



# CONTINUUM

TOTINO-GRACE HIGH SCHOOL



## THE TOTINO-GRACE DIFFERENCE:

*How a commitment to the individual cultivates a culture of success*

# SPRING 2022

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**Totino-Grace**  
High School

## 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.

## ADMINISTRATION

**Dr. Craig W. Junker**  
President

**Cheri Broadhead**  
Principal

**Dan Vandermyde**  
Assistant Principal

**Andrew Blake '99**  
Dean of Students and Director of Campus Ministry

**Matt Ksepka**  
CFO

## ADVANCEMENT STAFF

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Associate Director of Advancement – Special Projects

**Alaina Graupman**  
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**Shannon Hartinger**  
Annual Giving Manager

**Richard Olson**  
Vice President for Advancement



## From the President's Desk

It feels strange to *still* be saying things like “an unprecedented year” or “unusual circumstances” or “the new normal,” but here we are. Despite the implications of the pandemic, we have also seen the dedication of our incredible teachers and the excitement of our student body to learn and grow.

Our students love coming to school because they enjoy how it feels to be here. They want to be with their friends; they expect to be inspired and engaged in the classroom; they value in-person experiences, something that was taken for granted in the past; and they like how they're treated by their teachers, coaches, and other staff members.

The hallmark of effective schools is a formidable teaching body, where teachers open students' eyes to new intellectual worlds and broaden their sense of self and what is possible at the same time. By some feat of magic these gifted professionals are “connectors,” the ones who light fires in minds and imaginations and help our students feel optimistic about themselves – who they are and where they are going.

Totino-Grace teachers innately understand that our students don't care how much you know until they know how much you care. The results of last May's School Climate Survey echo these words.

- My teachers expect me to do my best all the time: **98%**
- My teachers are interested in my academic success and have provided me with support and resources to succeed: **92%**

These scores reflect our alignment with St. John Baptist de La Salle's ideals, who wanted his teachers to “know their students individually,” “show cheerfulness in their faces,” and “inspire and lead others by encouraging them.”

In the pages ahead, you will learn how Totino-Grace delivers on the promise to prepare our students for what comes next. We have forged ahead by offering more than 20 ways for our students to earn college credit. More than ever before, we are setting our students up for success after graduation.

While every TG student enters our doors with a broad base of knowledge and experience, our pledge is to help each one develop into the best version of themselves possible – no matter what. I am confident that Totino-Grace will remain focused on doing what we do best: opening the minds and hearts of students and preparing them to live lives of learning, faith, community, and service. That was the focus when we began in 1966, and that is still the focus of our school today. That's Totino-Grace.

Live Jesus in our hearts. Forever.

  
Dr. Craig W. Junker  
President



## How a commitment to the individual cultivates a culture of success.

Totino-Grace High School provides a comprehensive academic program to a diverse group of learners. Our students arrive at TG from 110 different schools, close to 60 cities, and even some from international destinations. A comprehensive educational experience for all TG students has been a part of the school's mission since 1966 - and continues to remain a priority today.

When asked what makes Totino-Grace graduates successful, Julie Jackson, TG's director of college counseling, shares, "the thing that we lean on and continue to lean into is personal relationships. Really getting to know students as individuals. TG teachers know the kids sitting in front of them. They are dedicated to their students - both personally and academically."

"The value we place on getting involved outside of the classroom and getting to know kids on a deeper level places an intentional focus on the whole student," Assistant Principal Dan Vandermyde explains. While it has become more challenging to prepare for an ever-changing world, additions and enhancements to TG's curriculum,

equipment, personal development offerings, and hands-on experiences, combined with a continued commitment to see students as individuals, are setting TG graduates up for success - in more ways than one.

### **COMPREHENSIVE COLLEGE-PREP CURRICULUM**

For college-bound learners, Totino-Grace High School offers a rich and challenging college-preparatory curriculum in the Lasallian tradition, featuring a broad range of distinctive programs and activities that provide transformational experiences for each unique student. "It is our job to make sure that all of our students are fully prepared for the college experience if they choose that route - and life after high school," says Principal Cheri Broadhead. Totino-Grace offers over 150 courses, of which 20 are college credit-eligible; including numerous Advanced Placement courses, a Program for Advanced College Credit (PACC) writing course through St. Mary's University, and three University of Minnesota eligible classes through the College in the Schools (CIS) program. Last year alone, more than 260 students took advantage of

these offerings and were able to earn college credit while still at TG. Additionally, Totino-Grace has earned and participates in the Seal of Biliteracy, which allows high school students who demonstrate specific proficiency in languages other than English to earn college credit - giving them a competitive edge in our increasingly global society.

An average of 91% of the Totino-Grace population is bound for a four-year university. Offering a wide array of college credit courses gives more students access to this kind of higher learning before deciding next steps. It allows students to focus more on the experience of taking these courses and less on the outcome. Jackson explains, "It's a way for students to test the college waters in a safe, supportive environment with teachers they trust and have gotten to know." TG's commitment to such programs goes way beyond helping students earn college credit in high school - it also means earning scholarships for college, exploring specific fields of study in depth, making room for diverse experiences, improving chances for college admission, and saving money.

