

THE GOOD NEWS

FROM ALUMS & FRIENDS & FAMILIES

Providing tuition assistance to students at Community of Saints Regional Catholic School



CLASS OF 1970 — ALL SCHOOL REUNION!

St. Matt's, St. Mike's, St. John Vianney, and Our Lady of Guadalupe

SATURDAY, MAY 16
5:30 p.m.
St. Matthew's Social Hall
See page 8 for details.

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BELOW: 5th graders Jaslynn Ortiz and Megan Knorr show off the robot they're building in STEM Club.



PHOTO BY JEANNINE MARIE PHOTOGRAPHY

COS Preschool's Success Fuels Growth

A driving force behind Community of Saints' steady growth is the school's Faithful Beginnings preschool program. The classroom for 4-year-old students has reached capacity for the last five years, and each year, more preschool students enroll in kindergarten at COS. To find out what makes the program so popular, go to page 10.

COS Rewarded for "Exceptional Results" Receives Bonus \$10,000 Grant from Healey Foundation

Just before Christmas vacation, the school administration received the good news that Community of Saints was chosen to be this year's recipient of the Healey Foundation's Founders Award. The recognition comes with a \$10,000 grant.

In choosing COS, the Healey Foundation called out the school's ability to adapt to changing environments, its steady growth, and the school board's actions to purchase the campus last year. "Through this work, we see the kind of decision-making and action required by a vibrant school that's investing in its own future," said Christine Healey.

With the Founders Award, the Healey Foundation seeks to promote entrepreneurialism and innovation in school governance, enrollment, and development. In its press release announcing the award, founder Robert Healey, Sr. explained the choice. "Community of Saints Regional Catholic School has a growth strategy and a strong board with ownership interest, both key to long-term sustainability. They've also shown a progression in the art and science of being in the school business. They continue to do the work."

"A vibrant school that's investing in its own future."

— CHRISTINE HEALEY

MESSAGE FROM **father steve**



Dear Partners in the Community of Saints mission:

Community of Saints is you. Your support and encouragement make COS possible.

Community of Saints Regional Catholic School grows enrollment, expands educational opportunities, and thrives in the development of the whole student — physically, intellectually, socially, and spiritually.

Grows Enrollment: Our students come and stay. Retention rate is high and enrollment grows each year. This year we experienced an 18% increase in enrollment. In the past four years enrollment has grown 50%. Alums and Friends and Families (A&F&F) raised more than \$250,000 this year — making it possible to provide opportunity for more students who need financial help to come to COS.

Expands Educational Opportunities: COS is one of only nine schools nationally selected by the University of Notre Dame for an innovative program to expand access and learning opportunities in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math. Students are taking to this opportunity with enthusiasm.

Thrives in the Whole Development: We are a Catholic school. The values, the virtues found in strong Catholic faith proclaim our identity. We named the school Community of Saints because St. Paul refers to those early communities of

disciples as “saints of God.” We ARE the saints of God and strive to evermore perfectly demonstrate our love for God and our love for our neighbor. All students participate in service learning projects. Students actively participate in the weekly school liturgy — our choir is GREAT.

There is so much more to be said about Community of Saints, yet you get the picture. We grow, we expand, we thrive, all because of the vital partnership we have with you. You are the lifeblood of COS. We change and save lives at COS, all because of you.

In the last issue there was a long discussion with two alums — Thomas Smith, retired Chief of Police of Saint Paul, and retired 4-Star General Joseph Votel. Both men have generously agreed to come and talk with our students about what Catholic education has meant in their lives. On April 20th General Votel will be at COS to talk with students and you are welcome to join us.

With gratitude,
Fr. Stephen Adrian, Canonical Administrator COS

Ret. General Votel '72 Will Address COS Middle School and Donors

MONDAY, APRIL 20
10 a.m.

Community of Saints School
335 Hurley St. East, West St. Paul



Please join us when General Votel comes to give a talk for middle school students at COS. Immediately following, the school will provide refreshments and an opportunity for attendees to meet some of the students.

