

# ANNUAL REPORT

2019-2020



WE ARE  
WALLA WALLA  
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS



# 2019-2020 HIGHLIGHTS



## SAUSAGE FEST

This annual fundraiser brings the entire community together for a weekend of good food, drinks, music, and activities for the whole family. Sausage Fest 2019 was another huge success thanks to our many sponsors, attendees, and volunteers who put in hundreds of hours of hard work.

## CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

This is our week to celebrate the values of our Catholic faith in our schools. The week included dress-up days, Mass, and our talent show.

## HOPE 2020: #IRISHSTRONG

Our largest fundraiser of the year was moved to an online auction and was a great success. Through their participation in the event, families and friends showed their support of our schools.



## TREASURE ISLAND

DeSales Catholic High School Theatre Arts performed Treasure Island in a weekend-long run. Nearly half of the student population participated onstage or behind the scenes to create an amazing night. The huge popularity of our theatre arts program continues to grow and is instrumental in providing for the "whole body" of our students.

## ALUMNI FAMILY OF THE YEAR

The Lesko family was selected as the 2020 Alumni Family of the Year, presented during the Homecoming Pep Rally.



## CLASS OF 2020

The class of 2020 continued the fine academics success with 100% of the class being accepted into college. See the story of the unforgettable class of 2020 on page 13.







## CAREER DAY

The Career Fair had over twenty five participating organizations. Career fields represented were: Health, mental health, fitness, hospitality, marketing, design, sciences, law, finance, media, trades, agriculture, and public service.

## SPAGHETTI DINNER & BINGO NIGHT

The community event supported over two hundred causes and was coordinated by Dorothy Averill, Mary Sundberg, Marguerite Daltoso, Sandi Elmenhurst, Patricia Grant, Pat Leamer and Jamie Van Wormer, Director of Advancement. We were very fortunate to have our eighth grade class volunteers to help with set up and serve the food.



## KNOWLEDGE BOWL

The 2019-20 Knowledge Bowl Season was a huge success for our school team! DeSales school hosted the Regional Tournament on our campus, and the WWCS team won the event by a wide margin! Our team was looking forward to competing at the State tournament a few weeks later, but it was unfortunately cancelled due to COVID-19.

## ATHLETIC HIGHLIGHTS

The 2019-2020 sporting seasons were eventful to say the least for the DeSales Irish. Spring Sports barely had the chance to start before the COVID-19 pandemic happened, but many other awesome things happened last year. The Fall Sports season was amazing to watch as our football team transitioned into a dynamite 8-man squad, while our volleyball team had their highest total number of wins since the 2015 season.



The Winter Sports season saw our basketball teams make it into a tough League Tournament, with the girls team advancing all the way to the District Tournament! We welcomed six new Head Coaches to our program last year, and we celebrated Tim Duncan's 24th and final season as the Head Coach for our girls basketball team.



THE EARLY LEARNING  
CENTER AT ASSUMPTION



ASSUMPTION CATHOLIC  
GRADE SCHOOL



DESALES CATHOLIC  
HIGH SCHOOL

If the Catholic Faith were merely a set of rules, principles, or ideas, there would be no need for Catholic schools. If to have Faith was simply about mastering a set of learning objectives we could accomplish the task at a much lower cost than the millions of dollars we spend every year at the Walla Walla Catholic Schools. But, Catholicism is more than that. Catholicism is living in and through Jesus Christ. Thus, Catholic education teaches more than a set of rules, it teaches a new way to be human.

Jesus Christ, the perfect human, teaches us, leads us, and strengthens us to share in His humanity. This humanity, of course, can be seen in the way in which we share in the love of God and neighbor. It also can be seen in all areas of studies. As the “Word made flesh” Jesus Christ comes to us in our study of English and literature, teaching us how to better communicate truth and beauty in the world. As the Creator, Jesus helps us to share in and understand his creation through the natural science, and while His rationality transcends human reason, the study of Mathematics helps us to see the orderliness of all of God’s work.

