

"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 OLIVIA TOURTLOTTE

"COMING HERE WAS LIGHTS ON FOR ME"

The term **eclectic** comes to mind when discussing Billings Central Senior **Olivia Tourtlotte's** **many** and **varied** interests. High achieving is another with how well she accomplishes each!

After discussing her state championship in soccer, college choices, and future career plans as a dermatologist or dentist, Olivia casually mentions, "Oh, we haven't even scratched the surface yet!"

She breathlessly goes on, "I'm president of the Orchestra (she plays viola), the HOSA Club (a club for students interested in health careers), and the Art Club. I work at the Marble Table. I have my own business, 406 Henna LLC. I volunteer on the weekends coaching my little brother's soccer team. And I volunteer to visit an older gentleman, Frank, each Saturday and Sunday."

And Frank is not just any other Frank. Olivia is speaking about Col. Frank Borman II – a former USAF Pilot, NASA Astronaut, Airline



FRANK & OLIVIA

CEO, and Billings, MT resident. As Olivia describes, "Frank and I have a great time. We go to Sophie's Kitchen every weekend for breakfast. We talk poetry and art, his time at WestPoint, and business. He's a wealth of knowledge, and I listen!"

For most, a state soccer championship would highlight a high school career. Olivia tended goal for our Lady Rams. But when asked, she said, "The 24-Hour Art Challenge is the highlight of my year. My friend and I stayed up 24 hours straight! Ten hours in, I scrapped my original idea, covered the whole canvas in blue, and started from there."

When viewing her finished piece, the layers kept emerging. Initially, one sees a silhouette of a guitar on a blue backdrop. Slowly, the guitar morphs into an island and its reflection in the ocean. If you look closer, the island begins as a cityscape and transitions to a tree-lined paradise.

Olivia's next art project includes developing Billings Central's MasterLube mural, an annual art competition between the local high schools.

But art is not a future career Olivia plans on. Instead, she wants to pursue becoming a doctor. "I am passionate about art, but I also love STEM. The two balance me



OLIVIA

out." She continues, "Being a doctor, helping someone out that way, it's how I want to give back." She hopes to attend the University of Notre Dame or the University of Colorado Boulder.

Olivia did not start her education in our Catholic schools. As many do, she made the transition at middle school. Hers is the last class to experience St. Francis Upper at the Kate Fratt Building, before transitioning to the new St. Francis Catholic beginning in 7th grade.

As Olivia reminisces, "Coming here was lights on for me. I'd say the best thing is our teachers. I've learned so much from them; I know they care for me."

Congratulations Olivia and to the class of 2023, who will graduate Sunday, May 28. ✚

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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LET THE LITTLE CHILDREN COME TO ME!

MAYFAIR SPECIAL PROJECT BENEFITS OUR LITTLEST RAMS AT ST. FRANCIS EARLY CHILDHOOD

MAYFAIR MINUTE

As our Lord said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these"
(Matthew 19:14).

We follow the example of Christ by blessing our littlest Rams and their families with this year's Mayfair special project – much needed facility upgrades and long overdue safety improvements for the preschoolers of St. Francis Early Childhood Education Center.

Originally built in 1957, the building housed both St. Pius X Catholic Church and School. When Billings' Catholic schools consolidated into one system in the 1980's, it became St. Francis Intermediate until 2017, the year our new St. Francis K-8 Catholic School opened. Since then, our preschool and daycare have called it home.

"The building needs attention to make it a great, usable space for our littlest kids," says Michelle Trafton, Director of the Early Childhood Center.

The building was designed for older students ages 6 to 12. Today, it serves ages 3 to 6. The playground equipment, with its high platforms and tall slides, are well above the ground leaving our 3-year-olds susceptible to high falls. Bathroom sinks, countertops, and toilets must be lowered for little legs.

