

BECKMAN NEWS

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2023

"I am Third."

Upcoming Events

Dec. 10	HS Choir Concert at 6:00 at the Basilica
Dec. 13	Christmas Band Concert at 6:30
Dec. 15 – 17	Junior High Play
Dec. 19, 20 & 21	Semester Tests
Dec. 22	Possible Snow Make-up Day
Dec. 22-Jan. 2	Christmas Break – No School

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

This weekend we will begin the Season of Advent, which is slightly shorter this year due to the calendar. This year at Beckman Catholic we are going to place a little more intentionality into

remembering advent is a time of preparation. In our secular culture, the Christmas season began on November 1st, but Christmas really doesn't begin until December 25th and lasts through the Baptism of the Lord in mid-January. To help everyone remember this, we'll delay putting up the Christmas decorations a few days and leave them up until after we get back from break. I'd encourage all of you at home to look at how you spend the season of Advent and also be a little more intentional of having it as a time of preparation.

As we prepare to celebrate Christ's birth, set aside time to prepare spiritually as we celebrate the birth of the infant Savior, as the greatest gift we have ever received is salvation and everlasting life made possible by the birth of Jesus. Attending Mass as a family during Advent or celebrating the sacrament of Reconciliation is a great way to help prepare for Christmas. You can also take time for a daily advent reflection. These can be found online from resources such as Bishop Barron's *Word on Fire* or from Matthew Kelly's *Dynamic Catholic* just to name a couple. Our students had the opportunity to celebrate reconciliation as a way to kick off advent on November 30th and December 1st while our area parishes will also have opportunities with communal penance services in addition to weekly scheduled reconciliation. We also have wonderful Christmas concerts from our band and choir this month, as well as our annual school Red and Green Day celebration on Friday, December 15th.

In this busy time, I encourage you to reflect on the true meaning of this season. As we celebrate, we are reminded of the many gifts we have. We are grateful for the great support you show to Beckman Catholic throughout the year. On behalf of the entire Beckman Catholic faculty and staff, I want to wish you a blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Others Second

As we continue looking at "I Am Third" we continue to put God first while we put others second. This is based on scripture when Jesus gave us the two great commandments, which have us love the Lord, our God with all our heart, mind, strength, and soul and to love our neighbor as we love ourselves. Putting others second is living the golden rule. In chapter 25 of Matthew's gospel, we are given great guidance on how to put others second when we clothe the naked, feed the hungry, visit the sick and imprisoned, and welcome the stranger. While the holidays are a time of joy for many, others struggle at this time, especially those who have difficulty making ends meet. A number of organizations look for donations to help those in need at this time. Locally, the Rural Food Pantry sponsors Christmas Baskets as well as the Angel Tree program, while there are other programs such as Cross Catholic Outreach, Food for the Poor, or Mary's Meals that work on an international basis. I'd encourage you to find a way as a family to help someone in need this Advent as a way to give to those in need.

Important School Tuition Organization (STO) Update

There are still tax credits available for donations to the Our Faith STO for the 2023 calendar year. This program greatly benefits many students and Beckman Catholic. Donations are eligible for a 75% tax credit from the state of Iowa, which means if you donate \$1000, \$750 of that will come back to you as a credit on your 2023 state of Iowa taxes. This is the best tax credit available in the State of Iowa. Funds raised will be used to provide tuition assistance for the 2024-2025 school year. Please visit www.ourfaithsto.org for more information. We need everyone's help to continue to have this opportunity available for families across the archdiocese. I would ask

that you please consider joining me in donating if you are able and for everyone to spread the word about this great opportunity.

Be on the lookout in future newsletters as well as in principal updates for more details on the STO application process for the 2024-2025 school year which will begin as we start tax preparation season in late January/early February.

ESA 2024 Application Process

For the 2024-2025 school year, there is more time to apply for the ESA program. The application for the 2024-2025 school year will become after April 15th, 2024 with a June 30th application deadline. Similar to this current year, tax information will be utilized for those meeting the income requirements, so you will not be able to apply for the ESA program until your 2023 Iowa tax returns are complete. Watch for additional information on the ESA application process in upcoming newsletter and emails.

