

# The Blarney Stone



## September 2022 100 Years Edition

### 100 YEARS OF BISHOP MAC



As this year begins, it marks the 100-year centennial of Bishop McNamara Catholic School. Although the school has undergone many changes, one thing has stayed true: the spirit and beliefs of our school. Especially in recent years the school has changed drastically, however we still hold the values of family and faith extremely closely.

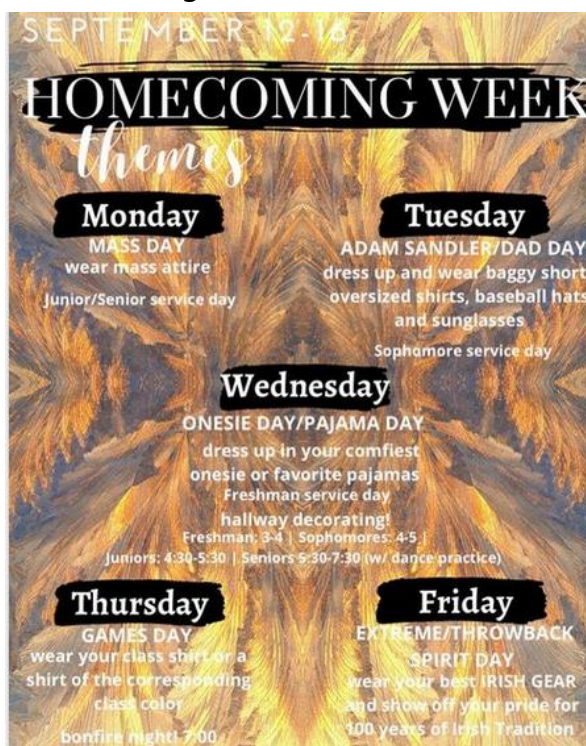


Written By: Grant Naese

### UPCOMING EVENTS

As September begins, we are entering Homecoming season very quickly! There are many events coming up around our school! We hope to see all

of our students at the Bonfire! There will be many Fighting Irish Alumni present and it is a fun time to be had by all. The school Bonfire will take place at 8 pm on September 15th. This is the Thursday of homecoming week! Homecoming week is September 12th-16th and there will be different themes for each day that we are looking forward to! Obviously, the most important upcoming event is the Homecoming dance! It will take place here at Bishop McNamara and you must arrive at the dance no later than one hour of its start time or our staff will have to keep you out. It will also be a super fun time for everyone to have! The theme this year is 1920s! We are looking forward to these fun days in September as well as several upcoming volleyball games and service opportunities. We hope to see all of you there! Additionally, the schedule for the homecoming week themes is below:



We hope to see everyone have a good time and partake in the festivities around homecoming!

Written By: Maddeline Russel

### 100 YEAR INTERVIEW

"A hundred years, that's a long time", is what Terry Granger the President of Bishop McNamara said when being interviewed on his thoughts about the 100-year anniversary of Bishop McNamara opening up. As I sat down and discussed the history of the school I could tell that Mr. Granger was not only proud of the school but also proud to be a part of such an amazing family. "For 100 years we've been educating kids with a catholic education", is what was said after I asked what made Bishop McNamara different from other schools in our area. Mr. Granger also filled me in on the history of the school and how it was founded. In 1922 St. Pats was founded by Fr. Shea and the school remained there until 1956 when they were gifted land from the Hammes family. This land is where they built the circle in 1956 and it officially became St. Pats Central high school. With such an increase of students and enrollment constantly growing they decided to build the rectangle in the mid 1960's. This allowed for more students to not only be enrolled, but also for more students to receive a Catholic





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## Upcoming Events

education. This is also when the school was officially named Bishop McNamara, after the first bishop of the diocese of Joliet. In more recent years the high school merged with the elementary schools. This happened between 2014 and 2015, the decision to regionalize all three schools was a big one to make but was made to benefit the students as a whole. By regionalizing the three schools together they were able to not only provide more kids with an education but also the high school’s enrollment itself was at an all-time high. When I asked Mr. Granger what he thought about merging the schools he said, “Overall, it’s a plus, we get to serve kids with a Catholic and quality education”. I also wanted to ask Mr. Granger personally what his opinion was on what really made Bishop McNamara different? He answered me by stating, “Well we provide a sound education for our students to help them achieve their life plans weather that be college, military, or the workforce, we prepare them for real life”. Lastly, I wanted to ask what he hoped to see for the next 100 years of Bishop McNamara, we discussed his hopes for better facilities that allows for a current and sound education. As well as, continuing to improve as a school and his hopes for all three schools to be on one campus! Here’s to another 100 years, and here’s to being proud of being Irish!

