



Here's a look inside the GACC High School's brand new STEAM Lab. Pictured are GACC's lab instructors Tina Gentrup (elementary) and Bob Ernesti (high school).

GACC excited about STEAM Lab

Preparing students to reach their fullest potential is the primary mission for Guardian Angels Central Catholic. And the school will be taking a large step forward in fulfilling that goal.

At the beginning of the 2017-2018 school year, GACC will integrate its new STEAM SmartLab into the school's academic curriculum for all students grades 3rd-12th.

STEAM Labs will be located in buildings of both Central Catholic and Guardian Angels.

Components of the STEAM Lab consist of placing an emphasis on science, technology, engineering, art and math. The reason behind launching a 'lab' like this is to enhance the ability of each student in areas such as critical thinking, problem solving, information literacy and decision-making.

"This will open up some pathways to knowledge and careers

for our students," GACC Principal Kate Hagemann said. "It's just a different way of thinking. It's hands-on and reaches a wide variety of learners."

In a statement released by GACC, the STEAM SmartLab provides learners with foundations in eight basic systems of technology known as "core competencies."

The basic systems are:

- Alternative and Renewable Energy
- Computer Graphics
- Science and Data Acquisition
- Mechanics and Structures
- Multimedia Design / Computer Aided Publishing
- Robotics and Control Technology
- Circuitry
- Computer Simulation

With this type of learning, GACC's administration is excited about the type of impact that will

be made with utilizing this lab.

"This will provide our students with an extra opportunity to challenge themselves and extend what they can already do," GACC President Fr. Steve Emanuel said. "In any school system, you encounter limits, but hopefully for us, this will extend the ceiling for all of our kids."

In another statement provided by GACC School, it stated that, "Creative Learning Systems describes the STEAM SmartLab as a 'powerful 21st century learning lab where students explore diverse systems of technology in an engaging, collaborative, project-based format.'"

"We want to expose them to all different types of learning. It's just another avenue to reach kids and take them to another level," Hagemann said.

BIRTHS

Clarissa (Wordekemper) '08 & Eric Rolf: son Carsten Duane born on 4/29/17

Rebecca (Koehn) '03 & Jeff Frans: son Elijah Thomas born on 4/29/17

Danielle (Pagels) '06 & Anthony Yarger: son James Alan born on 2/26/17

Shane & Ashley '04 Lofgren: daughter Jema Bre & son Cole Michael born on 5/24/17

Blair '08 & Anna (Kirwan) '08 Koehn: son Maximilian Samuel born on 5/28/14

Mike '03 & Natalie Stratman: daughter Roni Rose born on 5/30/17

Chelsea (Franzluebbers) '08 & Taylor Werner: daughter Hartley Jo born on 6/9/17

Jennifer (Kreikemeier) '03 & Lucas Haag: daughter Emma Mae born on 7/5/17

Nicole (Stieren) '08 & Andy Starman: son Ethan Philip born on 8/14/17

Maria (Eilerts) '07 & Ross Budweg: son Claire James born on 8/22/17

Tim '99 & Elsa Otte: son Clement Michael born on 9/3/17

Chris '00 & Tiffany Kreikemeier: daughter Charlotte Evelyn born on 9/13/17

WEDDINGS

Ashley Knievel '10 & Andrew Woitaszewski: married on 6/17/17

Lindsey Boyum '11 & Michael Schutte: married on 6/24/17

Seth Ritter '09 & Kaitlin Hintz: married on 6/24/17

Jodie Luebbert '09 & Josh Persson: married on 6/24/17

Jessica Hagedorn '05 & Jeffrey Schuemann: married on 7/8/17

Whitney Wietfeld '09 & Spencer Mumma: married on 7/15/17

Adam Guenther '06 & Hannah Hyslop: married on 7/28/17

Carly Manley '10 & Brady Nelson: married on 8/26/17

More updates for GACC

The STEAM SmartLab, which was aided by the Hank Stalp Trust, wasn't the only technological upgrade for GACC.

Thanks to the Dinklage Foundation Technology Grant, GACC had the opportunity for more improved technology. Those upgrades included 90 laptops, 40 iPads and wiring.

The wiring project was done to update GACC's infrastructure to help in handling all of the school's wireless devices.