Skip the Trip/Changes in License Fees

For families with students at the age where they need to take their driver's permit online test, I'd like to remind everyone that Beckman Catholic is an approved "Skip The Trip" location for the Iowa Department of Education. Through this partnership, students needing to take the computer-based test for their driver's permit may take their test here at school rather than have to drive to an area DOT office. Mr. Gallagher serves as our test proctor and will administer the test by appointment. Students may sign up to take the exam during study halls or Blazer Time. Once a student has taken and passed the test, they are then able to go to an area DOT office to get their permit.

Also, there has been a change in state rules regarding convenience charges for county treasurers' offices that issue drivers licenses. Many of you travel to Manchester to get your permits or licenses, as it's very quick and convenient. Delaware County has begun to charge a \$10 convenience fee for non-Delaware County residents who wish to utilize license services at the courthouse. Please be aware of this if you make the trip to Manchester. To avoid the fee you can schedule an appointment at the DOT office located in Dubuque.

Holiday Office Hours

The Beckman High School office will close at 12 p.m. on Thursday, December 21st and reopen on Wednesday, January 3rd at 7:30 a.m.

Weather Cancellation Reminders

As we turn the calendar to December, we begin the winter weather season. It's a good time to provide some reminders on potential school delays and cancellations. Beckman Catholic High School will operate on the Western Dubuque County Community School District schedule when winter weather causes delays or cancellations. If we have a delay or cancellation, we will send out an email and text message via our School Messenger program. If you are not receiving these notifications, please contact the school office so we can add you to receive those notifications.

You can also check the webpages for most local media or TV to see their delays and cancellation pages as well. KWWL and KCRG will also, through their phone apps, send you phone

messages for delays and cancellations. Delays and cancellations will be listed at Western Dubuque. We do not have separate messages for Beckman Catholic unless there would be a reason for us to have to delay or cancel separately from Western Dubuque.

Western Dubuque also has a messaging service for delays and cancellations. You can sign up to receive their emails or text messages at:

https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/IAEDU6961/subscriber/new?qsp=CODE_RED%C2%A0

By the way, if anyone has some good snow day song suggestions, feel free to send them my way as I'm sure we'll need a song or two before winter is over. ☺

Semester Test Schedule

Semester exams for high school and junior high school students have been set for Tuesday, December 19th, Wednesday, December 20th and Thursday, December 21st. The schedule for the tests is listed below.

Junior high students will follow the same schedule as the high school. For 6th period exploratory classes, tests will be on Wednesday, December 20th. "A" day classes will meet the first half of 6th period and "B" day classes will meet during the second half.

High school students are only required to be in attendance when they have a test scheduled. Parents please know high school students are allowed to come and go throughout the day depending on their test schedules. High school students who are not in a testing period but remain in the building can be in the library which is the designated study area for semester test days. We hope most students stay in the building during these periods when they do not have a test so they prepare for their remaining tests. All students will need to be in dress code during final exams.

Teachers will determine what occurs for students who come tardy for a testing period. There are scheduled make-up periods for students who have an excused absence if the teacher chooses to assign the student to the make-up period because of a tardy. If a student is tardy for a test, the teacher may not allow them to make it up at all and in this case, they will receive a "0" for the test. If a student chooses not to show up for a test and their absence from that class is unexcused, they will not be able to take the test and will receive a "0."

Lunch will be served Tuesday and Wednesday at 11:30 a.m. for junior high students. **High school students who plan on eating must sign up that morning in the main office so we get a lunch count. High school students also have the option to eat off campus if desired. Please tell your high school students to make sure they sign up for lunch if they are going to eat at school. There will be no lunch served on Thursday, December 21st.**

Also, please keep in mind Western Dubuque runs on their regular schedule on these days. With the early out on Wednesday that means students riding WD buses will be picked up at the normal Wednesday time, which is right around when we will be done with testing on Wednesday. Tuesday's pick up will be at 3:05 and Thursday will be at 1:05. Please be sure to plan

accordingly if you use the buses. The Beckman Catholic bus will also operate on this schedule to accommodate Xavier elementary students.

