

Spring 2018 | Issue 5

CONTINUUM

TOTINO-GRACE HIGH SCHOOL



Feature

The Pursuit
of Education

SPRING 2018

Contents

Letter from the President | 3
School News 2017-2018 Highlights | 4
Discover, Experience, and Become TG | 10
 The Pursuit of Education | 11
 TG Giving Day | 16
Teacher Appreciation Week | 18
 Foundation Builders | 20
 Advancement Update | 21
Alumni Community Events | 22
 Class Notes | 26
TG Sustainers Club | 30
 Support TG | 31



Totino-Grace High School



ON THE COVER

As a Campus Minister, Andrew Million '09 connects current Eagles to our Catholic Lasallian mission through retreats, service projects, mission trips, and prayer and worship opportunities.

CONNECT WITH TOTINO-GRACE



MISSION STATEMENT

Totino-Grace is an Archdiocesan co-educational Catholic high school in the Lasallian tradition. Welcoming a student body that is academically, economically, and culturally diverse, we strive for equity and excellence in all programs. Recognizing the key elements of our mission as learning, faith, community, and service, we seek to provide a safe environment that places priority on mutual respect, self-discipline, and acknowledgment of our responsibility in the world community.

ADDRESS CHANGES AND ALUMNI NEWS SUBMISSIONS

Submit address changes and submissions for alumni notes at totinograce.org/alumni or contact the Alumni Relations Office at 763-586-6326 or tgalumni@totinograce.org. The school reserves the right to publish and/or edit material to reflect the values of our mission.

The Continuum is published by Totino-Grace High School's Marketing and Communications Office for alumni, families and friends of the school. No part of this publication may be reprinted without permission.



From the **President's Desk**

Teenagers like being cared about—don't we all? The following expression rings true: "Students don't care what you know until they know that you care." It is so clear to me that our teachers and staff are greatly invested – in their students' progress and success, in our community, and in their own professional development to bring our students the best, each and every day.

Totino-Grace students like coming to school. They like who they are and where they are going. That sounds pretty simple, doesn't it? There is nothing particularly insightful about that. However, this is not the norm for many schools; too many students these days fall through the cracks and become numbers and data. At Totino-Grace, the young men and women we serve strive to discover and develop their God given gifts and determine the best ways to implement and share them with others. Our faculty and staff join them on this journey, encouraging and supporting them every step of the way.

Beyond the curriculum, Totino-Grace provides countless opportunities and experiences to teach students what it feels like to have mutual respect, what it means to love and be loved, and the benefit of serving others. That is how we change lives.

It always touches my heart when I learn of our graduates following their passions and accomplishing great things, and in doing so, changing people's lives. We all stand on the shoulders of others. Who we are – our success – is predicated by others who came before us, their sacrifice, efforts, and investment. Key factors for all of us are the teachers, coaches, and moderators who have contributed to our lives in powerful ways. In this issue of the Continuum, you will read about just a few of many graduates of our school who have pursued a career as an educator. As you will learn, their time at Totino-Grace and the impact of their teachers was instrumental in their pursuit.

Join with me this spring in celebrating and recognizing the many current and legacy teachers and mentors of Archbishop Grace and Totino-Grace High School who have dedicated their careers to touching the minds and hearts of the students they have the honor to serve.

Enjoy this issue of the Continuum,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Craig W. Junker, Ed.D." The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr. Craig W. Junker
President

School News

2017-2018 Highlights

Athletic State Tournaments



Diver Ellie Gunderson '19 competed in the 2017 Girls State Swimming and Diving Tournament on November 18 at the University of Minnesota.



Freshman cross country runner Emilie Meyer qualified to compete at the state tournament on November 4 at St. Olaf College and finished 54th out of 176 runners.



Left: On November 2, the boys soccer team claimed the championship in the 2017 Class A Boys Soccer State Tournament at U.S. Bank Stadium following their 1-0 win over St. Thomas Academy.

Right: The Eagles competed in the Minnesota State High School Team Wrestling Tournament March 1 – 3 at the Xcel Energy Center and nine TG wrestlers qualified for the individual tournament. Senior Nate Schutz finished with a third place win and Jake Svihel '19 earned his third consecutive second place title.



The Totino-Grace E'gals dance team completed an exciting season with second place titles in both jazz and high kick divisions in the 2018 AA Minnesota State Dance Team Tournament at the Target Center.

Co-curricular Achievements



The Science Club competed in the State Science Olympiad on March 3. TG students competed against 33 teams in an average of four events each. Congratulations to Jacob Zahn '20 and Zach Kuffel '19 who finished 8th in Astronomy.



On January 28, 23 Totino-Grace DECA students competed in the District Four East Conference at the National Sports Center in Blaine. They competed in a range of career and business related events against other schools in the area. Ten TG students qualified for the DECA State Career Development Conference on March 5 and 6, competing among 2,000 students in approximately 60 different events.



The Totino-Grace Mock Trial team had a fantastic season, winning three of their four trials. This year's case, based on actual events, involved charges of criminal vehicular homicide and careless driving. Students portrayed both attorneys and witnesses on the Prosecution and Defense side of the case.



Totino-Grace added a FIRST Robotics club this year. Members of the club addressed all areas of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics through creativity and innovation while developing leadership skills through team engagement, communication, and collaboration. The Totino-Grace team designed and built a robot and competed in the Medtronic Foundation Regional Competition March 28 – 31 at the University of Minnesota.

Travel Experiences



Totino-Grace choir and band students traveled to Portugal March 10 - 17 for a once in a lifetime performance tour! Highlights of the trip included a visit to the shrine of Our Lady of Fátima, where they also attended Mass, a performance in a castle at Guimaraes, a school exchange with a La Salle school in Barcelos, city tours in Coimbra, Porto, and Lisbon, and the jazz band performed in a club called Cafe Concerto Francisco Beja.



Left: Totino-Grace students traveled to Paris during spring break and enjoyed experiencing French culture and practicing the language.