*"The kind of commitment we see from our teachers and staff to identify where a student may need support and where their strengths lie goes above and beyond."*

*President Craig Junker*

### **OFFERING OPPORTUNITIES FOR HOLISTIC LEARNING**

While maintaining a rigorous academic program is paramount to attracting and maintaining a steady stream of students; offering experiences to help students find their passions and develop as individuals is just as important, and ensures that the caliber of kids that come through TG is second to none. Principal Broadhead explains it like this, "The goal is to focus on the student as a whole. We want our students to be successful in any environment they choose. Although we are a college-preparatory school, we recognize that some individuals may struggle with the traditional college route, or perhaps they want to go technical, trade school or right into the workforce."

Totino-Grace is committed to a holistic approach to student development. Offering a plethora of athletic and academic co-curricular activities and clubs is just the beginning. Just



over 95% of the student body participates in at least one activity and more than 80% participate in two or more. The number of clubs and activities combined with the number of participants gives a clear picture of how Totino-Grace is giving students opportunities to pursue their passions and develop new skills, while still in their safe and supportive high school community. "As a whole, we offer everything a big school provides, we just do it in a more digestible way. We are always striving for excellence and are able to match schools three, four, even five times our size with the programs and classes we have - the difference is we are actually getting to know these kids," says Vandermyde.

Some of the more unique and popular options available to TG students are the local, national, and international service projects offered each year. Hundreds of students participate in this program designed to encompass the core values of the Lasallian mission while providing students with unique opportunities to learn about different cultures and poverty issues locally and internationally.

"We invest in others as we invest in ourselves," says Dr. Craig W. Junker, president of Totino-Grace. He continues, "As a Catholic school, developing young men and women of distinction is what we pride ourselves on most. It's wonderful to earn good grades, it's fabulous to be athletic or a musician, it's exciting to try new things - but none of those talents individually guarantees success. It is only when we focus on student development holistically that we see fulfillment of our student's true, God-given potential."

Another aspect aimed at facilitating student development is a new program called LEAD (Lasallian Evangelization Action and Discipleship), which involves semester-long, small group programming to help TG students develop a

prayer life. Students in this program convene weekly for prayer, reflection, and dialogue around being disciples. The ultimate goal is to help students more actively talk about their faith, bring others into that conversation, and see their faith working in the world.

### A COMMITMENT TO HELPING STUDENTS FIND INDIVIDUAL SUCCESS

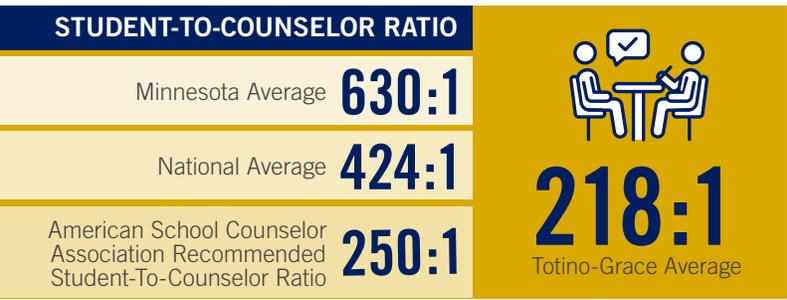
While the majority of TG students attend a four-year college, it has become increasingly clear that there is a need to support students who enroll in other post-secondary education programs. Throughout a student's time at TG, the counseling department facilitates multiple opportunities for staff to get to know a student's strengths, interests, and competencies. The first in-depth assessment begins in their sophomore year, when all 10th grade students are given the opportunity to take career inventories through Scoir's college and career readiness research tools. This also encompasses a thorough personality inventory, followed by an individual meeting with a counselor to go over the results.



opportunities for students while they are in high school, some of the pressure of 'what comes next' can be alleviated. While at TG, students have the opportunity to attend Construct Tomorrow events aimed at high school students learning about post-secondary career opportunities in the trades, and participating in non-traditional learning styles, like those offered by the TG Learning Lab. The Learning Lab, which is designed to offer academic support for students who experience difficulty in learning, allows students to develop organizational, test-taking, and study skills to help them be successful in high school and beyond.

Another example of non-traditional learning experiences came to TG in the form of a \$75,000 grant from the Schulze Family Foundation, which allowed our Career and Technical Education department to purchase a CNC (Computer Numerical Control) machine. This new machine will support the Woods and Metals course and E3 Engineering program – making Totino-Grace one of the only Catholic high schools in the country with this type of technology to give kids a hands-on experience before entering the real world.

The socioeconomic, ethnic, and intellectual diversity of TG students and families are real assets as these young adults prepare for life outside the walls of high school. Continuing to adapt the curriculum and personal development offerings allows for those differences to be supported, celebrated, and remain an asset to the TG community. Meeting students where they are and giving them individualized opportunities to strengthen their passions and prepare for what's next - no matter what that may be - gives weight to a culture of success and growth. A culture you can feel when you walk through the halls - the energy of Eagles soaring to new heights!



From there, counselors work hard to prepare all students and families for what comes next - including an individual meeting with the student's parents during their junior year to talk about the college application timeline and/or alternative options. Finally, in an effort to set all TG students up for success, the Counseling Office also offers the opportunity for students to connect with the Advancement Office to identify internship opportunities and/or alumni mentorship possibilities when appropriate. If college is in the cards, there are many ways TG helps students get there, including college credit-eligible courses, college visits and fairs, and a college application boot camp attended by more than 1/3 of the incoming senior class. As evidence of how supportive and in-tune with TG students the faculty is, teachers wrote nearly 170 letters of recommendation in the fall for the graduating class of '22. There is equal support for those who opt not to continue on to a four-year university. By providing hands-on

# Meet Alyssa Meyer

## TG Class of 2022

Alyssa Meyer '22 is paving a path for success, not just for herself, but for others. Alyssa calls for change as the co-president of the student council, volunteering in her community, and taking courses about human rights. In the fall, she will attend the University of Pennsylvania, where she plans to focus on International Studies, Economics, and Marketing. Alyssa doesn't slow down, but we got her to take some time to reflect on her time at Totino-Grace and thank her role models who taught her the way - both in and out of the classroom.

