

Pioneer Post

A Newsletter for Alumni & Friends of Alleman Catholic High School

Winter 2023



Living Our Faith

**50th Anniversary of the Fr. Mirabelli
Heritage Ball: March 23, 2024**

Alleman School Board Update



Dear Alleman Community,

The 50th Annual Fr. Mirabelli Heritage Ball will take place on **March 23, 2024**, at Alleman High School and we're excited to welcome back families, alumni, and supporters for a great evening of support for Alleman Catholic High School.

As a parent of an Alleman alum, a current Alleman student and a future Alleman student, I am honored and excited to serve as the Event Chair this year and build upon the storied tradition of this signature event. Past Chair Jeni Burkett, Raffle Chair Chris Mandle, and Event Coordinator Bridget Otten have all graciously agreed to assist in the planning of this year's event as well.

The Heritage Ball, in conjunction with the Dream Big Raffle, is Alleman's largest fundraising event of the year, strengthening the Alleman experience for all students by providing resources for improved technology, academic enhancements, and tuition assistance. We need your help to spread the word, attend and join in the fun, and to help put together the best event yet!

Please contact me at kelly.noack211@gmail.com with any questions about the 2024 Heritage Ball and if you would like to get involved in any way as sponsor, donor to our auction, or volunteer.



Kelly Noack
Heritage Ball Chair

INVITATIONS

While all alumni and supporters are invited to the Heritage Ball, formal invitations are only sent to local alumni. If you would like to attend the Heritage Ball in person please let us know via email at heritageball@allemanhighschool.org.

SPONSORSHIPS

To be one of the official sponsors of the 50th Annual Fr. Mirabelli Heritage Ball please contact Kelly Noack at kelly.noack211@gmail.com.

AUCTION DONATIONS

Both our silent and live auctions are keys to our success. We welcome donations! Please contact us at heritageball@allemanhighschool.org if you would like to contribute to our auctions!

50th Annual Dream Big Raffle

This Early Bird gets... \$10,000 cash prizes! Purchase your Dream Big tickets today to participate in our remaining \$10,000 Early Bird Drawings:

- \$10,000 - January 15 Cash Drawing
- \$10,000 - February 15 Cash Drawing
- \$10,000 - March 15 Cash Drawing

Cost of each share is \$150. Only 2,500 shares will be sold. When purchasing your \$150 share, you also have the opportunity to purchase a 50/50 ticket for a separate cash prize! Last year, over \$25,000 was awarded in our 50/50 drawing!

Our big \$100,000 Grand Prize Cash Drawing, \$15,000 2nd Place Cash Drawing, and 50/50 Cash Drawing will all take place as part of the 50th Annual Fr. Mirabelli Heritage Ball on March 23, 2024.

You can purchase your shares a number by using the form provided here, calling our Main Office at (309) 786-8661, visiting us at www.allemanhighschool.org/heritage-ball or by clicking the QR code below.





50th Annual Dream **Big** ⁺A Raffle 2024

DREAM BIG RAFFLE 2024 ENTRY FORM

SHARE NO. _____ (office use only)

Cost of Share is \$150 (Please type or print clearly.)

NAME _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ E-MAIL _____

CREDIT CARD # _____ EXP DATE _____

CHECK # _____

50/50 Add-On Raffle Tickets (*Only those that have purchased a Dream BIG Raffle share are eligible.*)

Individual Ticket \$10 each QTY: _____ TOTAL COST: _____

3 Ticket Bundle \$25 each QTY: _____ TOTAL COST: _____

8 Ticket Bundle \$50 each QTY: _____ TOTAL COST: _____

TOTAL AMT. ENCLOSED _____ (Cost of share+50/50 Add-On) Check # _____

If more than one name is to be listed on the share, please list additional name(s), addresses, and phone number(s) on a separate sheet of paper when you turn in this form. Only one confirmation email will be sent to the individual listed on this form.



Athletics at Alle

Coach Ford Wins 400th Game

Congratulations to Girls Basketball Head Coach Steve Ford who recently earned his 400th career victory with a victory over Moline on December 2nd. Way to go, Coach!

All-Conference Athletes

Congratulations to all of our Fall 2023 All-Conference student athletes!