Right: July 6 to August 3, 18 Totino-Grace students participated in a study abroad experience in Mexico with their TG chaperones.

Special Achievements and Honors



Congratulations to Mr. Terry Voss, Totino-Grace Choral Music and Show Choir Director, who was presented with the Br. Michael Collins Award of Excellence at the Lasallian Association of Secondary School Chief Administrators Conference on February 25, in Orlando.



Vishal Chandra '19 was selected as one of six Minnesota students to attend the Global Youth Institute in Des Moines, Iowa, October 18-21. Vishal first learned of the opportunity through the Totino-Grace Kathleen Murphy Scholars Program. To apply to the institute, Vishal submitted a research paper on global issues related to hunger and food insecurity. Selected students then participated in a one-day symposium on local, national, and global hunger and food insecurity issues through the Minnesota Youth Institute. The event offered participants the opportunity to present their research and recommendations, engage with local leaders and experts, and participate in activities to explore hunger issues.

Mission and Service



Totino-Grace High School's mission trip program encompasses the core values of the Lasallian mission while providing students with unique opportunities to learn about different cultures and poverty issues locally and internationally. Partnering with Lasallian communities, schools, and ministries allows us to do this most effectively. This year, 165 students will participate in one of 15 TG mission trips, living out the Gospel as Jesus calls us to do.



Throughout the academic year, Totino-Grace athletic teams and co-curricular groups lead and participate in a number of service projects and fundraising initiatives to support local and global organizations. With the support of their peers and members of our school community, participants are able to put Totino-Grace's Catholic Lasallian mission into action to make an impact on those most vulnerable and in need. Our students' efforts supported Tackle Cancer and Stick it to Cancer, Feed My Starving Children, Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos, local food shelves, Sharing and Caring Hands, Red Cross, and many more. This fall, students raised funds for the families of a fellow Lasallian school, Justin-Sienna, following the devastating impact from the California fires. The Instrumental Music Department partnered with St. Olaf Catholic Church in Minneapolis, adding a day of service to their annual Christmas concert, to assist with the church's homeless initiatives.



Summer Camps

During the summer of 2018, Totino-Grace High School can help students explore new activities, expand current interests, discover talents and develop emerging skills. A wide variety of academic, fine arts and athletic summer camp experiences are available for students in elementary, middle and high school. Visit www.totinograce.org/summercamps for specific camp details and to register.



STRENGTH/CONDITIONING PRACTICE EX
TRAINING JAZZ SING SUC
MUSICAL FRIENDS TR
THEATRE ENJOY SHOW CHOIR ATHLETE
INSTRUMENTS ENJOY SHOW CHOIR ATHLETE
ENJOY JAZZ SING CULT
PERFORM ARTS COMPETE PA
DISCOV
SING SUC
FRIENDS TR
ENJOY SHOW CHOIR ATHLETE
CULT
R PRACT

A young girl with dark, curly hair is smiling broadly. She is wearing a light blue denim jacket over a dark shirt. To her right is a large speech bubble containing various icons related to music, sports, and technology, such as a violin, a soccer ball, a smartphone, a clock, and a search bar.

Discover, Experience, and Become TG

Opportunities for Future Eagles

Choosing a high school is an important decision for families. At Totino-Grace, opportunity and inspiration lead to success. The Admissions Office hosts a variety of events and opportunities throughout the year for prospective students and their families to learn more about the school. We invite you to share your own TG story and invite family, friends, colleagues and neighbors to discover and experience TG!

DISCOVER TG: OPEN HOUSE AND ON-CAMPUS EVENTS

Families are invited on campus to meet faculty and staff, explore academic programs, interact with students and current parents, and talk with coaches and moderators to learn about our co-curricular programs and discover what makes our community special. Schedule a visit or attend our fall open house on **Tuesday, October 9, 2018**.

Register for upcoming events at www.totinograce.org/Discover_TG.

EXPERIENCE TG: STUDENT SHADOW DAYS AND PARENT OBSERVATION DAYS

Prospective students are invited and encouraged to spend a typical school day with one of our students. Guests will attend classes with their host, meet teachers and staff members, and get a sense of the remarkable community spirit at TG.

Parent Observation Days provide an opportunity to walk the halls, sit in on classes and be inspired by the exceptional opportunities available to students in a culture of achievement and respect.

Learn more at www.totinograce.org/Experience_TG

BECOME TG: ENROLL

Discover, experience, and see for yourself why families from across the Twin Cities choose our school. Ready for your best journey to begin? Apply today to Become an Eagle.

Get started at www.totinograce.org/Become_TG.

LEARN MORE

Contact the Admissions Office with questions or to schedule an appointment at admissions@totinograce.org or 763-571-9116.



Students enter TG from 100+ Catholic, public, and independent schools from across the metro

150+ courses offered

33 AP and Honors courses

22 students

Average class size is



As a Lasallian school we have a strong focus on service and our students log more than 16,300 volunteer hours each year through local and international mission trips and daily after school service

165 students will participate in 15 mission trip experiences offered during the 2017-2018 school year

Totino-Grace offers comprehensive school counseling services including a robust, four-year, personalized college and career planning program



17 clubs and organizations

7 leadership groups

18 fine arts offerings

21 varsity sports

51 state championship athletic titles

E3 ENGINEERING INSTITUTE:

Three-year track to intellectually engage and challenge students with a rigorous engineering-focused curriculum. Each student is paired with a professional mentor.



Murphy Scholars Program:

High performing students pursue a demanding course of study supported through cultural enrichment experiences and co-curricular participation. Average Scholar ACT score is 30.

The Pursuit of Education



Totino-Grace High School is an Archdiocesan Roman Catholic educational community where students are loved, instructed, and guided according to the traditions of the Brothers of the Christian Schools and School Sisters of Notre Dame. A Totino-Grace education, inspired by patrons St. John Baptist de La Salle and Blessed Theresa Gerhardinger, touches the heart of each student, inspiring them to surpass their own expectations, achieve academic success, and experience personal and spiritual fulfillment within a safe, nurturing community.