Jr. High and High School Test Schedule

	Tuesday, December 19th	Wednesday, Dec. 20th	Thursday, Dec. 21st
8:30 - 9:45	Period 1 Test	Period 4 Test	Period 7 Test
10:00 - 11:15	Period 2 Test	Period 5 Test	Period 8 Test
11:30 - 12:30	Lunch	Lunch	Make-ups
12:30 - 1:45	Period 3 Test	Period 6 Test	
2:00 - 3:00	Make-ups	Make-ups	

We are planning on using Friday, December 22nd as a snow make-up day only if we miss a test day due to weather. We will just move each day back one day. Hopefully that will not be needed. This will be done to remove the pressure of coming back from Christmas Break with the tests hanging over most of our students for the duration of Christmas Break.

~Marcel Kielkucki, Principal



CURRICULUM REPORT

2023 ACT results

Beckman Catholic recently received the 2023 ACT results. The ACT test is available for any junior or senior student. This test can provide more scholarship opportunities and entrance into certain 4 year colleges and universities. ACT scores can range from 12 to 36.

The 2023 average ACT score for Beckman Catholic was 21.3, the average state ACT score was 20.8 and the national average was 19.5. Average scores for Beckman Catholic, the state and nation were down this school year.

The five-year average ACT score for Beckman Catholic was 22.6, the state average was 21.2 and the national average was 20.2. (Copy and paste the link below)

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1p6CDcbkAWyDL59i362APQaz1ooqdyqtZ/view?ts=656794b5>

Update on Professional Development

On November 1st, Patricia Lehmann from the AEA came to Beckman Catholic and talked to the staff regarding our Academic goals. Staff had time to reflect and discuss potential issues with students showing integrity in their schoolwork, learning from their mistakes and an overall review in grading practices.

On November 3rd, the teacher in-service was at Xavier Elementary. Teachers from Xavier and Beckman Catholic held Mass in the morning together. After Mass the JH/HS teachers got together for a spiritual retreat at the Xavier Auditorium presented by Anthony Digman. That afternoon, Beckman Staff went on a tour of the new food pantry in Dyersville, hosted by Lisa Burlage.

On November 8th, the teaching staff will have time to meet within their departments to review their course offering and curriculum revisions for next school year. Any updates will be added in the spring with school board approval.

On November 15th, the teaching staff met within their assigned committees. These committees consist of the Cultural, Mentoring and Social Committee.

Student Government News

Students have begun planning for Christmas activities. Upcoming events include Christmas decorating, Christmas assembly, and Red and Green Day.

~ Steven Lueck, assistant principal

YEARBOOK NEWS

Seniors and Senior Parents

If you have not turned in a **senior photo**, please do so as soon as possible. Please make sure that you follow the below guidelines. A **baby photo** also needs to be submitted by 12/21, before Christmas break. This can be sent to me via email as a JPEG attachment or you can have your son/daughter bring in a hard copy. I will make sure that the photo is then returned to them. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Sellner at jsellner@beckman.pvt.k12.ia.us

- The yearbook staff prefers digital/electronic submissions, but we'll accept a wallet-sized print photo if need be.
- Color shots only have no sienna or other effects.
- Please take a shot with a formal pose from mid waist up, no full body shots. Also no hands touching the face, because of the size of the picture box.
- Students should adhere to all Beckman dress code rules including no tattoos, bare shoulders, exposed cleavage, facial hair, or piercings other than what's in the handbook. **Guys** need to wear a collared dress shirt - while a tie isn't required, it does look nice.
- Senior pictures were due in November so please get them to Mrs. Sellner as soon as possible. Pictures can be emailed to me at jsellner@beckman.pvt.k12.ia.us or come see me in room 110.
- The yearbook staff reserves the right to not accept pictures that fail to meet these specifications. If getting pictures taken is a burden, please contact me.
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2022-2023 Extra Yearbooks

We have a few extra yearbooks from the 2022-23 school year for sale for \$65. If you are interested, reach out to me by calling Beckman Catholic at 875-7188 or emailing me at jsellner@beckman.pvt.k12.ia.us.