“ We as a society have a responsibility to help kids develop the right virtues they'll need to succeed in life. ”

— RET. GEN JOE VOTEL '72

Gifts Given in Memory of George Kronschnabel (1925–2020)

George Kronschnabel was born in 1925 and grew up in a small town near Appleton, Wisconsin. George graduated from St. Mary's High School in 1942, and at the age of 17, enlisted in the Navy. He first served with the Atlantic Fleet and was present at the D-Day invasion. Later, he served with the Pacific Fleet. After his discharge in 1946, George took advantage of the GI Bill to attend the College of St. Thomas.



George Kronschnabel

In college, George met and married St. Paul native, Betty Michel. While George completed his studies, the young couple lived with Betty's grandmother, who had a house near Cherokee Park. Their first two children were born during that time and were baptized at St. Matthew's.

After graduating from St. Thomas, George went to work for his father-in-law at Union Brass & Metal, which manufactured and sold faucets. "He was a sales guy," his oldest son, Bill, said. "When we were growing up, he was gone Monday through Friday every other week. He traveled all over."

Eventually, George and Betty Kronschnabel went on to have ten children, all of whom attended Catholic grade school and high school, with several graduating from Catholic colleges. "My parents were always strongly in favor of Catholic education," said Bill.



George and Betty Kronschnabel pictured with their 10 children, from oldest to youngest: Bill, Mary Beth, Ann, Jim, Rita, Jane, Peter, Ellen, Paul, and Ted.



When George passed away in January at the age of 94, his family honored his lifelong support of Catholic education by listing Community of Saints as a preferred memorial recipient. "My dad supported Community of Saints for years," Bill stated. "He believed the school provided an opportunity for people who may not be able to fully afford a Catholic education."

Thank you to George Kronschnabel's family and friends for their generous contributions in his memory.

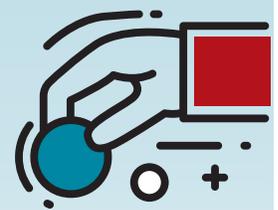
PLANNING FOR GIVING

Donors Use RMDs to Contribute to COS

The **Required Minimum Distribution (RMD)** is the amount of money that must be withdrawn from a retirement account annually after the participant turns 72. To avoid paying income tax on the withdrawal, some people choose to contribute all or part of their RMD to a qualified charity or school.

One donor described it as his preferred way to give. "I've had an IRA for over 50 years. We're at a point where we don't need all of the income. To us, it's appropriate to use the RMD to donate to charitable causes. Community of Saints is one of them."

Linda Sellars has four years until her first RMD, so she took steps to make sure her money goes where she wants it to. "A lot can happen in four years and I wanted to be sure the school gets my contribution." Linda changed the **Beneficiary Designation** in her retirement account, stipulating a percentage of her IRA to go to COS. "It's easy and costs nothing to do. I don't have to change my will. I just fill out a form. Now, if something happens to me, I know the school will get the funds I want them to have."



Remember When... Class of 1970 from St. Matthew,

TERRI CUNNINGHAM CISMOWSKI

St. Matthew

“1970 was the first year the girls had a softball team. It was a big deal. Sister Sara was the coach. She wore her habit to practice and games. It wasn't the old black and white habit — it was blue and she wore a blue veil on her head. The team started out with nothing — no equipment or anything. We had to buy our own uniforms — little blue tank tops. I'm sure it was Sister Sara who got the whole thing going. She was an athlete.”



TIM DALZELL

St. Matthew

“I was in 2nd or 3rd grade — I'm not sure which — when we moved to a classroom on the second floor. The chairs and desks got bigger, so my feet didn't touch the ground. The nuns made my parents build me a footstool so my feet could touch and I would keep my posture correct. Before school I snuck the footstool into my classroom and tucked it under my desk where I was sitting in the corner because I didn't want anyone to see it. But they did.”



SANDY MURPHY

St. Michael

“A big memory was from 2nd grade when Miss Morgan took us out to lunch one day. She had taxi cabs come to school and pick us all up. We went to a place by the West Twins Theatre on Robert Street and walked upstairs to the restaurant. We could have either tuna fish or egg salad sandwiches, which we all thought were gross, but going out for lunch felt like high living. When we came back to school, I remember the nuns looking out the windows at us. I think Miss Morgan got in trouble. She was my favorite teacher.”

JIM MULCAHY

St. John Vianney

“At school, we'd go to Mass every day. Whenever it was time to stand up, sit down, or kneel, the nuns would make this clicking noise, cueing us to do the next thing. Click — we'd kneel. Click again — we'd stand. I could never figure out how they made that sound. Finally, one time I saw it, it was a metal device they kept in the pocket of their habit.”



