

"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 JACK MILROY: THE COURAGE TO STAY

Jack Milroy is arguably the most mature senior in the class of 2024. Why?

His mom, Dr. Colleen Milroy, took an incredible appointment at the University of North Carolina Medical Center. His dad, David Milroy, is a physical therapist splitting time between Raleigh and Billings. Colin, Jack's younger brother, recently started at The Franciscan Middle School in their new hometown.

But Jack is at Billings Central, away from his family finishing his senior year. "It was a difficult choice and long conversation with my parents," he says, "but it was important for me to graduate here. In some ways, it feels like college... just a year early."

When first meeting Jack, his good-nature shines bright, embodied by his natural smile, bright eyes, and curly hair. As he converses more, his inquisitive, sharp mind comes to the fore; he asks questions and soaks in the responses.

As Jack speaks, it is clear why he stayed. He leads HOSA (a club interested in exploring health careers), Environmental Club, plays piano for Moses (the worship band for Central), captains the Rams soccer team, plays soccer for the Montana Olympic Development Program, secretary of student council, works a steady job, and takes every advanced placement and dual credit college course he can.

How does he do it? With a 4:00 am



wakeup! He's working by 5:00 am at City Brew Coffee. At 7:30 am, he's taking notes for his early-morning journalism class. After school, he's leading a club meeting. By 5:30 pm, he's at club soccer. From 7:00 pm until bedtime, it's homework for all those advanced classes.

"It's tough balancing school, extracurriculars, sports, and work," he said. "It's been a lot, but it's the teachers that make Central worth the sacrifice. Mrs. Mattix brings so much meaning to her English lessons. Mr. Fairbanks works overtime to craft lively history lectures. Fr. Pankratz's theology asks the big, philosophical questions, which I love!"

But it was Junior chemistry that gave Jack fits, "One semester of

AP Chem and I realized I am not a STEM kid!" he emphatically states, "I'm much more about the humanities!"

His interest in humanities drives Jack towards doing good work. Through efforts with the environmental club, Jack and his fellow students explored installing solar panels at Billings Central. When asked about the results, he explained, "We discovered it takes quite an up-front investment in the solar panels and strengthening Central's roof to hold them. Even with grants and energy savings to help cover the costs, it takes A LOT of money!"

When Jack talks about the future, the possibilities excite him. "There is so much I'm interested in. I love the outdoors and Montana, so I plan on pursuing conservation work and advocacy. I've also thought about international relations, even studying abroad in college. I had the opportunity to work as a U.S. Senate page this past summer, which brought about my love of public policy. I'm hoping to balance those three aspects into international environmental policy."

Jack applied to 16 colleges. He is still waiting from several of them, "I'm in this weird limbo, just waiting to hear where I'm going in August."

In the meantime, Jack is taking in every moment. "It's so cliché!" he says with emotion, "But the sense of family in this place is something special!" ✚

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.

IN THIS ISSUE:

Meet Jack Milroy	p. 1
50 Years of BACET	p. 2
Chris Stefanik Coming to Billings	p. 2
Mayfair 2024	p. 3
Excellence Awards	p. 4
Events	p. 4

PART 3:

THEN, NOW, TOMORROW: 50 YEARS OF BACET

Today, the Billings Area Catholic Education Trust is the precursor organization to the Billings Catholic Schools Foundation. It continues its legacy as its affects are felt across our schools in the number of scholarships offered to students, the programs it supports, and the tuition assistance it provides.

For that original deposit of \$3,000, the endowments now stand at over \$16,000,000 for the Billings Catholic Schools – providing over \$600,000 in yearly endowment funds.

When speaking about BACET and the endowments, it is not just one fund. It is over 85 funds dedicated to scholarships, tuition assistance, programs, and facilities. Many of these funds are established as memorial endowments to members of the Billings Catholic Schools family we lost.

The following are two scholarships held within BACET.