I believe that this year, more than any other, has shown us the need for such an education. Last Spring, we learned by loss the value of being together in person for our studies. Through the protests and riots this Summer and, the electoral controversies in the Fall, we learned about the discord that results when we fail to share in a common understanding of the human person and human dignity. Some time ago secular education abandoned the notion that any objective truth can be attained through the study of language or the arts. Today, such relativism is extending into the sciences, resulting in science being co-opted by the prevalent social ideologies of our day.

In this societal and educational vacuum, the Walla Walla Catholic Schools continues to rest upon the bedrock of Jesus Christ. Jesus repeatedly shows us the need to love our enemies and to love our neighbors, even when they are the same people. He teaches us that, despite sin and suffering, this world is good, and knowable. To paraphrase St. Ignatius, founder of the Jesuits, He teaches us to give and not to count the cost, to fight and not to heed the wounds, to toil and not to seek for rest, save that in knowing that we do His will.

In a world that feels to be on the brink of despair, such support and strength is all the more necessary for our students, our families, and our whole Walla Walla Community. And for this, I thank you for being a part of our Walla Walla Catholic Schools.



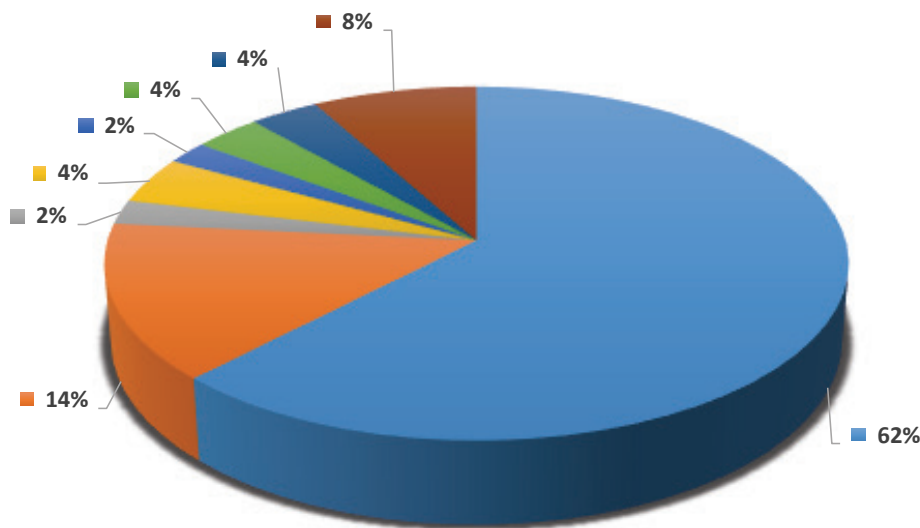
In Christ,  
Fr. Curtis Seidel, President



