

The Monarch Chronicle

Northern C hautauqua C atholic S chool

Special edition—Graduation '22



Message From The Principal

I wasn't supposed to be here this long. I came to NCCS at the behest of Father Dan Walsh and the Board of Trustees. Father Dan asked me to fill in as principal of Northern Chautauqua Catholic School until a permanent replacement could be found. Honestly, I wasn't sure that I would be able to keep the school open until the end of that first school year. The building was half empty and falling apart. Our budget was less than bare bones. Families were fleeing the school. Father Dan advised me to do my best and to have faith. He assured me that good things would follow.

Look how far we have come together in just under four years. NCCS is filled to capacity. Amazing teachers instruct wonderful students all day, every day. We have incredible scholars and hard working students at every grade level. We have a heavenly sounding choir and championship sports teams. We have put on breathtaking concerts and musicals. Our school successes have been well documented in this exceptional newspaper. Together we have built an amazing school family. We are Monarch Nation.

To the Mighty Eight in the NCCS class of 2022: You were all here when I started. You have all been at NCCS since PreK. Look at all you have been through together. Look at all that you have accomplished. You stayed with your school when many other families left. You had faith. You did your best. So many good things have happened to you at NCCS because of it. I am so proud of all of you.

My message to the Mighty Eight and to all of my Mighty Monarchs moving forward is this: Have faith. Talk to God every day. Do your best. Be kind, respectful and Christlike in your words and actions. Good things will follow. For all that you have accomplished so far, the best is yet to be. Do it. And do it well.

- Mr. Ludwig



Catholic Corner

Christians Are Called to Perform Acts of Kindness

As Catholic Christians we are called to provide the Corporal Works of Mercy towards others. The Corporal Works of Mercy are kind acts that help our neighbors with their physical and material needs. There are seven Corporal Works of Mercy.

- 1) Feed the hungry.
- 2) Give drink to the thirsty.
- 3) Clothe the naked.
- 4) Shelter the homeless.
- 5) Visit the sick.
- 6) Visit the imprisoned.
- 7) Bury the dead.



As a family during the Summer you might want to incorporate some of the Corporal Works of Mercy. You might want to help people you know in your neighborhood or extended family that would benefit from them, especially the elderly and the veterans.

Some ideas might include the following, or create your own ideas. Donate food and drinks to someone in need. You might even deliver a plate of food leftover from dinner to a neighbor who lives alone. You could volunteer to deliver Meals on Wheels as a family. Give your clothing that you no longer use to societies that accept clothing. Make a card for a neighbor who is sick or lonely.

Whatever you decide to do, you will be helping those in need to know that we care about them.

Have a Blessed and Safe Summer!

Miss Mourer



Reflecting on my Years at NCCS

By: Olivia Cole

I've often been known as the girl who couldn't wait to leave NCCS. Some of that is true because I do want to be shown new opportunities and meet new people. On the other hand I don't want to part with my class, especially the ones I am particularly close with. During the years we have had many people come and go, so friendships came and went. It's a part of life and some were more difficult than others. I've also made so many special bonds with a lot of people in other grades throughout the years and it's going to be incomparable not seeing them everyday. We have had some challenges like, the constant arguing and the competition between everything or the phases where we hated each other. No



matter what we would all forget about it and move on as friends. We would always try and do fun hangouts on weekends or during spring and summer breaks because those were the people we'd see the most, they are a second family.

Academically, things have been quite easy for me but they've also been challenging at some times. Overall I think I've been successful. I'd always make first honors and compete against Tommy for the "top spot" in our class based on grades. Because of this the teachers always encourage and motivate us to work harder. They really deserve a big thanks (some more than others) from our class. They have been a huge reason why we've been so successful. Though our school is small, I feel like we've been given many good opportunities thanks to our teachers. And like any normal student, I do have favorite classes which are ELA and Science, but I also have the classes that aren't my favorite like Spanish and Math. Still the teachers know and understand this, which pushes them to push us to work hard, even if we don't like the class. That's what I love about

our teachers. They have made my education better by having faith in me when I didn't have faith in myself.