- Girls Cross Country:** Clarisa Ostrowski (1st Team)
- Girls Tennis:** Mary Reagan (2nd Team), Natalie Holst (2nd Team)
- Boys Soccer:** Isaias Ayala-Garcia (2nd Team), Caleb Kale (2nd Team), Ryan Schmitt (Honorable Mention), Adam Jacks (Honorable Mention)
- Volleyball:** Clair Hulke (Honorable Mention), Megan Hulke (Honorable Mention), Audrey Erickson (Honorable Mention)
- Girls Golf:** Cecelia Neises (2nd Team)

Alleman Football Builds for the Future

Thirty-one players were on Alleman's junior varsity team this season. The hope is to have enough participation to field a varsity team in 2024. The Junior Pioneer Football Program that feeds into Alleman had a record year of 101 players in their 2nd-8th grade program! This included having separate 7th and 8th grade teams for the first time in five years. The future is looking bright for Alleman Football!

Alleman Athletes at State

This past Fall, both our Boys and Girls Cross Country teams qualified for Sectionals, and Senior Clarisa Ostrowski finished in the Top 5 which qualified her for State! In tennis, Mary Reagan and Natalie Holst placed 3rd in Sectionals also went to State for doubles!



man



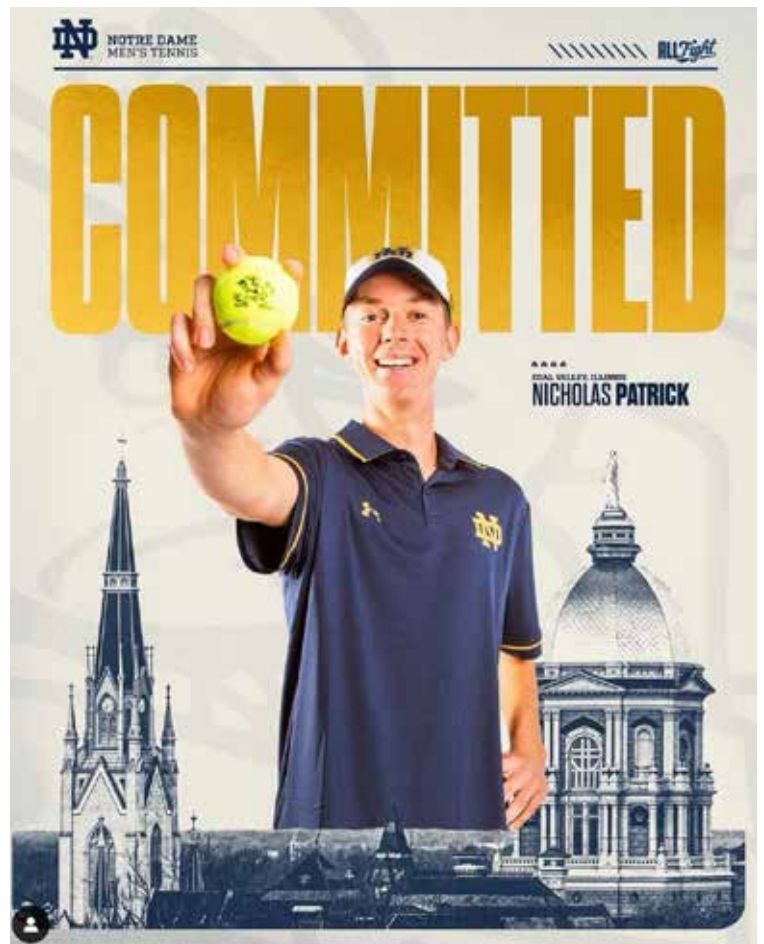
Coach Bollman Named 2023 State Coach of the Year

Coach Randy Bollman was named 2023 State Coach of the Year for Illinois High School Girls Private/Parochial Schools! He does an amazing job leading our Girls Soccer program! Congratulations, Coach!



Coach Morel Wins First Game as Boys Head Coach

Congratulations to Coach Scott Morel, who won his first game as head of our Alleman Boys Basketball Program on November 25 vs. Ridgewood! We know this was the just the first of many victories to come!



Junior Nicholas Patrick Chooses Notre Dame

The pipeline of talented athletes from Alleman to the Notre Dame campus in South Bend continues! Alleman tennis phenom Nicholas Patrick will be taking his talents to the University of Notre Dame after graduation in 2025. His busy Summer and Fall included adding another national junior tennis title to his resume at the boys 16 and under National Championships in Kalamazoo, MI and being named USA TODAY'S 2023 HSSA National Boys Tennis Player of the Year.



Sectional Semifinals for Boys Soccer

Our Boys Soccer Team finished their season with their second consecutive winning season of 13-6-1 and the first IHSA Regional championship in 15 years!

