

"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 THE CORSON'S: A PERFECT MATCH

When Caitlin and Jordan were making their decision on where to send Mae – their oldest daughter – to school, they knew they wanted a faith-based, smaller private school. "Yup, I was a Billings Catholic Schools kid - kindergarten through 12th grade," Caitlin states matter-of-factly.

Caitlin is a 2nd generation, 2003 graduate of Billings Central. Her father and mother, Chris and Cathy Read, were teachers and administrators of our Catholic schools. For Jordan, he also graduated from a smaller, faith-based school system in Billings.

"Both Jordan and I knew the value and wanted similar experiences for our

kids," Caitlin stated. When the time came, they decided to send Mae to her father's school system.

Mae is a person all her own. She has a friendly disposition and uniqueness about her. As a child with ADHD, educational and behavioral supports help Mae in her learning and formation. After a few years, it became clear that Mae needed more resources from her school. With that, Jordan and Caitlin began considering their options again.

"When we toured St. Francis, we met with Mrs. Hayes (St. Francis Principal) and Mrs. Colloton (St. Francis Counselor). We discussed the supports Mae could have with counseling and the teacher's aides who assist in her learning," said Caitlin.

As Mae transferred into 3rd grade at St. Francis, Caitlin admits that the whole family was nervous. Would Mae fit in? Would the additional resources help? Would Mae's younger brother, William, do well? As Caitlin describes, "we were scared to make the transition." But soon, the whole family felt the inclusion that is a hallmark of our Catholic schools. Mae made friends quickly – a struggle for her before. For William, he came entering kindergarten.

In discussing our schools more, Caitlin speaks emphatically about the teachers, "Since coming into the schools, everyone has been wonderful. We love Mrs. Reas



MAE & WILLIAM

and Mrs. Vaira!" Mae's 3rd and 4th grade teachers respectively. As she reflected, "Every teacher has been a perfect match for our kids."

Last summer, after one year in our schools and taking the time to evaluate, both Jordan and Caitlin asked the kids, "Is St. Francis where you want to stay?" Mae and William both gave a resounding, "Yes!"

As for Caitlin, it was a bit of a homecoming. "It's funny, there are five of my '03 Central classmates' children are in William's class! It's special to continue the Catholic schools experience with people I've known since kindergarten." +



THE CORSON FAMILY

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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MEET YOUR MAYFAIR CHAIRS OF 2023!



QUINN & ALICIA DONOVAN
CHAIRS

From the outside, Quinn and Alicia Donovan are a dynamic duo. A synched calendar is a must for them. Both run their own businesses with efficiency and customer-first care – Alicia as a real estate Agent with Montana Real Estate Brokers and Quinn leading First Montana Title.

Beyond their businesses, both are extraordinarily giving of their time, talent, and treasure. Quinn lends his expertise with board involvement in Ronald McDonald House, YWCA, the Falcon Ridge HOA and our Billings Catholic Schools Foundation.

Quinn's auctioneering skills are a sought-after commodity amongst the charitable gala circuit! Alicia volunteers her time and serves on the board of Habitat for Humanity and Billings Association of Realtors.

But when you get to know them, at heart, they are both a couple of farm and ranch kids – and a strong work ethic is life. When considering schools for their oldest son, Bentley, their values of faith and hard work were important to instill. Quinn and Alicia wanted a faith-based, academically rigorous education and formation for their kids. And a solid sports program at Billings Central didn't hurt either!

"We're not a legacy family. We haven't been connected to the Catholic schools for generations like many of the families here" said Quinn, "But the community has just embraced us, and we feel like an instant part of the Billings Catholic Schools FAMILY."

Bentley, a 2nd grader in Mrs. Weidman's class, will soon be joined by a Ram-in-waiting – his 2-year-old brother, Brooks. "When we chose the St. Francis preschool for

Bentley, we fell in love. It made the choice easier for us to send him to kindergarten at St. Francis! We're excited for Brooks to start next year!" Alicia said.

As co-chairs for last year's Mayfair 2022, Alicia expressed, "Helping Jim and Christine Harris was a blast! By the end, we really bonded over the experience." Quinn and Alicia knew they needed great co-chairs, just like they were last year! "The Harris' couldn't have done it without us!" Quinn chuckles through a smirk. They reached out to a long-time family within our schools and a fellow Foundation board member – Amy and J.R. Reger to help as co-chairs.

"We were honored to be asked." Amy stated. J.R. quickly added, "We look forward to working alongside Quinn and Alicia and learning from them!"

Amy graduated from Billings Central in 1992. After a career in school-based speech therapy, Amy knows the hard work teachers experience everyday! "Our teachers do such incredible work! This is our way of supporting them in what they do!" J.R. works for Iron Oil Operating. Amy and J.R. have four kids who have attended our Billings Catholic Schools.