In addition, I have played a list of sports including Volleyball, Cross-Country, Basketball, Skiing, Softball and Track. Softball is definitely my favorite. I have had so many amazing coaches during the years who volunteered their time for us and I want to thank them. A huge highlight of this year was being undefeated champs in basketball! It is a huge accomplishment that me and my team will never forget. On top of that, I have participated in the Mission Club. I joined the Mission Club in 4th grade and have been a part of it since. Helping the community with my friends was always fun. Withal I have been grateful to have performed in the musicals some including *My Son Pinocchio*, *Madagascar*, *The Lion King* and *Shrek Jr.* I have had so many memories doing these extracurriculars and none of them would have happened without all the coaches, mentors, teachers (maybe a specific music teacher) and supportive people like parents who have donated so much of their time. I am so appreciative!

I'm not sure if I have one specific class memory. They say a picture is worth a thousand words but how do you pick one picture to sum up 10 years of friendship and memories? In conclusion I'd say my

favorite memory is just of us being all together; Tommy's dad jokes mixed with Abi's hilarious comebacks and Carilene's constant jumping and yelling for no reason. Add in Andrew talking nonstop about his cat Joey and Ezra crying in the background because everything is just crazily happening. Blend in Myah laughing quietly in the corner half hating us but also recording us because she thinks it's funny. Incorporate Liliana telling me about some bird she learned about while I'm comforting Ezra and telling Carilene that jumping over desks is a bad idea. I'd call this 8th grade in a nutshell. All of these crazy people are a living memory that I will never forget but will always miss as we part.

8th Grade Reflection

By: Thomas Askar

My time here at Northern Chautauqua has been a journey. Because I have been learning here since PreK three, there are so many memories that will be nearly impossible for me to name them all. There have been some ups and downs, but if I were to make an overall statement of my time at NCCS, it would definitely be exceptional. Being at this school has taught me the basics of life socially and mentally. Our school may not be as big as other schools in the area, but that is a great thing. It has allowed me to make new friends and bond with teachers.

I would say the learning curriculum here was challenging for me but reasonable. However, I feel like I was successful academically, with most of my overall grades being over 92. I feel confident to keep on going with my good grades into highschool at Canisius. The class that impacted me the most was both of Ms. Mourer's Social Studies class, because of her way of teaching and I am most interested in history. Overall, I am really looking forward to learning more about history and musical theater in high school.

One of the best things I experienced here at NCCS was all the different sports to play. Over my years, I played baseball, basketball, track and field, skiing, and cross country. I have many good memories from the three Peg Smith tournaments with my basketball team. Sports are the biggest reason why I made friends. Not only did it allow me to bond with people in my class, but also boys in grades above and below me. Another activity at NCCS was the mission club led by Ms. Miller. It was very fun when we made cards for people in need and packed food bags across the street.

My best memory at NCCS was when we went to Waldameer in Erie, PA when I was in the sixth grade. We stayed there for almost the entire day, and it was the most fun I have ever had. My personal favorite ride there was the Ravine Flyer II.



8th Grade Reflection

By: Andrew Ellman

I was enrolled here at Northern Chautauqua Catholic School in Kindergarten. It has been 9 years since then and I have become who I am because of this school and the people in it. Starting at NCCS in Kindergarten, I was very shy. I made some friends that made me feel welcome at this school. By first grade I had become very comfortable with the teachers and the new surroundings.

My education experience here at NCCS was very good. From Kindergarten to now every teacher has taught me everything that I needed to know and more. Going into high school I feel very prepared and this school has been a very good starting point in my life. One class I feel impacted me the most through the years here at NCCS is Social Studies. Miss Mourer has taught all of us how you can have fun while still learning. I feel like I am going to miss this the most and the strong bond that we have with all of our teachers, it is something that you will not see at any other school.

