



CAMPAIGN CHRONICLES

CELEBRATING THE PAST - SECURING THE FUTURE!



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friend of St. Francis,

Thanks to your generosity and belief in our mission, Celebrating the Past, Securing the Future: The Campaign for St. Francis High School continues to bring our shared vision to life in meaningful and visible ways. As we prepare to celebrate our 100th anniversary, this campaign is helping ensure that St. Francis remains strong, vibrant, and faithful to its mission for generations to come.

There is a renewed sense of momentum on campus, highlighted by the opening of the Coach Jerry Smith Fitness Center and the Szymanski Family Athletic Training Room. These new spaces represent far more than facilities. They are an investment in the health, formation, and well-being of our young men.



The Coach Jerry Smith Fitness Center offers a modern, thoughtfully designed environment that supports strength training, conditioning, and overall wellness. It helps students build discipline, confidence, and lifelong habits rooted in care for mind, body, and spirit, reflecting the values Coach Smith has exemplified throughout more than 40 years of service to the young men of St. Francis.

The Szymanski Family Athletic Training Room, generously sponsored by The Michael and Abby Gregory Foundation, honors the deep and enduring connection between the Szymanski and Gregory families. That relationship traces back to the earliest days of St. Francis, even before the school officially opened, as one of the original Fr. Justin Drivers, who laid the foundation for what would become our school. This space ensures high-quality care delivered with compassion and stands as a lasting tribute to a legacy of faith, service, and commitment to the formation of young men.



We are currently enrolling the Class of 2030. Our administrators, faculty, staff, and coaches hand-delivered acceptance letters to more than 160 8th-grade students. This personal gesture reflects the relationships, attention, and sense of belonging that define a St. Francis education.



Because of this campaign's success, we were also able to award 12 new scholarships, all created through the generosity of our donors. These scholarships are already opening doors for deserving young men and ensuring that a Franciscan education remains accessible as we look toward our centennial year and beyond.

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As we look ahead to our centennial celebration, we do so with deep gratitude for the past and great confidence in the future we are building together. Thank you for being an essential part of this legacy and for helping secure the next century of St. Francis.

As we approach our 100th anniversary, these developments are clear signs of what is possible when a community comes together in faith and shared purpose. Because of you, St. Francis High

School continues to form young men rooted in brotherhood, leadership, and service to the Church and the world.

Peace and good,

Fr. Matthew Foley, OFM Conv.
President, St. Francis High School

Donor Spotlight

Bryce Phillips '21 - Eric Young '85 - Eddie Bratek '25

I am honored to give to St. Francis High School for three reasons. As an alumnus, I have deep gratitude for how the school contributed to my formation in body, mind, and spirit. I was surrounded by classmates, teammates, teachers, coaches, and role models who shaped my values and worldview. I only lived in Buffalo for those four years of high school, but it's where I consider home and the source of many rich relationships.



As a mentor, I've been introduced to two young men who are newer St. Francis alumni studying in Washington, DC, where I live. They, too, benefited from a St. Francis education; it instilled in them a spirit of service to others and helped shape their public service aspirations. They have been a great way to stay connected to the school and cheer on fellow alumni (as well as the Bills) in the nation's capital.

I also give because I believe in the importance of all-boys education -- especially when rooted in the Christian, Catholic, and Franciscan traditions. Every generation has new challenges to navigate, and St. Francis plays a critical role in nurturing the academic, physical, moral, and spiritual growth of young men in an ever-changing and complex world. St. Francis is building future leaders, and I'm proud to contribute to this mission as we enter our second century.

- Eric Young '85

Phase One: Complete

The completion and dedication of the **Coach Jerry Smith Fitness Center** and **The Szymanski Family Athletic Training Room** mark the ending of Phase One of our Capital Campaign



We're making progress!



\$20,500,000

Goal

\$16,400,000

Raised

For more information on ways to support this project, please contact:



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