Alleman School Board Update

Since the inaugural meeting in November of 2022, the Alleman Catholic High School Board has been hard at work in its role as a consultative body to the Alleman administration. The Board established standing committees for academics, advancement, Catholic identity, enrollment, facilities, finance, governance, and student life. These committees have allowed us to engage many talented and passionate members of the greater Alleman community. Through regular Board and Committee meetings, we strive to provide the support and resources our administration and faculty need to enhance the Alleman tradition of academic success and extracurricular excellence in a faith-based learning environment.

- Successfully advocated for Diocesan approval of a base pay raise for teachers and staff.
- Enrollment efforts resulted in a 19% increase in this year's freshmen class.
- Spearheaded coordination between Alleman affiliated partner school sports, including the creation of the Quad Cities' first middle school golf team. Coming soon: new One Family logo and events bringing together Alleman, Seton, Jordan, and Grace.
- Launched an ad hoc committee among all Illinois Quad Cities Catholic schools to maximize shared resources and explore consolidation models.
- Promoted greater student participation in campus ministry and school Masses and support return of daily Mass with our new Chaplain, Father Patrick Willie.
- Assisted administration with Advancement Office reorganization and hiring as well as supporting fundraising initiatives, including the 50th Annual Fr. Mirabelli Heritage Ball.
- Conducted comprehensive reviews of counseling and athletic departments.
- Instituted seasonal volunteer facilities and grounds clean up days and developed master improvement list.

In order to better understand the needs of Alleman Catholic High School, the Alleman Board is inviting current Alleman students and parents, as well as faculty and staff to complete surveys that were recently provided to them. The Board is also seeking the input of parents of our partner schools (Seton, Jordan, and Our Lady of Grace) to better understand their needs prior to their sons and daughters join us at Alleman.

The Board is grateful to everyone who participated in the Strategic Planning process that resulted in the formation of this Board. The resulting Strategic Plan is

available at www.allemanhighschool.org/board. Please don't hesitate to reach out to any board member or committee member with comments, suggestions, or concerns.

ALLEMAN CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL BOARD

Adam Bain	Beth Behrends
Honorable Sara Darrow, <i>Chair</i>	Fr. Mark DeSutter
Fr. Antonio Dittmer	Jack Kearney
Jeni Hodge-Burkett, <i>Vice-Chair</i>	John Reynolds
Paul Schmitt	Dr. Greg Schneider
Debbie Schweibert	Lisa Short
Cathie Whiteside	Amanda Wood

Alleman Catholic High School Board Committees are available at www.allemanhighschool.org/board.

Year End Gifts

For any alumni and supporters who traditionally support Alleman with a year end gift, you are invited to send them to our main office Attn: Emily Roach, Business Manager. We appreciate all of you that continually support Alleman with your amazing generosity!



“Beauty & the Beast” Thrills Audiences

The Alleman High School Theatre Department produced an enchanting run of performances of “Beauty & the Beast” the Musical this past Fall. Over 40 Alleman students brought this Disney classic to life with amazing characters, lively dancing, and all of the classic songs everybody knows and loves.

Alleman Seeks Director of Advancement

Alleman Catholic High School is now hiring for a Director of Advancement to oversee our new Advancement Office!

Under the direction of the Principal, the Director of Advancement is responsible for planning and managing all advancement programs of Alleman Catholic High School including major giving, annual giving, capital funds, planned giving, alumni relations, public relations, special events, and publications. The advancement programs will help the school generate the financial resources necessary to fulfill its mission. The Director carries out this responsibility by appropriate coordination of the time, talent, and energies of his/her own staff, the Principal and other administrators, the faculty and staff, the Alleman School Board, current parents, alumni, parents and grandparents of alumni, and other volunteers.

The Director is responsible for developing a strategic vision for the Advancement Office. This vision includes a plan of action for all advancement programs and related activities. Such planning is in part founded upon an annual evaluation of the various advancement programs and related activities for each fiscal year. The full job description including qualifications and compensation can be found www.allemanhighschool.org/employment

All interested candidates should submit a resume to Jane Barrett, Principal, Alleman Catholic High School, 1103 40th Street, Rock Island, IL 61201 or via email to janebarrett@allemanhighschool.org.



Yes! You can still get your 2024 Alleman Calendar!

You could win \$100 or \$50 every single day of 2024 and in the process you're helping Alleman to GROW! Our 365-Day* Lottery Ticket — the Pioneer Calendar — is only \$25 and is the best ticket in town for a chance to win cash every day next year and because 2024 is a LEAP YEAR **you've got an extra day to win \$100!*

WHY you should BUY:

This our only all-school fundraiser and the only one that has a direct effect on tuition rates. Every purchase helps us to KEEP TUITION COSTS DOWN! By supporting this fundraiser you are playing a part in Alleman being an affordable option for all who seek a Catholic education. Each and every calendar purchase supports our enrollment efforts and reflects an investment in the future of our beloved Alleman. Our students and all of us here at Alleman thank you for your support!