Here at NCCS I was involved in many different activities. One of the best ones though was mission club started by Miss Miller. She has one goal and that is to help other people. In mission club we learn how everyone can make the world a better place. Another thing that I took part in this year was our musical Shrek Jr. I have done stage crew before for our musicals but have never been in it. The only person who could push me to do it was our music teacher, Miss Janie. After Lion king I knew that she knew what she was doing and she was good at it. I'm so glad that I decided to be in it cause it was worth it and all the work everyone put in it.

One of my favorite memories or a time that I will always remember happened back in Kindergarten on the fourth day of school. We were in music class, when the fire alarm went off. Everyone thought that it was just a drill but it turned out to be a real fire that started in our kindergarten classroom. Thankfully it was put out but for the rest of that day we got to stay outside. This is when I was able to make friends and I got a lot more comfortable at this school.



My Time here at NCCS

By Carilene Sliwa

My time at NCCS was very valuable. I started at NCCS when I was five years old and in kindergarten. We had fourteen kids in our class. A lot of them left throughout the years. But in the end there are eight of us still here. Some new kids came along the way to make the journey with us. Many of them I hope will be lifelong friends. This school taught me to always respect your elders, friends, and everyone around us, even if your friends are mean to you. You



should still be kind to them. I also made good friends with people in lower grades in the past couple of years through sports, musicals, and other social events. I think friendships are very important. I was really close to my class this year. I had a lot of great friendships and I'm very thankful for them.

I feel pretty good about my academic experiences here. In some classes we are allowed to have some extensions on homework and in some classes we wouldn't get homework on game days or on the musical week. In every class we get a lot more attention than you would at a public school. I have had pretty good grades my whole life so far. I've made honor roll every quarter except one and that was last quarter because we had a difficult lesson in math. I think I'm pretty prepared for high school especially in Math, ELA, and Social Studies. I think Social Studies impacted me the most because it made me realize the world out there is a terrible place. I feel I can try to help the world and make it a better place. It's a start. I'm looking forward to history and the arts in high school.

My extracurricular activities here at NCCS were my favorite part of middle school. I did basketball, softball, musicals (Shrek, Lion king, Madagascar, and Pinocchio), volleyball, cross country, track, and this year I did ski club. I made a bunch of friendships at extracurricular activities throughout the years. This year for basketball we won the diocesan championship. In softball we are doing very very well! The musicals were really successful. I played Scar in Lion King and Donkey in Shrek this year. We were really successful this year as a school overall in sports and the musicals we did.

My favorite memory was winning the championship in basketball. Everyone was so excited. It's the first time in school history that the Varsity girls won a championship! We worked really hard for the championship. We have a banner on the wall that's what we came for and now history is on that wall with our names on it. People passing through the gym, students, facility, coaches, and future basketball players will look up at our names. Another great memory was going to Paulters ice cream after our last regular season game with the softball team. We all ate ice cream and spent time together. It was awesome.

My 8 Years at NCCS

By: Ezra Estus

Throughout the eight years I have been here at NCCS I have learned a lot, some of it good, some not so good. But overall this school really taught me to be what I am today. All throughout my time here at NCCS my classmates and I have mostly been friends and no one really disliked each other. I mean we would have small fights with one another here and there but it was like siblings fighting because this school made us like family siblings and we would apologize and that would be that. One memory that really sticks out is in 2nd grade when Liliana was new to the class. We sat next to each other and I repeatedly poke her with a pencil. Well, that little child snitched and I had to write an apology note and give it to her the next day! From that day on I don't really know if she ever really forgave me for it but it's ok because after all the times we annoyed everyone, our class still were friends and I'm really happy that I can call them my friends.

This school really helped me academically because we have always had semi-small class so we always got one on one help if we ever were struggling in something and the teachers would make sure you got it even classmates would help occasionally if you were not getting the work. And give you harder work if it was too easy for you and I think this will help me in the future because even during covid last school year while other schools were still online we were in school and that really helped me because I didn't like online learning. So I will be ahead of some students too. My favorite class would have to be social studies because Ms. Mourer taught us a lot of things that the workbooks didn't even teach us. She also taught us that she can be kinda cool once you get to know her and she isn't all that scary.

