



# GR Update

Winter 2022

FAITH ♦ KNOWLEDGE ♦ SERVICE ♦ GROWTH

## From the Desk of Mr. Joseph Whalen, Principal



I always feel that as soon as the school year begins, it ends. While this is obviously not the case, here we find ourselves at the start of March, nearing the end of the third quarter, and wondering where did the time go? We've had the fortune of enjoying a relatively "normal" year (masks aside), and it's been a fast-paced journey. Winter sports are already gearing up for the playoffs, and it's been a good year for the winter athletes with a Catholic League Championship in boys' basketball, an individual champion in wrestling, both our girls and boys bowling teams headed to the state finals, hockey competing for the regional championship, the girls basketball team and the unbeaten boys teams starting their runs at the state playoffs, and three wrestlers preparing for the state tournament this weekend. We had one drama showing to packed houses in the fall and we're getting ready for a second one, "Once Upon a Mattress" the first weekend of April. Families are even planning for Easter Break, Prom and Graduation already. And in the middle of all of this, we're working to make it all better with new lighting throughout the building, plans to upgrade the science labs and computer lab, a new weight room, and more plans in the works as we awaken from our Covid hibernation. The incoming class (The Class of 2026!) is coming on strong thanks to the efforts of our Admissions Director, Mr. Brendan Johnson. The future looks bright at Gabriel Richard Catholic High School. It truly is a Great day to be a Pioneer!

Sincerely,

*Joe*

Joseph Whalen  
Principal



## It's Back!

We are proud to announce that the Bites, Beats & Brew Food Truck Rally will be returning to GR on June 4th after a two year Covid hiatus. Come join us for fantastic food from several food trucks, including among others, Auburn Café, Cheesesteak Institute of America, Los Dos Amigos and Stix & Stones Pizza. There will be activities for the kids, a Beer Garden, basket raffles and live music performed by Category 5. Additionally, the winner of our 2nd annual \$10,000 "It's Your Lucky Day" Raffle will be drawn that evening. This is the last fundraiser of the year and has been one of our most successful ones. Tickets are \$10.00/person for anyone over 21 (under 21 admitted free). "It's Your Lucky Day" raffle tickets are \$100/each, with only 1,000 tickets being sold! For information on purchasing either entry or raffle tickets, please call Adrian Kowal at (734) 284-1875, ext. 116 or email him at [kowala@gabrielrichard.org](mailto:kowala@gabrielrichard.org).

# A Note From Adrian

Dear GR Alumni and Families,

I am excited to send out this Winter 2022 edition of the GR Update, as it has been a few years since the last Update was published. We are updating the alumni data base, so please help us by filling out the form below and returning it. It is my plan to make this a bi-annual publication, bringing you current GR updates as well as alumni news about your classmates.

The 2020-2021 school year was more challenging than any other we have ever had. A hybrid formula used for instruction (3 days in school and 2 days online), shorter athletic seasons, restrictions on attendance at events and visitors to school, and cancelation of our annual Food Truck Rally were some examples of the impact Covid had on GR. However, the year did end with Graduation taking place on May 27th. (Please see Page 3). The Class of 2021 is only the second class in GR's 52 graduating classes to have had its graduation ceremony held outside, the other being the Class of 2020, both due to the Pandemic.

The 2021-2022 school year still has us dealing with Covid and its variants, but it has been more of a "normal" year than the prior two. While all students, staff and visitors continue to be masked up, no in-person days have been lost as was the case during the 2020-2021 school year.

During the Fall Semester, GR was able to complete a full season of all Fall sports (Please see Page 4) and was

able to crown the Homecoming King and Queen on October 1st at half-time of the game against Bishop Foley. We held the 10th annual Founders' Day Golf Outing on September 18th (Please see page 9) at West Shore Golf & Country Club. It was great to see so many alumni and friends come out to support GR! We also had our 2021 #BurgundyTuesday fundraiser on November 30th, where we raised over \$38,000. Combining that amount with the \$56,000 raised in 2020, the GR community helped raise over \$94,000 towards our air conditioning campaign. We are planning on installing two (2) window air conditioners in each classroom this summer, which everyone who has attended GR knows what an impact that will have! Lastly, we are looking forward to once again hosting our annual Food Truck Rally on June 4th, during which the winning ticket for our 2nd \$10,000 "It's Your Lucky Day" Raffle will be drawn. We'd love to have you join us!

While the Covid-19 pandemic has had a personal and economic impact on so many of our GR families, alumni and friends, I am extremely grateful for the support and engagement received from so many of you. To those who just checked in to see how GR was doing, to those who kept GR in their prayers, and those who offered financial support in the form of donations and scholarships, most notably for students whose families were most hit by the pandemic, I offer a very

heartfelt "Thank You". So many of you have shown the true spirit of being a GR Pioneer!

Thank you for all your prayers and support as we continue through this school year with the hope that the normalcy we are so accustomed to will quickly return. May God continue to bless you and your families.

Sincerely,

*Adrian*

Adrian Kowal, J.D., LL.M.  
Director of Advancement



## Need to Update Contact Information? News you'd like us to share in the next GR Update? Tell us!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Alumni Class of: \_\_\_\_\_

Alumni News you would like to share:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please return to Adrian Kowal, Director of Advancement, Gabriel Richard Catholic H.S., 15325 Pennsylvania Road, Riverview, MI 48193 or email to [kowala@gabrielrichard.org](mailto:kowala@gabrielrichard.org)

# The Class of 2021

## Colleges/Universities Offering Admission to the Class of 2021:

□ Schools of Matriculation in **bold**

\* Multiple admits

# Multiple matriculations

Adelphi University

**Adrian College**

**Albion College** \*#

Alfred University

**Alma College** \*

Aquinas College

Ave Maria University

Bowling Green University

**Central Michigan University** \*#

Coastal Carolina University

**Concordia University**

DePaul University

DePauw University

Dominican University

**East-West University**

Eastern Illinois University

**Eastern Michigan University** \*

Ferris State University

Florida State University

**Gettysburg College**

Grace College

**Grand Valley State University** \*#

Hartwick College

**Hillsdale College**

**Henry Ford College** \*#

Hollins University

Hope College \*

**Houston Community College**

Kalamazoo College

Loyola University Chicago \*

Miami University

**Michigan State University** \*#

**Michigan Technological University**

**Madonna University**

Mount Mercy University

Muskingum University

**Northwestern University**

Northwood University

Oakland University \*

**Olivet College** \*#

Ottawa University

Regis University

Saginaw Valley State University

Saint Mary's College

Saint Xavier University

**Schoolcraft College** \*#

Seton Hall University

**Siena Heights University** \*#

University of Detroit Mercy

**University of Michigan—Dearborn** \*#

**University of Minnesota**

University of Scranton

University of Toledo \*

**Wayne State University** \*#

Washtenaw Community College

**Western Kentucky University**

Western Michigan University

Xavier University

- The Graduation ceremony for the Class of 2021 was only the second time the event has been held outside since GR opened its doors in 1965.
- Members of the Class of 2021 were accepted into 59 universities and colleges.
- 88% of the class will be attending 23 different 4-year or 2-year institutions in 6 different states, with four students attending Trade School, one student attending the Culinary institute of America, one student attending the College for Creative Studies and one student attending the Detroit Training Center.
- 7 members of the Class of 2021 will continue as recruited student-athletes at NCAA Division III institutions, as well as at NJCAA and NAIA institutions in the following sports: Baseball, Men's Basketball, Men's Track, Softball, Women's Tennis and Volleyball.
- Maria Ritchie (attending Hillsdale College) was Class Valedictorian and Alexa Camilleri (attending Northwestern University) was the Salutatorian.

# Fall Varsity Athletic Updates

**Football:** A very young Pioneer team with only seven seniors finished with a 3-5 record, barely missing the MHSAA playoffs by a few percentage points.



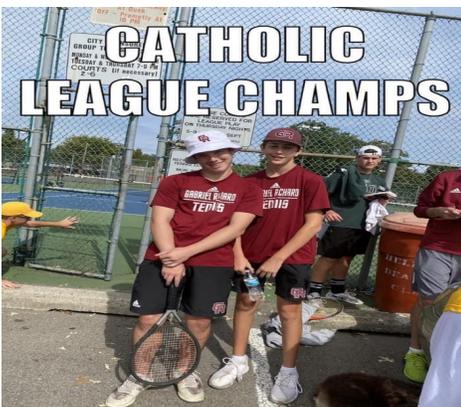
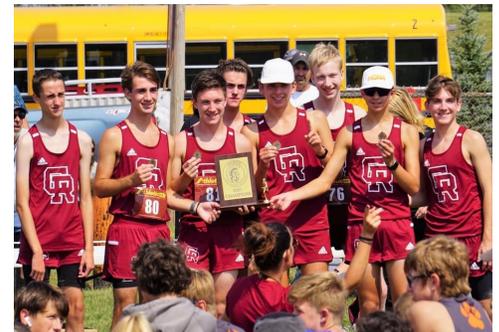
**Girl's Volleyball:** finished with a 17-15 record. In addition to being Silver Champs at the Mt. Morris tournament and placing at the Wyandotte, Webberville and News Herald tournaments, the team won the District Championship.

**Boy's Soccer:** Under the leadership of first year head coach Kevin Venegas, the team finished .500 in league play, losing in overtime in the district semi-final. The team was lead by seniors Connor Chisek, Connor Silka and Nick Cole.



## Cross Country

Both the Girl's and Boy's Cross Country teams placed in several invitationals. The boys team qualified for the MHSAA finals, placing 5th, with Alex Meszaros finishing 14th overall.



**Boy's Tennis:** While the team finished 0-2-1 in the CHSL, they continued to improve throughout the year with high hopes for next season! Additionally, Joey Csekei and Ian McGunagle, after going 0-3 in CHSL matches during the regular season, finished in 1st Place at the CHSL Tournament as #3 doubles. Congratulations!

## **New Football & Volleyball Coaches Named**



On February 2, 2022, Gabriel Richard Catholic High School announced the hiring of Dionte Allen as Head Varsity Football Coach. “We couldn’t be more excited with our decision,” Athletic Director Kris Daiek said. “Coach Allen is high energy, experienced and a tremendous coach. We are truly excited for him to work with our student athletes at many levels.”

Most recently, Allen coached at Orchard Lake St. Mary’s Preparatory where he was the varsity defensive backs/wide receiver coach and the junior varsity head football coach. Allen also served as the school’s Assistant Dean of Students, Assistant Dormitory Director, and Director of Student Relations. “Having coached Dionte, I know first hand what type of competitor he is,” Daiek said. “He will have an immediate impact on our program, school and community. His ability to develop and relate to players at all levels is impressive.”

Allen was one of the top high school football recruits in 2007 where he attended Florida State University. After playing at Florida State University for three years, Allen transferred to Ohio State University and played for Coach Jim Tressel. Dionte participated in five National Bowl competitions from 2007 to 2011. Allen has played and worked with some of the nation’s top coaches including Bobby Bowden, Mickey Andrews, Terrell Buckley, Jimbo Fisher, Mark Stoops, Jim Tressel, Luke Fickell and Mike Vrabel.

Allen also helped found and act as coordinator for the American Football Academy in Shanghai China. He developed and implemented training programs, youth programs and recruitment opportunities for players. Allen graduated from Orchard Lake St. Mary’s in 2007 and has a degree from Ohio State University in Policy Management. Outside of work, he enjoys spending time with his daughter, Kennedie Allen.

Gabriel Richard Catholic High School has announced the hiring of Alexandra Repasky as Head Varsity Volleyball Coach. Repasky graduated from Gabriel Richard in 2012.

“Coach Repasky is a great fit for us,” Athletic Director Kris Daiek said. “She has coached and played high-level volleyball, and is a welcome addition to our team.”

Repasky’s most recent coaching credentials include assistant volleyball coach for the Flat Rock High School varsity team. She also worked as an assistant at Woodhaven High School from 2018 – 2020, and coached for the Michigan Elite Volleyball program where she helped develop players ranging from 8th to 11th grades. In 2015, she was the head coach of the Michigan State Spartans Club Team where they finished in second place in the NCVF.



Daiek said Repasky was a great competitor while at GR and a leader in the school. She was a three-time All State volleyball player (2009, 2010, and 2011) and helped lead the Pioneers to a Regional Championship in 2010. Following graduation, Repasky was captain of the Michigan State Spartans Club team, and was named to the All Tournament Team at the NCVF National Tournament in 2017.

Repasky has a bachelor’s degree from Michigan State University in Communications and History.

# Homecoming 2021

Homecoming 2021 was held on October 1st at half-time of the football game against Bishop Foley, with Brooke Adams being named Homecoming Queen and Matteo Fedele being named King. The other members of the 2021 Court included Sarah Collins, Luke Gordon, Isabella Assimacopoulos, Nickolas Szczechowski, Lucabella Giordano, Tristan Cosgrove, Haley Hand and Matthew Vasquez. While GR lost 33-28, it was still a memorable evening for all members of the court and their families.



# Pictures of Fall



# In Memoriam

Karen Marie (Liphardt) Hall '69  
Tina Maria (Louzon) Brown '70  
Michael McGrath '71  
Catherine (Meyers) Callahan '71  
Barbara Baker '72  
Joseph Britz '75  
Suzanne (LaChapelle) Croll '75  
Amy Jo Curtis '76  
David Brick '77  
Jannisse (Miller) Chesney '77  
William Truskowski '78  
Colleen (Melody) Ford '79  
Scott Goheen '80  
George Ropert '81  
Crispin Jose '82  
Kathleen Mackey '82  
Rick Pollack '83  
Chuck Fraley '83

Roland Young '83  
Francine Lee Kroll '83  
Kim McEvoy '84  
Trisha (Solosky) Ansara '85  
Kristina Kaza Hooper '86  
Frederick Moss '90  
Kelly Ann (Smokovitz) Gaynier '98  
Shawna Piper '02  
Trevor Razo '09  
Anthony Agnone '11  
Sr. Cecile Thibodeau, CSJ, Teacher  
Paul Cochran, Coach  
Sr. Mary Jo Rosenau, IHM, Teacher  
Maureen Fielder, Teacher  
Filomena DiPaolo (Reed) Eccles, Bookkeeper  
Vicki McElroy, Librarian  
Tom Rashid, Athletic Director

*Eternal Rest Grant Unto Them O Lord, And Let Perpetual Light Shine Upon Them. May The Souls Of All The Faithful Departed, Through The Mercy Of God, Rest In Peace, Amen*

*If you would like to make a gift in memory of a deceased classmate, administrator, teacher or staff member, please send to Adrian Kowal at Gabriel Richard Catholic H.S., 15325 Pennsylvania Rd., River-view, MI 48193*

# 2021 Founders' Day Golf

On September 18, 2021, the 10th annual Founders' Day Golf Outing was held at West Shore Golf & Country Club on Grosse Ile. Over the last few years, this has been one of GR's biggest events, offering alumni an opportunity to get together with parents of current students as well as other supporters of GR. This year's event was once again sold out, with 140 golfers taking part on an absolutely perfect fall day. Congratulations to the winning foursome of Jeff Wagner, Blake Wagner, Malin Wagner and Steve Avery. We hope you can join us next year as we celebrate our 11th year!



Stay up to date with all things GR!



# Giving to



There are several ways you can support Gabriel Richard Catholic High School. Set out below are the methods which you can use to make a donation to GR.

## Check

Make checks payable to Gabriel Richard Catholic High School, note on the memo line where you would like your donation to go, and mail to:

*Gabriel Richard Catholic H.S.  
Attn: Office of Advancement  
15325 Pennsylvania Rd.  
Riverview, MI 48193*

## Credit Card

Credit card payments can be made with Visa, Mastercard, Discover card or American Express at <http://weblink.donorperfect.com/GR>

## In Memoriam

Gifts can be made in memory of a deceased loved one who has designated Gabriel Richard as the recipient of gifts upon his or her death. Donations can also be made in memory of any deceased Gabriel Richard Catholic classmate.

## Founders' Day Golf Outing

GR's Founders' Day Golf Outing is held each fall and provides an opportunity for alums, families and friends to get together to support GR. There are several sponsorship opportunities available, with all proceeds raised going towards student financial assistance, infrastructure maintenance and student programs.

## #BurgundyTuesday

The first Tuesday after Thanksgiving is designated as #BurgundyTuesday, GR's fundraising event occurring on National Giving Tuesday. Donations are accepted via check or online through our #BurgundyTuesday weblink. GR has used these funds to upgrade classrooms into collaborative learning centers and this year, funds will be used for the installation of two air conditioners in each classroom.

## Matching Gifts

Many employers, companies and other organizations give annually to an educational institution or other non-profits such as GR, as an employee benefit by matching the employee's gift on a 1:1, 2:1, or 3:1 basis. Matching gifts are a great way for you to double or maybe triple your donation to GR without incurring additional out-of-pocket expenses. Check with your employer to see whether they have a matching gift program.

## Pioneer Fund

The Pioneer Fund is the main source of philanthropic giving at Gabriel Richard Catholic H.S. These unrestricted funds allow Gabriel Richard to enrich academic and student programs, faculty development, the overall school infrastructure and provide financial aid and scholarships to families who otherwise would not have the opportunity for a Gabriel Richard Catholic education. An annual gift is a vote of confidence in Gabriel Richard.

## Advertising & Sponsorship

Gabriel Richard offers several advertising and sponsorship opportunities, including outdoor athletic facility banners, Gym banners, Founders' Day Golf Outing, the Gym's LED Scorer's Table, both Fall and Winter athletic programs and other event programs.

## Pioneer Pride Walkway

You can honor past and present Pioneers by purchasing a brick to be engraved and added to the brick walkway leading into the athletic field. Your donation of \$200.00 will leave your legacy for years to come. Bricks can be purchased at <http://weblink.donorperfect.com/GRpavers>

## Planned Gifts

Planned gifts are gifts that last forever, ones that will live on for generations. It doesn't impact your current assets and can be easily changed if your circumstances change. They may also save you estate taxes down the road.

*For more information on any of these ways to support Gabriel Richard Catholic High School,*



Gabriel Richard Catholic High School  
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Riverview, Michigan 48193

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