### Tell us about yourself.

My name is Alyssa Meyer, I was born and raised in Blaine, Minnesota and attended Westwood Middle School (Spring Lake Park). I currently work at the Tavern Grill in Blaine, where I have worked since the COVID-19 pandemic began.

### What are you most proud of during your time at Totino-Grace?

I am most proud of the work I did in Student Council. I am proud that I have been able to represent students and help others be heard. We have been able to pull off unique events and even plan fun community-building activities when we were in online school. However, I could not have done anything I did in Student Council without the help of our moderator, Mr. Andrew Million or my Co-Student Body President, Hannah Glamm. The support I've received from both of them has been incalculable. I am truly grateful for everything they have done for me these last four years.

### Who or what was most helpful or influential to you in your Totino-Grace career?

Dr. Flom has taught me so much during my Totino-Grace career. She's opened my eyes to issues that I had not previously even heard of. My dream is to one day do something to begin to halt all of the issues that flood Latin American countries. I would not have this dream without her.

As a Junior, I took AP Spanish Literature (the highest level Spanish class that TG offers), meaning that I would not have a Spanish class Senior year which wasn't ideal considering I wanted to continue with my Spanish career in college. Dr. Flom, along with Principal Broadhead, offered me the opportunity to continue

my Spanish education with an Independent Study course. I was allowed to study the topics that interested me while also creating a Spanish elective for Totino-Grace, which has not been offered before. I have loved creating the content for future TG students to study in the upcoming years, and I couldn't have done it without Dr. Flom.

### What activities did/do you participate in at Totino-Grace?

In addition to my work on Student Council, I was also the junior editor of the yearbook as a sophomore and the official editor my junior and senior years. I was the captain of speech as a junior, this would have been my fourth year on the team and my second year as a captain, but unfortunately Totino-Grace didn't offer a speech team this year. I have played lacrosse, hockey, and soccer at varying times for Totino-Grace. I have been a Kathleen Murphy Scholar since sophomore year and a member of the NHS since my junior year. I have also done DECA and this year my partner is my brother and we are on our way to state.

### How do you intend to use the lessons you learned from your teachers throughout college and life?

Both Dr. Flom and Ms. Hoss have been really meaningful teachers to me. They taught me to always be generous, forgiving, and understanding with the ways they teach and act.

### What are your college plans? What activities, clubs, and/or classes do you intend to participate in?

I will be attending the University of Pennsylvania in the Huntsman Program in International Studies. The Huntsman Program is a dual-degree program where I will be obtaining a degree in Marketing from the Wharton School of Business and a degree in International Studies from the College of Arts and Sciences. I hope to participate in the Penn Environmental Group (working to support the University's journey towards being carbon-neutral), Natives at Penn, and Penn International Impact Consulting (a group committed to empowering NGOs and social entrepreneurs in developing regions).





# Meet Mrs. Schmidt

Erin Schmidt came to Totino-Grace as a student in 1995, one of four children to come through TG, and graduated in 1999. After completing her undergraduate degree at the University of Minnesota - Morris, Mrs. Schmidt returned to TG in 2003 as a faculty member in the science department. Over the past 18 years, Mrs. Schmidt has adapted her teaching methods and lessons based on the needs of her students, best practices in science education, and use of cutting-edge technology. One of Mrs. Schmidt's defining attributes and what sets her apart is how she uses her life experiences to not only teach in creative ways, but to encourage her students to be the next generation of scientists.

to promote change and education here at TG. This is what I love about teaching - seeing my students take action and protect the world around them.

Being a teacher has also provided me with opportunities to take part in field-based research and bring these experiences back to the classroom. In 2017, I was awarded two fellowships. First, I traveled to Costa Rica to study the leatherback sea turtle population and the second was to the Chiricahua mountains of Arizona looking at the impact climate change has on the forest owls. Every opportunity has had a significant impact on not only what I teach, but how I teach. This has translated into valuable units,



## Education Background

Totino-Grace High School

University of Minnesota - Morris

Hamline University (Masters in Environmental Education)

National Geographic Certified Educator

## Why do you teach?

I teach to inspire my students to become curious about the world around them, to connect the human and natural world, and ultimately to empower them to act and be good stewards of this beautiful planet.

## What do you love about teaching?

Teaching allows me to share my passion for science - specifically the environment - with the next generation and hopefully inspire them to take action. Sometimes this happens after they leave high school and I receive an email that they are now pursuing a career in biology or environmental science. Sometimes it happens during their time here at TG.

A couple years ago a few students in my ecology class, who were quite motivated for change, decided that they wanted to help reduce single-use plastic at our school. Together, we proposed to our administration that our school should change the drinking fountains to ones that can easily refill reusable water bottles to help limit the sale of plastic water bottles at lunch. These students did the research, polled the student body and came up with solutions for the problem. In the end, the administration agreed to update the drinking fountains. This sparked others to step up and we now have an environmental club - helping





new opportunities for my students, and strengthened my enthusiasm to continue teaching.

