



## ACSS ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS: JULY 9, 2025

### Reports from:

Tim Weisz, ACSS President  
Ed Mitzel, RMS/RHS Principal  
Tammy Kost, RES/RPS Principal  
Rick Kline, Development Director  
Derek Larson- Activities Directors  
Fr. Jordan Samson or JoEllen Lindner- Parish Representative

### TIM WEISZ:

- Since the ACSS School Board last convened we have 35 additional alumni and 46 new Kindergarteners. Both sets of students start new adventures. God's speed to these seniors and we look forward to welcoming a fresh group of Cavaliers.
- New Staff Members:
  - Rosemary Rose- HS Science
  - Marie Cleveland- MS/HS Librarian
  - Jori Ewart- Preschool
  - Hannah Kirwan- Kindergarten
  - Fr. Scott Miller- MS/HS Chaplain
- A huge thank you to Kristie Martin and Jon Schaff. Your service to the ACSS as a board member has been a true blessing! Join me in welcoming our new board member(s).
- Physical Plant Report:
  - Chapel renovations are in full swing.
  - The Elementary building footings stabilization project is scheduled for the middle of July.
  - The concrete on the south end and partially on the west side of the MS/HS has been replaced.
  - Steps on the south wing exit at MS/HS are fixed.
  - The high jump pad is complete.
  - The parking lot is patched.
  - The new Practice FB field at MS/HS is planted and irrigated.
  - Nearly New front sidewalk has been replaced.
  - Playground plans for next year is progressing.
  - Hallway floors have received a fresh coat of finish and needed painting projects are in progress.
- As noted, we continue to make the necessary improvements and repairs to meet the needs of our students. Some of these projects are part of our budget and some are the result of

generous benefactors. We will continue to make sure our physical plants are welcoming and adequate for our students.

- Institute of Catholic Liberal Education (ICLE) training for all faculty and some staff is scheduled for August 7-8. We will be starting with Mass at 7:30am and continue until 3:30pm each day. It is a closed training session; however school board members are welcome to attend. We would ask for prior notice for planning purposes and because there is an extra fee.
- The Knights of Columbus will be serving lunch to all staff on August 7 at noon. School Board members are warmly invited to join us at lunch. Please RSVP to [Michala.heller@aberdeenroncalli.org](mailto:Michala.heller@aberdeenroncalli.org) by Aug. 4.
- Cell Phone Policy
  - Revisions to our cell phone policy are included in your board packet. With the approval of these revisions, student cell phone access will be eliminated during the school day.
  - Studies have shown this practice to positively affect students socially and academically. We have also talked with schools who are already cell phone free. They all report physically healthier students with better interpersonal relationship skills. Reports indicates students learn at a higher level and communicate more effectively.
- Personal Health Update:
  - I will be undergoing open heart by-pass surgery in the next few weeks. At this point the date for surgery has not been set. I have been informed the recovery period may be as long as 6 weeks. We have staff ready and willing to do what is necessary so the business of running a school system continues without pause. If there are issues/questions, please don't hesitate to contact the Central Office at 605-226-2100. I would very much appreciate your prayers for my surgical team and for my recovery.

#### ED MITZEL:

- ACT Composite for the Junior Class this year was 20.7 which is down from the previous years.
- We are continuing to look for a Business/STREAM teacher for the next school year.
- I am continuing to take calls from parents interested in bringing their children to Roncalli.