Some physical upgrades are also being made to the high school.

The main project was new windows in the north and west side of Central Catholic High School. Replacing the original windows will increase efficiency.

Another positive GACC School officials made note of was enrollment. The school will see an increase in students to 394. Last year, that total was 375.

STEAM LAB: Preparing students

FROM PAGE 1

"It is a lot of student-initiated ideas rather than being teacher-driven. That's good for our kids. It's good for them to be responsible for their own learning."

The knowledge and tools gained from the STEAM SmartLab will help prepare students for the next level of education, and will aid in a pursuit of a career.

"Students can apply what they are learning with what they want to do with their lives," Emanuel said.

And it will start at a young age with 3rd graders being able to utilize the lab.

"I'm probably most excited for the elementary just because it exposes them so early to some of those opportunities that they might not otherwise have," Hagemann said.

No core curricular classes will be replaced with the addition of the lab. Rather, the STEAM SmartLab will be worked into the curriculum and, for juniors and seniors, will be offered as an elective course.

Tina Gentrup will be the lab instructor for the elementary and Bob Ernesti for the high

school.

Hagemann said there's a lot of excitement, but added there will be a lot of learning in making the lab as successful as possible.

There won't be a learning curve for just the instructors, but all faculty members. GACC teachers will have the opportunity to utilize the lab for their own classes.

And while STEAM SmartLab is a big step forward in terms of technology, GACC doesn't want to cap it as just a 'school lab.' GACC wants to create active partnerships with local businesses that would share a vision of 'forming future generations in vital skill areas.'

"This is a great opportunity to engage the wider community with the educational opportunities that we will be able to offer," Emanuel said.

"We want to reach out to people who are already successful, and they can come in and explain to our students what they are looking for in the workforce.

"We hope this has a long-lasting impact on not only our students, but the community as well. It's a great way for people to gain a wide variety of skill sets right here in West Point."

Taking on a new role

Kreikemeier accepts position as principal of Bishop Neumann

Bishop Neumann Junior-Senior High School has been home to John Kreikemeier for the past seven years. And it looks like it will be his home for awhile longer.

Kreikemeier, a 2001 graduate of Central Catholic, was named the Bishop Neumann principal, creating a new chapter that John is quite excited about.

"The excitement of being principal comes in meeting the numerous challenges that occur day to day as well as maintaining an overall vision for the school," Kreikemeier said. "It is challenging and humbling as well. It is hard to imagine just how many things come across the desk."

With those challenges come goals. One goal Kreikemeier has with taking this position is:

"The main goal for our school is to help our students grow closer to their career goal and Christ every day. Sometimes we compartmentalize our career and faith," Kreikemeier said.

"When we work hard toward a morally acceptable goal, our career goals and spiritual lives will mesh. Having a strong faith is not



John Kreikemeier

in spite of a great career, but in conjunction with a great career."

During his seven years at Bishop Neumann, Kreikemeier has taught junior high physical education, junior high social studies and eighth grade religion. He also coached several Cavalier sports teams.

Kreikemeier and his wife, Emily, have three children, Leo (4), Zac (2)

and Lexi (one month).

