retiring his side gig entered his mind recently, he opted to remain in the job much to the delight of the Regis' fans who have come to expect seeing him at every home contest.

"I had thought of making this my last year. In fact, I even put out a Facebook message "announcing" that," Roach said.

"Then last January, the Regis Catholic Schools Foundation held their annual "Non-Sibi" dinner, and I must have had half a dozen parents come up to me and ask that I stay on. So I've decided to stick around as long as I feel I can still do the job as well as I feel it should be done."

And to anyone who has witnessed Roach behind the mic, there's no doubt that when that time does come and he turns off his microphone for the last time, whoever his eventual replacement will be will have some mighty big shoes to fill, indeed.

"I've continued doing it mainly because I love doing it and I'm confident in my ability."

"My first announcing job was as one of the original PA announcers for the Eau Claire Cavaliers back in 1971. did it for two years," Roach said, adding that "They had a record player in the old press box at Carson Park. I'd bring 45 rpm records from home (Elton John singles and "Frankenstein" by the Edgar Winter Group). There was an umpire named Ham Olive and between innings he'd try to dance down the baselines to Elton John's "Honky Cat" between innings."

As for how Roach knows that Monday night's basketball game is his actual 600th one to announce, he has former Leader-Telegram sports editor Ron Buckli to thank in part.

Roach said that the now-defunct National Association of Sports Public Address Announcers, of which he was a member, ran an informal poll a few years ago and with Buckli's help they tracked it down at the library to get the exact total of games he had announced at that time.

His announcing history includes doing one Ramblers' baseball game, too. And over the years, Roach has an almost perfect attendance record.

"I've missed two games, one when my mother-in-law



On Monday, January 22, Joe Roach '75 announced his 600th Regis matchup during the Boys Basketball game against Colfax at Regis High School.

We honored his dedication to the **Ramblers with a special plaque** presentation. Thank you, Joe, for your commitment to the green and white! You are a true blessing to our community!



SPECIAL NOTE: Joe Roach was also recently selected to serve as the public address announcer for the new semi-pro football team, "The Chippewa Valley Phoenix", which will begin play this April at Carson Park.

### Alumni Report

Jim Ganther '51 officially retired from competitive sports at the age of 90. His athletic journey encompassed a variety of sports, from baseball and softball to football, bowling, basketball, and horseshoes - a passion that remained constant throughout his life.

Jim's achievements have secured him a well-deserved place in prestigious halls of fame, including the Wisconsin Amateur Softball Association, Eau Claire Baseball, and Regis Catholic Schools. Notably, he excelled in Horseshoes, participating in 17 world-class tournaments and winning five World Senior Tournaments.

Currently, Jim and his wife Gloria are living at Cambridge Senior Living in Eau Claire. Jim Ganther's legacy as a sports icon in the city is sure to endure for generations.

Jim also recently achieved Life Member status with MDRT. The Premier Association of Financial Professionals, with 57 years of membership.

Bruce Bailey '66 will celebrate his 53rd wedding anniversary in May. He has two children and five grandchildren.

Jeff Cairns '72 retired after 42 years of law practice in Minneapolis. He and his wife, Kathi, split their time between their St. Paul residence and their lake home on Long Lake in Washburn County, Wisconsin.

Adam Thorson '00 and his wife. Allison, welcomed their fourth child, Genevieve Rose, on May 28, 2023. She joins her 11-year-old brother Gabriel, 9-year-old sister Adelaide, and 5-year-old sister Elizabeth. Adam is a Senior Director of Business Development for Catalina Marketing and the family lives in Cincinnati, Ohio.

#### Friday, September 20 Wild Ridge | Eau Claire

Three Entree Buffet

- "Shout Out" Big Screen Trivia
- Overhead Digital Classmate Memorial
- One Man Performance Patrick O'Brien "Tweet"



### Saturday, September 21

The Class of 1969 will host a social gathering for the Classes of 1968, 1969, and 1970 at the VFW - Starr Avenue starting at 6 p.m.

NO SIGN-UP / NO COST TO ATTEND / CASH BAR / SNACKS PROVIDED

Questions? Contact Kathy Schultz '69! Kfschultz54703@gmail.com (715) 450-2125

### **Class of 1968**

Join the classes of 1969 and 1970 in a multi-class get together. See details above.

### **Class of 1970**

Join the classes of 1968 and 1969 in a multi-class get together. See details above.

### Friday, September 20 &

Class of 1974 50th Reunion Saturday, September 21 Watch for mailed invitations. Details can be found on the class Facebook page called 'Regis Class of 1974 Graduates'.