Purchase your calendars today using the form provided here or online at www.allemanhighschool.org/calendars.

At the time of this publication we are nearly 400 calendars short of our goal this year. Only with YOUR HELP can we hope to make this year's goal. Thank you in advance for your help!

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____
State: _____ Zip Code: _____
Email: _____
Seller's Name: _____
Paid By: Check Check # _____ Credit Card:
Card Number: _____
Exp. Date: _____ CVV Code: _____
Name on Card: _____
Billing Zip Code for Card: _____
Signature: _____

**Please cut out and return this form with your payment to:
Alleman High School Calendar Sales, 1103 40th St,
Rock Island, IL. 61201**



In The Halls of A

Alleman Named Student Hunger Champions

After more than 33,830 lbs of food, which is equivalent to 78,000 meals, Alleman was again crowned Division “B” champions of the Student Hunger Drive! We’re so proud of our students, who rally for this cause every year!

12 Seniors Named Illinois State Scholars

In the State of Illinois, the number of seniors in graduating classes being named as Illinois State Scholars is 10%. At Alleman we have 19.7% of our seniors ranking as Illinois State Scholars!

Congratulations to Mackenzie Burkett, Daniel Darrow, Daniel Healy, Clair Hulke, Eliza Kramer, Alexis Livengood, Joseph (Joey) Magee, Catherine (Kate) Mehochko, Benedict (Ben) Milner, Ryan Schmitt, Mark Schott, and Lauren Trefry!



Gray Matter Collective Opens Alleman Chapter

The Gray Matter Collective is a mental health awareness and suicide prevention movement working to change the world with advocacy. It all began with a mental health campaign at Augustana College in 2018 led by Alleman alum Haley DeGreve, Class of 2016. Today as an official 501©3 incorporated nonprofit they continue to push mental health to the forefront of public conversation and policy to instill hope, with chapters at many of our local high schools.



AHS

National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists

It is with great pride we announce two of our very own as National Merit Semifinalists: Ben Milner and Daniel Healy!! These academically talented high school seniors have an opportunity to continue in the competition for some 7,140 National Merit Scholarships worth nearly \$28 million that will be offered next spring. National Merit Scholarship winners of 2024 will be announced in four nationwide news releases beginning in April and concluding in July.



Students Attend Naturalization Ceremony

Alleman students attended a Naturalization Ceremony at Centennial Hall on the campus of Augustana College that was presided over by the Honorable Sara Darrow, Chief United States District Judge for the Central District of Illinois. Judge Darrow also serves as President of the Alleman School Board.

Naturalization ceremonies are the final step of the process for a foreign citizen or national to become a U.S. citizen. During the ceremony, approximately 86 immigrants from 16 countries took the Oath of Allegiance and were sworn in as new U.S. citizens. Alleman students were joined for the ceremony by students from Seton Catholic School, Jordan Catholic School, and Our Lady of Grace Catholic Academy. Recent essay and art contest winners from the schools were present on stage and Alleman students led the singing of the National Anthem. Our Alleman School Board was also present on stage along with Dr. Susan Miller, Superintendent of Catholic Schools for the Diocese of Peoria and other dignitaries. We are all honored to have been part of such a momentous day!



Pioneer Class Reunions

Class of 1979 - 45th Reunion

- Saturday, August 17, 2024
- Parkside Grill & Lounge, 2307 5th Avenue, Moline IL
- 4pm – ?
- Food & drink are on your own.
- RSVP: 1979AllemanReunion@gmail.com with name(s) and number attending.

Class of 1964

- Saturday, August 24, 2024
- Botanical Center, 2525 4th Avenue, Rock Island, IL
- Contact Linda DeDoncker Smolenski 309-236-3828

Class of 1974 - 50th Reunion

- Friday, September 6, 2024
- Oakwood Country Club, 1067 US-6, Coal Valley, IL
- Chair: Maria Ricaurte Romza - mariaricaurteromza@gmail.com
- Co-chair: Kathy Waller Pecchia kepecchia46@gmail.com
- <https://alleman74.org>

Class of 1958 Classmates: Local classmates meet at Riverfront Grill on the 1st Thursday of the month at 11 am April-October.



Will your class be celebrating a reunion soon?

Make sure to send all of the details to the Alleman High School Development Office to be included in the Pioneer Post and added to the Alleman website! developmentoffice@allemanhighschool.org or (309) 786-8661.

