



ABERDEEN CATHOLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

ABERDEENRONCALLI.ORG

CENTRAL OFFICE: 605.226.2100
MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL: 605.225.7440
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL: 605.229.4100
PRIMARY SCHOOL: 605.225.3460

NEWSLETTER



TIM WEISZ
PRESIDENT, ACSS

-Instilling Catholic values and promoting academic excellence by nurturing mind, body and soul.-

JANUARY 2026



MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!!!!

I pray your Christmas season has been filled with peace as we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! I hope the long break affords you an opportunity to slow down and enjoy the blessings that can be missed in the hectic pace of a school year.

We are excited to officially announce the purchase of a new building for the **Roncalli Nearly New Thrift Store**. The current location on North Main St. has served us very well thanks to the dedicated volunteers who selflessly give their time to this worthy cause. Through their efforts the store has contributed significant financial support to the school system for close to 50 years. This has helped keep tuition costs as low as possible. The new location of the thrift store is **804 5th St. S. Unit B** (the center portion of the old Runnings store). A few advantages to this new location include better parking, no steps for our workers, more room for storage and a larger prep space. The goal is to move to the new store in the next 6 months. We hope you will join us in praying the transition will go well and that you will continue to shop at the Roncalli Nearly New Store in their new location.

As we begin a new semester I want to take this opportunity to invite current and future parents to an **informational meeting on Monday, January 5** regarding our vision of implementing a model of education based in the liberal arts and science. The training will give our teachers more tools to help our students see and hear the presence of the Creator in the people and places around them, to be productive members of society and young adults who can more fully experience the truth, beauty, and goodness in the world. The meeting is at the **Sacred Heart Parish Hall**. **We will begin at 5:30pm with chili and social time and end at 7:30 pm**. If you plan to attend we would love to hear from you, email michala.heller@aberdeenroncalli.org.

CONGRATULATIONS

Junior Jayda Siebert has been selected to both North Area Honor Band and South Dakota State University Honor Band.



COUNSELOR'S CORNER

SAT. FEBRUARY 14

ACT TEST DAY. Register by January 9 to avoid a late fee.

SENIORS!!!

KEEP APPLYING FOR MORE SCHOLARSHIPS! Contact Mr. Nygaard if you have any questions.
cal.nygaard@aberdeenroncalli.org

MRS. BRAUN'S CORNER

See Mrs. Braun's newsletter on page 3.



The CATHOLIC UNITED FINANCIAL RAFFLE FUNDRAISER

- Begins January 16, 2026
- Last Day to Sell Tickets – February 13, 2026
- Last Day to Turn in Sold Tickets—February 13, 2026

The raffle features dozens of great prizes. Each student is asked to sell their packet of 5 raffle tickets for \$10 per ticket to family and friends. We appreciate the effort put forth by all students and families as we work towards having fun while meeting our goals.

Do we have to keep track of our tickets? YES, YES, YES

All tickets sold or unsold MUST be returned to school in order to comply with the Minnesota gaming rules and regulations.

Every dollar raised STAYS AT RONCALLI!

Counselor's Corner



Roncalli School - January 2026

IN THE CLASSROOM

JANUARY CLASSROOM LESSONS:

All grades will complete the social awareness unit in the Everyday Speech curriculum:

Social Awareness places importance on how we promote kindness and equity and how we value and treat others, especially others who may be different from us.

- Recognize the feelings and perspectives of others
- Recognize individual and group similarities and differences
- Believe that others deserve to be treated with kindness and compassion
- Value the feelings and opinions of others
- Be helpful to others in their peer group and family

SCHOOL COUNSELOR ACTIVITIES:

Tier 2 Interventions that Target *SOME* students

Small Groups:

- 2nd Grade - Self Regulation & Coping Strategies
- 3rd Grade Girls Group - Friendship Skills
- 4th Grade Boys Group - Team Building & Communication
- 5th Grade - Study Strategies and Career Exploration

Checking In and Out with Students, Progress Monitoring, Targeted Interventions

Tier 3 Interventions (students who need more intensive support): Individual Counseling, Behavior Plans, Community Referrals

HIGHLIGHT OF THE MONTH

BUILDING HEALTHY HABITS

Building healthy habits is important for all kids (and adults) as it will positively impact their physical, emotional, and mental health. Children who practice healthy habits are more focused and less likely to develop disease.

