

The Good News

School of St. Mary Recent Graduates

Special points of interest:

- Preston Hess, SOSM '16, graduating from Loyola Academy and headed for Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)
- Academic honors abound: Illinois State Scholars, National Merit recognition and more
- Duel in the Pool: Congratulations Michael Romero on pushing the Mustangs to victory at Sectionals
- Katie Finnegan Makes Music
- SOSM Class of 2016 graduates high school



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The Good News: SOSM Recent Graduate Update Summer 2020

Welcome to the inaugural edition of *The Good News*. For over 100 years, the School of St. Mary (SOSM) has provided outstanding education to its students. By focusing on the whole child—academically, emotionally, spiritually—our graduates are prepared to meet challenges head-on in a variety of settings.

The *Good News* connects recent graduates with SOSM middle school students to bridge relationships formed in elementary and middle school into high school and be-

yond. We enjoy watching seeds lovingly planted at SOSM blossom into young adulthood.

The school year of 2019/2020 concluded in an unexpected way for many students. Never-



theless, there is still much to celebrate. Beloved traditions were revised, delayed, or held

virtually. Physical distancing, though painful, will not stop us from leading the next generation with graciousness and resiliency. Congratulations to SOSM graduating 8th graders, SOSM



alumni graduating high school and college, and to all who finished the year wiser than when it began.

Meet Preston Hess, SOSM Class of 2016

Preston Hess, SOSM '16, graduated from Loyola Academy. A National Merit Finalist, he said his first love at Loyola was football—a passion that began at SOSM. A surprising second is literature, as he excels in math and science classes and is headed to Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) this fall.

His two interests inspired further development in high school, and ultimate-

ly, college football, as well as a reboot of the Loyola Book Club. The club



grew from 13 students to 150+ under his leadership.

When asked about his time at SOSM, Preston responded that supportive teachers were most memorable. He appreciates the balance of academic rigor, socialization, and collaboration. Regarding the future, he said, "I don't have one specific dream; I want to use the gifts I've been given through SOSM, Loyola and now MIT, to reach as many people as possible in a positive way."

Academic Achievements: Always Learning

Congratulations to the many alumni who achieved academic honors this year in National Merit rankings, as Illinois State Scholars, and as High Honor Roll students.

National Merit: Finalist **Preston Hess**, Semi-Finalist **Kenneth Murray**, and Commended students, **Matthew Casper and Gianluca Minetti**.

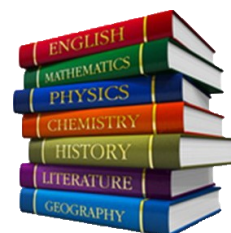
Illinois State Scholars are students who perform in the top one-half of the high school class at the end of the third semester prior to graduation, and/or score at or above the 95th percentile on the ACT or SAT. Congratulations to alumni

Matthew Casper, Michaela De Vito, Katie Finnegan, Nicole Haddad, Preston Hess, Carter Hiam, Keeley Kandziora, Luke Lanigan, Joan Lederer, Caroline Lewis, Caroline Milligan, Gianluca Minetti, Kenneth Murray, Peter Nevin, Ryan Peters, Emilia Rosinski, and Grace Schaefer.

Congratulations to SOSM Alumni who made the *LFHS High Honor Roll* for 2nd semester: **Kenneth Murray, Madeline Arch, Grace Blendonohy, Caroline Graham, Katherine Graham, Louis Rauch, Lilian Trkla, Elissa Meneely, Sophie Puszynski, Isa-**

bella Rauch, Lyla Walsh, Katie Beranek, Will Boyle, James Farrell, Brady Goodman, and Helen Rinaolo.

If only there was enough space to list all the regular honor roll students. Congratulations Crusaders!



In Service of Others: LFHS National Honor Society

The National Honor Society (NHS) recognizes high school students who excel in scholarship, leadership, character, and service. Applicants must have a cumulative grade point average of 4.5, at least 30 hours of volunteer service from their freshman academic year, and have strong leadership skills and character as evaluated by faculty and staff. Traditionally, SOSM is well-

represented in the LFHS National Honor Society. Congratulations to both 2020 and 2021 inductees.

2020 Inductees: **Charles Aberle, Alexis Conley, Katie Finnegan, Carter Hiam, Peter Landis, Caroline Lewis, Julia Loeger, Casey Murray, Gianluca Minetti, Peter Nevin, Ryan Peters, and Molly Vedra.**

2021 Inductees: **Madeline Arch, Rina Biancalana, Grace Blendonohy, Caroline Carter, Finnian Casey, Claudia Delhey, Caroline Graham, Katherine Graham, Maura Harty, Casey Hippel, Emily Liebelt, and Elizabeth Lyon.**

Leading the Way: In Academics

SOSM alumni continue to lead the way to the podium as evidenced by the LFHS Honors Night. Congratulations to **SOSM '16 Casey Murray**, the LFHS '20 Salutatorian and recipient of Departmental awards in both Social Studies and World Languages (Latin). In addition, he received the APT Senior Contribu-

*Eagle Scout
Sailing Team
Model United Nations*

tion of Teachers of English awards for Journalism (Outstanding Editors) and Student Newspapers Online.

tion Award as well as the Illinois Association

In addition to the Latin Departmental Award, Casey also received the Latin Club Scholarship, the State of Illinois Seal of Bilingualism, and numerous National Latin Exam awards over his four years at LFHS. His next stop in his academic journey is Harvard College in Cambridge, MA. Congratulations!