**Favorite lesson to teach?**

My favorite lesson to teach is in ecology class when we start discussions about water and water quality. For the past 20 years, Totino-Grace has partnered with Anoka Conservation District to monitor Rice Creek and every year I bring my classes there to take samples. The students put on waders and venture into the water to collect macroinvertebrates (small insects that inhabit the water). Back in the classroom we identify and count all the macroinvertebrates. Based on the number of species/individuals we find and their tolerance levels to pollution, we can determine if Rice Creek is healthy or impaired. Since we have been doing this study for so many years, we compare it to the overall trend and look at ways to continue to improve our watershed. It is such a fun experience for the students and a great way to inspire them to be citizen scientists in their daily lives.



**What inspires you to teach?**

My inspiration to teach comes from my experiences in the world. Diving the blue hole in Belize inspired me to learn more about the marine ecosystem and the impacts of plastic pollution on our ocean. Hiking in Yellowstone National Park inspired me to investigate the thermophiles that inhabit the hot springs and learn more about the elk population and its importance to the Yellowstone ecosystem. Visiting the Hawaiian islands peaked my interest in learning about those species that are endemic to the islands and discovering their unique evolution. These are just a few of the many experiences I

have had that have shaped me as a teacher and provided new ideas, perspectives and lessons to teach.



**When I'm not teaching, you can find me...**

Watching my two boys play baseball or hockey. Surfing and boating on the lake with my family. Traveling the world and scuba diving.

To see what else is going on in Mrs. Schmidt's classroom, follow along with her adventures on Instagram @Schmidt.303.



# From the Vice President for Advancement's Desk

The mission of the Totino-Grace Advancement Office is to promote Totino-Grace's cause among its 10,000 alumni, parents, and friends, raise funds in support of Totino-Grace's Lasallian educational mission and priorities, and build strong relationships between TG and its various constituencies.

Our office executes its mission in a variety of ways including personal outreach, publications such as the *Continuum*, direct mail marketing, and special events and programs.

If you are looking for ways to stay connected, please take a look at our upcoming events, from social and athletic events, to class reunions and the annual Winter Place Gala. Alumni/community gatherings are a great way to reconnect, strengthen, and build relationships with your fellow alumni, friends and alma mater. We hope to see you in 2022.

All my best,

Richard J. Olson,  
Vice President for Advancement

**Upcoming 2022 Events**

- Eagle Shoot** - Midland Hills Golf Course - JUN 13
- Legacy Breakfast** - Totino-Grace High School - SEP 27
- Homecoming Tailgate** - Totino-Grace High School - SEP 30
- Athletic Hall of Fame** - Totino-Grace High School - OCT 1
- Winter Place Gala** - Totino-Grace High School - NOV 19
- Breakfast with Santa** - Totino-Grace High School - DEC 3

Visit [TotinoGrace.org/advancement](http://TotinoGrace.org/advancement) for more information.

### Do you have questions about upcoming events or need help planning Class Reunions for '02 and '07?

Please contact TG's Office of Alumni Relations at 651-585-6328 or [alaina.graupman@totinograce.org](mailto:alaina.graupman@totinograce.org). We are available Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Our office believes our community events bring people together, showcases our gratitude, and celebrates what it is to be an EAGLE!

# Meet Bill and Wendy ('93) Koschak

When Wendy Koschak graduated from Totino-Grace in 1993, electronic sports, now known as esports, were far away from being considered a varsity sport. Thanks to supporters, like the Koschak family, Totino-Grace's esports team plays in tournaments all over North America. When Wendy's son, Andy '22, expressed interest in playing esports, she saw an opportunity to help. In fact, Wendy has found many opportunities to lend a hand at TG. Whether as the co-chair of the Winter Place Gala, or as the secretary of the Diamond Club, she brings enthusiasm and humility to everything she touches.

## Please describe your involvement at TG and how that has evolved as a graduate (Wendy) and now as parents?

As a Class of 1993 alum, I have occasionally supported the Annual Fund and attended the Winter Place Gala. Now as a parent, I have been the co-chair of the gala for the past two years and plan to continue that role next year as well. I am also the secretary of the Diamond Club, which supports the TG Baseball Program.



## What motivates you to stay so involved as a volunteer and supporter?

The parents, students, and staff keep me motivated to stay involved! We have some amazing parent volunteers on the gala committee who make the planning process fun and enjoyable. Meeting our son's friends or seeing students while at TG reminds me why volunteering is so important. They are quick to say "hi" and lend a helping hand. Many people don't see the hours they put in to help during gala week to make the event possible! The Advancement staff and teachers work hard to do their best every day for TG, and I try to match their dedication and energy as a volunteer and supporter.



## What inspired you to make this gift to support the esports program?

We were late to understanding how important esports was to our son, Andy, and his teammates. Andy was unsure of how to share his passion for esports with us. He has played football, hockey, and baseball while growing up, so learning about the gaming and esports world was something new! Once we learned more and heard about how willing Andy was to help others in the TG program be better, Bill and I wondered how we could do our part to make the program better as well. What seemed to be missing was that sense of team camaraderie, the "on the practice field" time that you see in other sports because TG didn't have the facilities to enable this to happen. After hearing Mr. Hoang's vision for the present and future of the program, we gladly agreed to help.