~ Jackie Sellner, yearbook advisor

SCHOOL TOUR/STUDENT SHADOW DAY

If you weren't able to attend the Open House last month, you can arrange for a private tour by contacting Lauren at lanstoetter@beckmancatholic.org or 563-875-7188.

If you would like to set up a shadow day for your student to shadow a current Beckman Catholic student, please contact Lauren at lanstoetter@beckmancatholic.org or 563-875-7188.

~ Lauren Anstoetter

REGISTRATION

Is your student heading to Beckman Catholic next fall? Register your student if they will be "new" to Beckman prior to midnight on December 31st for the 2024-25 school year and their name will be entered into a drawing for a free school fleece! You can register online at: www.beckmancatholic.org under the admissions tab / online admission form.

~ Lauren Anstoetter

BLAZER CAFETERIA NEWS

A la Carte Breakfast

Did you know the cafeteria is open for breakfast? Students can purchase a variety of a la carte grab and go breakfast items starting at 7:30am daily. Many options available: cereal, cereal bars, granola bars, Chobani yogurt with granola, Goldfish, Chez-its, fruit snacks, Gogurt, cheese sticks, beef sticks, peanut butter sandwiches, milk, apple juice, orange juice, Propel, 100% juice bags, and many more things! Pricing is anywhere from .35 cents to \$1.25 per item. I am always open to suggestions for additions to the a la carte menu for breakfast and/or lunch. If you would like to see something offered, please let me know and I will look into it. If it's available and meets the smart snack requirements, I can order it.

Lunch Accounts

Please keep your lunch accounts with a positive balance. We have sent home many reminders with students in the last month. We have also e-mailed and made phone calls when the negative balance gets too high. Lunch is \$3.00/day. Doubles/Second Entree is \$1.60. All the a la carte purchases are optional and are charged accordingly. Thank you for your help in keeping the students lunch accounts positive.

~ Emily Snyder, Director Food Services



POSSIBLE SPRING KAIROS

In an attempt to accommodate juniors or seniors who were unable to attend Kairos this fall, we are making tentative plans for a Spring Kairos **April 18-21**. We need 10 solid commitments from students in order to move forward. See Mr. McGrane if you have any questions.

~ Jerry McGrane

FFA NEWS

Twenty-four members attended National FFA Convention October 31- November in Indianapolis, Indiana with FFA Advisor Mrs. Mausser, Science Mentor Mrs. Kluesner and Mr. Mather as the male chaperone and bus driver.

We are very proud to report the following National FFA convention results:

National Champions:

- Isabel Kluesner & Chloe Thier - Agriscience Fair Environmental Services/ Natural Resource Systems Division 2- \$1000 scholarships

Reserve National Champions:

- Tessa Tauke – Agriscience Fair Animal Systems Division 5- \$750 scholarship
- Ashley Schilling & Annabelle Zahradnik- Agriscience Fair Food Products and Processing Systems Division 2- \$750 scholarships

3rd place-

- Natalie Besler- Agriscience Fair Plant Systems Division 1- \$500 scholarship
- Kenneth Helle- Agriscience Fair Power Structural & Technical Systems Division 1- \$500 scholarship
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Top 10 finishes-

- Allison Knipper- 4th place Gold Medalist- Agriscience Fair Food Products and Processing Systems Division 1
- Noah Gaul and Ben Schuckert -7th place Silver Medalist - Agriscience Fair Power Structural & Technical Systems Division 6
- Alexander Kerper- 7th place Silver Medalist- Agriscience Fair Plant Systems Division 3
- *Alaina Thier- 9th place Silver Medalist- Agriscience Fair Environmental Service/ Natural Resource Systems Division 1
- Owen Boge - 9th place Silver Medalist- Agriscience Fair Social Systems Division 1

National 2 star Chapter Award- Beckman Catholic

American Star in Agriscience Finalist- Jasmyn Hoeger

American FFA Degree- Kayla Bonert and Jasmyn Hoeger

Honorary American FFA Degree- Terry and Rochelle Hoeger

National Courtesy Corps Award- Isaac Giestkemper, Valerie Rahe, Charissa Heisler, Andrea Schnieder, Madelyn Reiter, Kaitlyn Besler, Noah Mormann, Michael Schilling, Libby Hageman, Marie Grebner, Claire Gaul and Gabriella Schilling.