SHANNON KUNIK DUNST

St. Michael

“My best friends were Mary Jo Adams, Sue Osendorf, and Libby Kennedy and we all lived within five houses of each other, just a block away from school, and we never had a snow day. It didn't matter how much snow we got — our moms couldn't wait to get us out the door. I remember the clear plastic bags we carried our books in that we bought at school for a nickel. When we were in the younger grades, our gym teachers were mothers — that was our physical education. In 8th grade, to rebel against the uniforms, girls bought neon-colored fishnet stockings and we wore them to school, until the nuns told us not to.”



JOE WENKER

St. Matthew

“I played football and we were okay in 1970, but the year before we were really good. I was in 7th grade when we played at Parade Stadium for the Twin City Catholic School Championship. I remember we got beat bad but it was fun because we felt like we were real football players. We came to the game in our street clothes, changed in the locker room, and showered afterwards. Joe Rowan was the coach. He was always smoking a cigarette, straight Camels.”

St. Michael, and St. John Vianney Share Memories

TIM DALZELL

St. Matthew

“After the church burned down, we’d have school Mass at the old St. Mike’s Church that was standing empty. Kids would get to school, and they’d tell you to leave your jackets on and we’d all walk eight blocks to old St. Mike’s. I lived a block away from St. Mike’s and I didn’t think it made sense for me to walk to school and turn around and walk all the way back. So instead of walking to school, I’d just wait around the neighborhood and then slip into line when they showed up. It worked great until I got caught.”



JACKIE CYBYSKE SCHREIBER & TERRI CUNNINGHAM CISMOWSKI

St. Matthew

“Mr. Curran was a 7th grade teacher. He was our first male teacher and he was everybody’s favorite. Looking back, he was pretty young, probably mid 20’s. All the girls loved him. He was Irish so we decided to surprise him for St. Patrick’s Day. A group of us hid at school one night and after everyone left, we decorated his classroom. The school doors were locked so we jumped out the window — it was on the side where the convent was. He was quite surprised and he knew it was us, but we didn’t get in any trouble. That was probably the riskiest thing we ever did.”



SR. ANNE BECKER

Music Teacher at St. Matthew

“1970 was my first year teaching at St. Matthew’s. The old church was gone and the new one was in progress, but not yet finished. At the same time, Vatican II was being implemented, and liturgically and musically, changes were in full swing.

Because of Vatican II we had a new kind of music. It was in the vernacular, not Latin. It wasn’t four-part harmony sung only by the choir. It was music for the whole congregation, sung by all. I learned to play the guitar in 1970 because some of the new liturgical music was written for the guitar.

The new church building became a West Side community gathering center. I remember the first musical performed in the church — it was *West Side Story*.”



SHEILA SEXTON

St. John Vianney

“The whole school went to Mass every single morning — that’s the first thing we did. Girls couldn’t go near the altar or sacristy. We were taught — don’t even think about it. The girls wore beanies at church — they were part of our uniform. We couldn’t go to Mass without something on our head. If you didn’t have your beanie — you had to put kleenex on your head.”