AMY & J.R. REGER
CO-CHAIRS

Save the Date for Saturday, May 13 for the
48th annual Mayfair Gala and Auction.



FAITH • FAMILY SPIRIT • ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

WHERE WOULD WE BE WITHOUT YOU?!

I wonder at times, “Where would our Billings Catholic Schools be without the Billings Catholic Schools family,” the friends and alumni who support our schools with your gifts. The truth is, we wouldn’t be.

When touring Billings Central with 50th year alumni reunions, those graduating classes of the 1970’s now, I’ll say to them, “It is not a given that you are here today.” Our alumni usually give some quizzical looks, as if to say, “What do you mean, Billings Central will always be here!”

But one fact sticks out over these 50 years since those 1970’s classes graduated - more than half of Catholic schools across our nation have closed. And yet, our Billings Catholic Schools remains – alive, thriving, and beating the odds! But why?

Imagine our schools without you, the Billings Catholic Schools family these past 50 years. Our schools would have needed to raise tuition to unsustainable levels. Fewer students would attend our schools. With reduced numbers of students, cuts to our teachers and staff. At some point, collapse and closure. Over the past 50 years, this reality has claimed 1 of every 2 Catholic schools.

But not for your Billings Catholic Schools! Why?

It is because of you! Each time you support your Billings Catholic Schools, its students, parents, teachers, and staff – you join in the legacy that extends decades of our Billings



Catholic Schools family. Your gift honors the past, provides for our now, and ensures the future!

As we close the year together – especially in this most giving of seasons – we ask you once again to take up this legacy of Billings Catholic Schools with your gift.

You make an impact in many ways. You provide access to students through the tuition assistance fund. You ensure the future with a gift to BACET – the endowment of our Billings Catholic Schools. You honor a loved one with a memorial gift to a named scholarship. You enhance our schools with a gift to an academic department, athletic sport, or extracurricular activity. As I said above, it is not a given that our Catholic schools are here today. It is not a given they will be here in 2072 – when the recently graduated class of 2022 will celebrate its 50th reunion.

But with you and your continued generosity, our schools will be here– as our Catholic faith tells us – when Christ returns!

As we enter this season of thanks and giving, thank you for all you do for our Billings Catholic Schools.

Happy Thanksgiving,

Adam Liberty
President



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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 ☐ BACET Endowment ☐ Other: _____

☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$300 ☐ \$500 ☐ \$1,000 ☐ \$2,500 ☐ \$5,000 ☐ Other: \$ _____

Will you leave a gift in your will for Billings Catholic Schools?

☐ Yes ☐ No

TAX-SMART GIFTS THIS GIVING SEASON!

Before you look for that perfect gift, you'll ask your children, grandchildren, nieces, and nephews, "What do you want for Christmas?" to get an idea or two. The beautiful thing about giving season, it's just as much of a gift to you!

If you are considering a gift to your Billings Catholic Schools, here are a few ideas for you. Even better, the following ways are a tax-wise gift to you!

MT Endowment Tax Credit

Provide for Billings Catholic Schools, now and forever! BACET - the endowment of our Billings Catholic Schools - is a qualifying endowment for this tax credit (i.e. better than a tax deduction) of up to \$10,000 per individual. How? Made through certain types of "planned giving" instruments such as a charitable gift annuity, contact Adam to discuss how this option will benefit you!

Appreciated Stocks and Bonds

By making a gift with stocks, bonds, and appreciated assets, you avoid capital gains taxes on the sale of appreciated assets and receive a charitable income tax deduction. If you make this a gift to the endowment, you will find further tax savings with the MT Endowment Tax Credit! Contact your financial advisor/broker and ask to donate a gift of stock to the Billings Catholic Schools Foundation.

IRA Rollover

For those 70 ½ and older, you can qualify for a charitable distribution through your IRA that can satisfy all or part of your required minimum distribution (RMD), up to \$100,000. If you do not need the income from your IRA, then bypass income taxes by making a charitable distribution to the Billings Catholic Schools Foundation. Contact your IRA administrator and ask them to make a qualified charitable distribution to Billings Catholic Schools Foundation.



LET'S KEEP IN TOUCH

Billings Catholic Schools Foundation
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websites:
billingscatholicschoolsfoundation.org
billingscatholicschools.org
facebook: search Billings Catholic Schools &
Billings Catholic Schools Foundation

SEE OUR NEW
WEBSITE!

upcoming events*:

| | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| BCS All System Mass | November 22 |
| Winter Sports Games Begin | December 10 |
| Christmas Break | December 22 - January 2 |

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**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!*

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)



Name as it appears on card: _____

Signature: _____

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

Please fill out address portion on back side of this piece.
Once filled out, please return this portion of the form in the enclosed envelope.
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