- On Monday November 20th, parents and guests of the Beckman Catholic FFA attended the FFA degree night. Discovery degrees were presented to 22 first year members in grades 7-8. Greenhand Degrees were earned by 26 first year high school members and 196 second year high school members earned the highest degree a member can earn that the chapter level which was the Chapter Degree.

Important dates for December:

- December 1st – FFA fair enrollment deadline
- December 7th FFA Meeting 7:30 a.m. Library
- December 8th- Deadline for intent to participate in spring contest form due via Google Forms by Noon
- December 11th FFA Christmas Party Library 6:30 pm

~ Dawn Mausser, FFA advisor

JUNIOR HIGH NEWS

- **Friday, February 23**, will be the JH Game Night from 6:00 – 9:00 pm.
- **Friday, March 15**, will be the JH Spring Dance 7:00 – 9:00 pm.
- Beckman Catholic hosts a junior high speech meet every year on the **last Friday of February**. All junior high students are welcomed to sign up and participate--and the community is encouraged to come support that day. If there are any questions or concerns, please contact Mr. Broxson at rbroxson@beckmancatholic.org.

~ Submitted by Matt Naber, Beckman Math and Science Teacher

Junior High Play - *Wizard of Oz*

The junior high play will be held the weekend of December 16, and 17. Performance time is 7:00 on December 16 and 17. The Sunday performance will be at 2:00. Several grade 7 & 8 students are involved in the production on stage and behind the scenes. Student directors include: Teresa Braun, Emmy Kramer, Vivian Schuster, and Chloe Goedken.

7th Grade Service

Grade 7 students had a service day on November 17. Students were divided into four groups and with a chaperone went to two or three of the following sites: St. Francis Xavier School, Mercy One Senior Care, Food Pantry, Head Start, Ellen Kennedy Living Center, Dyersville Progress and the James Kennedy Public Library. A group of students also assisted in helping clean the drama storage garage and doing maintenance tasks at the Basilica. Students who visited St. Francis Xavier helped in the junior kindergarten and kindergarten rooms.

Cookie Scherrman set the tone for the day by delivering a reflection on the importance of showing our faith through acts of love. After her inspiring message, students did some team building activities before heading to their service destination. After lunch, students visited another site.

In the follow up reflection, students shared positive lessons learned and affirmed from the outreach. Genuine appreciation for this opportunity was expressed by several of the students.

Thank you to the sites that hosted our students. Thank you also to all of those who chaperoned and to Earl Hosch the bus driver.

~ Beth Derr, service leader

JUNIOR HIGH MATH NEWS

Tuesday, December 6, will be our next Math Club meeting. Math Club meets once a month and is open to grades 7-12.

Submitted by Matt Naber, Beckman Math and Science Teacher

DECEMBER COUNSELING UPDATE

Community Colleges Provide Smart Start to Post-Secondary Education

An article in the [ASCA School Counselor](#) journal reported on research on how community colleges such as Northeast Iowa Community College (NICC) stack up against four-year colleges. Researchers found:

Students are super-prepared to transfer: Studies show that community college transfer students to a four-year college do just as well or better than students who began their career at a four-year college. In other words, a student's probability of success toward a four-year degree is unchanged by first going to a community college, and most of the time it's better.

Students attending a community college experience the same standards of quality: Community colleges are accredited by the same regional accreditation agencies as four-year colleges and universities. This is how and why community college credits transfer to four-year colleges; they are the same quality.