# FISCAL YEAR 19-20

## HOW DO WE FUND OUR CATHOLIC EDUCATION?

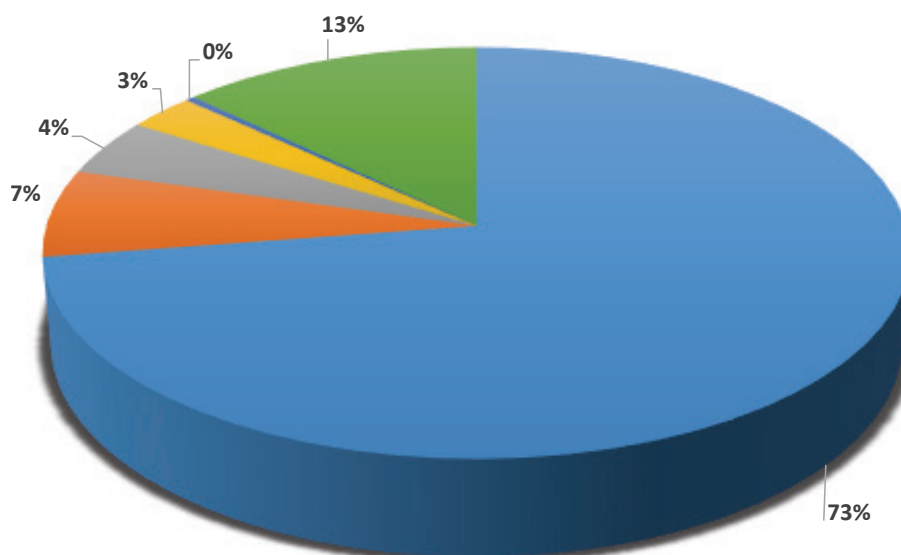
### Income



Tuition & Fees	\$1,884,501.32
Endowment	\$434,620.00
Annual Giving Unrestricted	\$67,974.65
Hope	\$128,760.00
Bequests	\$62,741.86
Fundraising	\$101,435.00
Other	\$103,680.29
Parish Support	\$245,412.00

## WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO PROVIDE A CATHOLIC EDUCATION?

### Expenses



Employee Expenses	\$2,291,607.54
Building & Grounds	\$217,514.47
Operations	\$142,043.68
Instructional	\$90,390.20
Professional	\$12,488.45
Depreciation & Other Expense	\$402,764.31



# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

*From everyone to whom much has been given, much will be required; and from the one to whom much has been entrusted, even more will be demanded. (Luke 12:48)*

The Walla Walla Catholic Schools is a ministry of the three Catholic parishes of Walla Walla. In the fall of 2007, the WWCS was established as a Washington Nonprofit Corporation with a Board of Directors responsible for its business affairs and a Canonical Administrator, appointed by the Bishop of Spokane, responsible for its Catholic identity and all religious affairs, including the religion curriculum. In 2017, the Bylaws were amended to have the President of WWCS also appointed by the Bishop of Spokane. The Board is responsible for policy, planning, public relations, and oversight; day to day operations of the WWCS are primarily the responsibility of the President and senior administrative staff.

As dictated by a bylaw revision in 2016, no more than 40% of the members may be parents of current students. The board members are nominated and elected by the current board and serve a 3 year term, renewable once. One faculty member serves as a non-voting member, and one parent member is elected by the parents. Employees or spouses of employees of the WWCS are ineligible to serve on the board. If you are interested in serving on the board or you would like to nominate a board member please contact the current board chair listed at the top right column of this page.

Board meetings are generally held the fourth Thursday of each month from September through June, 6:30 pm, in the DeSales Library. All regular meetings are open to the public. There is a brief public comment period at the end of each meeting. Any individual who would like otherwise to address the board should contact the Chair in writing at least two weeks prior to the schedule meeting.



Andrea Renholds,  
WWCS Board President

Jerry Anhorn, Jr.

Deacon Jim Barrow

Edward Chvatal

Darren Goble

Ruthann Haider

Kristal Hassler

Ryan Kregger

Fr. Matthew J. Nicks

Cober Plucker

Marleen Ramsey

Andrea Renholds

Joyce Sanks

Fr. Curtis Seidel

Elly Sherry

Brenda Shields



# STRATEGY & VISION

## WE ARE ONE COMMUNITY

Assumption and DeSales will be two schools located on one master campus that is a destination for the entire Catholic community. This campus will include a chapel, performance space, community library and alumni space, modernized locker rooms and a community fitness center, updated cafeteria for parish and community events, and modern educational technology.

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## WE ARE REVERENT

Guided by our Bishop and Pastor, we will celebrate our identity as a mission of the Church; provide inspirational and welcoming sacramental and faith experiences (including peer disciple groups and pilgrimages) for staff, students, and families; have an increased priest/religious presence at both schools; be closely integrated with the parishes; and be a center for Catholic life in the greater Walla Walla community.

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## WE ARE FAITHFUL

We will exemplify an engaged, close-knit, welcoming, and authentically Catholic community; focus on our strengths and use the talents of our parents, parishes, and alumni to set us apart; ensure every element of our schools is mission-driven through a rigorous review process; have sufficient support staff for our faculty, including technology consultants, paraprofessionals, counselors, and volunteer coordinators at both schools; and have opportunities for connection for alumni of all ages.