Written By: Alicia Wood

### UPCOMING SPORTS AND CLUBS

This year, as with any other year at Bishop McNamara, will be filled with plenty of extracurricular activities and clubs that are offered to students at Bishop McNamara. These vary widely,

however, listed below are some of the upcoming sports and clubs for the Fall! If you are interested in any of them, contact the listed contact or Mr. Hamilton in the Athletic Office.

- 100 Football
- 100 Golf
- 100 Girls Volleyball
- 100 Scholastic Bowl (Contact Mrs. Malm)
- 100 Esports (Contact Mrs. Malm)
- 100 Chess
- 100 Improv (Contact Mrs. Babbitt)
- 100 Newspaper Club (Contact Grant Naese)

Written By: Grant Naese

### IRISH STUDENT HUB

This year a new class has appeared on everyone’s canvas: The Irish Student Hub. Although many have already seen what the Student Hub does, it is still useful to have some guidance on how to use it. In short, the Student Hub acts as a hub for events and other useful information for the school. Students can use it at their leisure to see the latest upcoming events for all kinds of sports and activities of the school! Modules are organized by week, allowing for easy access. Additionally, assignments can be sorted by type into their categories!

Written By: Grant Naese

### THE HOUSE SYSTEM

The Bishop McNamara house system has some new faces this

year! Mr. Gautschy, the new dean of students, and Ms. Gernon, one of our new Spanish teachers, are the new faculty members in charge of the house system! The house captains this year are Connor Inman (Limerick), Reese Johnson (Limerick), Lucy Mast (Dublin), Ethan Patel (Dublin), Ava Conroy (Donegal), Landon Provost (Donegal), Ellery Rohr (Waterford), Sean Storer (Waterford), Kolton Hunt (Killarney), and Maryely Medina (Killarney). The house prefects this year are Carter Heinrich and Lucy Mast. All freshmen, transfer students, and new faculty members will be inducted into a house on Friday, September 9th!

Written By: Lucy Mast

### 100 YEARS OF ALUMNI

In honor of Bishop McNamara’s 100-year anniversary, I decided it would be interesting to listen to the stories of alumni from previous years. For this first interview I talked to my grandmother, Carol, who’s high school years were nearly 70 years ago in the 1950s.

Carol graduated in 1957 and was the first class to spend an entire year in the new building. The school moved over at the beginning of 1956, allowing her to spend a year and a half there total. During her time there, the staff was composed mostly of clergy. When looking through her old year books, she found that they had nuns from the Sisters of Loretto, Congregation of Notre Dame, a Dominican sister, as well as several Viatorian priests. As a student she was involved in the Shamrock Athletic Association (SAA), which was involved in planning social events such as homecoming. Although she has several fond memories of her experience, some of her favorites are the living rosary her class did in the gym (now the cafeteria), as well as the time she was nominated to the Queen’s court for the St. Patrick’s Day Celebrations.

Even as an adult, Carol is still involved and connected with the school. She is so proud that all 3 of her kids, as well as a good portion of her grandkids have attended Bishop Mac. While each member may have had a different experience, they all revolved around the same core values that the



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## Academics

school was founded on, such as faith and tradition. As time goes on, she hopes that the school continues to do well and keeps the McNamara traditions alive.

Written By: Sarah Berg

### 100 YEAR BOOKMARK CRAFT



#### Materials

- Cardstock
- Coloring Supplies
- Ruler
- Scissors
- Hole Puncher
- Ribbon

#### Steps

1. Draw a 2 x 8” rectangle on cardstock
2. Design your bookmark with a 100-year theme.
3. Cut out the bookmark.
4. Hole punch at the top and tie the ribbon through.
5. Mark your page with your OHYO bookmark.

Written By: Sarah Hoehn

### ACADEMIC ADVICE COLUMN

Calling all seniors! Whether we like it or not, it’s getting to the point in our lives when we must begin thinking about our future. For some of us, that will include going to college. Here are a few tips to help you get started on your college applications!

#### 1. Make a Common App account.

Many schools allow prospective students to apply via Common App, a website that organizes your applications and gives you all the guidelines necessary for you to fill out said applications. This is a great option, as it requires you to do the minimal amount of work possible (yay!). Go to [www.commonapp.org](http://www.commonapp.org) to get started!