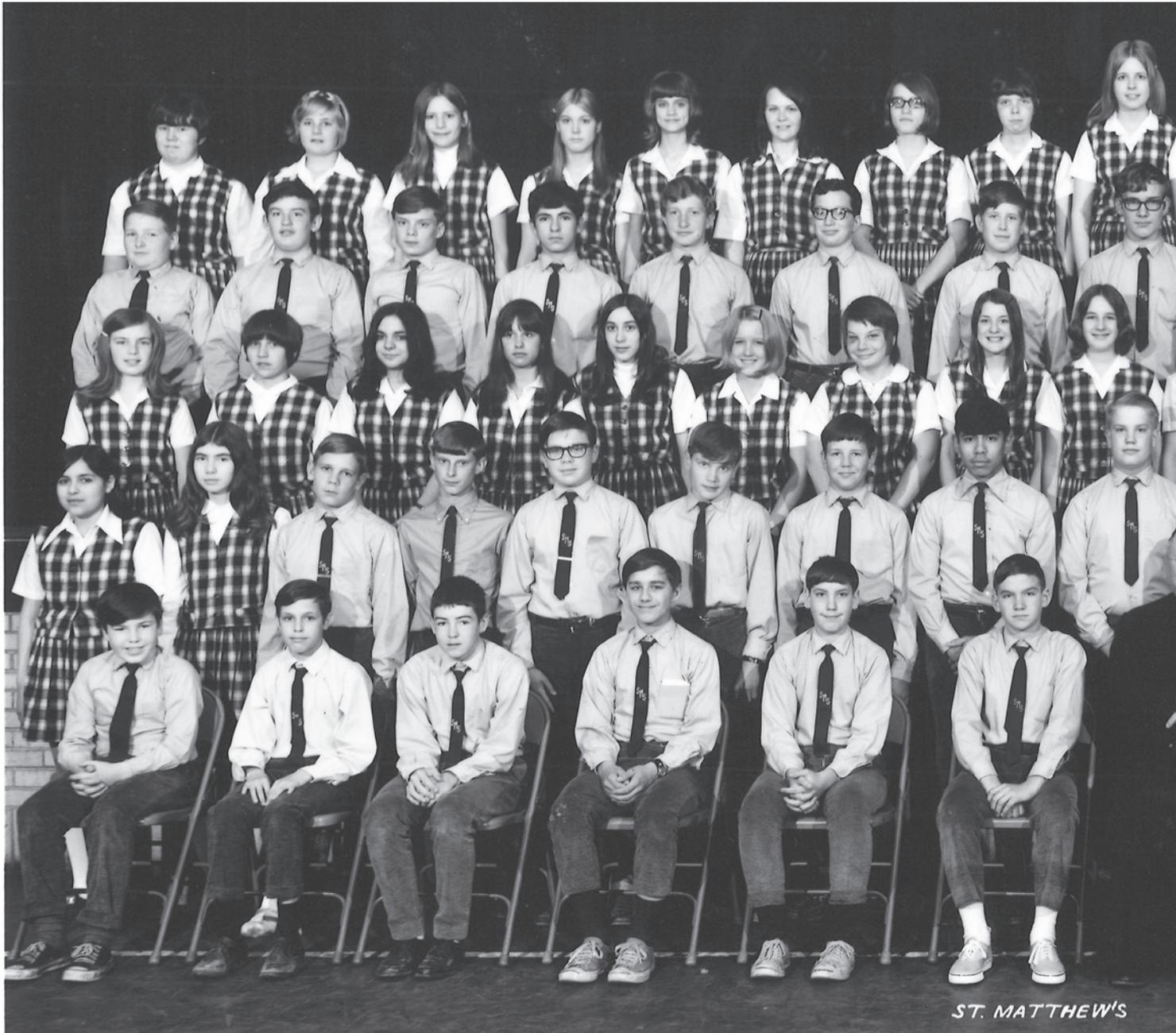
BRUCE SMITH

St. Matthew

“We were the first class to graduate in the new church. To me it was the beginning of the changes for all of these churches. We went from the old European-style church with hard wooden pews, to these new chairs and no kneeling, and acoustically it was much better. They were ahead of the curve with the new church.”



St. Matthew Class of 1970



Row 1 | Gregory Bauer, Harvey Buchite, Joseph Letourneau, Nicholas Lardani, Donald Ohmann, Thomas Leahy, Msgr. Cecka, Edward LeClair, Thomas Miller, Raymond Garcia, James Haas, Charles Bohrer, Timothy Dalzell

Row 2 | Roseanne Arnold, Barbara Wilberg, James Halligan, Steve Blaschka, Gregory Burg, Mark Fischbach, Patrick Vasterling, Tony Castro, Bruce Smith, William McElmury, Paul Ramirez, Steve Paquette, Steve Tschida, Richard Thul, Timothy Jack, Mary Stoven, Mary Vondrasek

Row 3 | Diana Bagley, Valerie Poechmann, Patty Isaac, Sue Scherbel, Barb Simones, Mary Jo Hager, Beverly Schaefer, Denise Blomgren, Kathy Koehnen, Ann Odegaard, Terry Schadegg, Sandra Gonsoir, Pamela Sieber, Janice Dwuznik, Debbie Hayes, Margie Stoven, Kathy Weisman, Kathy Wallner