Transfer scholarships are available: The majority of four-year colleges and universities offer merit-based scholarships to high-achieving community college students. Students do not have to be fresh out of high school to get a scholarship; they just need good grades.

FAFSA Update

For college enrollment for 2024-25 school year, the FAFSA anticipated opening is in December 2023. In anticipation, students and at least one parent should apply for a FAFSA ID so that you will be able to access the the FAFSA as soon at it opens.

Iowa Last-Dollar Scholarship Information

Recent changes have been made to the 2023-24 and future student eligibility criteria by the Iowa Legislature. Students that have an [EFC higher than \\$20,000](#) will no longer be eligible for the Iowa Last Dollar Scholarship beginning with the 2023-24 school year starting this fall semester. New criteria are reflected below.

The Future Ready Iowa Last-Dollar Scholarship is an unique opportunity that pays your tuition at NICC. Scholarships for students amount to the remaining [tuition and fees](#) charged after other federal and state grant aid have been awarded. The scholarship is based on a student's financial need or Expected Family Contribution (EFC) and determined by the FAFSA. But unlike other grants, the EFC is set to a higher threshold that benefits more students and their families. It covers the difference between grant aid and tuition (*the last dollar*).

Sample student financial situations for eligible students:

- Student loan-only eligible students receive a full Last Dollar Scholarship.
- Students receiving some grant aid (i.e., Pell, Kibbie, Vo-Tech) but not enough to cover full tuition, receive the Last-Dollar Scholarship to fill the gap.
- Students receiving more grant aid than tuition/student fees cost, receive a minimum award of \$250 per semester to use on other educational expenses.

NICC has awarded more than \$6.1 million dollars since 2019 to over 1600 NICC students who qualified for this opportunity. To qualify you must meet the eligibility criteria required and set by the Iowa Legislature and administered by Iowa College Aid.

Current NICC Eligible Programs

NICC offers over 39 academic programs that are eligible for the Iowa Last-Dollar Scholarship. These programs vary in length and may be offered in a variety of formats (face-to-face, online, blended, competency-based).

- Certificate (less than one year)
- Diploma (one-year program)
- Associate of Applied Science Degree (two-year program)

Eligible programs are subject to change based on the Iowa Legislature and Iowa Department of Education. (Eligible programs also vary by community college.)

- [Administrative Office Associate](#)
- [Administrative Office Management](#)
- [Agriculture Business](#)
- [Agriculture Business: Agriculture Finance](#) Certificate
- [Agriculture Business: Precision Agriculture](#) Certificate
- [Agronomy and Crop Science](#)
- [Animal Science](#) Certificate
- [Applied Management](#)
- [Automotive Mechanics](#)
- [Automotive Technology](#)
- [Beef Science Technology](#)
- [Building Trades](#)
- [Business Administration](#) AAS and Certificate
- [Carpentry](#)
- [Commercial-Residential Electrician](#)
- [Computer Analyst: Business and Web Programming](#)
- [Computer Analyst: Networking Administration and Tech Support](#)
- [Computer Numerical Control \(CNC\) Machinist Technician](#)
- [Computer Science and Security](#)
- [Conservation Agronomist](#)
- [Dairy Science Technology](#)
- [Dental Assisting](#)
- [Diesel Mechanics](#)
- [Engineering Technology](#)
- [Gas Utility Construction and Service](#)
- [Graphic Design](#) (New for 2023-24)
- [Heating and Air Conditioning](#)
- [Industrial Electrician](#)
- [Industrial Maintenance Technician](#)
- [Industrial Automation and Mechatronics](#) (New for 2023-24)
- [John Deere TECH](#)
- [Paralegal](#)
- [Production and Companion Animal Veterinary Technician](#)
- [Medical Assistant](#)
- [Nursing](#)
- [Practical Nursing](#)

- [Radiologic Technology](#)
- [Respiratory Care](#)
- [Welding](#)

Award amount details:

- Scholarship amounts are based on the calculation of the tuition and student fee cost per credit plus the college technology fee per course, minus any federal and state grant aid.
- Program fees, textbooks, course supplies, tools and other required equipment (and other costs that may be associated with specific degree programs) are not covered by the Iowa Last-Dollar Scholarship.