### TEACHER INTERVIEW

**2. Search for colleges that are in locations you enjoy and offer a good program for the major you are interested in.** I recommend the website [www.niche.com](http://www.niche.com), which allows you to apply filters to meet your needs and pulls up a variety of schools accordingly. Before you fall in love with a school, make sure it has everything you need before focusing on all the things it has that you want.

#### 3. Link your Naviance and Common App account.

Mrs. Nugent sent an email about this earlier on in the school year. Everyone already has a Naviance account that has attended Bishop McNamara since Sophomore year. If you are new to the school, you may need to speak to Mrs. Nugent about setting up an account. If you already have a Common App account, visit this link to learn how to link the accounts:

[https://content.screencast.com/users/Hobsons\\_Naviance/folders/eDocs/media/d5c3b682-6cd9-462b-8626-60236111aac2/Common%20App%20Account%20Matching%202021.mp4](https://content.screencast.com/users/Hobsons_Naviance/folders/eDocs/media/d5c3b682-6cd9-462b-8626-60236111aac2/Common%20App%20Account%20Matching%202021.mp4)

#### 4. Request your letters of recommendation.

It is important to request letters of recommendation early in the school year, as teachers get progressively busier as we continue on in the year. Receiving letters of recommendation is crucial, as many schools require you to attach 1-3 as a part of your application. I strongly recommend doing this as





soon as possible, as most Early Decision/Action applications are due in November, and most Regular Decision applications are due in early January!

**5. Start on your essays and writing supplements.** Many of us have written our personal essays already in our English classes. However, if you have not, it may be a good idea to start on this soon. You can find many helpful videos on YouTube if you are struggling to figure out what you want to write about. It would be a good idea to have an English teacher proofread the essay before you submit it! Additionally, most schools require short answer prompts to be filled out as a part of your application. Get started on these soon so that you don't get overwhelmed come November!

Good Luck Everyone! Feel free to reach out to me with any questions at [dextera23@bmcss.org](mailto:dextera23@bmcss.org).

Despite the importance of college, the majority of our student body is a way off from applying, so here are some general academic tips to prepare for when you do apply!

- Take homework one step at a time
- Focus on studying for quizzes and tests
- Stay on top of your work
- Ask your teachers if you need help
- Always make sure to thoroughly read through assignments before doing them

**Written By:**

**Anna Dexter & Grant Naese**

**PROS AND CONS OF HAVING A ZERO HOUR**



Is it better to take a zero hour? In recent years, this has been a controversial topic. A zero hour does require you to wake up a lot earlier and you must show up to school a lot earlier as well. However, getting to school earlier has less of a line which lets you enter the building a lot faster. Also, having a class before the first hour gets your brain working for your regular school day classes. However, you may be more tired by the end of the day because you're having to wake up earlier. Having a zero hour class will look great on a college resume. However, some zero hour classes do not boost your grade. So, in conclusion, it is a balanced decision on whether or not a zero hour class is a good or bad decision to take.

**Written By: Miles Serpe**

**NEW STAFF: MS. GERNON**



Ms. Elizabeth Gernon, better known as Ms. Gernon, is a new teacher at Bishop McNamara High School, teaching Honors Spanish II through Honors/AP Spanish IV . She is also one of the general House Moderators at Bishop McNamara. She has been teaching for several years and earned her degrees through multiple schools. Her passion for education led her to enroll in multiple educational programs that resulted in a Bachelors from Eastern Illinois University and a Masters from Concordia University of Chicago. Ms. Gernon has a passion for many things, one of them being Rugby. She used to play in college, and it was very important to her. She also participated in Club

Volleyball. Another thing that is important to her is her family. She is very close to them and even lives in the same neighborhood as her sister and parents. She has a desire to stay in Kankakee County to stay close to her family and live with her two dogs NitziNe and Blake.

**Written By: Ethan Patel**

**NEW STAFF: MR. FRYER**



Mr. Fryer is the new teacher of United States History and World History. He's a fan-favorite who got his start through Bishop McNamara as an Olivet Student teacher for the junior high last year. At Olivet he got his teaching degree and explored his love of Cross County through their program. He's a perfect fit for Bishop McNamara, filling in for Mr. (Old history teacher)'s classes, and joining as a coach for the Cross-Country team.

Mr. Fryer doesn't find a big difference between teaching in the high-school, and student-teaching at the junior high. He stated that he could tell that both groups of students were passionate about the material when he was too. That is why he tries his best to have a positive and passionate attitude towards his classes. When asked when he first wanted to become a teacher he said: "A variety of different events in my life led me to want to become a teacher. The biggest reason was the teachers that I had in high school. They helped inspire me to pursue the profession." This spark that he explored through his passion filled spirit led him to the subject of History. As put by him, "I love, love, love history!" He stated that his students may not love it as much

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## New Staff & Athletics

as him, but he hopes he can help them take something out of it.