Row 4 | John Traynor, Scott Norton, Daniel Quinlan, Mark Santori, Joseph Wenker, Thomas Plantenberg, Edward Krueger, Theodore Lancette, Jeffrey Jenniges, Michael Schaefer, Christopher Exley, Leonard Noyola, James Stuhlman, Gary Moy, Andrew Gross, James Exley

Row 5 | Ellen Schwartz, Elizabeth Reicher, Kathy Giesel, Jeanne Haas, Nancy Litfin, Barbara Fretschel, Cathy Cunningham, Jackie Cybyske, Kathy McInnis, Mary Ann Wessel, Pamela Bredehoff, Terri Gouette, Lauren Heining, Rebecca Kaess, Patrice Quehl, Terri Cunningham, Cathy Gubash, Rosa Noyola

St. Michael Class of 1970



Row 1 | Bill Bann, Fred Dinger, Libby Kennedy, Paulette Fox, Peter Thomas, Jim Seidl, Dennis Deziel, Mike Price, Kathleen Gutzmann, Valerie Murray

Row 2 | Diane Perkovich, Tim Delougherty, Mary Jo Adams, Shannon Kunik, Joe Bann, Kate Sweeney, Pat Sullivan, Diane Swanson, Mark Richtman, Perry Nitti

Row 3 | Steve Chapple, Jeff Zeis, Edwina Anderson, Steve Gramling, George Dierberger, Dale Weegman, Cecilia LaBarre, Sharon Saver, Rose Ament, Louise LaManna, Kathy Kelly

Row 4 | William McEnery, David Deutsch, Jean Snyder, Debbie Gallas, Mary Olchefske, Kathy Rowe, Debbie Roloff, Patti Bryczek, Deb Gauthier, Don Demulling, Steve Aden

Row 5 | Sue Osendorf, Michelle Mansur, Mike Blechinger, John Brown, Bob Breister, Len Glewwe, Joel Robideau, Diane DeLisi, Brian Mauer, Leanne Youness

Class of 1970 - It's Time to Celebrate 50 Years!

ALL SCHOOL REUNION on SATURDAY, MAY 16

Connect with Old Friends and Share Good Memories

WHO: Class of 1970 Grads from St. Matthew, St. Michael, St. John Vianney, and Our Lady of Guadalupe

WHEN: 5:30 p.m. on Saturday, May 16 (following 4:15 p.m. Mass at St. Matthew)

WHERE: St. Matthew's Social Hall

COST: \$25 for pasta dinner; cash bar

TO RSVP OR FOR MORE INFORMATION: Contact Doug Lieser at 651-457-2510 x119 or email alums@communityofsaints.org



St. John Vianney Class of 1970



Row 1 | Timothy Behrend, Carol Gill, John Kocur, Lori Smythe, Gregory Kavalowski, Elizabeth Loomis, Gregory Mosso, Tampa Lenzmeier

Row 2 | Eileen Wacker, Phillip Reid (dec.), Kathleen Murr, Keith Guindon, Lynda Tamborino, Joseph Motzko, Kathleen Crotty, Robert Murr

Row 3 | Gary Ehret, Barb Joynson, Paul Fahey, Mary Bauer

Row 4 | Sheila Sexton, Bruce Peters, Mary Jo Milner, James Kalal (dec.), Cynthia Gutzman, Joseph Kramer, Mary Dearing, William Dubois

Row 5 | Fr. Prokop, Sister Marion SSND, Randall Laib, Joann Ecker, Jeffrey Peterson, Mary Jo Powers, James Mulcahy, Fr. Zweber

More Memories from the Class of '70...

“ I remember the nuns teaching us that the Communists are going to invade some day and the first thing they’re going to do is kill the priests and nuns. And I thought, I’m not becoming a nun! I don’t think there were many vocations because of that.” — SHEILA SEXTON

“ When we altar boys were a little older, we were allowed to go to the church sacristy and practice by ourselves, without any adults. One time we found a box of unblessed hosts and we each grabbed a handful. We ate some of them and stuffed some in our pockets. One kid put them in the top pocket of his shirt. After we went back to class, he was called to go up to the board and while he was up there, he bent over and all the hosts fell out of his shirt pocket onto the floor. We all got in big trouble.” — JIM MULCAHY



PHOTOS BY JEANNINE MARIE PHOTOGRAPHY

What Makes Preschool So Popular

Community of Saint’s preschool has a great reputation with families and the credentials to back it up. It’s earned a Four-STAR Parent-Aware rating, the highest possible score, and it’s received national accreditation from NAEYC (the National Association for Education of Young Children), the gold standard for preschool programs and staff development. When you add flexible scheduling and the opportunity for families to receive scholarships through the Minnesota Department of Education, it’s no surprise the program is popular with working parents.