Totino-Grace students benefit from the witness of a caring, concerned, and dedicated faculty, administration, and staff. We are pleased to introduce you to just a few of the many Archbishop Grace and Totino-Grace graduates who were inspired by their teachers, coaches, and moderators at Totino-Grace to pursue their own career in education to carry on the important legacy of inspiring minds and touching hearts of the students they serve.



Pat Schommer '77

At different ages and in different seasons, my volunteer experiences have allowed me to find significant meaning and contribute my professional expertise and provide service to others. Shakespeare once said, “The meaning of life is to find your gift. The purpose of life is to give it away.” As a young teen, while most kids were playing in the park, I found meaning hanging out in a nursing home. Seeing life through the eyes of the elderly, sometimes demented, often dying, shaped who I am. With these precious, vulnerable people, I found my gifts.

As a teen and young adult, with my Dad, I volunteered with Civil Air Patrol (CAP)—an arm of the US Air Force—which provides search and rescue expertise for downed aircraft in the state. In CAP, I received my first training in safety and first aid and through a collaboration of Grace High School and Spring Lake Park High School, I became certified as an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT). Eventually I began teaching others these same skills.

Education enticed me later in life, after serving as a health care administrator for twenty-five years. My husband died following a brief battle with a brain tumor; our kids were 10 and 15 at the time. In a single parent household, working an hour from home in long-term care and hospice, and employing 150 people, no longer worked for us. I looked to higher education to share my passions—the elderly and health care—with others.

I am the Director of the Rural & Metropolitan Physician Associate Program at the University of Minnesota Medical School. These programs are national exemplars in providing longitudinal education for third year medical students in rural and urban medically underserved areas. Prior to my current role, I was the Associate Director for the Center on Aging at the University of Minnesota and served as the Executive Director at Stevens Square in Minneapolis, an organization providing long-term care/end of life care for the elderly.

I am so proud to have participated with Minnesota academia and clinical experts in Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias to write a graduate, professional level, curriculum and provide clinical tools for health care providers. This curriculum and tools are now the gold standards and basis for national curriculum and provider tools.

I encourage students to look for transformative educational opportunities which are career focused but also are flexible and allow options for growth and change. When I went to college after high school, I didn’t plan to become a young widow and a single parent, but life happens. The solid underpinning of my passions and first degrees allowed me to expand career opportunities into health care education.

Teaching today, requires completely different skills and changed pedagogy than in years prior. Teachers today can count on more diverse students in every way, less parental involvement and overall support, increased public oversight, and diminished funding. Core subjects can be memorized and understood, but learning emotional intelligence is much harder. I enjoy being “the guide by the side” in teaching and learning with my students and colleagues.

Mike Sullwold '82

I thought about teaching as early as eighth grade. During the summer I worked for the city of Crystal in the park and rec department during the summer. It was a great job; I was paid to play games with the kids all summer. An early career influence for me was Dave Johnson who taught Physical Education at St. Raphael. At Totino-Grace, Mrs. Sweet was so helpful in English, Mr. Nigon taught speech and helped me become more comfortable talking to adults, and Mr. Thompson was the best at helping students with math and was just a great person to talk with in general. My high school coach, Lou Mitteco, offered me my first high school coaching job the year after I graduated; I helped coach ninth grade basketball.

My faith has kept me grounded. I am a product of 14 years of Catholic schools, first at St. Raphael, then Totino-Grace, and I received my bachelor's degree from the University of St. Thomas. I have been teaching in Catholic grade schools for 30 years, first at Our Lady the Great, St. Kevin, Resurrection, and St. Michael; and have been at St. Rose of Lima for 20 years as athletic director and physical education teacher.

In addition to teaching, I have coached football, girls basketball, and softball at TG for many years. Through the Courage Center, I was able to coach both a youth wheelchair basketball team, the Rapid Rollers, as well as a women's wheelchair team, the Rolling Timberwolves. This might have been one of the most rewarding things I have ever done. I was able to see the country as we traveled to play in many tournaments. It was thrilling to be considered for a coaching position of the women's wheel chair basketball team for the Sydney Olympics in 2000.

What is exciting about teaching is just seeing the kids enjoy their time in class with you. It is great when you see the students finally "get it." Students today have so many opportunities in front of them and technology and access to information continually improves. A benefit to today's students is the ability to learn about and research many different academic areas to study and careers to explore.

The advice I would give to someone who wants to go into education is to go for it. I have enjoyed my time as a teacher -- it keeps me young. I love talking to students to see what is new in their lives. As a teacher, remember that at times you also serve as a parental figure for kids.

A defining moment for me is when my former students come back to visit, sharing what they liked about their time in my class. It is so rewarding when I hear that I played a role in their pursuit of teaching. As a teacher, you have the ability to connect with kids and help them pursue the right direction in life. This is what makes teaching or coaching worth it.





Dan Bittman '90

I attended Immaculate Conception School in Columbia Heights from kindergarten through grade eight before attending Totino-Grace. My parents modeled continuous learning and a strong work ethic and sacrificed so much for my sister and I to attend TG. Their continued support, focus on having a quality education, and encouragement inspired me along the way. There have been countless mentors and colleagues who have encouraged, supported, and challenged me, to which I am forever indebted and grateful. My wife, who was an elementary school teacher, and three children, ages 15, 13, and 10, allow me to remain grounded and connected as I experience education through each of them.

My faith journey at TG had a tremendous impact and has influenced how I raise my own children, lead others as a school superintendent, and help to balance the complexities of daily life. I feel as though my faith journey at TG helped to build a strong foundation that keeps me grounded, calms me in times of chaos, and reminds me how unimportant everything else is. Regardless of the situation, when we make decisions that are in the best interest of children, things will work out well.

Having the opportunity to serve as an educator and administrator in school districts as small as 4,400 students and as large as 310,000 has been amazing! I am currently the Superintendent of Schools in ISD 728 (Elk River Area Schools), which is the eighth largest school district in the state.

