

Aquinas High School

Parent News

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• February 2011

PRINCIPAL POINTS

New Course Offerings

Students interested in the challenging course work of an advanced placement course will find more options available next year. The addition of *AP Statistics*, *AP Macroeconomics*, and *AP Environmental Science* brings the total number of AP courses to ten.

The Fine Arts Department has replaced Drawing and Painting with *2- and 3-Dimensional Design* classes to give students access to a wider variety of artistic mediums. *Digital Photography* is also a new option.

The Religion Department has added a semester elective called *Prayer & Practice* for upperclassmen interested in further developing their spirituality.

In the Science Department, *Conceptual Physics* will replace Physical Science. The new course will introduce students to more physics concepts, in addition to eliminating the more rigorous math component found in Physical Science.

In the Social Studies Department, students will find a new elective with the addition of a semester course in *Criminal Justice*, and juniors will now have the choice to take Government in their junior or senior year.

Make Your Party Reservations Now

Don't miss your chance to attend one (or more) of the Aquinas Arabian Nights Auction Parties! The following parties still have a few open spots:

June 4	Schools Out for Summer \$30 per person
June 11	I-Rish Beach Party \$50 per person
October 25	Mexican Fiesta \$40 per person
Fall TBA	Tailgate in Style \$30 per person

Check out all the details on the Aquinas website and then stop in the school office to purchase your ticket to fun. Tickets available through March 31, 2011.

2011-12 Tuition and Fees

The annual registration fee of \$700 covers the cost of most textbooks, student admission to home athletic events, class retreats, student ID cards, and scheduling. New in 2011-12, the registration fee will also cover the cost of a yearbook! Incorporating a yearbook into the fee helps our yearbook staff plan better, and it saves you writing another check. Don't worry—our student yearbook staff will still gain their sales experience by selling business and senior ads.

Those families blessed with more than one student attending Aquinas at the same time will see a noticeable difference in the sibling discounts. What used to be a 10% discount for all siblings will become a 20% discount for the 2nd child, 50% for the 3rd child, and 100% for the 4th child beginning next year.

Two options are available for paying tuition: one annual payment or monthly payments through FACTS Tuition Management. All families that select the monthly payment option (new and returning users) must go online to set up a 2011-12 account. Follow the QuickLink on the Aquinas website.

Important Registration Dates

March 4	Course selection via PowerSchool closes at 3:30pm
March 16	FACTS Grant & Aid application due if applying for tuition assistance
March 31	Completed Student Registration form due with \$300 partial payment of registration fee
May 6	Notification of Aquinas tuition assistance awards mailed
May 15	Deadline to set up 12-month payment option with FACTS
June 1	Balance of the registration fee is due

Winter Sports Awards

The Winter Sports Awards Ceremony will be held on Wednesday, March 23 at 6:00pm in the dining hall. Athletes from the Swim Team, Basketball Teams, Cheerleaders, and Rifle Team will be recognized.

NEWS FROM THE CLASSROOMS

U.S. Government

To enhance their study of the Judicial Branch of government, students traveled to the Municipal Building on Greene Street to witness the beginning stages of a criminal trial. Many students were surprised by the tedious process of jury selection but also realized the importance of picking an impartial jury. Students also got a chance to meet and speak with Judge Carl Brown and the attorneys involved in the trial.

Spanish

Students in Spanish II and III worked in small groups to investigate the cuisine of Spanish-speaking countries. Using fake ingredients and/or photos of ingredients, groups put on cooking demonstrations complete with instructions in Spanish. Not content to just pretend, Jack Bernard brought in a real Spanish dish to share with his peers.

Scripture

During the month of February, students watched the actual events of Salvation History unfold as they attempted to answer the question: Where am I in this story? Freshmen followed Joshua through Jericho and into battle with the idolatrous peoples of Canaan for possession of the land God promised to Abraham. In the hard lessons being learned by God's people at this time—cycles of sin, suffering, repentance, and forgiveness—students saw that God stays with us, even when we fail. Students also conducted research on the saints of February, who also bear the same hopeful message: It is not necessary to always be perfect, but to persevere in love for God.