During my time at NCCS I played on many of the sports teams such as Volleyball, Softball, Track and Field. The one memory that will always go with me in the future is our 8th grade basketball season because we really put in so much into doing what we did with occasionally blood, sweat, and a lot of tears went into it. Even during covid when we couldn't have a team to play on we still practiced and I think that was what really helped us to achieve of going undefeated the whole season then winning our division championships. We also had a great coach who somehow dealt with all of our complaining about having to do build ups or have to do ladders in our warm ups. That really did help us no matter how much we whined about it.

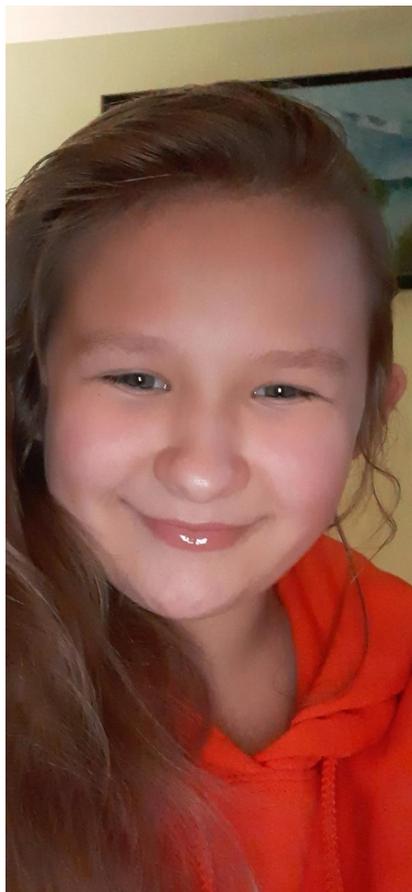
The memory that will stick with me the most was our trip to Waldameer. It was really fun and I went on almost all of the rides except the ones I was too scared to go on. But the ones I did go on were really fun. We were all in groups of people and I was in a group with Andrew, Tommy, and Nathan. We all had a really good time and we even met this youtuber Andrew knew and were in his video. My favorite ride was the cars that went around in circles and played music. After we rode all of the rides, next we went to the water park where we played in the wave pool and I rode on all the slides with Carilene. At the end of the day we had to drive back and I was so tired from the long exciting day we had.



8th grade reflection

By Myah S Benjamin

I have been a student at Northern Chautauqua Catholic School since I was 5 years old. I have met a lot of kids along the way to my 8th Grade year. Some have been sweet, some have been salty, and some have had the personality of a sunburn. Some I do believe I will stay friends with until I get older, even if I'm not in the same school as they are. Others I know, I probably won't really talk to again. My school life has been



challenging due to the issue with my eyes. My mom knew something wasn't quite right. She pushed teachers and principals here at school, to help figure it out. No one really could. So my mom had to fight through the system to get me the help I needed. It was hard for a while because I had to leave the school during the day for a specialized reading class. I had to take special classes at Fredonia State to help me be able to help my eyes to work better. My mom even had to find things that the school and the teachers at NCCS could use to help me better. Some teachers and assistant principal told my mom I did not belong at NCCS, because I was different. I didn't have a place at NCCS. I wasn't good enough to be a Mighty Monarch. I was an alternative learner and some of them hated that and made life really difficult for me to learn. I had a lot of stress and I tried very hard, but some didn't understand my eye problem and that I was born with it. Trust me, if I could have changed it I would have in a minute. It all made me very quiet and shy because kids made fun of me and so did some of the teachers. It was hard for me, but a few of my classmates were kind. Those are the ones I will be sad to not be in class with next year. Some teachers were really helpful in the past, I will remember them for it. I am who I am because of struggling to be seen as a person, even if I didn't learn like others and fit the mold of a regular kid. I

am ok with it now, because I survived and I proved people wrong. I am a mighty Monarch.