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## WE ARE SCHOLARLY

We will provide challenging academics in small class settings; engage in long-term academic, career, and vocational planning for all students; have an established alumni mentorship and internship program; and offer student-centered experiences and student-designed service projects which provide leadership opportunities.

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## WE ARE IMAGINATIVE

We will be innovative in expanding beyond the academic core, including technology electives at multiple grade levels, a robust K-12 language program, after school clubs and mini-courses showcasing the talents of community members, and continued excellence in athletics and the fine arts.

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## WE ARE HOPEFUL

We will have a \$10 million dedicated scholarship fund to enable sufficient financial aid for all students wishing to enroll; enroll at least 450 students, the socioeconomic, cultural, and ethnic diversity of which reflects our parish communities and the greater Walla Walla Valley; benefit from a vibrant international student program; and maintain an active in-house development office, legacy club, and parish and alumni outreach program.

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# PILLARS & STRATEGIC PLAN

## PILLAR ONE FAITH AND IDENTITY

As a vital part of the teaching mission of the Church, Walla Walla Catholic Schools exist to foster and strengthen personal relationships with Jesus Christ and to be a communal witness to the Gospel. The schools will be intentional about cultivating the Christian formation of our students and school community, and encourage every person associated with WWCS, whether student, teacher, staff, parent, or friend, to show and feel Christ's love in our midst.

### Strategic Plan:

We will focus our efforts in the next three to five years on parish integration, personal engagement and vocation, cultivation of virtue, and service learning.



## PILLAR TWO ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

The Walla Walla Catholic Schools are committed to providing a strong, well-rounded Catholic education that motivates students to realize and achieve their full academic potential. Supported by close relationships with faculty, staff, and parents and challenged by a vibrant Catholic curriculum, students at all academic levels will be provided with a foundation for lifelong learning, productive community engagement, and a fulfilling vocation.

### Strategic Plan:

We will focus our efforts in the next three to five years on curricular review, post-graduation planning, developing an alumni mentorship and internship program, increasing support staff, and developing a more robust language program.



## PILLAR THREE STUDENT LIFE

We are committed to growing the whole student and using their God-given talents to instill and develop a breadth of interests beyond academics, both in and out of the classroom. Through strong electives, extracurricular activities, and athletics, we seek to foster that growth in a supportive, Christ-centered environment.

### Strategic Plan:

We will focus our efforts in the next three to five years on a review of our elective and athletics programs, establishment of student clubs, and establishing targeted counseling resources at Assumption.





## PILLAR FOUR

### ENROLLMENT & COMMUNITY BUILDING

Walla Walla Catholic Schools' strategic plan for enrollment is driven by our vision to become the first choice for Catholic families and other families in our community looking for a Christ-centered education in the Walla Walla Valley. Our ideal enrollment level will maximize offerings and activities, while maintaining the benefits of small class size and strong community. We are committed to ensuring all our programs and efforts represent our core principles.

#### Strategic Plan:

We will focus our efforts in the next three to five years on actively engaging our current and prospective community members, setting goals, improving relationships with the parishes, alumni and friends, looking for innovative ways to aid all families with affordability.



## PILLAR FIVE

### SUSTAINABLE STEWARDSHIP

Walla Walla Catholic Schools must have vital infrastructure in place to fulfill our mission, to operate with excellence, and to resource the expectations established in this Strategic Plan. Our schools have been blessed by the generosity and stewardship of previous and current generations as evidenced by our facilities, grounds, technology, and financial viability. We will continue to manage, steward, and increase our resources with vision in order to position Walla Walla Catholic Schools for a successful and sustainable future.

#### Strategic Plan:

We will focus our efforts in the next three to five years on conducting a facilities use study, creating a one campus building vision, growing the endowment, formulating a technology plan, and carry out a capital campaign for building improvements.