## What message would you share with other alumni and parents about supporting Totino-Grace and its students?

As a TG alum, I look back fondly at my time as a student. TG was, and is, a place to thrive and grow as a person. What you don't realize when you are a student, is how many alumni and parents are behind the scenes making generous gifts so each student can have the best possible high school experience. Now, as parents and/or alumni, it is

our turn to do the same thing. It is possible to make a difference immediately in your son or daughters' lives, an opportunity that is unique to a school like TG. Everyone should consider that when their son or daughter is involved in a program at TG.

## What are you most grateful for when thinking about your involvement at TG?

Having our two boys go through TG has been incredible for us as a family. The educational experience has been top notch, and the support from the staff and administration has been incredible. For us, we are most grateful for how the school has embraced the Koschak family as part of its community.



# Meet Marian Briggs

## Totino-Grace Board Member

Having gone to Catholic Schools herself, Marian Briggs understood the importance of a Catholic education. In 2016, Marian was recruited to be a Totino-Grace Board member. Being up for the challenge, Marian said “yes”, and has since advocated for Lasallian

traditions, helped foster compassionate student-leaders, and gracefully guided the school through a pandemic. Upon reflecting on her children’s positive experiences at TG, Marian is determined to see its “special community” carry on.

### Tell us about yourself.

I was born and raised in Chicago – the oldest of five children and a lifelong Cubs fan. After 16 years of Catholic education, including receiving a BA in journalism from Marquette University, I moved to the Twin Cities in my 20s. I was fortunate to have a long career in corporate communications, chiefly at a full-service public relations agency, retiring from there as executive vice president several years ago. Currently I’ve been doing both profit and nonprofit board work – and enjoying the freedom a looser schedule brings!

### What attracted your family to the Catholic school system, and in particular Totino-Grace?

Because I felt private schools had given me a great education, I wanted that for my three children: Sara, who graduated in ’06; Laura, ’13; and Andrew, ’15. My husband, Tim, and I settled in New Brighton, and for us, choosing Totino-Grace for our kids’ high school was the right decision.

### As a TG parent for 13 years, and a TG board member for the past six years, what is the role of our parents in the mission of the school?

Anchored by faith in God, the Lasallian mission of TG – in my own words – is to help students discover the power of education at the same time that they realize we all have a role to play as compassionate global citizens. Certainly parents need to reinforce the importance of their kids working their hardest to derive the greatest benefit from this educational investment (not always easy with teenagers...).

### What are the unique attributes of the Totino-Grace community?

TG has many differentiators that continue to attract families. Attending a high school of around 660 students offers advantages, such as an appealing student to teacher ratio (22 to 1); and it isn’t as overwhelming as larger high schools

can be. Defining the “special community” that we all feel about TG is hard. To make it concrete, I would characterize it this way: I’ve seen the TG team work exceptionally hard to ensure that no student “falls through the cracks.” From the teachers to the coaches to the counselors to the administration, everyone is focused on providing a nurturing environment for every student. They encourage students to get involved in one or more co-curriculars – the number of which is unusual for a school our size.

### As a board member, what do you believe are two of the most significant changes facing Catholic education today and how would you address them?

When I was growing up in Chicago, a large percentage of our Catholic neighbors did what we did – attended the nearby Catholic grade school and then selected from several Catholic high schools. It isn’t that way anymore. Catholic education is a larger financial commitment. The way we are addressing that as a board is twofold: to keep tuition increases to a minimum (no rise in the ’21-22 academic year) and to give more financial aid than ever before, thereby making TG an affordable option for as many families as possible. Further, not as many people identify as strong Catholics as they did in prior decades, so some of our traditional Catholic feeder schools experienced enrollment declines (largely prior to the pandemic). But that trend doesn’t diminish the merits of TG’s strong curriculum and smaller classes, with a faith-based component. TG’s marketing initiatives center on reaching out to public school students, as well as those in our Catholic feeder system, to convey our differentiators. We are seeing some success here.

### What are the benefits that your family received by attending Totino-Grace that you could share with prospective parents?

I tell any prospective parent that the caring TG environment is worth every penny. The teenage years are hard, and we appreciated having the high school partner with us to navigate our kids through that time. My three children had different needs, interests, gifts and challenges. TG was an ideal fit for all three, and set them on a good path to college and adulthood. It isn’t just one thing that is the key but a combination of many elements. For instance, because freshmen can be involved in virtually all sports teams, they can find new friends quickly – and then decide where they want to devote most of their non-academic time. And the teachers reach out when there is any issue – or something to celebrate. The counseling team assists with college prep and selection, as well as with learning issues and mental health situations. It’s the whole package.

# Admissions News

## NAMED SCHOLARSHIPS

Totino-Grace is grateful for the growing number of named scholarships from members of the TG Community. These scholarships range from scholarships in memory of former TG students, to scholarships named in honor of the donating family. Learn more about these scholarships and the incredible people that make them possible.



The **Brian Hara Legacy Scholarship** is awarded annually to a graduate of St. Odilia Catholic School thanks to the generosity of Brian's parents and siblings. The Brian Hara Legacy Scholarship was established in 2019 to memorialize Brian and the impact he had on the world. Brian attended St. Odilia from kindergarten through 8th grade and went on to graduate from Totino-Grace High School. He excelled in academics and athletics, graduating with honors and winning multiple state championships. He later became a successful entrepreneur, founding Blackhawk Investment Group. Brian was a compassionate humanitarian, a great leader, and a passionate student of life. He made the world a significantly better place and inspired many others to do the same.