## TAMMY KOST:

- **Institute of Catholic Liberal Education (ICLE)**
  - Meagan DesLauriers, Mandy Smid, Jennifer Goscicki, Mark Stone, and I will be attending the ICLE National Conference in Lincoln, NE, in July. “Over 500 bishops, priests, deacons, religious sisters, consecrated virgins, superintendents, diocesan leaders, principals, teachers, exhibitors, and supporters of Catholic liberal education will converge in Lincoln, Nebraska, for a program designed to nourish the souls of those involved in Catholic education.”
  - The teachers will be making adjustments to the decor in their classroom environments over the summer to better align with ICLE recommendations. “In the Catholic liberal arts tradition, the classroom is more than just a place of instruction—it is an extension of the home and a sacred space for the formation of the whole child” For our Roncalli Preschool – 5th grade classrooms, our goal is to foster an environment that is developmentally appropriate, aesthetically peaceful, and deeply rooted in our Catholic identity.
- **PTO**
  - The PTO is looking for new leadership for the upcoming school year. With the change in leadership, I plan to restructure the PTO's focus to better align with the school's mission. Fundraising, fellowship, and family formation will be the primary focus. More to come. I have had one interested parent reach out to me regarding the role.
- **RPS Playground**
  - Discussions continue regarding the next steps for the RPS playground project. The teachers have compiled a wish list, and we are working on developing a plan. After failed attempts to grow grass over the past two summers, we will not be trying to plant grass this summer.
- **Summer CavClub Program**
  - Shelby Braun and her amazing team are doing a fantastic job leading our Summer CavClub program, serving over 100 students this season. The campers have been busy exploring local attractions, including the library, parks, the Arboretum, and even taking a special trip to the RES STREAMLab.
  - They're hoping for a warm Thursday so they can head to the Aberdeen Waterpark. With plenty of summer still ahead, the team is excited to continue making memories and providing joyful, enriching experiences for all our CavClub kids.
- **Building and Grounds**
  - A shout out to Jerit and Kathy, who are busy refreshing the buildings. Cleaning, painting, and reorganizing are on the agenda.
- **Enrollment Updates**
  - For the 2025-2026 school year, we currently have 46 kindergarten students enrolled. We've also received several applications for other grades from new families for the upcoming school year, and we continue to provide tours and respond to inquiries. Full-time preschool is full with several on the waitlist. There are a few random spots available in the part-time room.
- **Back to School - New Families**

- We are excited to welcome our new Preschool–5th grade families with a New Family Ice Cream Social this August at Wylie Park! This fun and informal event will be a wonderful opportunity for parents to meet one another and begin building connections within our school community. In this new format, high school student volunteers will be on hand to help supervise and play with the children, allowing parents to relax, enjoy some ice cream, and engage in meaningful conversation.
- We hope this gathering sets the tone for a welcoming, supportive year ahead while giving families a chance to get to know each other, and their children enjoy a fun evening at the park.
- **NWEA MAP Testing**
  - We recently completed our second year of NWEA MAP testing for grades K–5. Prior to this, we used the ACT Aspire assessment for students in grades 3–6.
  - I am not a strong advocate of traditional standardized tests for younger students. These assessments, typically administered in April, offer only a snapshot of student knowledge and leave little room for instructional adjustment or meaningful follow-up. NWEA MAP, on the other hand, is a growth-focused assessment system that provides timely, actionable data to inform instruction throughout the year.
  - Our students in grades K–5 were assessed in September, January, and May. This three-time testing cycle enables us to:
    - Screen every student with an accurate, efficient, and effective universal screener
    - See student achievement at any testing point.
    - Place students into programs and interventions that will maximize their growth.
    - Drive instruction using strategic, data-driven decisions to help all students access grade-level content.
    - Measure growth accurately over time using a grade-level scale.
    - Compare student results to national norms to understand how our learners are performing relative to their peers.
    - Project proficiency for year-end summative tests. The tests can even predict future performance on high-stakes assessments like state tests, the ACT, or the SAT.
  - To make the most of this data, I created teacher committees in both Math and Reading, with one representative per grade level. These teams reviewed results collaboratively, both horizontally (within a grade level) and vertically (across grade levels). This work uncovered curriculum gaps, clarified instructional needs, and helped focus our professional efforts in powerful ways. Facilitating this process and witnessing the authentic collaboration among teachers was truly rewarding
  - This model allows teachers to drill down into each student’s needs and adjust instruction accordingly. We’re now beginning to see the positive impact of the ELA curriculum changes made over the past few years.