Iowa Last-Dollar Scholarship recipients and enrollees are encouraged to utilize these resources provided by Iowa College Aid:

- [Iowa College Aid eligibility criteria](#)
- A [Virtual College Coach](#) provides college-going guidance for students and parents.
- The [Future Ready Iowa Mentoring Program](#) pairs students with a career mentor with experience in the field of interest, allowing students to enhance their career network and receive timely advice and support as they continue their education.

Updates from the University of Iowa

FAFSA: Because of the anticipated delayed opening of the FAFSA in December, 2023, the priority Deadline to apply for financial aid is now February 1, 2024.

World Language Requirements: College of Liberal Arts and Sciences students have several pathways to fulfill the World Language requirement for graduation: 4 years of a single foreign language in high school OR 3 years of single foreign language and a cultural expiration course, or 2 years of 2 different foreign languages in high school.

Testing requirements:

Applicants to Iowa will have the opportunity to self-report a test score or apply without providing one. A standardized test score is NOT required for general admission, direct admission to academic programs, or consideration for most Merit Scholarships. Applicants are encouraged to take the ACT or SAT and include scores on their application. Test schools will ONLY be used if the benefit the applicant.

~ Allan Eckelman, school counselor



HEALTH NEWS

Some important, practical tips can help minimize the stress that accompanies the holidays. These tips may even help you enjoy the holidays more than expected.

- * **Plan ahead.**
Make sure to plan on what you can attend in person or virtually. If you're hosting the holidays, create a menu to help you stay organized and make grocery shopping easier.
- * **Say no.**
With holiday commitments, it is OK to say no to a few or all of them. It also will help relieve some stress.
- * **Plan spending.**
The holidays mean spending money-make a budget and stick to it.
- * **Create relaxing surroundings.**
Turn on some music, light some candles or open the windows.
- * **Maintain healthy habits.**
A short workout each morning will help your decision-making throughout the day. Encourage your family to try snow shoeing or sledding to get in extra exercise. Eat healthy snacks like fresh fruit or vegetables throughout the season.
- * **Share feelings.**
Spending a holiday after a loss in the family can be difficult. Accept your feelings and open up about them to others.
- * **Be realistic.**
You are only one person, and you can only do so much. Be realistic with how much you can handle this season.
- * **Take a break.**
Don't forget about your own needs. Take a nap, go for a short walk, read a book or watch a funny movie.
~ Jolene Bagge BSN,RN

DEVELOPMENT

The State of Iowa is offering 75 cents for every dollar you donate back on your Iowa taxes: For every \$1 you donate to Our Faith STO, you get 75 cents of that donation back on your Iowa taxes. It is that simple. Your donation helps families with qualifying financial needs attend schools in the Archdiocese of Dubuque. If you have questions, or think this offer from the State of Iowa is too good to be true, talk with your tax advisor, or call Steve Kane, Director of Our Faith STO at 563-556-2580 x296. For information on how to donate visit www.ourfaithsto.org/donor.

Merry Christmas

All of us in the Development Office wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!
~Larry Wilson, development director

POST PROM FUNDRAISER

Dairy Queen is hosting a 10% night to help the Post Prom Committee raise money for our Post Prom. The date is Wednesday, December 13th from 4 p.m. – close. It's a great opportunity to support our Post Prom.

~ Members of the Post Prom Committee

BECKMAN CATHOLIC CHOIR NEWS

Beckman Catholic Singers' Christmas Concert

Staged in the beautiful Basilica of St. Francis Xavier, the Beckman Catholic Christmas Concert is a moving portrayal of the Nativity story through music performances by the Jr. High Choir, Treble Choir, Chamber Choir, Concert Choir, and Troubadours. This Christmas tradition is a favorite at Beckman and in the Dyersville community. This concert will be held Sunday, December 10th at 6:00 p.m. with no admission fee. Free will donations accepted.