The **Rachel Woell Inspiration Scholarship Award** is awarded annually to two incoming freshmen. Rachel Woell, the daughter of Jamie and Yvette Woell, was a highly involved and motivated student at Totino-Grace High School. She was known for her love for others and perseverance in the face of great personal adversity. Rachel passed away in September of 2014, her senior year at Totino-Grace, after a long battle with cancer. Her example inspired the Totino-Grace community. Rachel's words, "Every day is a gift," have become one of TG's adopted mottos - one that shows respect and appreciation for life.



### The **Agape Foundation**

**Scholarship** is awarded annually to two incoming freshmen from St. Vincent de Paul and St. Raphael Catholic Schools, thanks to the generosity of Chuck and Mary Anderson and their family. The recipients display characteristics of Agape Love: generous, altruistic/selfless, and compassionate. Individual must also be a person who will demonstrate Agape Love: spreading compassion and generosity throughout the Totino-Grace community.



### The **Gartland Family**

**Scholarship** is awarded annually to two incoming freshmen for their four years at Totino-Grace. The Gartland family has a multigenerational Catholic High School experience and wants to help students attend Totino-Grace and experience the opportunities offered to TG students. Tom Gartland is a graduate of Creton High School. Barb Gartland is a graduate of St. Agnes High School. All four children: Eric Gartland '91, Sara (Gartland) Lomeli '97, Kevin Gartland '00, and Lizzie (Gartland) Kandravi '05 are graduates of Totino-Grace.



Interested in learning more about these scholarship opportunities or creating a named scholarship of your own? Please contact Richard Olson, Vice President For Advancement, at [richard.olson@totinograce.org](mailto:richard.olson@totinograce.org) or 763-586-6335.



# Boarding School Program

Totino-Grace's Boarding Residence Center believes in providing a culturally rich experience with a quality education. The dormitory is connected right to the school and offers both five and seven day boarding options. The Residence Center Director lives on site 24/7 with the students and plans and takes them on weekend adventures so they can explore the Twin Cities and greater Minnesota. These outings include volunteer opportunities, museum visits, camping excursions, escape room adventures, and more.

Boarding at the TG Residence Center has separate hallways for boys and girls, but boasts access for everyone to entertainment and study spaces, a courtyard, laundry facilities, home-cooked meals, adjacent access to the school, college visit opportunities, and more! TG has hosted students from six different continents and more than 20 countries. Domestic students are also welcome and TG is currently housing students from several states throughout the U.S.



Know someone interested in boarding? Refer them to the TG Boarding Program and receive \$2,000! Send all referrals to [admissions@totinograce.org](mailto:admissions@totinograce.org). Requirements of the referral program:

- The student must be new to our database.
- The student must be accepted, enroll for the 2022-2023 school year, and reside in the dormitory.
- The referral source must be a current employee, parent of a current student, parent of a graduate, or a graduate of Totino-Grace.



# Meet Joe Alt '21

After playing football for four years and basketball for three years at Totino-Grace, while also receiving athletic and academic recognition, Joe Alt '21 is continuing to make his presence known on the field and in the classroom. As a mechanical engineering major at one of the nation's most prestigious academic institutions, the University of Notre Dame, Joe was named Freshman All-American by the Football Writers Association of America as a 6'8", 320 pound offensive left tackle in his first season for the "Fighting Irish." Joe is the first Irish offensive lineman to earn the honor since 2006. He was also named a Freshman All-American by Pro Football Focus and he was on the watch list for the Sean Alexander Freshman of the Year Award.

## Why did you choose TG for your high school experience?

I looked at all of my options and it is the best Catholic school in the surrounding area. Being able to continue to grow my faith in high school was very important to me. Academically, the idea of being a college prep high school drew me in. Finally, athletics. For being a small private catholic school, we were in the highest divisions and played against the best opponents.

## What are your thoughts about Totino-Grace after attending the school for four years?

I believe that it fulfilled all the reasons I chose it. I grew academically and that prepared me for a college experience at Notre Dame. The variety of AP classes I had access to at TG made the transition to one of the most elite schools in the country possible. TG Athletics allowed me to play against some of the best competition and enabled me to be seen nationally and receive scholarships to play football at the next level. Finally, my faith grew. I was able to and encouraged to

experience different areas of my faith which allowed me to grow in my faith.

## What were your favorite classes and who were your favorite teachers?

Engineering, all of my Math courses, and Phy-Ed. Favorite teachers would be, Mr. and Mrs. Glynn, Mrs. D., Mr. Welle and Mr. Rod.

## What was the most formative aspect of your Totino-Grace student experience?

The teachers are, and will always be, the reason why TG is one of the best high schools in the area. Their ability to make connections with students and make everyone feel welcome in their own way has allowed my classmates and me to grow - and continues to do so for the next generations of students.

## Describe a typical day for you at the University of Notre Dame during the season and off-season?

**In season:** 7 a.m. wake up. Breakfast. Scooter from my dorm to classes. Classes from 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. Lunch. Meetings at 2:30 p.m. Practice from 4-6 p.m. Shower and Dinner. Study hall from 7:30-9:30 p.m. Back to the dorm in the dark for more homework if necessary. Finally, telephone calls to my parents and girlfriend. Bed at 11 p.m.