TO VIEW THE FULL  
WALLA WALLA CATHOLIC SCHOOLS  
STRATEGIC PLAN VISIT:  
[www.wearewwcs.com](http://www.wearewwcs.com)



# ADVANCEMENT

DEAR WWCS FAMILY AND FRIENDS,

Now more than ever, we are thoughtful of our spiritual values and relationships, things that are most important in our lives. Walla Walla Catholic Schools is so grateful for our community that has funded and supported us throughout the years. Although this past year has been difficult due to the pandemic, our mission of providing a Catholic education to our children has continued to progress. We find comfort and encouragement knowing that you support these beliefs. Through it all, we witnessed our Catholic community help one another and work together for a brighter future.

Your dedication and commitment to Walla Walla Catholic Schools is greatly appreciated. Last year, through our Annual Giving Campaign, we were able to reach our goal of \$150,000. Thanks to your generosity, we upgraded technology and purchased accelerated reading materials. We acquired new chairs for the DeSales school chapel, renovated the Home Economics classroom, funded security improvements and student workstations, and also provided COVID-19 related tuition assistance.



Your donations make a lasting difference to many, and we could not do this without you.

Grace and Peace,  
Jamie Van Wormer  
Director of Advancement  
Walla Walla Catholic Schools



From the bottom of our hearts, thank you for your selfless giving and support. Thank you for uplifting those in need. Thank you for living the faith and showing the world what it means to be Catholic.

Thank you!



“We both grew up in the catholic school system. Our catholic schools provided us with not only a good education; they instilled in us morals, respect, ethics, self-discipline and years of continuing growth of our faith”.

Richard and Mary Bayer-Sundberg (Class of 1967)

## FRIENDS & FAMILY GIVING CIRCLE

All individuals are invited and encouraged to join WWCS Friends and Family Giving Circle. The Giving Circle is for anyone who makes a gift to Walla Walla Catholic Schools of \$250 or more. This is an opportunity to “pay it forward” as we work together to improve the futures of our children. As a member, you will receive benefits and have the opportunity to connect with our school community. Thank you to all the members who have already committed their gifts for this year.

From the bottom of our hearts, thank you for your selfless giving and support. Thank you for uplifting those in need. Thank you for living the faith and showing the world what it means to be Catholic.

# ENDOWMENT

Under the signatures of 6 original board members and 7 incorporators representing the three local parishes, the Walla Walla Catholic Schools Endowment Association was established November 16, 1977. The endowment's primary purpose is to provide regular and growing income to support education in Catholic Schools in Walla Walla County.

The operation of the Endowment is relatively straightforward. Funds are solicited and obtained, and invested. Distributions are made to the school system with income generated from the principal corpus of the fund. The primary objective is to grow the corpus over time to continue to provide a regular and growing source of income. The initial funding of the Endowment was able to provide approximately \$13,000 to the schools in its first year. The product of the vision of the original founders, the Endowment is completing its 43rd year. The fund has grown to nearly \$10 million in value and provides approximately \$450,000 in operating income to the schools annually. Accumulated distributions since inception total over \$6 million.

## WWCS ENDOWMENT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

David Elmenhurst, President

Ed Leahy, Secretary

Mike Gorton, Treasurer

Dick Heinzman

Robyn Huether

Sandy Kimball

Dave Konen

## WWCS HERITAGE SOCIETY

*YOU ARE OUR HERITAGE. YOUR LEGACY IS OUR FUTURE.*

Walla Walla Catholic Schools Heritage Society is to recognize a legacy of giving at WWCS and honor alumni, parents and friends who have made a commitment to the School through their estate plans.

Estate gift plans to WWCS can be made in many forms, including gifts by will or trust, life income gifts, such as a charitable gift annuity or remainder trust, charitable lead trusts or a reserved life estate and gifts through a beneficiary designation (IRA, 401k, 403b, qualified retirement accounts, life insurance).

If you have already included Walla Walla Catholic Schools in your estate plans, we thank you! If you are thinking about becoming a member of Walla Walla Catholic Schools Heritage Society, we would like to welcome you! Please remember that becoming an official member only occurs when you take a moment to let us know about your thoughtful gift plans/intentions.