- Starting this fall, our Title I Reading Program will be using the same ELA curriculum as our classroom teachers, further ensuring consistent strategies, shared language, and aligned instructional practices across all support settings.
- **Student Growth on NWEA MAP Testing for 2024-2025**
  - I am pleased to report that our K–5 students demonstrated strong academic growth on the NWEA MAP assessments this year. Across all grade levels, student performance exceeded national norms by 15 to 25 points in both reading and math. This significant achievement reflects the dedication of our teachers, the support of our families, and the effectiveness of our instructional practices.
  - As we celebrate this progress, we remain committed to deepening our understanding of the data and using it to inform instruction. My team is focused on continually educating ourselves on how to interpret assessment results and make strategic adjustments to best support student learning and long-term growth.
- **The following is additional information on understanding the value of NWEA MAP Growth Assessments:**
  - NWEA’s MAP Growth assessments are used to measure student learning and academic growth over time in math, reading, language usage, and science. These adaptive assessments provide educators with timely, actionable data to inform instruction, support students in setting personalized goals, and help families engage in the learning process.
  - The adaptive nature of MAP Growth ensures that each student receives appropriately challenging questions, helping them stay engaged and reducing frustration. The results reveal each learner’s unique academic profile, enabling educators to chart more effective, individualized learning paths.
  - Here’s a more detailed breakdown of why we use MAP Growth:
    - **1. Measure Academic Growth Over Time**
      - MAP Growth assessments track how students progress between testing windows (e.g., fall, winter, spring) and across multiple school years. This provides a robust, longitudinal view of each student’s academic journey, not just a snapshot of performance at one point in time.
    - **2. Inform and Differentiate Instruction**
      - The data helps teachers identify both student strengths and areas where additional support is needed. This allows educators to:
      - Tailor instruction to meet individual and group needs.
      - Adjust teaching strategies to ensure all students are challenged and engaged.
      - Focus resources and time where they’ll have the greatest impact.
    - **3. Guide Personalized Goal Setting**
      - Students can set and track personalized learning goals based on their MAP Growth data. Understanding their performance level and growth trajectory empowers students to take ownership of their learning and strive for measurable improvement.
    - **4. Provide Timely, Actionable Results**
      - Unlike many standardized tests that deliver delayed feedback, MAP Growth assessments provide timely results. This rapid

turnaround allows teachers to make instructional adjustments right away, rather than waiting until the end of the year.

▪ **5. Enhance Parent Involvement**

- MAP Growth reports are clear, detailed, and parent-friendly. They serve as valuable tools for parent-teacher conferences and help families better understand their child's progress, strengths, and growth opportunities, strengthening the school-home partnership.
- MAP Growth assessments are not just tests—they are instructional tools. They provide educators with the insight needed to meet students where they are, move them forward, and ensure that growth is continuous, measurable, and supported. These assessments help transform data into action, ensuring every student can succeed and thrive.

**RICK KLINE:**

- The Hall of Fame banquet is scheduled for Saturday, October 11, 2025. The 2025 Hall of Fame inductees for 2025 are:
  - Arts and Academics—Patty Martin
  - Athletics—Terry Dosch
  - Benefactors—Roger and Cathy Feickert
  - Educator—Mark Stone
  - Volunteer—Dale and Pam Smid
- The Cavalier Blast Trap Shoot was held Thursday, June 19, 2025. Entry was limited to the first 20 teams.  
We are happy to report our shoot was filled and we raised a profit of over \$19,000 for the Booster Club.
  - Proceeds are earmarked for overhead door replacement in the concession stand.
- Cavalier Classic Golf is scheduled for Monday, September 8, 2025. The field is limited to the first 36 teams. Play a round for the playground is our unofficial theme. More details to follow.
- We finished the fiscal year 2024-25 in the black. Hopefully 2025-26 proves as profitable.
- Plans are underway for the 47th Annual Roncalli Ball. The date is April 11, 2026. Please plan on attending.