Literature & Composition

What better time than spring to celebrate life with poetry? Freshmen in Mrs. Hegwood's literature classes have begun an in-depth poetry unit in which they talk about everything from syntax to symbolism. They will study classical poems, contemporary poems, songs as poetry, Psalms as poetry, and poems of the students' own choosing. For the duration of this unit, students will be asked to "think like poets" by memorizing lines of poetry that appeal to them, reading poetry in non-school settings for a change in perspective, and creating their own original poems. After their first poetry discussion, in which they compared reading poetry to digging for archeological finds, Andrew Poirier made an interesting observation: "I guess digging like an archaeologist is something you could do with any form of literature." Absolutely!

Integrated Math II

Integrated Math II students are following in the footsteps of ancient scholars by delving deep into the vast and stimulating world of geometry. Plato, the great Greek philosopher, felt that the study of geometry was so vital to life and learning that he had the words *Let None Ignorant of Geometry Enter Here* inscribed above the entrance of the legendary Academy in Athens. The study of geometry ("Geo" – meaning earth and "metria" – meaning measure) incorporates concepts of spatial relationships that contain a high level of complexity and abstraction. Students are learning to use the ancient Postulates and Theorems, along with their own scrupulous logical deduction skills, to navigate their way through the multifaceted map of "Earth's Measure."



STUDENT LIFE

Model United Nations

During the weekend of February 11-12 students participated in the Model United Nations Competition held at the University of Georgia in Athens. At the competition, Aquinas had one of the largest delegations with over 18 students participating, and Aquinas was the only school from the immediate CSRA to send a delegation. Aquinas delegate, Mary Rose Ziemba, said of the experience, "We learned about current affairs, made friends with students representing different countries, and collaborated to pass intelligent resolutions in hope that they would bring an end to international dilemmas." The simulated experience gave students opportunities to represent several countries and committees, while tackling problems ranging from the Aids crisis in Africa to peace in the Middle East. Pawel Kraj, an Aquinas delegate challenged with resolving the Middle East peace process, remarked that the experience "allows you to learn about the world on a global scale, and at the same time, you can interact with people from different schools and different backgrounds." The long hours of preparation paid off. Aquinas was well represented and students gained a new perspective of their world.



Golf Teams Get Started

The Aquinas Golf Team began the season by qualifying over 27 holes. Patrick Sherlock earned the number one spot with a 9-hole average of 36.66. The number two man is John-Christian Whyte (37.66), number three man is Brad Thomas (39), number four man Anthony Spencer (39), number five man Logan Pogue (40.33), and the sixth man Nick Hall (42). Thomas Menk qualified and is working hard to be part of the six-man squad. The team opened with a win over Elbert County.

The Fightin' Irish will also have a girls' team this year with Kelli Pitts, Caroline McInerney, and Becky Wilde. Both teams would like to extend their appreciation to Dan & Angela Hall for purchasing golf bags and to Casella Eye Center for sponsoring wind-shirts.

Math Scholars Named

Aquinas Math Scholars is an honorary club that recognizes seniors for their interest, as well as their exemplary work, in mathematics courses. Students apply in February. The Math Department reviews their application, notifies accepted honorees, and they are recognized at graduation. This year's Scholars are: Holley Avrett, Andrea Castrasana, Patrick Conner, Megan Duncan, Sarah Ellison, Mary Ellen Fain, Stacia Fritz, Coeli Janiak, Katie Kessinger, Katie O'Brien, Jaime O'Meara, and Mary Rose Ziemba. Congratulations!

Diocesan Youth Conference

A group of Aquinas students joined approximately 400 young Catholics at the Diocesan Youth Conference held February 11-13 on St. Simons Island. Participants praised God through music, the sacraments, talks, and fellowship. The theme of the conference was *Christ Is Alive In Us*. The keynote speaker for the weekend was Chris Padgett, who travels around the world giving talks, missions, and concerts. Tyler Williamson described him best when he said, "The man is insane. Many of us laughed so hard we cried. Each talk was hilarious and jam packed with a powerful message." The Ike Ndolo Band led the worship music throughout the weekend and also led the group in song during Mass. Our own Kaylin Walker gave his testimony and got the crowd "jumpin'."



Masters Table Soup Kitchen

Aquinas is partnering with St. Mary on the Hill Church every 4th Wednesday of the month to serve at the Masters Table Soup Kitchen. Four students will leave the school with Mr. Lammers at 10:00am, serve the poor at the soup kitchen, and then return to school around 1:30pm. If anyone is interested, sign up with Mr. Lammers.