Various personal and professional travel opportunities through Asia, Europe, and the United States have inspired me to continue to learn, taught me the importance of relationships, and created urgency for me in my professional life. Navigating experiences in a foreign land, learning from others, becoming familiar with various cultures, and embracing diversity make each and every one of us better people and leaders. I want every child to have opportunities to see the world, learn from others, and to recognize that anything is possible.

Being a student and growing up in this day and age is challenging. Society places a tremendous amount of pressure on our children to grow up fast, achieve greatness in everything they do, and to understand and navigate extremely complex issues and situations happening in society. As educators and adults, we have an opportunity to provide support, encourage productive conversations, listen thoughtfully, learn from our youth and each other, and to be present.

I believe my greatest successes have been helping to build capacity in those I serve, seeing so many of my former students, educators, and administrators go on to achieve greatness, be genuinely happy, and have a positive impact on countless students, families, and organizations. When you have an opportunity to help people find their passion, be true to themselves, and make the world a better place, how can one not be proud?

I was humbled to be recognized as Nevada Teacher of the Year; Nevada Soccer Coach of the Year; and as Minnesota Superintendent of the Year throughout my career thus far. Each of these recognitions has been humbling, as I have felt so fortunate to serve with so many amazing educators. Working with and for children is an exciting and humbling experience for teachers. To see students develop an appreciation for learning and finding their passion is priceless.

Erin Lauinger Schmidt '99

I have been teaching science (biology, ecology, microbiology, forensic science) at Totino-Grace for the past 15 years. I have always loved school -- everything about it. For the most part, it all came pretty easy to me, except science. The subject challenged me the most and also peaked my curiosity. It was in Mrs. Wiger's classroom that I decided that I wanted to study biology. I traveled to Wolverhampton, England, for my student teaching and spent three months at a boarding school teaching biology. Away from my friends and family is where I solidified that teaching was indeed my calling. I saw the immediate impact I had on the students I taught there, and in my heart I knew I made the right decision.

With Totino-Grace, I have been fortunate to participate in a number of mission trips with students. I have traveled to Browning, Montana and spent time with students on the Blackfeet Reservation. In Chicago, Illinois we tutored at a few inner-city schools and I worked with Habitat for Humanity in Winona, Minnesota. I was also able to participate in the Lasallian Social Justice Institute for Homelessness in San Francisco.

Traveling the world became an exciting opportunity for me as a teacher. I was fortunate in my first year of teaching to chaperone a student trip to Germany, Austria, and Switzerland. The next summer I was with a student group on a Mediterranean cruise and the following year we spent two weeks in Italy. The next two summers were spent scuba diving in the Cayman Islands; it was there I discovered my love for the ocean.

A career highlight was to participate in unique professional development experiences as a result of two separate national teaching fellowships last year. I was one of 12 teachers to travel to Costa Rica to study leatherback sea turtles with Ecology Project International and one of 10 teachers chosen to study the effects of climate change on owls in Arizona with Earthwatch.

Becoming a teacher has opened a lot of doors for me, both personally and professionally. The role certainly comes with many challenges, but the reward of inspiring young minds and seeing students discover who they are and where they want to go with their life has made it fulfilling year after year. The icing on the top is to hear about their success stories as professionals.

I am thrilled when a student connects with me to share that they are now pursuing a career in science. To hear that my course somehow influenced their decision to enter the science world is one of the best successes I have as a teacher.



Blessed Theresa Gerhardinger
Transforming the World through Education

"Love is the sign through which the world should be convinced that we believe in Jesus."



Saint John Baptist de La Salle
Teaching Minds and Touching Hearts

"To touch the hearts of your students with the Christian spirit is the greatest miracle you can perform."

Visit www.totinograce.org to learn more about our mission, ministry, and Catholic Lasallian education.



TG Giv

THURSDAY, MAY 10, 2018



Totino-Grace
High School

Save the date, **Thursday, May 10**, for Totino-Grace High School's Annual Day of Giving! Join together with TG families, alumni, students, and friends, with a gift to the TG Fund. The TG Fund provides necessary resources to sustain the life of the school through enriched academic programs, financial aid, robust co-curricular opportunities, faculty development, and enhancements to technology and the overall physical plant.

Your support on this year's TG Giving Day will ensure that our students will be prepared to lead productive and successful futures. Your commitment, along with the investment of your fellow TG community members, will provide transformative experiences for current and future Eagles.

Please consider a gift on TG Giving Day, Thursday, May 10, 2018.



ing Day

Ways to GIVE



Online at
totinograce.org/giving



Text **TGEAGLES** to
243725 to pledge



Mail your gift using the remit envelope
provided in this issue of the Continuum.




Transfer of stock, bequests,
and other planned gifts.




Employer matching gifts are
a great way to stretch your
generosity even further.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



Text
TGEAGLES 
to **243725**

to pledge your support to
TOTINO-GRACE HIGH SCHOOL
 **BidPal**

STEP 1 TEXT TGEAGLES TO 243725

1

Receive a response text
Click on the link in the text
message to donate

STEP 2 MAKE A DONATION

2

Click on a donation amount
or enter your own
Make a tax-deductible gift!