School work hasn't been easy because of my eyes, but my ears have been a gift to my life. I can remember so much more than others after I hear a story, a conversation, or a lesson. I have a very strong ability to remember almost word for word what I hear. I think this has been something that has set me up for success. This has prepared me for all sorts of things because I don't forget what I hear, ever, even if it's in another language. I can pick up on tones, sounds, and accents that other kids struggle with. I can learn things quickly if the idea is told to me a couple of times. My favorite subject has always been art because I have always learned through color, textures, and shapes. I love letting my brain just create what I feel. I think I will do great with the arts and technology because I have had to learn most of my life through them both. I like history and

listening to audiobooks because I can remember a lot of facts when I hear them, so I think I'm going to do well in the future because of how I've learned to combine everything in order to learn.

I have played every sport I could at NCCS including Basketball, baseball, softball, volleyball, and track since 4th Grade. I have loved it all, especially how we have learned to play so well together this year. I will miss this for sure. I have been in Mission Club, Chess Club, and the school musicals since 4th Grade too. I have also been an altar server for my Parish and received all my sacraments, so far. I think all of this has given me the skills to work well with others, to cooperate and take responsibility for my work and actions, and be able to learn from my mistakes. I think being strong in my faith and my mom always helping my brother and I to be close to Jesus in our daily lives, I know it will keep me strong, focused, and hopeful.



A memory that will always go with me on my life's Journey is being on the winning Girls Basketball championship.

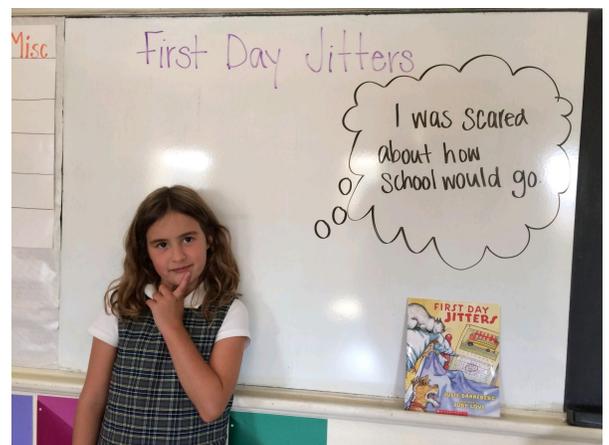
That was OUTSTANDING! I played so hard. The team played so hard. We all worked and worked crazy hard in practice and in the games. It was amazing because not everyone has that happen to them. We won after losing for so many years. I learned that with prayer and patience and hard work, I will be able to accomplish anything I want. That is one of the most important lessons I learned at NCCS and one of the best experiences of my life.

8th Grade Reflection

By: Liliana Seibert

I started here at NCCS in 2nd grade. I was pretty shy and it took me a while to make friends, but once I warmed up to everybody I really started to enjoy it here. A few weeks after the school year started, Ezra, who's in my class now, wasn't being very welcoming and poked me with pencils for some reason. I told the teacher and she made her write an apology letter saying that she was sorry.

I feel like I've been successful and that I am prepared for my future. The classes that make me think about life and the world around me are probably Social Studies because it talks about the world and how it works, which is helpful for the future. I look forward to learning more about Science and History when I go into high school to do new projects and experiments.



Some extra-curricular activities that I've participated in here are mission club, chess club, and ski club. I did those activities in 4th and 5th grade, and this year. My favorite was the ski club because I've been doing that for a few years and I was used to it and I also got to ski with my friends and do something outside of school.

A memory I know I will always remember from NCCS is from 5th grade when we went to the Buffalo Museum of Science. We saw some ancient artifacts, skeletons, did some fun science experiments, saw extinct animals, and dug fake gems and gold out of sand. They had a wall of cool insects and a space simulator thing that we could go in to make it feel like we were floating.

