

*"Built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In Him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the LORD."*  
Ephesians 2:20-21

## MEET GABBY, DAVID, AND JESSICA; OPPORTUNITIES FOR THEIR FUTURE!

In talking about our Billings Catholic Schools, Jessica Sprattler gushes about her daughter's teacher, "Mrs. Vaira is amazing - Gabby loves going to school! Mrs. Vaira has a way of working with every student and meeting them where they are."

As Jessica describes her, Gabby is a bit of a prankster, "She is the funniest person I know. I'm constantly cracking up on the little jokes and pranks she plays on me." That fun attitude can be seen on the playground as Gabby is a magnet for friends and always in the middle of the pack.



DAVID & GABBY

Outside of the classroom, Gabby has taken to competitive cheerleading with Billings All Stars Cheer. Dressed in her best, Gabby demonstrates her natural leadership skills belting out her cheers in synchronized movements with her teammates. This upcoming season, she will travel to Bozeman; Missoula; Reno, NV; and Mesa, AZ.

Gabby's little brother, David, is a little lamb at St. Francis Early Childhood Preschool. Like his big sister, competition seems to be in his veins as he constantly throws or kicks a ball. If David is doing anything else, it is wrestling his sister Gabby. "It's causing me grey hair," admits Jessica.

As for her, Jessica's passion and career are early childhood. Through her work, she has expanded afterschool and preschool care for children of low-income families in Billings. Jessica is currently the assistant director for Buttons and Bows Childcare ensuring high-quality care of 124 children. Her programs consistently receive top marks by the MT Department of Public Health and Human Services.

In speaking about why she chose Billings Catholic Schools, Jessica reflected, "I never seriously



GABBY

considered Catholic schools until I took a tour of Billings Central through a leadership training course. It opened my eyes and my heart. Our Catholic schools are a great education and faith formation, and I want that for my kids. It is important to me that Gabby and David have the opportunities for whatever their future's hold."

Jessica went on, "I work a second, part-time job on the weekends to make it all work, and I still wouldn't be able to afford tuition on my own. I'm so grateful for the parish and donor scholarships. It's made such a difference to my kids!" +

Welcome to The Cornerstone, your quarterly newsletter from your family at the Billings Catholic Schools and Foundation. In these pages, you will read stories of tremendous students, families, and alumni; school updates and happenings; invitations to events; and of course, ways to continue your support of our schools.

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# INCREDIBLE RENEWAL, BECAUSE OF YOU!

Summer is a time of renewal for students and families. This past summer, your Billings Catholic Schools were undergoing a renewal of its own! Because of you – our Billings Catholic Schools Family – our schools, its students, and parents are reaping a rich harvest of the seeds you planted with your contributions this past year! Below are a few ways you made a difference:

**Eyes in the Sky:** For our littlest lambs – the preschoolers of St. Francis Early Childhood – safety is the utmost concern. To increase our care of the littlest ones, 8 additional cameras were installed in and around the facility. These “eyes in the sky” ensure the safety of entrances, the playground, and outside areas. Not only can we see every “boo-boo,” but we keep vigilant watch around our early childhood center.

**For the Whole Student:** This past year, St. Francis installed new “sensory paths” to better engage the entire students’ body, mind, and soul. Think of these sensory paths as enhanced hopscotch with pictures and lessons. One path teaches students to pray the rosary, another explores the solar system, and another discovers nature. For students who have the wiggles, a place to hop, stretch, jump, and skip helps the students...and their teachers!

**Take a Seat!:** In the past few years, Colton Field has been nurtured and groomed for our student-athletes. Its grass turf is as well manicured as any field. But without any bleachers, parents and grandparents had to watch their students from the sidelines. A grassroots campaign to raise \$25,000 to purchase a 10 row, 33-foot-long set of bleachers for Colton Field was achieved. Inspired by this effort, another BCS Family member stepped forward to match! Finally, our student athletes can find their parents and grandparents in the bleachers – cheering their Rams to victory!

**Excellence in Academics:** By 4th grade, students transition from *learning to read* to *reading to learn*. In the classroom, students read lengthier chapter books as a class, discussing its ideas and content. New classroom novel sets were purchased for each of our 4th grade classrooms. At Billings Central Catholic, a new Anatomy and Physiology class will inspire medical aspirations

of students as they interact with anatomical models, organ simulators, and use medical equipment such as stethoscopes, blood pressure cuffs, and suturing kits.

**STEM Curriculum:** Through your gifts to this year’s Mayfair Special Project, you impact every student in the schools with enhanced science and technology. Students will create with a new 3D and laser printer, experience careers in virtual reality through an Oculus headset, explore with sand and water tables, refresh the greenhouse with supplies, code with robotics equipment, and so much more!

**ELEVATING:** Billings Central Catholic students will ELEVATE with a new elevator for those in need, an expanded parking lot that doubles the number of parking spots, and added lighting and safety features for our students, teachers, and staff. Because of your generosity, this \$1.4 million project is nearly complete.

**Tuition Assistance Funds:** Our Catholic Schools are bursting with an increasing number of students enrolled in our schools. Why? Because you support students with your gifts to the tuition assistance fund. For so many, a Catholic education and formation is only in reach with your support. Thank you for your incredible gift of a Catholic education and formation.