STEP 3 COMPLETE YOUR PAYMENT

3

Fill out payment information
Click Give Now
Email yourself a receipt



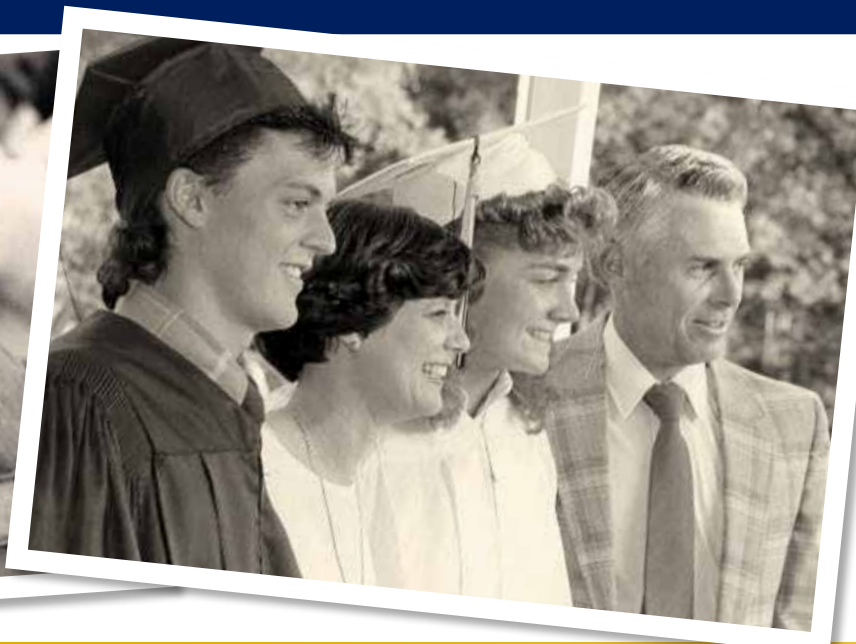
Totino-Grace
High School

Teacher Appreciation Week



CELEBRATE YOUR FAVORITE ARCHBISHOP GRACE AND TOTINO-GRACE TEACHERS

In partnership with our Giving Day on Thursday, May 10, we want to celebrate our teachers, staff members, coaches, and mentors, both current and past. In advance of this year's Teacher Appreciation Week, **Sunday, May 6 - Saturday, May 12**, we invite all members of our community to send a note of thanks and recognition to Archbishop Grace or Totino-Grace High School educators. Share how they supported you or made a difference in your life or your student's life. Notes will be shared during the 2018 Teacher Appreciation Week. Email tgalumni@totinograce.org or complete the online Teacher Appreciation Form at www.totinograce.org/teacherweek.



It takes a big heart to help shape growth



TG is truly a great school with incredible offerings like an excellent curriculum, a loving community, and the most delicious cookies you will ever eat. Teachers really do care for you and will do anything for you to be successful.

- Aretha Amoabeng-Wellman '18

In my first day of biology we talked about how to set up an experiment. The professor mentioned double-blind, randomly selected statistics, how to make it random, etc. and a lot of people in my class were confused but because I had an awesome stats teacher, I already knew everything! Thank you, Mrs. Fagan, for making me feel SO prepared for college.

- Shae Peters '17

Through my years at TG, the teacher who most impacted my life is Mrs. Schwalen. Mrs. Schwalen is one of the Learning Lab teachers here at Totino Grace. In learning lab, the teacher is there to help you with subjects you find difficult. I have had Mrs. Schwalen for the past three years and through those years she's witnessed my strengths and weaknesses. Honestly, without her, I don't know how I would have been able to succeed academically. She is truly incredible and I am very thankful for her!

- Aretha Amoabeng-Wellman '18

Mr. Voss, we want to pass on our gratitude to you for squeezing every ounce of talent possible out of our kids. They respect you and you inspire them to aim higher. Thanks so much for all you do.

- Mark and Coralie Kroll, Parents of Ben '17, Charlie '17, Andrew '20, and Sam '21

One of the greatest teachers I ever had was Mr. Tom Jeffries. The knowledge, energy, and love for his subject made his class a place where students wanted to go every single day. I will forever remember his passion for teaching and the interest he took in students' lives.

- Brian Litecky '96

iving minds.



Foundation Builders

Peggy and Mike Anderson

Contributed by Peggy Anderson

I taught almost every course and level in the English Department at Totino-Grace. From the late nineties until my retirement, I taught AP and writing classes for juniors and seniors. Outside of the classroom, I was the newspaper advisor for more than a dozen years and often served as a class advisor. In addition, I served as department chair and faculty representative to the Board of Directors. With the help of Nisie Pitzl (former staff member and parent of five graduates), we began the girls golf program in 1999. In our third year of the program, we won the region championship and earned a berth to the State Girls Golf Tournament.

My husband, Mike, and I enjoyed our time as current parents to two of our three sons who attended Totino-Grace, Brian '93 and Conor '98. We also contributed to the Winter Place Gala and attended the event and many other fundraisers at the school. In addition, we enjoyed more plays, concerts, and athletic events than I can count.

Almost all of my favorite memories of my time at Totino-Grace involve my students and through social media I am able to continue to stay in touch, following their lives, growing families, and devotion to their careers. I've connected with TG alumni in the North Loop neighborhood where we live, across the country, and even in London when we visited with our grandchildren a couple of summers ago.

One exciting opportunity Mike and I have had is to offer our skills to a really worthwhile program, HOPE-Dollars for Scholars, that began with a handful of Totino-Grace alumni. The charitable organization provides scholarships for graduates of Washburn and Patrick Henry High Schools. The group now sponsors seven scholars with renewable scholarships for a university education. These graduates created an important way to give back, a value they live by even as they raise families and advance in their careers. We now find ourselves supporting this worthwhile program with Mike as treasurer and my time shared helping students with applications and a fundraising event. All of this is a great example of former Eagles living out the values we worked to instill during their time at TG. I am so proud of the many students I encounter who strive daily to do the right thing, raise wonderful human beings, and work to create a good and worthwhile life.

We feel confident that TG is committed to its foundation and mission, preparing young students to live fuller lives beyond themselves, carrying on a concern for others while pursuing success in their families and careers. Although my teaching days are over, our financial support will continue for as long as Totino-Grace fosters its founding mission of encouraging care and concern for others.



You can learn about giving and volunteering at
www.totinograce.org/Advancement



Advancement Updates



CALLED TO LEAD

The Capital Campaign for Totino-Grace High School

Totino-Grace has secured pledges and commitments of over \$3.5 million for our *Called to Lead* capital campaign, which focuses on improving facilities and endowment to secure a strong future for our school.

Work started this winter with crews installing the new HVAC system, LED lighting, ceiling tiles, and more.

We are grateful for the pay it forward generosity of so many donors and are excited to share that 50% of contributors are new to campaign giving at Totino-Grace.