**Off Season:** 5:15 a.m. wake up. Lift and run from 6:15-9:00 a.m. Breakfast. Class from 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. Lunch in between there. Dinner after classes. More homework. Call parents and girlfriend before bed.

## What is it like to be on National Television and play in front of 75,000 fans every Saturday?

It is an incredible feeling...especially running out of the tunnel surrounded by the fans before the game. Being at Notre Dame, with the tradition and love from the fans, makes gameday unique. Finally, being able to cap off every year with a bowl game performance allows for new memories with teammates that I wouldn't otherwise get to experience.

## Why will you support Totino-Grace after you graduate in 2025?

I want to be able to give back like previous alumni had that benefitted me. I would like to be an Engineering mentor because I found the advice given to me to be crucial in my major discernment. Being able to give back to the people and place that helped form me is a great way to thank them and allow for others to have the same experience I had.



# Class Notes

1977 PHOTO 1

**Matt Guizik '77** raised money for the Tara Iti Whānau Charitable Trust by biking 3,000 km (1864 miles) in 24 days from Cape Reinga to Bluff on the Te Araroa Trail in New Zealand.



2022 Breaking Barriers Award  
Jenny Raiche

**NATIONAL GIRLS & WOMEN IN SPORTS DAY - MN**  
Wednesday, February 2: 12:00 CST  
Minnesota History Center

A graphic for the 2022 Breaking Barriers Award. It features a circular portrait of Jenny Raiche, a woman with blonde hair wearing a white top and a brown fur collar. The text below the portrait reads '2022 Breaking Barriers Award Jenny Raiche'. At the bottom, it says 'NATIONAL GIRLS & WOMEN IN SPORTS DAY - MN Wednesday, February 2: 12:00 CST Minnesota History Center'. The Minnesota History Center logo is in the top right corner. A yellow circle with the number '2' is in the bottom left corner of the graphic.

1984

In December 2021, **Camille Kolles '84** successfully defended her doctoral dissertation, earning her a PhD in Transformative Studies from the California Institute of Integral Studies that will be conferred in Spring 2022. Her research interests are in the intersection of personal and social transformation, human interconnectedness, advancing ideas of a civic spirituality, and the use of future forming research methods. This follows a 20-year career in arts administration in which she served as executive director of the Carmel Bach Festival in Carmel, CA and earlier as executive director of the Minnesota Chorale in Minneapolis, MN.



1998 PHOTO 2

**Jenny Raiche '98**, an award-winning dance coach, was honored with the Breaking Barriers Award, an award given to individuals and organizations who successfully tear down barriers to provide opportunities in sports for girls and women.

1998 PHOTO 3

**Andy Frost '98** and Spouse Ashley Frost married on August 8, 2020, and had their first child, Mataeo Frost, born October 17, 2021.

2006 PHOTO 4

**Tony Pastoors '06** is the L.A. Rams Vice President of Football and Business Administration. Here he is pictured with the Vince Lombardi Trophy after winning Super Bowl LVI.



## 2007

**Rachael Abbott Hagstrom '07** and husband, Elliot Hagstrom, welcomed a son, Harris James Hagstrom, on July 21, 2021. He joins older sibling Elin, born in 2019.

## 2008 PHOTO 5

**Heather Hamilton '08** married Joe Simonett in August 2021.

PHOTO 6

**Martha Rathmanner '08** and husband, Justin Carlson, welcomed a son, James Martin Carlson, in May 2021. He joins older sister, Veronica, born in 2019.

## 2009

**Brooke Walker Merry '09** and husband Brock Merry welcomed a daughter, Carlee Rose Merry, on October 4, 2021. She joins older sister, Clara, born in 2017.

## 2010

**Meghan (Carda) Hueper '10** married Ben Hueper on October 16, 2021 at Pine Peaks Wedding and Event Center, alongside Bridesmaid **Elizabeth Nickman '10**.

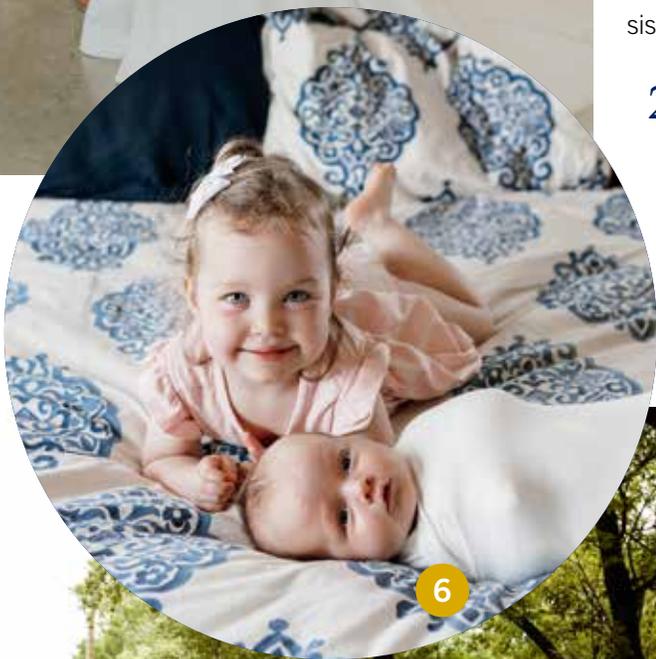
**Brittany (Billiet) Erickson '10** married Josh Erickson on December 18, 2020 at 7 Vines Vineyard.