The center is aging. The roof leaks in hard rain and heavy snow. Parents and their children must navigate the buckets on the floor collecting the water. Furnaces are inefficient and their bulky size take up room in each

classroom. There is needed ventilation in a hot, stuffy gym. Corroding metal pipes must be replaced. Windows let in a draft. Sills and counters are softening with moisture. Fraying carpets are unsanitary for kids playing on the ground. Every inch could use paint.

A full and robust St. Francis Early Childhood Center is vital to our schools. Families take root in our Catholic schools community beginning in early childhood. When kindergarten does come, parents know that our Catholic schools are where their child is meant to be!

In fact, this is the experience of Quinn and Alicia Donovan – our 2023 Mayfair Chairs. As they experienced St. Francis Early Childhood Center for their son, Bentley, they knew Billings Catholic Schools was right for them. They placed him in Kindergarten at St. Francis.

"The preschool teachers are incredible! We could see Bentley learning every day," says Alicia. "It was natural to continue on."

A strong early childhood program benefits our entire system with a steady stream of kids for our schools. A full early childhood program means a full St. Francis Catholic which means a full Billings Central Catholic.

How do we build a strong early childhood program that parents desire? Three things: great teachers teaching great things in a great environment. We have two: great teachers teaching great things. **Help give a great environment to our littlest students!**

ROOTS TO WINGS

What is Mayfair? Mayfair is your Billings Catholic Schools annual family reunion! It's a time for you, our Billings Catholic Schools family, to come together with each other in celebration and support of the Catholic schools you love.

What happens at Mayfair? Mayfair is our Billings Catholic Schools largest annual fundraising event. Through your sponsorship, donations to the special project, bidding at the live and virtual auctions, you provide vital support each year of Catholic schools in our community.

What is this "special project"? Our Billings Catholic Schools have many needs beyond just teaching kids. Whether it is facility improvements, equipment purchases, curricular needs, your support of the special projects helps to fund a unique and urgent needs in our schools. Previous special projects



THE 48TH ANNUAL MAYFAIR DINNER GALA AND LIVE AUCTION

include the STEM curriculum, the Math and Religion curriculum, the Elevator addition at Central, and the iPad program.

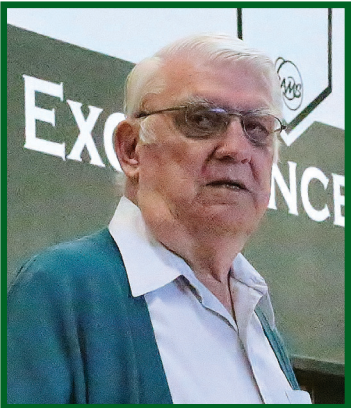
How do I get involved? Have your business be a Mayfair table sponsor. Sponsorships go from \$10,000 to \$2,000 with sponsor benefits at each level. Give an item, basket, or monetary donation to support the live or virtual auction. Donate to the special project. But most importantly, attend Mayfair and have a great time at your Catholic Schools family reunion.

What's the details?
The 48th Annual Mayfair Dinner Gala and Live Auction, Saturday, May 13 at 5:00 pm. The Mayfair Virtual Silent Auction begins Saturday, May 6. See the QR Code.



ETERNAL REST GRANT UNTO THEM O LORD

Our Billings Catholic Schools lost two patriarchs of the family recently - **Ralph Studer, Jr.** and **James "Ziggy" Ziegler**. Both of these great men's contributions to the Billings Catholic Schools and the Foundation will be felt for generations to come.



RALPH

Ralph graduated from Billings Central Catholic High School in 1950. He met his wife, Cemie, at the University of Notre Dame where he studied in Mechanical Engineering. He and his brother, Dean, began Studer Construction building miles of roads in Montana, Wyoming, and Yellowstone Park. All 9 of their kids attended

Catholic Schools. Ralph's life was one of deep faith and an abiding humor. He was instrumental in establishing the Billings Area Catholic Education Trust (BACET), supported Mayfair, and gave back to the schools in all the ways he could. Upon the passing of his wife, Cemie, he established the Ralph and Cemie Studer Scholarship in honor of her. For his efforts, he was awarded the Billings Catholic Schools Legacy Award in 2017.