We invite you to learn more about *Called to Lead* and opportunities to support the campaign by contacting the Advancement Office at 763-586-6326.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES - BECOME AN EAGLE AMBASSADOR

Volunteering is a great way to get involved, meet other community members, and support the Totino-Grace mission. We truly appreciate the time and talents shared by our volunteers and with your involvement we can continue to strengthen our outstanding community. If you're interested in becoming a volunteer, visit www.totinograce.org/volunteer.

Available opportunities:

- Winter Place Gala
- Hospitality at school events
- Engineering Institute Mentor
- Parent Ambassador
- Office Volunteer
- Adoration

SAVE THE DATE FOR THESE UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

TG Giving Day	Thursday, May 10, 2018
Eagle Shoot Golf Tournament	Monday, June 4, 2018
Homecoming Week	September 23 – 29, 2018
Winter Place Gala	Saturday, November 17, 2018

SHARE YOUR NEWS

Do you have exciting updates to share with the TG Community? Maybe you recently got married, welcomed a child, received an award or accomplished a career goal. Whatever it is, we want to know! Please share your updates with us at: www.totinograce.org/contact-news-update-form or email them to tgalumni@totinograce.org.

STAY CONNECTED



Are you receiving emails, e-newsletters, event invitations, and the school magazine from Totino-Grace? Update your contact information online at www.totinograce.org/contact-news-update or contact the school at 763-586-6326 or tgalumni@totinograce.org.

Follow Totino-Grace's social media accounts to stay up to date on alumni news, stories, and events.



/totinogracealumni



/tgalumni



Totino-Grace High School Alumni



Totino-Grace High School Alumni

Alumni Community Events

ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

On October 1, the following teams, coaches, and individuals were honored with inductions to the Totino-Grace Athletic Hall of Fame:

1977 and 1978 Football Teams

1982 Dance Team

Greg Balego - Softball and Volleyball Coach

Ned Thompson - Baseball, Basketball, and Volleyball Coach

Ted Strugar '78 - Basketball

Rob Bohlinger '93 - Basketball, Football, Track & Field

Jill McDonell Ondrey '95 - Basketball, Softball, Volleyball

Julie Eibensteiner '97 - Golf, Hockey, Soccer, Softball

Dave Anderson - Exceptional Eagle Athletic Contributor

If you would like to nominate a member of the Totino-Grace community to be considered for the Athletic Hall of Fame, send your submission to tgalumni@totinograce.org.



1977 and 1978 Football Teams



1982 Dance Team



Greg Balego



Ned Thompson



Ted Strugar



Rob Bohlinger



Jill McDonell Ondrey



Julie Eibensteiner



Dave Anderson



HOMEcoming

Our fall 2017 Homecoming week celebration was a great success and included a number of community traditions: Mass, a student pep-fest, and Friday night tailgate party and football game.



Class of '02 Alumni



The Elements



OKTOBERFEST

On October 7, over 300 guests joined us under the big tent to celebrate Oktoberfest with great beer, great food, and great music provided by The Elements, featuring Tim Eshelman '77, Mike Iannazzo '77, and Scott Iannazzo '70.

WINTER PLACE GALA

On November 18, Totino-Grace hosted the 32nd Winter Place Gala. Over 500 guests came together to help us raise over \$300,000 for our outstanding school and students. The Gala was co-chaired by current parents, **Tara Brandt Melsha '89** and Lisa Arnold. Class of 2017 graduates, **Charlie and Ben Kroll**, greeted attendees and kicked off the need auction for financial aid, sharing sentiments held by many current and past Eagles. *"We are just two of thousands of Totino-Grace graduates who have benefited from the support of the at-large TG community. Our parents made such significant sacrifices to provide a Catholic education for their four boys and financial aid made it possible for our family. We would not be here without people like you. You are not just helping fund an education for high school students; you are helping shape our lives and investing in our futures."*



Gala Co-Chairs and Crew



Ben (left) and Charlie Kroll



Alumni at the 2018 Winter Place Gala



Children of Molly Wilson Schmidt '97



Chris '01 and Emily Schleisman Cattoor '02 family



BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

On December 2, future Eagles and their families joined us for our annual Breakfast with Santa. Breakfast items, games in the gym, and photos with Santa and Mrs. Claus made for a fun Saturday morning at Totino-Grace for a record-breaking 500 visitors!

ALUMNI WRESTLING NIGHT

On December 20, our wrestling team hosted an alumni night to honor past TG wrestlers. Alumni were introduced between the junior varsity and varsity matches and TG Wrestling Hall of Fame inductees, **Jim Gale '88, Erin Daugherty '91, and Brandon Howe '93** were honored.



ALUMNI BOYS BASKETBALL GAME

On January 5, our boys basketball team hosted an alumni night at their game against Spring Lake Park. At halftime, past players were honored and also participated in a game of HORSE. On January 6, four decades of former Eagle players and members of the current team gathered to play in a basketball tournament in the Totino-Grace gym.



ALUMNI GIRLS BASKETBALL GAME

On January 19, our girls basketball program celebrated the 10th anniversary of Totino-Grace's State High School Girls Basketball State Tournament Championship. Members and coaches of the 2008 team were honored at halftime of the evening's game.



ADVENT MASS

On December 22, alumni from all decades joined students and staff to celebrate our annual Advent Mass.



ALUMNI HOLIDAY HAPPY HOUR

Totino-Grace hosted the third annual Alumni Holiday Happy Hour at Moe's in Mounds View on December 28.



GIVE TO THE MAX DAY

On November 16, our community participated in the annual Give to the Max Day. Thanks to the contributions of many Totino-Grace families, friends, and alumni, we raised over \$15,000 in one day!

CLASS OF 1972 REUNION

Members of the class of 1972 gathered on September 9 at Moe's in Mounds View to celebrate their 45th reunion.



CLASS OF 1992 REUNION

Members of the class of 1992 reunited in September at Brit's Pub to celebrate their 25th reunion.



CLASS OF 1997 REUNION

The class of 1997 gathered on Saturday, November 18, to celebrate their 20th reunion.