Reflection

By: Abi Strang

There are things in our life that might not be easy to forget but my most unforgettable experience is NCCS. I have had unforgettable memories together with my friends, former classmates and teachers. I may not realize during those times how to treasure each moment we spent in school. I know right at this moment I wish I could go back to the times where all we did was have fun with our classmates and friends. I have had all kinds of memories together like camping, school clubs, field trips, sports, musicals and school dances. Those are the sweet memories that are so hard to forget. I think my favorite memories are from basketball season even all the hard sweaty practices to the Championship game that we finally won. Even if my journey at NCCS is about to end right now I am still being reminded by those memories.

Throughout my years at NCCS I have grown not just in age but also personally and socially. I have learned so many wonderful things not just in academics but how to be respectful, responsible, hopeful, kind, understanding, faithful, caring, and courageous. I truly wouldn't be the person I am today if my parents never put me in NCCS and I will continue to treasure all the fantastic moments I have made with the people I met here for the rest of my life.



Mrs. Crossan Pre-K 4



Easter Bunny visits pre-K!



STEM project fun!



Learning about butterflies!



Chalking it up in pre-K!



Hoping this tower doesn't topple!



Outside time is the best time!

Adventures in pre-K



We came, we saw, we learned!



Nap time and snack time were favorites!

Mrs. Privitera



Each year, the Kindergartners participate in a crowning of Mary ceremony and they receive handmade rosaries. .



Both Kindergarten classes enjoyed a fun day at the Erie Zoo together for their end of the year field trip.



Kindergarten celebrated Valentine's Day with a cookie decorating party.

Kindergarten



Kindergarten had a busy year! They got together with the 2nd graders and 8th graders to complete monthly service projects for the community, watched caterpillars become butterflies while learning about life cycles in Science class, enjoyed a school wide petting zoo with their 8th grade buddies, and learned about the season of Lent by going to different Bible story stations every week of Lent.





Saunders Superstars always hard at work and at play.



Throughout the year we conducted many experiments including: cup stacking, creating the longest paper chain, determining how quickly peeps will dissolve, and building and testing bridges. We also enjoyed a field trip to Harvest View Greenhouse where we ran through tunnels, jumped on a huge trampoline, and tasted cider.



Our final adventure was a Staycation Day of Play. We made elephant toothpaste, played badminton and wiffle ball, had a crazy beach towel race, and enjoyed pizza and lots of yummy treats.

Mrs. Saunders 3rd Grade



First week of school.



Feeling the love and friendship on Valentine's Day.



We went outside frequently and especially loved playing in the snow.



We had ELA class outside in the beautiful spring weather.



Working together on STEM projects.



Let's go Bills!!!

Mrs. Melissa Zakrajsek



Friendship



Science



100 Days of Learning and Fun!



The bell still rings for those who believe!

Kindergarten



Rock Your Socks!
WDSO 3/21

Kindergarten by the numbers!

- 12 students
- Room 204
- 171 Days in School
- Over 200 books read
- 67 Sight Words
- 26 Alphafriends
- Counting to 100
- Countless hugs and high fives!



Class Pets: Bruno &
Woody



May Crowning

4th Grade



Ode to 8th grade



The fun continues...



Friends forever





Ms. Patterson's 2nd Grade



Above: Ms. Patterson & Mrs. Eckstrom's 2nd Grade Class!
Below: Our 2nd Graders celebrating Dr. Seuss's Birthday in true Dr. Seuss spirit!



Harper, Julia, Bria, Laura, Carter, and Mason with "Shark Girl" during their field trip to Explore & More!



2nd Grade celebrating Three Kings Day!



Ms. Patterson & Mrs. Eckstrom's 2nd Graders

Mrs. Nalepa



Ms. Polly Albright came and spoke to use about Veteran's Day!



So proud to build a tower TALLER than Mrs. Nalepa



Violet made a display board and shared with the class all about her trip to Colorado!



Aaron being very focused sewing pillows for the elderly during Catholic Schools Week



Snow much FUN!



Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit, sed do eiusmod tempor incididunt ut labore et dolore magna aliqua.

Have a Great Summer