THE REV. STEVE TOKARSKI MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Fr. Steve, as he was affectionately known amongst his flock, was a Billings Central graduate of the legendary Class of 1961. An

outstanding athlete in his day, he avidly ran marathons and with the Billings Central Cross-Country team until his passing. Ordained a priest in 1969, Fr. Steve demonstrated his gifts in every church he pastored and every parishioner he counseled.

His compassion was always genuine, his love for others unbounded. Through his collective efforts, he transformed St. Leo's in Lewistown and built from the ground up St. Pius X Catholic Church in Billings.

He remained a loyal friend of our Billings Catholic Schools his whole life, serving in various capacities as volunteer, teacher, donor, and board member. For many years, Fr. Steve was the spiritual Father of our Billings Catholic Schools. As many said of him, Fr. Steve was smart, knowledgeable, and wise, a rare combination of intellect in one man.

Upon his death from cancer at too young an age, an outpouring of grief from the community established the Rev. Stephen Tokarski Memorial Scholarship to benefit school age children to attend St. Francis Catholic School. 12 years later, the people of St. Pius X Catholic Parish continue to give over \$10,000 annually to increase its impact.

This endowed scholarship provides 8 scholarships annually.

PAUL MAGERS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

1st Lt. Paul Magers graduated from Billings Central Catholic High School in 1963. Paul was adventurous, enjoying fast cars, motorcycles, hiking, and climbing. Nothing was too hard for Paul. He Married Beverly Mohatt on Dec. 27, 1969.

In that same year, Paul entered the military and became a helicopter pilot. On May 12, 1971, Paul was ordered to Vietnam. On June 1, less than two weeks into the country, Lt. Magers flew a mission to rescue Army Rangers near the town of Dong Tri. As he lowered the helicopter, enemy fire hit the underside of his aircraft, causing a fuel leak that ignited. For 39 years, Lt. Magers was missing in action. In 2009, a Vietnamese excavation team discovered his remains. Lt. Magers was brought home and laid to rest August 27, 2010 at Yellowstone National Cemetery.

In an outpouring of support at the discovery of his remains, the Paul Magers Memorial Scholarship was established in his memory for healthcare interested students.

*Stay tuned from part 4 of 4
coming in June's Cornerstone!*

CATHOLIC SPEAKER, AUTHOR CHRIS STEFANIK COMING TO BILLINGS!

Founder and president of Real Life Catholic and recipient of the Papal Benemerenti Medal, Archbishop Charles J. Chaput calls Chris "one of the most engaging defenders of the Christian faith on the scene today." Chris's live

*Billings Central Catholic
High School
March 21, 2024, 6:30 pm*

seminars reach more than 85,000 people per year. His reality TV show,

videos, and radio spots reach millions of people, and his educational initiatives are turning the tide in the Church. He authored the Chosen Confirmation program which has already formed more than 500,000 teens.



GOOD, TRUE, AND BEAUTIFUL : MAYFAIR SPECIAL PROJECT TO BENEFIT THE HUMANITIES CURRICULUM

“All that is good, all that is true, all that is beautiful brings us to God” - Pope Francis.

So often today, education diminishes courses in history, civics, religion, languages, music, and the arts. Today’s school’s favor “the hard sciences” – Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM).

But at Billings Catholic Schools, each period is an exploration of the Good, True, and Beautiful. Every course speaks to the fullness of a Catholic education for our students!

What do we call classes that explore these eternal principles? **The Humanities!** This year’s Mayfair special project: Good, True, Beautiful – a new Humanities curriculum for Billings Catholic Schools.

The history, government, and social sciences curriculums’ last major revision was 2011. The arts and music have never received a comprehensive review. Simply “reading the textbook” is not an education in the humanities that inspires.

This year, our Catholic Schools are undertaking a major review of this content and aligning it to our standards. Beginning in the fall of 2024, an expanded humanities curriculum will be experienced by our students.

Billings Catholic School students must experience the humanities to explore the Good, True, and Beautiful!