In his early days in Kentucky, his mom started another life changing spark. He has always been an energetic person, so his mom suggested that he ran laps around the house to tire him out. She would always say "I'll time you." This started an amazing background in running. Mr. Fryer is just as passionate with Cross Country as he is with teaching, which led him to be a star of the Olivet Cross Country team through his passion and attitude (and some serious talent.) He can continue his history of cross country through his coaching position at Mac, and by absolutely destroying in marathons and open races.

When asked how he motivated students, Mr. Fryer stated that "he strives to have a fun and safe classroom environment. He wants his students to be comfortable when they come into his classroom, and he wants to show his passion for what he does." This shows the passion and attitude he has for everything he does.

Mr. Fryer found sparks throughout his life and fanned them into flames. His positive attitude, kindness, and passion sets him apart from many teachers, runners, and people in general. Mr. Fryer said, "he considers Bourbonnais to be a home away from home." I hope he finds a home at Mac as well, and that he helps his students find their sparks, and nurture and inspire them to be as amazing as his passions.

**Written By: Oliver Heinrich**

### TENNIS

Beginning of the season, the girl's tennis team seemed to have a good start. They had a full lineup with eight girls in total. However, the team had lost a doubles team leaving them with only six players left. Although losing the second doubles team the coach and many of the players are still optimistic about the season ahead. In an interview done with the coach, we get to know how the team is doing, and some details of how the season is going with new players. In the interview he had said that the team was making a lot of progress from last year, and the new players have been doing exceptionally well. Although having made many improvements they need to work on many things; mostly including footwork. Nonetheless, the girl's tennis team has been doing better than last year, but there is always room for improvements to be made.

**Written By: Maya Patel**

### POMS

It's official! Poms football season has started! The team Celebrated their senior's Lucy Mast and Josie Ikins at Friday's senior night football game. Due to the cancellation of preview night, the girls were unable to perform the dance they prepared for senior night on the 26th. However, they are excited to perform their senior night dance at the next home game Friday, September 9th. They had so much fun dancing with the grade school kids who participated in kids' camp! The young dancers did a great job. The next day Saturday, August 27th the poms team had their annual car wash to raise money for competition season. The poms team would like to thank all who supported the McNamara poms team by attending their car wash and participating in kid's camp! Looking forward to a fantastic year for the Bishop Mac Poms!

**Written By: Lucy Mast**

### IRISH FOOTBALL SENIOR NIGHT RECAP

Mac's first football game was against Marmion, a 5A all boys school. Marmion came out strong and scored 28 points in the first quarter. Unfortunately, Mac was scoreless in the first quarter. The second quarter started, and Marion scored several more times, leaving the score at 35-0.

The Irish Poms and Cheer camps performed an adorable half time show. Our high school Poms and Cheer teams led and taught the young girls all the choreography. It was the high school bands first performance, and they played their hearts out. Mrs. Shinabarger conducted our band with lots of talent.

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Motivation & Puzzles

The second half began, and Marmion scored, which brought the score to 42-0. There wasn’t much action in the second half, and the game ended with a final score of 42-0 Marmion. After the game, I asked Coach Lade how he thought the game went. He told me that, “the game did not go the way we expected. They’re a 5A, all boys school and they were much bigger and stronger than we were. Our team did not give up and fought all the way to the end.” Keep playing hard Mac! We are always behind you!

START OF SCHOOL YEAR MOTIVATION

*“You must do the things you think you cannot do.” – Eleanor Roosevelt*

*“Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today.” – Malcom X*

*“There’s more treasure in books than in all the pirates’ loot on Treasure Island.” – Walt Disney*

*“Anyone who has never made a mistake has never tried anything new.” – Albert Einstein*

*“He who opens a school door, closes a prison.” – Victor Hugo*

*“A person who won’t read has no advantage over one who can’t read.” – Mark Twain*

*“You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself any direction you choose.” – Dr. Seuss*

*“Be curious, not cool.” – Ken Burns*

*“Somewhere, something incredible is waiting to be known.” – Carl Sagan*

*“You have power over your mind – not outside events. Realize this, and you will find strength.” – Marcus Aurelius*

Compiled By: Grant Naese

SUDOKU & WORD SEARCH

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FAIR    FALL    HARVEST    HAY BALE    PUMPKIN    SCARECROW

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