## **DEREK LARSON: SPORTS SCHEDULES- NORTHEASTSDCONFERENCE.COM**

- Boys' Tennis finished its season in 6th place at the state tournament. Gannon May placed 3rd place at number one singles. Congratulations to Coach Haskell and the tennis team on a great season. Coach Haskell has also resigned his head coaching position. Jonah Dignan who has been an assistant for the last two years has taken over the girls and the boys tennis programs. We are still looking for an assistant coach for both boys and girls tennis.
- Girls' Golf finished their season at the state golf tournament placing 3rd. The team shot a 700 which was 20 strokes off the lead. Congrats to Jon Murdy, who won Region Coach of the Year. Claire Crawford had a great couple of days earning 2nd place overall. Congratulations to all of the girls golfers and coaches.
- The trap team had a successful season highlighted by Zane Backous winning the state title missing only 4 targets out of 100 in almost 40 MPH wind. Congratulations to Zane and the rest of the team on a great season.
- The track team had 13 athletes qualify for state track. Gabby Thomas was the only person that placed with a 5th place finish in the triple jump and a 7th place finish in the long jump.
- Congratulations to Terry Dosch, a staple of Roncalli Athletics for over 40 years, on his retirement. He has been a great mentor to athletes and coaches.
- The fall sports meeting is scheduled for July 31st at 7:00 in the RHS Gymnasium.
- We are still looking for coaches in the following areas: Assistant Girls Tennis, Assistant Boys Tennis, JH Boys Basketball, Oral Interp, MS Mathcounts, and Spring Play.

## **PARISH REPORT: FR JORDAN SAMSON**

Like schools, life in our parishes has a different pace in the summer, but there is still plenty to do. We are blessed with so many active and faith-filled people who keep parishes vibrant year-round.

- June was a busy month with the summer Lumen Christi program and Marriage Sponsor Couple Appreciation events, in addition to the sacrament life of the church with weddings, funeral and baptisms.
- Fr. Tschakert has officially moved to senior priest status. He has long history with our parishes and the Aberdeen Catholic School System. We pray that he enjoys his well-earned retirement, and we know he will continue to be a presence in our community, as he remains living in Aberdeen.
- We welcome Father Scott Miller and Fr. Gerald Thornton to town. Fr. Miller grew up in Sioux Falls and will serve primarily as Roncalli High School and Middle School Chaplain, in addition to his duties as parochial vicar for the pastorate. Fr. Thornton, who was also raised in Sioux Falls, was ordained on May 29. Some of you may remember that he spent the summer of 2018 at St. Mary's parish as a seminarian. Deacon Alex Leschisin has spent the summer as a transitional deacon preaching, assisting with outreach and

learning the day-to-day workings of parish life. If you have not yet met Deacon Alex, there is still time. He will be completing his final year of school at Saint Paul Seminary and God-willing, will be ordained a priest next spring. Please pray for all these men in their ministry!

- Fr. Mitchell continues his Faith and Film: Matinee' Cafe series at the Sacred Heart Parish Hall. Additional films and discussion will be on July 13, 27 and August 10 with an encore comedy showing to be determined. Themes include Reconciling with Self & Others and Mercy Beyond Borders. Films are chosen from the Vatican's Film List.
- Finally, photography is underway for our pastorate pictorial directory. There is still time to participate. The directory is only a useful tool with strong participation. Over 600 appointments have been made, but with a pastorate our size, we should be able to have 1000!

The coming and going of the 4th of July begins thoughts of the quickly approaching start of the school year. I pray that you have taken time to enjoy these longer, greener and brighter days!



## Aberdeen Catholic School System

### 008.29 Student Cell Phone Policy

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Cell Phones may be brought to a school class or activity under the following conditions:

- 1) ~~Phones must be OFF from 8:00 a.m. to 3:15 p.m.~~
- 2) ~~Cell phones may not be used for picture taking on school premises or school activities.~~
- 3) ~~Use of cell phones to harass or threaten is not permitted.~~
- 4) ~~Those who violate any of the rules regarding cell phones will have the cell phone taken to the office where it will be kept overnight.~~

Mobile phones and smartwatches are prohibited during the school day. From a student's arrival at school until the final bell of the day, they are not to be used, seen or heard during any part of the school day. The building principal may authorize exceptions to this policy for health, safety, emergencies or as required by a Student Support Plan (SSP).

Adopted: July 2008

1<sup>st</sup> reading of revisions July 2025