The program provides three staff members per room of 20 students, exceeding licensing requirements. One teacher in each room is also bilingual. Partnerships include the University of Minnesota’s Children’s Garden-in-Residence Program, just one component of the preschool’s hands-on science curriculum, where children get to learn through play.

The preschool’s success is one factor in the school’s steady rise in enrollment. Already, 21 students have registered for the 2020-21 kindergarten class, putting it on track to be the largest kindergarten class ever.

A Community Eager to Give What They Receive

A few years ago, as Christmas vacation approached, a student told her teacher that she wouldn’t receive any gifts that year because her family couldn’t afford them. The teacher shared the comment with Principal Bridget Kramer. Concerned, Ms. Kramer gave the family \$80 to spend on Christmas presents. After that, the family’s circumstances improved and for each of the two years since then, they have given \$100 to Principal Kramer, asking her to pass the money along to another school family who might need help at Christmas.

Ms. Kramer reports that some families have done something similar with tuition assistance. Even after qualifying for assistance, they’ve offered to pay more so another family in greater need can get additional help.



STEM Club Sparks Interest in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math

It turns out building robots and programming them to do things is fun! That's no surprise to the students in the popular STEM Club at COS. The club is just one piece of a much larger academic program being implemented over the next three years that's designed to improve student performance in math and science, as well as strengthen critical thinking skills.

Last spring the University of Notre Dame awarded a multi-year grant to COS to implement a school-wide STEM program. COS was one of only nine schools nationwide, and the only Catholic school, chosen for the grant. The program promotes an interdisciplinary approach to teaching science, technology, engineering, and math.

Students Get Creative With Code

At STEM Club, students in grades 5-8 meet after school to work on their robots. "You can code it to do what you want, move forward, backward, and side to side," explained fifth grader Megan Knorr. "It does whatever you tell it to do."

After it's built, students need to program their robots to successfully navigate an obstacle course. They also have the option to customize their bots. "We're working on having it play songs," said sixth grader Bernard Muske. "If you code it right, it will show messages on top of its screen," he added, pointing to a display on the robot's roof.

Sixth grader Annalysse Hallman is trying to build a claw for her robot. "Then it could pick up my phone and carry it to me," she explained. "It's fun to make the robot do different things. For me, it's about the creativity."



ABOVE: STEM Club promotes a hands-on approach to problem solving as students program their robots to navigate an obstacle course.



COS was one of only nine schools nationwide chosen by the University of Notre Dame to implement the STEM program.

Putting Math in a New Light

One of STEM's objectives is to translate academic exercises into real life, an approach that makes sense to sixth grader Nico Cortez-Orme. "Math can be boring, but when you use it to do this kind of stuff, it puts math in a new light."

At their monthly meetings, students also get plenty of practice with problem solving, another pillar of STEM learning. "It's only moving on one side," observed Megan about her robot. "We think one of the motors is broken." But teammate Jaslynn Ortiz isn't worried. "We have not given up," Jaslynn said confidently, "We asked for help and we're problem solving. We think we need to change the battery."

BELOW: Sixth grade members of STEM Club: Nico Cortez-Orme, Bernard Muske, Annalysse Hallman



**COMMUNITY OF SAINTS
REGIONAL CATHOLIC SCHOOL**

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Save the Date!



REUNION SUNDAY on MAY 17

Everyone is invited to an All School Reunion, including alums from the schools of St. Matthew, St. Michael, St. John Vianney, and Our Lady of Guadalupe.

WHEN: 11:30 a.m. Mass with
Fr. Steve Adrian presiding

WHERE: Community of Saints Chapel,
335 Hurley St. East, West St. Paul
(former St. Michael's Church)

RSVP: To join us for a light breakfast,
call Doug Lieser at 651-457-2510 x119
or email alums@communityofsaints.org.

We look forward to seeing you!