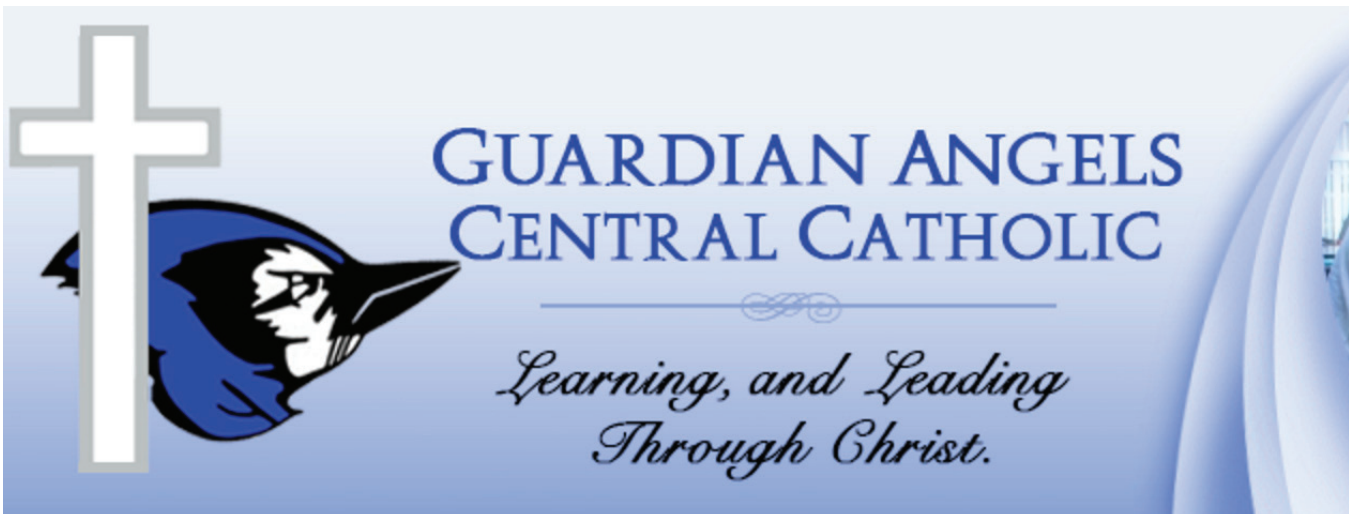
John is familiar with the Catholic school setting as he was a graduate of Central Catholic; so working in a parochial school system is something that Kreikemeier truly enjoys.

"It is great that I can live out the Catholic faith every day I go to work," Kreikemeier said. "I am very blessed to be able to work at a place that aligns with my values. Catholic schools are some of the only places left where we can preach a right and a wrong and promote a disciplined work ethic."

Kreikemeier also is proud of all that his 2001 classmates have accomplished.

"I think of the accomplishments of the class of 2001 and the great things we have done since graduating from Central Catholic. It is astonishing to think about the variety of jobs and responsibilities we have grown into," Kreikemeier said.

"I hope we provide the kind of education that propels our future graduates to aspire to accomplish the vast array of professional careers my classmates and I have taken on."



Neiman receives Manning scholarship

KNOXVILLE—University of Tennessee, Knoxville, alumnus and retired NFL quarterback Peyton Manning was at his alma mater June 15 to award scholarships to four incoming freshmen.

Among this year's scholarship recipients was Grace Neiman of West Point.

The Peyton Manning Scholarship Endowment was established in 1998 and, including this year's four recipients, 33 students have benefited from the scholarship.

It is awarded to incoming students each year on the basis of academic achievement, leadership, and community service. All Peyton Manning Scholars are part of the Haslam Scholars Program, the university's premier honors program.

"My four years here at Tennessee were very special," Manning told the students and their families at the awards reception in the Peyton Manning Locker Room in Neyland Stadium. He said he hopes the scholarships provide the recipients "with some of the same opportunities I had when I was at school here.

"Understand that this is just the beginning, and what a positive impact you will have on this great university, on the communities where you make your mark after graduation."

Manning asked the students to make a note of the words on the sign above the door, leading from the locker room to the football field: "I will give my all for Tennessee today."

"The responsibility of those words is not just for the football team, but for everyone associated with this great university. Let the words displayed on the sign guide you moving forward and provide special meaning for your lives."

Neiman, a graduate of GACC High School, plans to major in anthropology. She was involved in numerous high school activities: Quiz Bowl, concert band, speech



Grace Neiman with Peyton Manning. She was one of four incoming freshman to earn his scholarship.

competition, the Mid-State Conference Art Showcase and the National Honor Society. She also was the lead actress in her senior year musical.

"As a student, Grace is as determined as they come," one of her nominators wrote. "Although most of the information comes very easily to her, Grace challenges herself by asking the most thought-provoking questions. She takes her work seriously, and always

strives to do her best."

Neiman said she chose UT because of its anthropology program. She added the scholarship is a huge help to her, saying, "This scholarship opened a gateway for me that I had never dreamed of before."

Grace is the daughter of Bryan Neiman and Julie (Prinz) Meister ('88), and the granddaughter of Bob ('58) and RoseAnn (Peatrowsky) Prinz ('58).

GACC 2017 Homecoming



From left, GACC's Kassidy Kaup, Mitch Plagge and Livia Hunke come to school in their Hawaiian Day attire.