Imagine, history students dressing up as the great Roman philosopher

and statesman Cicero, orating his famous dictum, “The greater the difficulty, the greater the glory!” Or recreating military moves in WWI trench style warfare - at the paintball course.

In Theology, reading St. Thomas Aquinas’ great text the Summa Theologica and the 5 proofs for the existence of God. In arts class, new technology blends with old-world techniques to graphically illustrate a landscape. In language arts, a fictional “World Café” where students read the classics, sipping their coffees, and discuss their books in small groups without ever leaving the classroom. For music and theater students, performing a classic musical from the newly conceived black-box style theater in the basement of Billings Central.

It is through the humanities that students learn how to seek **Truth** in all its forms; to meaningfully contribute towards the **Good** of society to address its complex challenges; to appreciate the **Beauty** of the human experience; so that our students “may have life, and have it to the full” (John 10:10).

As Jack Milroy – our featured student – can attest, humanities influences him to have life to full. At Billings Catholic Schools, the humanities are integral to a faith-filled, well-formed student striving for excellence their entire life!

Will you help our students live the Good, True, and Beautiful by experiencing the humanities? Give to this year’s Mayfair Special Project!

MAYFAIR MINUTE



YOU'RE INVITED!

Join your Billings Catholic Schools family for the 49th annual Mayfair Gala and Auction, Saturday May 11

Sponsor Mayfair! Enjoy an elegant evening of food, drinks, auctions, and your BCS family.

Can't make the event? Bid on hundreds of items through the Mayfair Online Auction, beginning Saturday, May 4.

Donate an auction item!

Great auction items include a variety of gift baskets, date nights about the town, weekend getaways, food and drink, donated services from your business, electronics and games for the kids, and designer items. Or simply give a donation and we'll put an item together for you! Let your creativity shine!

Finally, donate to the Mayfair Special Project – Good, True, Beautiful: a Humanities Curriculum for Billings Catholic School students.

Go to billingscatholicschoolsfoundation.org/mayfair to learn more and support your Billings Catholic Schools!

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 Donation ☐ Mayfair Special Project ☐ Mayfair Auction ☐ Other: _____

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

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK; EXCELLENCE AWARDS A CELEBRATORY MOMENT FOR BCS

The annual Catholic Schools week is a blessed time of year for our Billings Catholic Schools. Throughout the week, we celebrate what makes our Catholic schools unique including opening enrollment, dress up days, invited speakers, days of volunteer service, mentoring between young and younger, prayer and worship. This year's Catholic Schools week culminated on Thursday, February 1 with all-system mass celebrated by Bishop Jeffrey Fleming.

Immediately following mass, BCS bestowed the Awards of Excellence on teachers, staff, alumni, and friends of our Billings Catholic Schools.

LEGACY AWARD
The Founders of BACET

OUTSTANDING ALUMNI
Amy Reger

OUTSTANDING PHILANTHROPIST
Dick Trefny

BCCHS TEACHER OF THE YEAR
Brandon Martinez, Music

OUTSTANDING YOUNG ALUMNI
Sean Khan

ST. FRANCIS TEACHER OF THE YEAR
Allison Walsh, Early Childhood

BCS SUPPORT STAFF OF THE YEAR
Mike Ryan, Athletic Director

OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY PARTNER
Denny Menholt Auto Group
Denny and Linda Menholt

ST. FRANCIS TEACHER OF THE YEAR
Mary Clark, K-4 Science



LET'S KEEP IN TOUCH

Billings Catholic Schools Foundation
PO Box 31158 • 215 North 31st Street
Billings, MT 59101
ph: 406.252.0252
e: info@billingscatholicschoolsfoundation.org

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

SEE OUR NEW WEBSITE!

upcoming events*:

Christ Stefanik.....	Thursday March 21
Mayfair Online Auction	Saturday May 4 – Saturday May 11
Mayfair Gala and Live Auction	Saturday May 11
BCCHS Graduation	Sunday May 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!

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.
BCSF is a 501C3 non-profit. Contributions are fully deductible to the extent allowed by law.