There is a possibility that KMCH Radio (94.7fm) will be airing our concerts during the Christmas season. Specific dates and times of the Beckman Choir and Band concerts airing on their station will be shared via email with all Beckman music parents and students once we know more information.

On December 20th there will 13 chamber choir members that will be performing on the radio. They will be broadcast on KMCH Radio (94.7) and KDST Radio (99.3) during the 9:00 am hour.

~ Danielle Besler, choir director

BECKMAN CATHOLIC BAND NEWS

Congratulations!

On December 2nd, we have 4 students participating in the NEIBA honor band in Oelwein. This is our most prestigious honor band of the year, congrats to these musicians!

Joseph Kielkucki, Euphonium

Zachary Helle, Trumpet

Zuleimy Aburto, Flute

Rheanne Bollweg, Horn

Pep Band!

Pep band season is here! Students need to participate in 5 of the 6 pep bands. Sign up today! I do want to highlight January 9th as our community pep band--all are welcome and the more the merrier! It doesn't matter if you play your instrument regularly, or if it has been a few years, we would love to have you join.

Upcoming Events:

December 1st: Home Game vs Wilton

Call time: 5:15, Downbeat (Start time) 5:30

December 2nd: NEIBA honor band

December 7th: Home Wrestling

Details TBD look for an email!

December 13th: Holiday Concert, Beckman Auditorium

Call time 5:30, start time 6:30

Jan 9th: Home Game vs. Anamosa (Community Pep Band!)

Call time: 5:30, Downbeat 5:45

Jan 12th: Home Game vs. Bellevue

Call time: 5:15, Downbeat 5:30

Jan 16th: Home Game vs. Camanche

Call time: 5:30, Downbeat 5:45

Feb 6th: Home Game vs. Cascade

Call time: 5:15, Downbeat 5:30

~ Adam Denner, Beckman Catholic Instrumental Music

The giving of gifts is not something man invented. God started the giving spree when he gave a gift beyond words, the unspeakable gift of His Son.

- Robert Flatt -





Upcoming Events at James Kennedy Public Library: December 1—3



Pop-Up Library at Dyersville Town Festival Saturday, December 2 from 12-5 pm

While enjoying the winter market activities, be sure to stop at the JKPL too! A Pop-Up Library will be set up inside the library so be sure to come in and select a free book to keep! There will be books for all ages available.



Cookies at the Dyersville Downtown Winter Market Saturday, December 2 from 12—4 pm

The JKPL will be participating in the Downtown Winter Market by bringing part of the annual cookie walk fundraiser to the market!

Stop by the JKPL booth and support the library while satisfying your sweet tooth. A variety of homemade cookies and sweet treats will be on a decorative plate, covered and decorated with a colorful bow. Each plate will be \$8.00 and include 12 items. Individual cookies will also be available for \$1.00 each—to grab and enjoy while wandering the market.



For information on all scheduled library events, visit the library website at:



Christmas Movies @ Your Library presents *Jingle All The Way* Saturday, December 9 @ 1:00 pm

An absentminded father frantically tries to find a popular toy on Christmas Eve. Rated PG (94 minutes).



Free popcorn and soda for all who attend!

Nerf War @ Your Library Saturday, December 9 from 4:00—6:00 pm

Bring your Nerf gun and ammo and head to the library for this bi-monthly Nerf War!

- Participants must be 13 or older and anyone under 18 must have a signed parental waiver.
- Registration requested as 10 people are required to hold the program and a max of 20 is allowed. Walk-ins are welcome, if space allows.
- Participants must provide their own Nerf guns and ammo but no modifications to darts or guns to increase range or hitting power will be allowed.



Christmas Movies @ Your Library presents *The Preacher's Wife* Saturday, December 16 @ 1:00 pm

Dudley is an angel who is sent to earth to help a young minister and his beautiful wife revive their marriage. But things take a twist when Dudley accidentally falls in love with the Preacher's wife. Rated PG (124 minutes).



Free popcorn and soda for all who attend!