Macey Wooldrik represents the Mathletes on Mathletes vs. Athletes day.

STEAM Lab full of things to do

There is an endless number of opportunities to do activities and experiments in Guardian Angels Central Catholic's new STEAM Lab. A perfect example of that is students Josh Wordenkemper and Xavier Steffensmeier using bananas to compose music.





Central Catholic crowns king & queen

Allie Knobbe and Derek Petz were crowned the 2017 Guardian Angels Central Catholic Homecoming queen and king Friday night at the school's coronation ceremony. Other senior candidates were, from left, Hannah McGill, Lexis Haase, Conner Buss and Michael Baumert. Lexis Haase is the daughter of Mark & Lisa Haase ('90). Allie is the daughter of Melissa Knobbe and the late Chris Knobbe ('85). Hannah is the daughter of Sarah and Jeff McGill ('89). Derek is the son of Dave and Carrie (Maly) Petz ('89). Conner is the son of Roger and Paula Buss. Michael is the son of Tom and Jan Baumert.

'Open mind' leads to great experience

By Delores Meister

When Guardian Angels Central Catholic junior Luke Baumert was selected by the American Legion in April for Boys State, he didn't know what he was getting into. He wasn't sure he wanted to go.

"I never heard of Boys State," the GACC junior said.

In June, his parents Tyler and Denise Baumert dropped him off at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln campus for a week-long session with 400 boys from across Nebraska.

Everyone was assigned to one of two political parties, the Nationalist and the Federalist. There were nine towns, each had 45 guys. Four towns were in a county and the two counties were a state, Boys State.

"I learned the complexity of government in general. Every delegate had an active week of filing for government offices, campaigning, voting, electing and then making laws," Luke said.

"I was in Bunker Hill, Washington County, Boys State," Luke said. "I filed, campaigned, made speeches, and was elected to the Bunker Hill school board. Washington County commissioners voted to allow fire arms in public buildings, but the school board denied fire arms in schools."

Debates and campaigns, flyers, etc., to elect a governor was two days.

"I thought the week was fantastic. It showed us how we are most vital in our elected governmental democracy.

"It is important to have an open mind," Luke said.

Selected for 'Girls State'

By Delores Meister

Guardian Angels Central Catholic junior Zahira Lopez (now a senior) represented West Point at American Legion-sponsored Girls State at UNL in Lincoln in June.

The week-long event was a hands-on teaching of how government works and the importance of citizen involvement in keeping a free, responsible democracy.



Two join GACC staff

New to the Guardian Angels Central Catholic staff are, from left, Erica Wimer ('12) and Lindsey Marr. Wimer is the new Kindergarten teacher. Marr is the new Elementary Aide and helper in the high school office at GACC.

Football field crowned

A number of volunteers make project in Beemer possible

The Guardian Angels Central Catholic football field in Beemer was recently revamped. The field was crowned, resodded and had sprinklers installed.

And all of that was thanks to several volunteers who donated their time, talent and equipment to make it possible.

Volunteers included: Brandon Ritter, Jerry Karloff (Sunrise Excavating), Advanced Consulting Engineering Services, Shawn Linder, Jerry Kaup, Matt Lueshen, Jeremy Uhing, Jeff Guenther, Zach Ridder, Doug Stratman, Jeremy Ritter, Pat Nebuda, Keith Kreikemeier, Trent Kaup, Al Guenther, Jeff McGill, Tracy Kaup and Jones Grinding/Parts Junction.

"It just shows the kind of people our community and our GACC community has. The support they give to us is incredible," Bluejay head football coach Dave Ridder said.

"It's not the same people either. There are so many different people that came forward to help.



This fall the GACC football team is playing on a revamped field thanks to several volunteers.

It's a great thing to see how much people care about our school and

care about the kids that go to this school."

St. Anthony's Church oldest rural parish

By Delores Meister

The oldest parish in the rural Omaha Archdiocese is a founder and member of the Central Catholic High School Corporation.

St. Anthony's Church at St. Charles Township, rural West Point, was one of the five founding parishes when the Central Catholic High School plan was announced and executed in 1962.

The community recognizes and honors the people of St. Anthony's Parish on this occasion of their 150th anniversary and recognizes them as the first Catholic parish

north of the Platte River in Nebraska.