2018 CLASS REUNIONS

In 2018, all classes ending in 8 or 3 are due for a reunion. Details can be found at www.totinograce.org/reunions. If you are interested in coordinating your class reunion, or have any questions, please contact Jenna Coauette, Associate Director for Advancement Events, at jenna.coauette@totinograce.org or 763-586-6328.

Class Notes

1972 **Deborah Henton**, Superintendent of North Branch Area Public Schools, was selected as the 2018 Minnesota Superintendent of the Year.

1975 **Dori Deatherage Peterson** recently started a new position as an editor and consultant for Bedford, Freeman and Worth Publishing.

1979 **Mary Hofhenke Norman** retired from the Federal Government on March 31, 2017.

1983 **Matt Clysdale** and **Jon Delwiche '08** stopped at the Willis Tower in Chicago on their way to watch a Notre Dame Football game this past fall.

1991 **Kristin Hugeback Nimsger** was recently featured in Forbes Magazine for her achievements as the CEO for Social Solutions.

1993 **Kristen Malik Gagnon** celebrated her 25th year of coaching the Totino-Grace E'gals this season.

Jimmy Fallon paid a surprise visit to **Joel Salzer's** home during Super Bowl week and dined with his family.

1994 **Mark Emerson Smith** performed in The Phantom of the Opera at the Orpheum Theater in Minneapolis from December 13-31.

1995 **Mike Caputa, Tom Young, Charlie Persby, Tony D'Agostino '94, Jason Cognetta, Jake Searles, Tony Thole, Ryen Ratfield, and Tony Vetsch** gathered in Pebble Beach to celebrate turning 40 years old.

Angee Forte' was awarded the 2018 Class AA Assistant Coach of the Year by the Minnesota Association of Dance Teams for her dedication and contribution to the Totino-Grace E'gals.



*Matt Clysdale '83
and Jon Delwiche '08*



*Joel Salzer's family '93
with Jimmy Fallon*



Left to right: Mike Caputa, Tom Young, Charlie Persby, Tony D'Agostino '94, Jason Cognetta, Jake Searles, Tony Thole, Ryan Ratfield, and Tony Vetsch '95



Julie DeFer Parent '98



Annemarie Hansen wedding '01



Tony Berendes' daughter '02



Nicole Dixon wedding '02

1998 Andy Hall recently traveled to Metallica's headquarters in San Rafael, California to interview the band's drummer, Lars Ulrich, as part of a nationally syndicated radio special celebrating the "Master of Puppets" reissue box set. Hundreds of stations across the U.S. had the opportunity to air the special interview. Andy works at Des Moines Lazer 103.3 in Iowa.

Julie DeFer Parent was awarded Eagle Creek Elementary School Teacher of the Year during the 2016-2017 school year. She is a K-5 EBD/Special Education teacher at the school located in Shakopee.

2000 Natalie King and her husband, Nate, welcomed their second son, Augustus, last summer. Natalie also celebrated her 10th anniversary as Executive Director of Catholic Youth Camp in McGregor, Minnesota.

2001 Annemarie Hansen married Rodrigo Vega on October 27, 2017 at St. Odilia Catholic Church. **Megan Witt Pete '01** was a bridesmaid. TG Alums in attendance included Annemarie's father, **Scott Hansen '72**, and brothers **Nick Hansen '99** and **Andrew Hansen '06**.

2002 Tony Berendes and his wife, Megan, welcomed their daughter, Madison Olivia on January 8, 2018.

Lauren Barnes Theobald and her husband, Joe, welcomed their second child, son Fitz, in November 2016.

Nicole Dixon married Scott Rewerts on June 10, 2017 at the Villa Bellezza Winery & Vineyards in Pepin, Wisconsin.

2003 **Andrew Dahlberg** and his wife, Lindsay, welcomed daughter Natalie Rose on December 29, 2015.

Michael Mendenhall and his wife, Sherlyn, were married in the spring of 2017. Members of the wedding party included 2003 grads **Katie Bockhaus-Seaton, Cassie Baltes, Lisa Boris, and Mike Mailliard**. Michael and Sherlyn welcomed a daughter, Penelope Belle, on January 28, 2018.

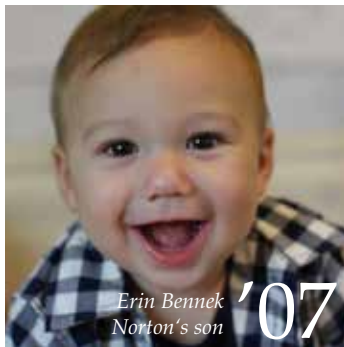
2004 **Colleen Duffert Garcia** and her husband, Aaron, welcomed their second child, Evelyn Marie, on October 31, 2017.

2007 **Quentin Moore** married Bryn Schiele in Bar Harbor, Maine. Members of the wedding party included **Michael Anderson '07, Tucker Moore '11, and Brian Kasel '07**. Quentin recently started a new position as a teacher at St. Theresa's Catholic School in Austin, TX.

Erin Bennek Norton and her husband, Matt, recently welcomed their third child, Grant Matthew Norton, on April 14, 2017.



Michael Mendenhall's daughter '03



Erin Bennek Norton's son '07

2008 **Traci Pastoors Bennington** led a group of TG students on a mission trip to Kansas City, Missouri, to work and live at Jerusalem Farm in November of 2017. Traci and the students spent each day working on service projects in the community and learned about sustainable living. Traci is a campus minister at Totino-Grace and also the head track and field coach.

Caroline Haik married Ben Rossow on September 30, 2017 in Edina. Members of the wedding party included **Jessica Meyer Schroeder '08, Veronica Scott Paulson '08, and Dominic Haik '06**.