Tips for Building Healthy Habits



BE ACTIVE

- Find physical activities that your child enjoys
- Do physical activities as a family - walk, hike, bike ride
- Limit TV, video games, phone, computer time



LIMIT SCREEN TIME

- AAP recommends maximum of 1-2 hrs per day for kids over 2 yrs. old
- Too much screen time may have negative affects on: weight, behavior, hyperactivity, anxiety, attention, self-esteem



POSITIVE MINDSET

- Staying positive has a healthy impact on mental and physical health
- Encourage your child to face challenges with optimism and resilience



GET ENOUGH SLEEP

- Children age 5-12yrs: 9-12 hrs.
- Children age 13-19yrs: 8-10 hrs.
- Remove electronics from bedroom or put on do not disturb



HEALTHY DIET

- Eat a balanced diet
- Try to eat 5 servings of veggies and fruits daily
- Eat healthy snacks
- Drink plenty of water

RESOURCES

TIPS FOR PARENTS/GUARDIANS:



- Sleep Strategies for Kids - click [HERE](#)
- 20 Family Fitness Ideas Beyond the Gym - click [HERE](#)
- Free Tools to Build Healthy Diets on MyPlate - click [HERE](#)
- 7 Activities to Help Your Child Build a Positive Mindset - click [HERE](#)

SCHOOL COUNSELOR Jackie Braun, M.S., Ed.



jackie.braun@aberdeenroncalli.org
 Aberdeen Roncalli
 Schedule: M-F 7:30-3:45
 (605) 229-4100

AFTERNOON OF FINE ARTS!

The Afternoon of Fine Arts will be held on Saturday, January 24th. The art auction will begin at 2:00pm. At 3:00pm the curtain will open for the one-act play performance of "**Peter Pan: The Non-Flying Version!**" Adapted by Jon Jory from the book by J.M. Barrie.

Coffee, juice, and desserts available before the show.

The students will compete at the Region IV-A One-Act Play competition on Tuesday, Jan. 27th at the Capitol Theatre in downtown Aberdeen. (Time TBD)

2026 NATIONAL CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK: JAN. 25-31

Details of this years observance of National Catholic Schools Week will be shared in the weeks to come.



Catholic Schools
United in Faith and Community

The highlight of our celebration here at Roncalli is the ALL SCHOOLS MASS taking place on Wednesday, January 28th in the Roncalli High School Gym. All our families, friends and supporters are invited to attend.

RHS SEMI FORMAL

The Roncalli High School Semi Formal Dance will be held Saturday January 10. All students in grades 9-12 are invited to attend. Tickets must be purchased before the day of the dance and will cost 10.00 each. The dance is sponsored by the RHS Student Council.

2025-2026 PARENT SURVEY

We are very grateful to everyone who completed the parent survey this year. The results show us what we are doing well and to focus on ways we can improve. Please see some of those results on page 5 and 6.



2025 Roncalli Parent Survey Results

Thank you to all who participated in the 2025 Parent Survey. We truly appreciate your feedback and want to share some of the results with you. This year's survey was intentionally shorter, as several questions produced very similar responses year after year, and we also wanted to be respectful of parents' time.

The survey was open from October 28 to November 2 and we received responses from 214 parents. Approximately three-quarters of respondents identified as Catholic, while one-quarter did not, which is consistent with participation trends from prior years.

Nearly 12% of our responders have four or more students currently at Roncalli, 19% have three, 33% have two, and 36% have just one student. About 30% of responders have preschool or younger children. This becomes significant for a variety of reasons - planning for fundraisers, estimating for students enrolling in kindergarten, etc.