Pioneer families from Haaren, Westfalen Province in the Kingdom of Prussia, came to America in 1857, looking for land. The immigrants left Europe at Brennan on a sailing ship, sailing six weeks to the Port of New Orleans. Then, on a steamer they traveled up the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers to Council Bluffs.

Now on land, with oxen and covered wagons, the immigrants traveled into the unknown, vast prairie of Nebraska Territory, where the

plains were covered with six-foot tall grasses that were constantly moving in the ceaselessly blowing wind. They met John Neligh, who encouraged them to settle in the St. Charles vicinity, and here they stepped off their claims.

Family names in 1857, were Fischer, Grewe, Grovijohn, Kaup, Schmuecker, Schueth, Harstick. Then the Druke, Gerken, Goeken and Kappius families joined the community in 1861.

Horseback-riding missionary

DEATHS

ETERNAL REST GRANT UNTO THEM O LORD

- Beata (Oligmueller) Prinz '47: Date of death 6/15/17
- Lucille (Stalp) Miller '46: Date of death 6/25/17
- Rose Ann (Fischer) Ortmeier '46: Date of death 6/29/17
- Karen (Ernesti) Schroeder '63: Date of death 6/30/17
- Adam Skoda: Date of death 7/8/17
- Gilbert Ernesti '60: Date of death 8/6/17
- Norman Emanuel '62: Date of death 8/18/17
- David Guenther '78: Date of death 8/26/17
- Bobby Hart husband of Janet (Schmaderer) Hart '65: Date of death 9/14/17
- William Gentrup husband of Geraldine (Herman) Gentrup '52: Date of death 9/17/17
- Elaine (Luebbert) Throener '71: Date of death 7/30/17
- Thomas Knievel '59: Date of death 8/3/17
- Donald Pribnow '47: Date of death 9/30/17

READER'S NOTE

SUBMIT NEWS

Any news items for the "News from the Nest" newsletter can be emailed to the parish office at: ranaeobrien1@gmail.com

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- Elaine MalyCopy Editor

HOLY FAMILY CAMP

By Delores Meister

Did you ever go to a convent for a summer vacation camp? GACC teacher Sister Elizabeth Ann Miller welcomed Bluejays at Holy Family Convent at Manitowoc, Wisc. for a week-long camp in June. GACC students Paige Rolf, Brandi Doernemann, Gabbi Goeden, Evelyn Wooldrik and Isabelle Kaup joined girls from other states for week-long activities, crafts, sight seeing, sporting events, canoeing, faith and prayer.



St. Anthony's Church near West Point is oldest parish in rural Omaha Archdiocese.

ST. ANTHONY'S: Rural church

FROM PAGE 8

priests traveled through the prairie a few times a year. The first Catholic service was said to have been held in 1862 at the more centrally located homestead of Friedrich and Augusta Grovijohn.

In 1867, Grovijohn donated land overlooking the Elkhorn River where a log church was built, but in 1868 it was replaced by a white frame church and a rectory. When word spread of an arriving missionary, settlers from miles around attended.

In 1872 a one-room school with living quarters was erected. In 1909, a more modern school building replaced the old one and Franciscan Sisters from St. Joseph's Convent in Milwaukee, Wisc. came to teach.

Their mission at St. Anthony continued into the early 1930's. The parish school was staffed by a devoted lay teacher until 1937, when the Benedictine Sisters of Atchison, Kansas.

The Benedictine Sisters served St. Anthony until June of 1950. The Franciscan Sisters of Our Lady of Perpetual Help from St. Louis Mo. continued the mission of Catholic education in the parish until 1970.

The school stood empty until District 10 rented the building from 1970 until 1977.

In 1962, representatives of St. Anthony's agreed to incorporate with St. Mary's, St. Aloysius, and St. Boniface to build Central Catholic High School. They agreed to share in the construction cost of \$225,000 in proportion to the number of Catholic grade school children in each parish.

Parishioners of all four parishes donated and signed pledge cards for three-year donations.

Father Virgil Walkowiak and Henry Ortmeier served on the board. Rt. Rev. Msgr. Herman J. Kaup was a leader and the first superintendent of Central Catholic. The new school opened in fall of 1963.

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