Contact: Pam Kozuch

### August 2-4 | Eau Claire

For the schedule, registration, accommodation information, and more, please check out https://www.eventcreate.com/e/regis1979

### f @regisclassof'79alums

Questions? Dianne Crowley (414) 610-3021 (Text Preferred) dianne.crowley@gmail.com



### Saturday, August 17 Various activities including family fun, a

pickleball tournament, and an evening gettogether are being planned for in Eau Claire.

More information to follow. We hope to see you all there!





### **IN MEMORIAM**

Eternal rest, grant unto him/her, O lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him/her. May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

Helen recently passed away peacefully at the age of 108. At the time of her death, she was possibly our oldest living alumni.

Eleanor Haas-Durica '50

John Morris '61 Jeanette Seitz Neumann '64 **Dennis Dingmann** '66 Mary Benson Theisen '66

Thank you to the families who named the Regis Catholic Schools Foundation in their memorial gift.

# **REGIS RAMBLER SCHOOL STORE OPEN SHOPPING HOURS**

**NEW HOURS! Monday-Friday** 

9 a.m. to 3 p.m.



Class of 1979

45th Reunion

### ST. PATRICK'S HIGH SCHOOL

Helen Kiernan Dougherty '32

**REGIS HIGH SCHOOL** Gertrude "Trudy" Peieterick '66 Patrick Vinopal '66 Dr. John A. Hanson '66 Elizabeth Meinholz '71

**Regis High School, 2100 Fenwick Ave. First Floor/Athletic Office Area** 

CASH | CHECK | CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED





### Saturday, June 15 Lake Hallie Golf Course \$90 | Golfer

We welcome Regis families, alumni, and friends to join us for this premier fundraising event sponsored by the Regis High School Booster Club.

Organize a team or register individually and we will place you on a team. Not a golfer? Join us for chicken dinner and partake in sponsorship raffles and a silent auction.

Hurry! Space is limited! The registration deadline is June 7. Sponsorship opportunities are also available.



**SCAN TO LEARN MORE!** 



### **SAVE THE DATE!**

Saturday, September 14 **Regis High School** 

### **PROCEEDS SUPPORT RAMBLERS ATHLETICS**

Mark your calendars and make plans to join your fellow Ramblers for a night of fun and fundraising as we support our athletic programs!

**Event Highlights Include:** 

Buffet Dinner & Drinks • Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony Fund-a-Need • Silent Auction Casino Games & More (Rock n' Roll To Go Plus!) Great Casino Prizes

Online ticket sales will open on August 5! https://regiscatholicschools.ejoinme.org/2024ramblerroyale

#### Sponsorship opportunities are available!

Contact Kyle Seyer '10, Regis High School Athletic Director, at kseyer@RegisCatholicSchools.com to learn more!



However, many of our alumni have moved or are not currently in our database and we need your help to find them!

If you know someone who isn't receiving our updates...be it a child, family member, or friend... please urge them to share their information with us! By joining our database, they will stay updated on class reunions, events, and more by receiving the Rambler Report up to three times a year.

Don't forget that providing an email address ensures timely communication. Let's keep our alumni family strong and connected!

### HOW YOU CAN HELP

> Encourage family and friends to update their information via our online form available at RegisCatholicSchools.com/alumni/update-information/

> Complete the form below for all alumni in your family and return it using the envelope provided in this magazine.

Alumni Contact Information Update Form Personal Information		
Name:	Graduation Year:	
Mailing Address:		
City/State/Zip Code:		
Email Address:	Phone:	
(IF APPLICABLE)		
Parent(s) Name(s) *First Name, Last Name, Maiden Name		
Parent(s) Graduation Year(s)		



2728 Mall Drive, Ste 200 Eau Claire, WI 54701 (715) 830-2273 **RegisCatholicSchools.com** 



#WeAreRegis #RamblerNation Regis High School - Regis Middle School Immaculate Conception Elementary School - St. James Elementary School St. Mary's Elementary School Regis Child Development Center - Genesis Child Development Center

### Learning Today, Leading Tomorrow

Regis Catholic Schools is dedicated to educating students of all faiths in a Catholic, Christ-centered environment. We are united by Our Core Values of *Living* Faith, *Accepting* Responsibility, *Promoting* Teamwork, *Achieving* Excellence, and *Inspiring* Leadership.



Thank you for your unending support of Regis Catholic Schools! Whether you give your time, treasure, or talent, we are forever grateful. You truly play an important role in giving the children of today a high-quality Catholic education.

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