By the numbers:

-I believe my child is receiving a quality education at Roncalli:

Disagree/strongly disagree: 3.3%

Undecided: 6.1%

Agree/strongly agree: 90.5%

*Positive is up about 2% from last year

-I believe Roncalli fulfills my child's spiritual needs:

Disagree/strongly disagree: 1.4%

Undecided: 3.3%

Agree/strongly agree: 95.3%

*Positive is up about 4% from last year.

We received multiple positive comments about Fr. Miller's presence at RMS/RHS.

-Rate Roncalli's communications:

85.9% have a positive view

14.1% are undecided or would like improvements

*As always, it is important to keep in mind that what one person loves, another dislikes.

Example:

Response 1:

Usually communication is good, but there are times when I would like more.

Response 2:

It's almost too much where I don't read it anymore.

Action item from this question: We are going back to bullet point Wednesday communication from both principals.



2025 Roncalli Parent Survey Results

-How likely are you to recommend the Roncalli experience to someone in the community?

Promotors: 66.8%

Passives: 23.7%

Detractors: 9.5%

*NPS score is 57.3%, dropped 3.6% from last year but is right in line overall with recent years.



-If my child needs help with schoolwork, there are additional resources available:

Disagree/strongly disagree: 10.9%

Undecided: 24.6%

Agree/strongly agree: 64.5%

*The response to this question has -historically- not been overwhelmingly positive.

This is the question being prioritized for 2025-26. We believe it has the biggest opportunity to bring real change for our students.

-Top three reasons parents choose to enroll their child(ren) at Roncalli:

1. Quality of education
2. Smaller school size
3. Faith based curriculum

What would you like to see improved at Roncalli:

There is a wide variety of answers to this question. Overall, some trends are:

- Concern about transition from elementary to middle school
- Excessive homework at RMS/RHS/grading policy
- More timely communication
- Improved facilities, including playgrounds and classrooms at MS/HS, more gym space
- Importance of fostering a supportive and inclusive school environment

What do you like best about Roncalli:

There is not as much variety in answers here - most enjoy the community feel, faith-based education, and supportive environment. Caring teachers and small class sizes round out the list of reasons parents choose and love Roncalli. We wholeheartedly agree!

Parents, thank you again for participating and choosing to partner with Aberdeen Roncalli to educate your child(ren). We appreciate you!



RONCALLI BALL 2026

**Roncalli Ball:**

You can also buy tickets and bid on the silent auction items using the QR code to the left. The code takes you to Handbid. You can bid on items even if you are not able to attend the event!

Saturday, April 11, 2026 at the Dakota Event Center. The Roncalli Ball is the biggest fundraiser of the year—a time when we gather to celebrate, support, and strengthen the Aberdeen Catholic School System. Your presence helps ensure that our students and teachers have the resources they need to thrive, both today and for generations to come. We invite you to come dressed in the time period you love most, from elegant eras of the past to bold looks of today. Tickets are \$100 a person. Contact the Development Office to get details and your tickets. 605-226-2100. jill.young@aberdeenroncalli.org.



Our Roncalli Cavalier Campaign has kicked off – and we appreciate every donation and gift! This campaign supports critical areas in our school system, such as teacher salaries, building upkeep, and student supplies. To give, stop by our central office or give securely online in less than a minute – head to aberdeenroncalli.org and click 'Donate', or scan the QR Code! Thank you!



PRESCHOOL PEEKS

If you could build with wooden blocks,
what would you build?

Builds Motor Skills & Coordination

- Picking up & manipulating the blocks helps build dexterity.
- Building larger structures can involve larger arm and body movements.
- Stacking and balancing blocks improves the connection between what children see and what their hands do.



Strengthens Cognitive Development

- Encourages problem-solving by having children figure out how to build stable structures and overcome challenges, such as a tower toppling over.
- Teaches early math and spatial reasoning as they learn about shapes, sizes, patterns, and the relationships between objects, which is critical for later math and reading skills.
- Creates logical thinking, when they develop the ability to plan, arrange, and sequence actions to achieve a goal.