PHOTO 7

**Jack Savage '10** married Marisa Bryer on August 27, 2021 in Minneapolis. Members of the wedding party included **Charlie Adams '10, Shane Trentor '10, Patrick Krienke '10, Joe Feely '10, Ben Hickman '10, John Louiselle '09, Eric Louiselle '10, and Jack Berndt '09**.

## 2011

**Taylor McMurray '11** is engaged to Melanie Williams with a wedding date set for September 11, 2022. **Donald Kealy III '11** will be a groomsman.





**2012** PHOTO 8 & 9

**Emma (Ricke) Hinrichs '12** and **Mike Hinrichs '12** married at St. Odilia Church on May 14, 2021. Their wedding party consisted of **Rachel (Beck) Salz '12**, **Meghan Hinrichs '14**, **Madeline (Adam) Showalter '12**, **Molly Adam '13**, **Mike Greenstein '12**, and **Mike Frisbie '12**

**2013** PHOTO 10

**Elizabeth (Russell) Larson '13** married **Micheal Larson '13** on September 25 at the University of St. Thomas. The bridal party consisted of **Luke Russell '15**, **Joseph Russell '17**, **Jessica Russell '23**, **William Russell '23**, **Ashley Bauman '12**, **Sarah Bruess '15**, and **TJ Roo '13**



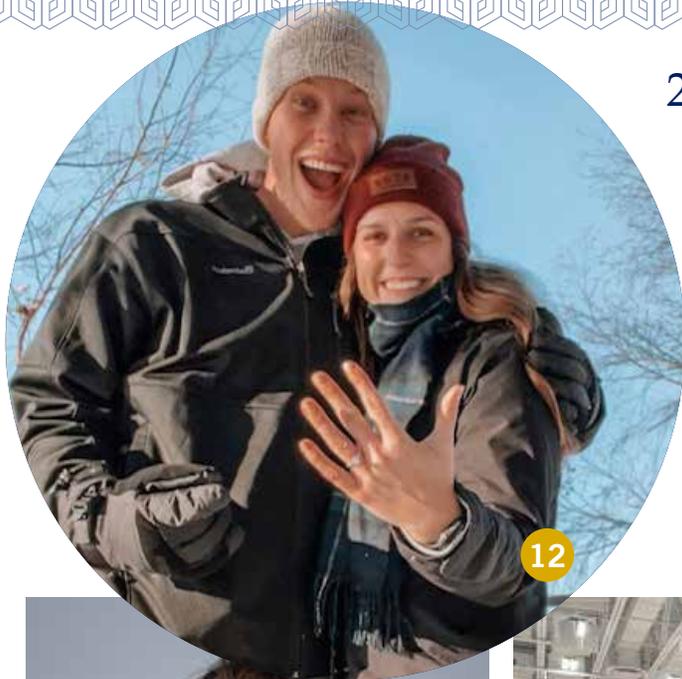
**2015**

**Logan Knip '15** was sworn in as a Minnesota State Trooper, 1 of 5 women to do so in her graduating class.

**Megan (McDonald) Anderson '15** married Partick Anderson on June 18, 2021, alongside bridesmaid **Emma Sommers '15**.

**2016** PHOTO 11

**Lewis Kidd '16** was given an All-American award for football while playing at Montana State University. He has started Montana State's last 46 games, the seventh-longest streak in Bobcat history.



## 2016 PHOTO 12

**Frances Weyrauch '16** got engaged to Kyle Sorenson on December 22, 2021 at Saint John's University.

## 2017

**Carissa Burnes '17** married **Rob McManus '17** on July 23, 2022, alongside groomsman **Mike Larson '17** and bridesmaid **Lauryn Burnes '20**.

PHOTO 13

**Sam Hentges '17** was named to the US Olympic men's hockey team on January 13, and scored his first goal against Slovakia.



## 2019

**Henry Exner '19** is researching the biology of aging through testing various drugs on stem cells to determine if they can reduce age related diseases. This spring he will join Cargill for a Botanical Market Research Externship, where he will analyze possible Botanicals for healthcare and research purposes.

PHOTO 14

Former TG Volleyball teammates, **Marley Webb '20** (Bethel University) and **Brynn Smith '21** (Gustavus Adolphus College) are advancing with their current collegiate teams to the 2021 NCAA DIII Volleyball Tournament.

Come Together to make the **BIGGEST** impact on May 12!



For 24 hours on this year's TG Giving Day, flock together with other TG alumni, parents, grandparents, and friends across the country to make a difference for today's students. When you make your Giving Day gift, you show that TG is a community that looks after our students and helps them develop academically, personally, and spiritually. You provide opportunities for them to learn, grow, and serve.

On May 12, your gift has an even bigger impact than usual — thanks to a handful of generous supporters who will provide matching gifts and challenges throughout the day! We can't wait to see the TG community rise to the challenge and show the world our blue and gold spirit!



**Totino-Grace**  
High School

*A Catholic High School  
in the Lasallian Tradition*

1350 Gardena Avenue NE  
Fridley, MN 55432

**Phone: 763-571-9116**  
**Web: [totinograce.org](http://totinograce.org)**

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# 2022 Eagle Shoot Golf Tournament

**Monday, June 13, 2022**  
**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/eagleshoot](http://www.totinograce.org/eagleshoot)**