Ziggy, as everyone affectionately called him, was a transplant to Billings. He and his wife, Stella, became fixtures of our Billings Catholic Schools community

upon arrival in 1977. They sent their 5 children to our schools. But not just their kids! Ziggy and Stella have supported numerous students in our schools throughout the years. They volunteered and chaired Mayfair. For decades, Ziggy warmed up the Mayfair crowd with a game of heads and tails. As a restaurateur with his wife Stella, they would give generously to the live auction every year. As avid Rams supporters, Ziggy could be seen in the bleachers at football and basketball games. Beyond our schools, Ziggy was dedicated to prison ministry. He was a public servant for many years as auditor and county commissioner. Ziggy and Stella were awarded the Billings Catholic Schools Legacy award in 2019.



ZIGGY

If you would like to honor Ralph or Ziggy, consider a donation to their endowed scholarships: The Ralph and Cemie Studer Scholarship, and The Ziggy and Stella Ziegler Scholarship. Your contribution is a tribute to them, a gift to the family, and impacts future generations of our Catholic School students!

Lord, let your perpetual light shine upon them.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK, ALL-SYSTEM MASS, AND OUR EDUCATORS OF THE YEAR!

Nationwide, Catholic Schools Week celebrates the gift of Catholic schools, its students, and teachers. At Billings Catholic Schools, our students and teachers participate in activities unique to Catholic schools.

Through acts of service at local non-profits, celebrating our Catholic parishes, themed days for students to dress up, All-System Mass, and the BCS Excellence Awards, the excitement is palpable for students and teachers alike.

The culminating event is the All-System Mass and the BCS Awards of Excellence.

The highlight for students is hearing which teacher wins the educators of the year award!

Congratulations to educators of the year:



Mrs. Suzanne Vaira - 4th Grade,
Mrs. Krista Wahl - 7th/8th Grade Religion, and
Mr. Jim Hawbaker - Assistant Principal.

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:

- ☐ Mayfair ☐ Mayfair Special Project ☐ Mayfair Auction Item ☐ Other: _____
- ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$300 ☐ \$500 ☐ \$1,000 ☐ \$2,500 ☐ \$5,000 ☐ Other: \$ _____

Contact Us about a Mayfair Table!

A GOLDEN JUBILEE!

BACET TO CELEBRATE 50 YEARS OF IMPACT ON BILLINGS CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Beginning August 3, 2023, The Billings Catholic Schools and Foundation will celebrate a Golden Jubilee – 50 Years of the Billings Area Catholic Education Trust.

The early 1970’s began a tumultuous time for Catholic Schools. With closings all across the nation and the state of Montana, would our Billings Catholic schools be next? They nearly were!

In the 50 years since, more than half of Catholic Schools across America have closed. And yet, Billings Catholic Schools stands on a solid foundation.

Why? Because of the vision and foresight of intrepid pioneers ensuring that all who wanted a Catholic education will receive a Catholic education, forever!

How? By establishing The Billings Area Catholic Education Trust, the permanent endowment of our Billings Catholic Schools. Shortened to BACET and pronounced “Back It”, these forefathers (and foremothers) asked the entire community to “Back-It” with their gifts. They did!

Join in the year ahead celebrating Then, Now, Tomorrow – 50 Years of the Billings Area Catholic Education Trust! We look to educate about the past, show impact today, and inspire for the future. Stay tuned for upcoming stories and events!



LET’S KEEP IN TOUCH

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facebook: search Billings Catholic Schools & Billings Catholic Schools Foundation

events*:

upcoming

Boys’ and Girls’ State A Basketball Tournaments	March 9 – March 11
Easter Break	April 6 – April 10
Mayfair Virtual Silent Auction Open	May 6
48th Annual Mayfair Gala Dinner and Live Auction	May 13
BCCHS Graduation	May 28
Summer 2023 Alumni Reunions	

*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: _____

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