Class Notes

Dennis Schlindwein, '65 authored both an autobiography, "Remarkably Unremarkable," that includes his 25-year career in the U.S. Secret Service and a fiction book, "Sincerely Sophie." Both works relate to his time as a student at Alleman, and as a teacher (1972-1974). Both are currently available for purchase on Amazon.

Ryan Rochholz '18 was sworn in as a police officer for the City of Moline on August 31. Congrats Ryan!

Tyler Claeys '21 was recently welcomed as the newest firefighter for the Rock Island Arsenal Fire & Emergency Services. Tyler comes from a family of firefighters, including his father who retired recently from Rock Island Fire.

Congratulations to **Colleen Kenney '22** who was named the American Rivers Conference's Volleyball Defensive Player of the Year.



The Class of 1983 celebrated their reunion with a return to the halls of Alleman this past August!



From the Halls of Alleman to the Ivy League

FROM THE BACK COVER

We love hearing about how well our former students are doing in college! And we have to admit - we love seeing an Alleman Football shirt on campus at Yale.

Quentin Fonseca, Class of 2023, recently shared with us that since he's been attending Yale he's met some great people, is taking fascinating classes, and is having a really fun time overall. He also shared: "If I had to point to one unique thing that Alleman was really able to prepare me for at Yale, it would be extracurricular involvement. At the top universities, they really expect students to try all kinds of clubs and organizations and make some meaningful contributions to the ones they're passionate about. In this way, I think the intimate class sizes at Alleman are its greatest strength; at Alleman, everyone was able and encouraged to get involved in all kinds of extracurriculars, so I personally had the freedom to find multiple things I enjoyed and explore them, whereas a bigger school-size would tend to limit students to just playing a sport, or just playing an instrument, or just being in a student organization. I can't stress enough that this extracurricular involvement in high school is crucial to the college application, and it's also crucial to making the most of the college experience. I think every high school student should know that, but to sum it up I would say, the greatest strength of Alleman is that it is the perfect size for students to get involved in multiple clubs and explore their passions through multiple avenues. I've found this to be crucial to my preparation for college since meaningful involvement on campus is a huge part of what my university expects from its students."

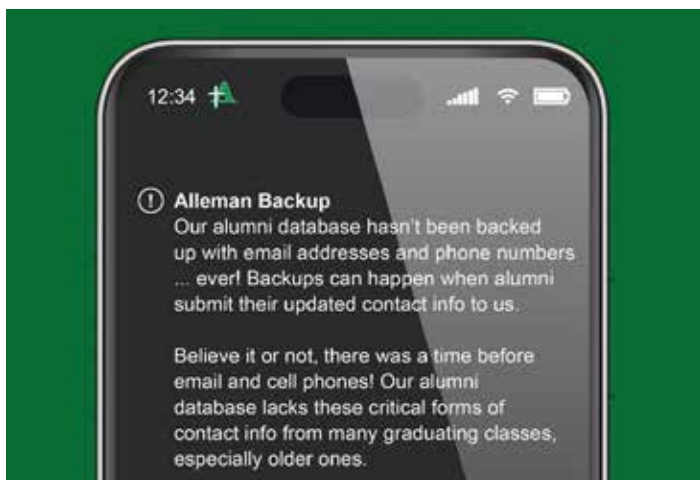
Our gratitude to Quentin for sharing with us how his time at Alleman prepared him so well for college and the next chapter of his life!

Pray for Our Seminarians

Alleman has three graduates in formation who are studying for the priesthood for the Diocese of Peoria!

- Brady Depoorter, Class of 2011
- John Assaf, Class of 2022
- Jared Hernandez, Class of 2023

Alleman has a long history of students becoming priests for both the Diocese of Peoria and for religious orders. We even have a bishop among our ranks — Bishop Christopher Glancy, CSV — a graduate of the Class of 1978!



We Need Your Information

Believe it or not, there was a time before email and cell phones! Our alumni database lacks these critical forms of contact info from many graduating classes, especially older ones. One way you can greatly help Alleman is to update your contact information on file with us. You can do this at www.allemanhighschool.org/update or by sending a note to the school addressed to our Advancement Office. Please include any activities and/or sports you were involved with while here at Alleman.

Have personal and professional announcements? Let us know!

Let us know so we can share the good news with our Alleman alumni!

developmentoffice@allemanhighschool.org



ALLEMAN
Catholic High School

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See story on page 10.

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Quentin Fonseca
ALLEMAN CLASS OF 2023

Freshman at Yale