Creates Language & Literacy

- Introduces new vocabulary by asking questions about the shapes, colors, and how the blocks fit together.
- Creates storytelling when children can use their block creations as a backdrop for imaginative stories.





Hello Parents,

Roncalli SonShine Patch is **NOW** accepting preschool applications for 2026-2027!

All currently enrolled families will be given preference for applying prior to January 31st. All interested families, however, can fill out the online application form now as we enroll on a first come, first serve basis. You will be notified mid to late February as to your enrollment status. If you are undecided whether your child will attend Preschool or Kindergarten, please talk to your classroom teacher.

All children enrolled **MUST** be able to use the bathroom independently.

To apply, go to the website at aberdeenroncalli.org, click on the FinalSite Parent Portal. There you will be given the option to "add a new student" or "apply for a new year".

If your child **CURRENTLY** attends the Patch and you would like to apply for the 2026-2027 preschool year, choose the "apply for a new year" option.

If you are completing an application for another child in your family who has **NOT** attended the Patch, please choose the "add a new student" option.

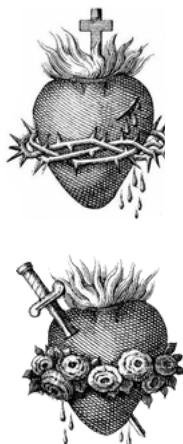
IMPORTANT: Be sure to choose the 2026-2027 term in the drop down box. Complete documents as prompted.

The 2026-2027 Preschool rates are listed on the backside of this letter.

For more information about our program, including our curriculum, philosophy, classroom offerings, and our handbook follow this link:
<https://www.aberdeenroncalli.org/schools/preschool>

We ask that you complete the application by **January 31st**. After that date, applying will be open to the general public.

If you have any questions, please contact the SonShine Patch Director, Shelby Braun, at 605-225-3460 or shelby.braun@aberdeenroncalli.org.



Excuse Our Mess!

Starting January 5, 2026, the pews at St. Mary's will be removed to be renovated, new book racks and kneelers built. While the pews are gone, plaster work will be done and new carpet will be installed throughout the building. Mass will still be held in the church while work is being done. Our goal is to have everything back in place by Palm Sunday. We'll keep everyone posted via Flocknote, our website and social media platforms. If you would like to donate funds toward this project, please contact the parish office. 605-229-4422

January 9 & 10, 2026

WINE: Catholic Women's Retreat

Wisdom from Women in Scripture

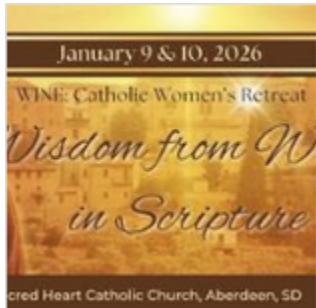
Speakers:

- ◆ LeAnn Thieman
- ◆ Alyssa Bormes
- ◆ Kelly Wahlquist



Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Aberdeen, SD

Click the link below to access the registration site



Wisdom from Women in Scripture Retreat

Through the eyes of women in the Scripture, be guided on a creative and inspirational journey deeper into your...

 Eventbrite / Jan 10, 2026

PIUS PINTS

JANUARY 15

7:00 PM GATHERING

7:15 PM SPEAKER

THE MARKET ON THE PLAZA
(UPSTAIRS)
506 S MAIN STREET
ABERDEEN



THIS MONTH'S TOPIC:
BE. HERE. NOW.
(BEING PRESENT IN 2026)



SPEAKER
SARA VETCH

Licensed
Therapist



BLESSED
SACRAMENT
PARISHES

About Pius Pints: We provide a welcoming space for individuals (ages 18-39) to gather and delve deeper into their faith with the perfect pairing of great beer and spiritual enlightenment. Each month, we feature a different speaker who will engage and inspire us with their insights and knowledge.