To become a Heritage Society member, you need only to inform the Advancement Director that Walla Walla Catholic Schools is included in your will or other estate plans. If you would like to speak to us directly, please contact our Director of Advancement, Jamie Van Wormer at (509) 525-3030 or by email at [jvanwormer@thewwcs.com](mailto:jvanwormer@thewwcs.com)





# WE ARE WWCS

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING  
WALLA WALLA CATHOLIC SCHOOLS  
WEAREWWCS.COM

## WE ARE FAITHFUL

A FAITHFUL COMMUNITY

**50%**

of our students  
are Catholic



**50%**

are of  
other faiths

## WE ARE SUCCESSFUL

COLLEGE ACCEPTANCE



**100%**

of our graduating class  
was accepted into college

## WE ARE DEDICATED

A DEDICATED FACULTY

with an  
average  
of

**16.5  
YEARS**

teaching in the  
Walla Walla Catholic  
School system

## WE ARE SCHOLARLY

COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS

a total  
of more  
than

**\$1.5M**

was offered  
to graduates

## WE ARE SUPPORTIVE

FINANCIAL AID

**72%**

of our students receive  
some kind of aid to cover  
tuition costs



## WE ARE COMMUNITY

JOIN US

**525-3030**

Call us today and schedule a visit to the Early  
Learning Center, Assumption Catholic Grade  
School or DeSales Catholic High School