A Season in Sports: Boys Swimming & Girls Basketball

While the 2020 spring athletic season was canceled due to the Illinois shelter-in-place order, fall and winter sports offered several highlights.

Boys Swimming & Diving

Mundelein High School sophomore, **Michael Romero '18**, significantly contributed to the 3-point victory at the hotly contested Sectional Championship swim meet on February 22, 2020 at Highland Park High School. He swam the breaststroke leg of the winning 200 yard medley



relay, and placed first in the 200 yard individual medley and 100 yard breaststroke. He finished sectionals with a qualifying time for the IHSA State championship in the 100 yard breaststroke and 200 yard individual medley. Even more inspiring: he gives back by volunteering to coach with the Libertyville Stars, a Special Olympics team every week.

Girls Basketball

Congratulations to LFHS Junior **Lillian Trkla** for being named an All Academic, and to freshman **Bella Ranallo**

for winning the Scout award with the varsity team this season. Notable achievements for this team and SOSM alum **Rory Summerville** the team manager, include Vernon Hills Tournament champions, and 2nd place in the Montini Christmas Tournament and Conference, and placement in the Sweet 16 for Regional Championships for an overall record of 26 wins and 9 losses.



Notes About the Arts: Katie Finnegan SOSM '16

SOSM '16 alumna and LFHS graduating senior, Katie Finnegan, received recognition for significant contributions to the arts during her tenure at Lake Forest High School. She was the recipient of the Arion Chorus Award, given to the student who is dedicated to music, fellow classmates, and the school by her vocal music talent, attitude, and willingness to serve. Katie was also the first-place winner of the Senior Voice Division in the 2020 LFHS

Music Honors Competition, and she was selected to the Illinois Music Educators Association (ILMEA) District 7 Music Festival for chorus.

As a sophomore, Katie was the youngest student in LFHS history selected to the ILMEA All State Chorus. Throughout high school, Katie sang with the



all girls' Bel Canto choir and later the mixed Madrigal Singers. One of her favorite activities was performing in the school's capella group "Lowkey Treble."

Not only does Katie sing, she acts. She was awarded an Acting Award for her performance in *Once Upon a Mattress*, and is now in the LFHS Fine Arts Wall of Fame. This fall Katie will attend Vanderbilt University. We're proud to say we knew her when...

Organizations: Living Large in Latin

Graduated Crusaders traditionally have a strong presence in annual LFHS Latin awards. Congratulations to medalists in the *National Roman Civilization*, *National Latin Vocabulary Exam* and the *National Etymology Exam Awards*: **Casey Murray, Joe Nassar, Bella Rauch, Louis Rauch, and Sophia Cross**.

National Latin Awards

<i>Summa Cum Laude</i>	<i>Maxima Cum Laude</i>	<i>Magna Cum Laude</i>	<i>Cum Laude</i>
William Boyle	Connor Boyle	Brady Goodman	Katherine Graham
Matthew Casper	Anthony Gianelli	Casey Hippel	
Casey Murray	Sean Kupperman	Isabella Rauch	
	Louis Rauch	Edward Torosian	
	Bobby Vedra		

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To Learn, To Serve, To Lead

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To the SOSM Class of 2016: These Places You Go are Just the Beginning... Godspeed!

Butler University
Carthage College
Coe College
Colorado College
Columbia College
Dayton University
Harvard University
Indiana State University
Knox College
Lehigh University
Loyola University of Chicago
Marquette University
Miami University of Ohio
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
New York University (NYU)
Penn State University
Rollins College
Saint Lewis University
Santa Clara University
Tufts University

Tulane University
Texas Christian University
University of California
University of Colorado Boulder
University of Florida
University of Illinois
University of Indiana
University of Iowa
University of Michigan
University of Mississippi
University of Nebraska
University of Notre Dame
University of Oklahoma
University of Richmond
University of San Diego
University of Tennessee
University of Toledo
Vanderbilt University
Villanova University

Upcoming Events: Watch for Recent Graduates!

Going forward, this section is dedicated to announcing upcoming events at local high schools. Please tell us what's coming our way: football games, volleyball games, debate tournaments, jazz nights, swim meets, the school musical!

Email us with your news

We want...

Accomplishments of friends and family; leadership positions in clubs and on teams; community contributions; and random acts of kindness.

We aim to include everyone and everything. Sincerely, please let us know how our recent graduates continue to learn, to serve and to lead.

Next Deadline: 1/10/21

Please email us by January 10 for

our winter issue of *The Good News*. Tell us! Honor Rolls? High honor rolls? State teams? Cool projects?

Submit news to:

mcastle@schoolofstmary.org or
mnelson@schoolofstmary.org

Submissions must include:

- 1) Name and class of alum
- 2) Name and email of parent
- 3) Link to source
- 4) Event / performance description
- 5) High school of alum

Send pictures, links and newspaper clippings that we can post on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), the SOSM Scoop and here in the *Good News*.



While we enjoy bragging about our recent graduates, keeping us posted of high school events allows middle school students to visualize life at high school and to reconnecting with alumni in the next chapter in interests they enjoy.