Justin and Jessica Pellegrine '09 Rajtar, were married on July 8, 2017 at Rush Creek Golf Course. Members of the wedding party included **Colleen Kelly Sadder '09, Allie McDonald Gervais '09, Sophie Nesser '09, Mike McCarty '08, Danny Schmidt '08, Adam Zeilinger '08, Tony Sadder '06, Charlie Sadder '02, David Sadder '02, Jessica Rajtar Wagner '05**

2009 **Shannon Warchol** was named Young Professional of the Year by the North Carolina Section of the Institute of Transportation Engineers on November 16, 2017.

2010 **Giuseppe Palermo** is engaged to be married on July 7, 2018 at the University of St. Thomas Chapel. Members of the wedding party will include **Charlie Blanski '10 and Adam Gleason '10**.



Traci Pastoors Bennington (far right) '08



Caroline Haik wedding '08

2011 Daniel Felton recently debuted his first single titled “I Worship You.” It is now available on iTunes, Spotify, Amazon Music, and Google Play music.

Chris Sievert and **Brad Lind** are the new owners of the Spring Lake Park Dairy Queen on Highway 65. Chris and Brad have been friends since kindergarten and opened their store in March of 2018. Chris and Brad have hired several current Totino-Grace students and would love to have the TG community stop by with their families and enjoy some ice cream.

2012 Spencer Jackson is a Structures Engineer at SpaceX and was responsible for the Thrust Structure of the Falcon Heavy rocket that launched on February 6, 2018. It was the largest operational rocket in the world and sent a Tesla Roadster into the outer solar system!

2013 Charlie Miller was a member of the NFL’s Jacksonville Jaguars taxi squad this past season. Taxi squad members work out with the teams by assuming the roles of opposing team’s personnel at practices.

2014 Brandon Hilliard was named to the United Soccer Coaches NCAA Division III Men’s Scholar All-North/Central Region Team. Brandon, a senior at Carlton College in Kansas City, Missouri, was also named All-Conference and All-Region this past season.

Matt Olson was recently honored as a guest of the NHL during the annual NHL All-Star Weekend in Tampa Bay, Florida. In November of 2017, Matt was awarded the Spirit of Life Award from the U.S. Hockey Hall of Fame Museum.

2015 Daniela Fernandes was back on the TG Campus in December of 2017. Daniela is a senior at Catholic University of Portugal and was in the U.S. touring the University of Minnesota to consider graduate school.

Hope Schiller and the Concordia-St. Paul Golden Bears volleyball team claimed the NCAA DII National Volleyball Championship for the second year in a row. Hope earned a spot on the All-Tournament Team.

2016 Tyler Casey was selected to be an extra in a 20/20 Dateline episode on ABC.

Amanda Olson, Lauren Lafeber, and Julia Johnston ‘17 competed with the College of St. Benedict Dance Team at the UDA College National Competition in January. St. Ben’s placed third in Pom and sixth in Jazz in the open division.

Julia Sullwold has committed to play Division II softball at Northern University in Aberdeen, South Dakota.



Chris Sievert and Brad Lind '11



Daniela Fernandes '15



Left to right: Julia Johnston '17, Amanda Olson '16 and Lauren Lafeber '16 '16

2017 Cameron Fagerlee is playing hockey in Mason City, Iowa with the North Iowa Bulls.

Sam Hentges has verbally committed to play hockey for the St. Cloud State men’s hockey team. He is currently playing junior hockey for the Des Moines Buccaneers of the United States Hockey League.

TG Sustainers Club



Annual giving is a big deal, but making a recurring gift shouldn't have to be; that's why we've created the TG Sustainers Club. This critical program supports the TG Fund, which is the best way possible for parents, alumni, grandparents, parents of alumni, and friends to help make a difference in the future of Totino-Grace. Every gift made to Totino-Grace impacts the lives of current and future Eagles.

Becoming a TG Sustainer and making a recurring gift is easier than ever. TG Sustainers make their support throughout the year on a monthly (or quarterly) basis via an automated deduction of \$10 or more through a credit card or electronic fund transfer. When you become a TG Sustainer, you join an exclusive group of stewards who provide a stronger foundation for our school to continue to change the lives of the students we serve. **Your investment in Totino-Grace today is an investment in our future.**

Annual Gift Total	\$150	\$250	\$500	\$750	\$1,000	\$1,500	\$2,500
Monthly	\$12.50	\$20.84	\$41.67	\$62.50	\$83.34	\$125	\$208.45
Quarterly	\$37.50	\$62.50	\$125	\$187.50	\$250	\$375	\$625



Learn more at:
www.totinograce.org/monthlygiving

AN INVESTMENT IN THEIR FUTURE



100%
of students graduate

95% 

matriculate to college the year following graduation

94% attend four-year colleges and universities

67% attend public colleges and universities

33% attend private colleges and universities

57% attend out-of-state colleges and universities

Support **TG**

Your Support Helps Us Change Lives

At Totino-Grace, we believe that every student who walks through our doors will walk out four years later as a confident leader, well-equipped for college and career.

The investment parents make in a Totino-Grace education pays dividends for life. It equips today's students with the necessary skills to succeed in future endeavors. TG students thrive in a highly personalized environment with small class sizes, a dedicated staff, and programs and facilities that will challenge, encourage, and enrich their lives in a way that sets Totino-Grace apart.

A Totino-Grace education provides students with incomparable advantages and opportunities. We strive to keep the cost of providing an unparalleled Totino-Grace education as manageable as possible. Through the generosity of alumni and benefactors, we are able to offer need-based financial aid to make a Totino-Grace education a possibility for all our students. Because of your financial commitment to the Totino-Grace mission, we can continue to change lives.

Thank you for your generous investment in Totino-Grace High School!



187 Class of 2017
graduating students were offered

\$12,421,016
in scholarship dollars



Learn more at:
www.totinograce.org/Advancement



Totino-Grace
High School

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Fridley, MN 55432

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Web: totinograce.org

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2018 EAGLE SHOOT GOLF TOURNAMENT
MONDAY, JUNE 4, 2018 | MIDLAND HILLS COUNTRY CLUB
Luncheon begins at 11:30 a.m. | Shotgun Start at 1:00 p.m.

Learn more and register at
www.totinograce.org/Eagle_Shoot