919 E Sumach Street | Walla Walla WA 99362 | 509.525.3030

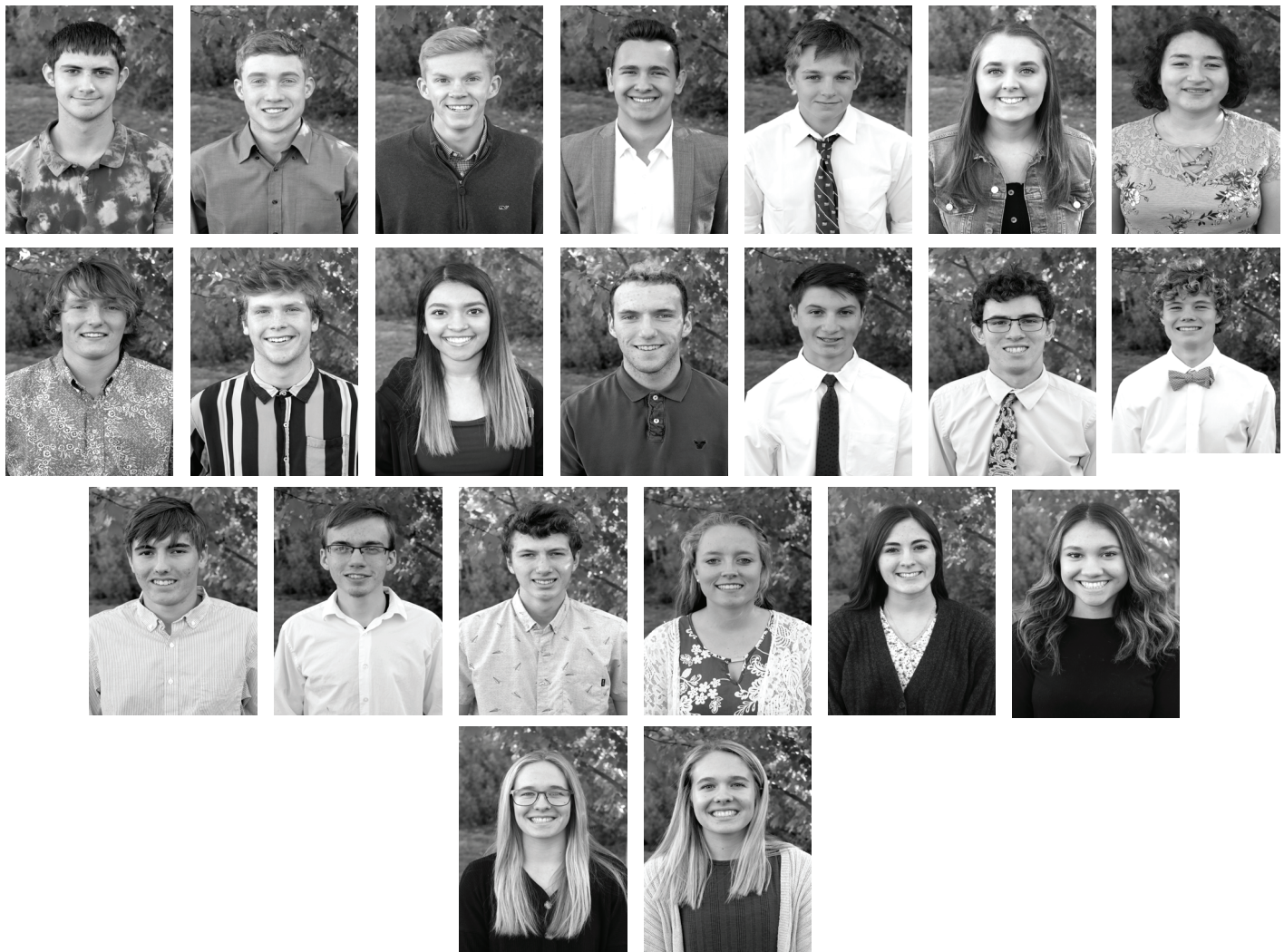
## OUR MISSION

With Christ as our foundation, and in partnership with families, Walla Walla Catholic Schools forms the whole student: mind, body, and soul. We are committed to academic excellence and the development of faith and reason. Our students grow to be disciples of Jesus Christ—strong in virtue, exceptional in learning, and generous in service.

# CLASS OF 2020

The Senior class of 2020 holds a special place in the hearts and minds of the faculty and staff of DeSales Catholic High School. With the beginning of the pandemic, we knew that this class would miss out on many special school memories: sports, prom, the amazing performance of Treasure Island, class bonding, graduation and many other events that make senior year special. Thankfully, the school was still able to offer the Senior class some amazing outdoor graduation memories at the M-F Drive-In. We will never forget these students' humor, honesty, faith, resilience and loyalty to each other and to the Walla Walla Catholic Schools. It was a pleasure to know these young men and women and have a brief moment in time with them before they walked out into the bigger world. We wish them all the best for their futures.

— DeSales Faculty & Staff



Top Row (L To R): Garrett Buffington, Noah Beechinor, Dawson Neely, Dominic Keene, Tanner Bollinger, Natalie Brinson, Madelyn Castaneda; Row 2 (L To R): Timothy Worden, Matthew Miedema, Wendy Vargas, Bobby Holtzinger, Bailey Lesko, Nate Anhorn, Ethan Haugen; Row 3 (L To R): Ryan Rizzuti, Kevin Doohan, Logan Jones, Jessica Nelson, Emily Ness, Leslie Arceo; Bottom Row (L To R): Kenna Buratto, Holland Buratto



# WAYS TO SUPPORT WALLA WALLA CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

## CASH/ONLINE GIFTS

Cash gifts can be made through credit/debit cards, cash or check. To donate online to Walla Walla Catholic Schools Annual Fund or to support student scholarships, visit [www.wearewwcs.com](http://www.wearewwcs.com) and click on “Support Us.” Recurring, annual or monthly gifts can be set up by calling the Advancement Office at (509) 525-3030.

## MATCHING GIFTS

Matching gifts are an easy way to double your donation to Walla Walla Catholic Schools. Please check with your Human Resource Department to see if your company matches charitable contributions.

## PLANNED GIFTS

You can remember and support Walla Walla Catholic Schools and our programs by leaving a gift in your will or estate plan. Please contact Jamie Van Wormer, Director of Advancement (509) 525-3030 or [jvanwormer@wearewwcs.com](mailto:jvanwormer@wearewwcs.com) for more information regarding bequests and planned gifts.

## ENDOWMENT GIFTS

Gifts to Walla Walla Catholic Schools Endowment Fund in your family’s or a loved one’s memory/honor provides a stable source of tuition assistance to deserving students. Gifts can be made with cash, securities, property or other assets. Please contact the Advancement Office for more information.

Thank you for supporting Walla Walla Catholic Schools!

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED