Kearney Catholic Alumni Newsletter

Spring 2026

Where Stars Stay Connected

Welcome Back to the Kearney Catholic Alumni Newsletter

We are excited to reintroduce the Kearney Catholic Alumni Newsletter as a renewed way to stay connected to the people, stories, and traditions that make our Stars community so special. The alumni newsletter will be delivered quarterly by email to all alumni with a current email address in our database. Each issue will share alumni news and accomplishments, school updates, upcoming events, and opportunities to stay engaged with Kearney Catholic High School. Whether you are a recent graduate or one of our earliest alumni, this newsletter is intended to keep you connected to your classmates, your school, and the faith-based mission that continues to guide Kearney Catholic today. Once a Star, always a Star.

Beyond the Hall Panelists

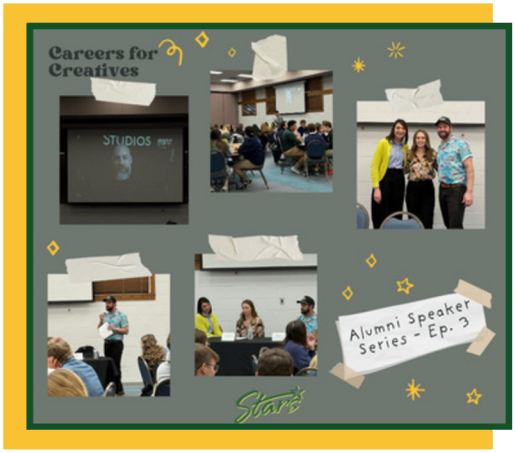
Mike Bowman '05 – Bowman Agronomics
Phil Hranac '06 – Edward Jones
Zach Jackson '15 – Jackson Construction
Maddie Squires '16 – Antelope Volleyball Club
Christin Khayat '11, APRN – CHI Health
Dr. John DeLaet '11 – DeLaet Dental
Dr. Andrew Prososki '07, MD – Kearney Regional Medical Center
Adam Liess '09 – GO Physical Therapy
Kyle Sayler '07 – Sayler Screen Printing
Laura Fredricks '03 – Eakes Office Solutions
Piper Young '20 – Wilkins Architecture, Planning & Design
Scott Wemhoff '05 – Air Luxe Studios & Skyview 360

Beyond The Halls: Connecting Alumni with Current Stars

This year, the Alumni Board implemented the Beyond the Halls Alumni Series, a new program designed to connect current students with Kearney Catholic alumni. Through this series, alumni are invited back to campus to speak with juniors and seniors about their education paths, careers, and favorite memories from their time in high school.

Beyond the Halls gives students a firsthand look at life after graduation while helping them build meaningful connections with fellow alumni as they prepare to leave Kearney Catholic. The program strengthens the bond between past and present Stars and reinforces the lasting value of the Kearney Catholic community.

If you are interested in being a part of the Beyond the Halls Alumni Series, please email us at kchsalumni@kearneycatholic.org



DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT THROUGH MATCH MADNESS

Donate Here

For many of us, Kearney Catholic was more than a school — it was a place that shaped our faith, friendships, and future.

The Annual Star Fund is the school's year-long campaign (July–June) supporting teacher salaries, academic excellence, and our Catholic mission. It helps ensure today's students experience the same strong foundation that formed you.

During March, Match Madness offers a special opportunity: every Annual Star Fund gift is doubled.

If you've already made your Annual Star Fund gift this year, thank you. If not, this is the perfect time to give back — and double your impact.

One fund. One mission. One annual gift — now matched.

GET INVOLVED

Golf Tournament Registration

Register for StarPride

We want to stay connected with you. Please help us keep our alumni records up to date by sharing information such as births, deaths, and contact updates by emailing kchsalumni@kearneycatholic.org.

Planning a class reunion? Contact kchsalumni@kearneycatholic.org to coordinate a school tour.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT
JONATHAN NIKKILA
Class of '98

What activities, clubs, or sports were you involved in during high school?

One thing I loved about Kearney Catholic was the opportunity to try a wide variety of activities. I spent most of my time in cross country and track, and we finished as state runner-up in cross country my senior year. In addition to athletics, I was involved in speech, mock trial, and yearbook, and I served as student council president during my senior year.

What path did you take after graduating, and what are you doing professionally now?

After graduating, I attended Hillsdale College in Hillsdale, Michigan, where I majored in political science, minored in classics, and emphasized journalism. I met my wife there, my brother—and fellow KCHS graduate—Michael followed me, and today my daughter, also a KCHS graduate, is attending Hillsdale as well. Professionally, I now work for a nonprofit organization focused on education issues across the country, though we don't currently operate in Nebraska. In my role, I coordinate various teams in areas such as HR, finance, and organizational goal setting. While we could live almost anywhere in the United States, we made a very intentional decision to call Kearney home—and we don't regret it at all.

What do you enjoy most about coaching and seeing your family continue the KCHS tradition?

I love bringing positivity and helping students see opportunity. Cross country and track are hard, and you hear a lot of "I can't" or "that won't happen." I enjoy showing students that big things can happen when they invest mentally and physically in a goal. Apathy, pessimism, and cynicism drive me nuts — I want them to see how much they can accomplish without those mindsets. It's also meaningful to watch my own children thrive in the same rigorous, tight-knit community that helped me grow from a shy, unsure kid. They're all different from me, but they're happy at KCHS — and that means a lot.

My Most Influential Teachers at KCHS

- Tom Moore
- Maureen Nitz
- Bonnie Brown
- Randy Buschkoetter
- Dwaine Schmidt