These projects this past year are because of you – our Billings Catholic Schools Family! Our schools, the students, parents, teachers, and staff are renewed through your generosity. You are a blessing to us, thank you!



*There is still time to ELEVATE the students of Billings Central Catholic. Inflation has increased our costs – and your support is needed to ensure a fully funded project! Help us with your gift today!*

BCCHS ELEVATE  
PROJECT UNDERWAY





# New Billings Catholic Schools’ President Begins Tenure

On June 30, Andrew McDonald began his tenure as President of our Billings Catholic Schools. He comes from Denver, CO where he served as Principal of Our Lady of Loreto Catholic school. In speaking with Andrew on our Catholic schools, opportunities ahead, and this new adventure;

**On the purpose of our Catholic schools:**

“Catholic schools are an investment in the future – the future of our faith and of our children. The Catholic school approach is fundamentally different in that we are called to form saints, not just students. Our end goal is eternity, not just college or career readiness. We aim to help young men and women discover who God created them to be by educating the whole child. Alongside parents, as the primary educators of their children, Catholic schools serve as the community in which children can flourish in the fullness of their faith, intellect, and extracurricular pursuits to become who they were created to be.”

**On the opportunities before our Billings Catholic Schools:**

“First is to listen – to God and where He would like to lead us; to our Church for whom we are a ministry; to our parents who trust us and partner with us in the formation of their children; and to our BCS family,

our friends and alumni who ensure our schools have both a rich history and promising future. As we strive to live out the mission of Billings Catholic Schools, we know the Lord is alive and working within this system to lead us forward. We know the future is bright!”

**On this new adventure:**

“Montana is God’s country, plain and simple, so when the chance to move our family to Billings was presented, we knew we had to explore the possibility. Now that we are here, as a part of this incredible community, with the opportunity to serve alongside everyone that has, and continues to make this system what it is today, it is truly a blessing. As a parent to younger children, I am privileged to experience BCS, not only as an employee, but also as a parent. I am excited to watch them learn, grow, and flourish as residents of Billings and proud Billings Catholic Schools students.”



ANDREW McDONALD & FAMILY



## Supporter Information

☐ Yes! Keep me in the loop with the latest from Billings Catholic Schools and Foundation.

name: \_\_\_\_\_

email: \_\_\_\_\_

address: \_\_\_\_\_

phone: \_\_\_\_\_

city: \_\_\_\_\_ state: \_\_\_\_\_ zip: \_\_\_\_\_

note: we will never share your personal information.

## Gift Information

I/We want to support the Billings Catholic Schools & Foundation with a gift:

- ☐ Tuition Assistance
- ☐ The Greatest Need
- ☐ ELEVATE!
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ \$50
- ☐ \$100
- ☐ \$300
- ☐ \$500
- ☐ \$1,000
- ☐ \$2,500
- ☐ \$5,000
- ☐ Other: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for your gift to your Billings Catholic Schools!

# HELP THEM CLIMB THIS 2ND ANNUAL RAMS DAY OF GIVING

With over \$100,000 raised through last year’s inaugural Rams Day of Giving, this 24-hour virtual event incredibly impacted our students, families, teachers, and staff. You helped our Rams climb as you donated to projects that were desperately needed.

Our 2nd annual Rams Day of Giving is set! There are new and familiar projects that expand the faith, family spirit, and academic excellence of our kids and schools. The top 3 projects that receive the

most donors will receive additional prize funds of \$3,000, \$2,000, and \$1,000. There will be matching gift challenges for specified projects. Even the smallest gift of \$5.00 can make an incredible impact!



Help them Climb on Thursday, October 20 through Rams Day of Giving! Stay tuned through our website at [billingscatholicschoolsfoundation.org](http://billingscatholicschoolsfoundation.org) or our Facebook page: Search Billings Catholic Schools Foundation and click “like.”



### LET’S KEEP IN TOUCH

Billings Catholic Schools Foundation  
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[billingscatholicschools.org](http://billingscatholicschools.org)  
facebook: search Billings Catholic Schools & Billings Catholic Schools Foundation

### events\*:

upcoming

BACK-TO-SCHOOLS WEEKEND:	
BCCHS Football .....	September 9
RamFamily Fall Festival .....	September 10
Running on Faith & RamFamily Picnic .....	September 11
BCCHS Roundtable Fundraiser .....	September 21
Homecoming.....	September 19-23
Rams Day of Giving .....	October 20
BCCHS Turn the Table Fundraiser .....	October 26

\*Events are subject to change. If you’re signed up, check your email for the most current information; or sign up for email updates today!

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### Payment Information

- ☐ Check (Please make check payable to Billings Catholic Schools Foundation)
- ☐ Credit card (Please fill out information below)
- ☐ On-Line (I will make my gift online at [www.billingscatholicschoolsfoundation.org](http://www.billingscatholicschoolsfoundation.org))



Name as it appears on card: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Type (Visa, MC, Amex, Discover)	Card Number	Expiration Date	CVV Code
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