

40 years of giving



BCACS Foundation celebrates four decades of support for Catholic education

When students first arrived at St. Joseph Elementary and Middle School for the start of the 2023-24 academic year, they were buzzed into the building through a new security system and greeted by the friendly and familiar faces of school staff.

The new \$40,000 surveillance system had been installed over the summer and is just one small

example of the ongoing commitment to the safety of students, faculty and staff made by the Battle Creek Area Catholic Schools (BCACS) Foundation, which funded the project through a state grant.

Grants funding goes a long way, but it is the individual donors that serve as a catalyst for BCACS, as tuition only covers 50 percent of the total cost to op-

erate its schools.

"It's our tried-and-true individual donors over so many years that sustain us and rise to the challenge when we have capital projects," said Nicole Shugars, president of the BCACS Foundation.

The BCACS Foundation is again drumming up community

See **40 YEARS**,
page 4



UPCOMING EVENTS AND IMPORTANT MOMENTS

TAKE A LOOK WITH YOUR CALENDAR BOOK

FULL HOUSE DRAWDOWN

APRIL 13, 2024

Tickets include:

- One number in the drawdown raffle
- Unlimited buffet of heavy hors d'oeuvres
- Deserts
- Late night snack
- Open bar
- An evening filled with fun and winnings!



ALUMNI - let us support your business!

E-mail STPalumni@bcacs.org with your business name, phone number, website, and a brief description of what services you provide.

Alumni-owned businesses will be featured in a directory on the BCACS website, which will be shared out to all alumni, current BCACS families, and parishioners.

CALLING ALL MEMBERS OF THE CLASSES OF



1949

1954

1959

1964



1969

1974

1979

1984

1989

1994

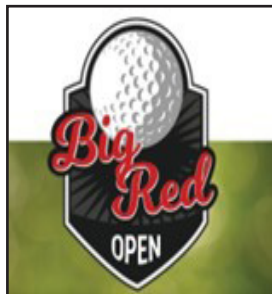
1999

2004

ARE YOU PLANNING YOUR REUNION?



BIG RED OPEN



Stay tuned for information on how to join the annual Big Red Open golf outing in June 2024!

Follow on us on Facebook



Facebook.com/
BattleCreekAreaCatholicSchools



SAVE THE DATE

ALLSAINTS SUPERFEST

SEPTEMBER 13-15, 2024

Fun for the whole family
on the grounds of St. Joseph Parish

◀ STP ▶

Annual Alumni Basketball Tournament

SHEILA GUERRA TIGER DEN GYMNASIUM

NOVEMBER 24, 2023

Contact Nick Buckley, Class of 2003
nickbuckley84@gmail.com

REMEMBER

You are welcome to visit your
alma mater whenever life
brings you to Battle Creek!



STP's on Facebook:
SaintPhilipAlumni
Association

To schedule a visit, contact
SLightfoot@bcacs.org or
ALumbard@bcacs.org

Small school, big difference



Battle Creek Area Catholic Schools, in partnership with parents, community and the Catholic Church, provide students with an excellent education and a solid faith formation. Students will know **the Faith**, share **the Faith**, and live **the Faith**.

The Battle Creek Area Catholic Schools

- Provide programs which fully develop each child spirituality, emotionally and academically.
- Smaller class sizes provide individual attention.
- Service to others is integrated in each grade level, nurturing an adherence to service before self.
- We relate education in the classroom to the values that Christ showed us; love, hope, faith, charity, forgiveness and self discipline.



TIGER TRACKS

40 YEARS continued...

support for its mission to meet the ongoing financial needs of the schools and ensuring the future of Catholic education in Battle Creek through its annual fund drive. The Foundation celebrates 40 years since being incorporated as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

DECADES OF INVESTMENT IN CATHOLIC EDUCATION

It was in 1979 when a committee of parents, pastors, and staff was organized to “review and evaluate every aspect of our schools.” Their study included everything from the mission of the institutions to the curriculum and facilities, as well as the external, demographic and economic factors that could ultimately produce a financial impact. Prior to that, the city’s three Catholic parishes – St. Philip, St. Joseph and St. Jerome – had subsidized the difference between tuition fees and the cost of education.

With growing enrollment, it was determined that cooperative resource management and innovative development efforts were needed to ensure continued success. In 1983, more than 200 people canvassed members of the city’s three Catholic parishes, as well as the parents of students at the respective Catholic schools, to elicit support for the first fund drive.

“I’m in awe of the foresight that group had to get the BCACS Foundation set up,” Shugars said. “We know what we’re doing for the kids today is because of investments that were made years ago and have had the benefit of time and is some-



thing that continues to bear fruit.”

Sally Chadwick and her husband, Dr. John Chadwick, first became involved with the BCACS Foundation Board back in the early 1980s, when their children began attending St. Philip Elementary. She continues to serve as a trustee on the board, saying it has been heartening to see the Foundation’s ongoing commitment to Catholic education in Battle Creek and a willingness for others to step up and carry the torch.

“We became concerned after a while that it was the same people doing all the fundraising, so it’s been gratifying to see so many of the new board members on the BCACS Foundation who were in school with my kids with the 1980s and 1990s,” Chadwick said. “Our Catholic faith is integrated in the classrooms, so students are immersed throughout their

daily lives. The schools support the health of our parishes, they create a foundation for students to continue their participation in Mass and church activities in the future, hopefully a lifelong commitment and they offer a much-needed alternative to public schools.”

When John Bauman was in first grade, he first walked across the street from his home on 25th Street to St. Joseph Elementary for his first day of school. It was the beginning of his decades-long involvement with BCACS, graduating from St. Philip in 1975, and then seeing his son’s Michael (’06) and Thomas (’08) follow in his footsteps as graduates.

Bauman has been with the BCACS Foundation for nearly all its existence, currently in his 39th year as its treasurer.

“It goes back to when my father-in-law encouraged me

to join the school board, so that you can make the schools better for your children,” Bauman said. “That was the main reason for serving. ... and having been involved so long, I see the benefit of serving for other students and other children.”

‘GIVING BACK’

Bauman added that the BCACS Foundation remains perpetually grateful for the support the schools have received over the years, totaling \$17.3 million to date. Many of those individual donations have come from fellow alumni and their families.

“I’ve been very fortunate to see all of the support from folks,” he said. “We have the annual fund drive, making phone calls to get annual support, it’s so easy to get people to say yes. People have a tie to the schools. Some people can give \$10 dollars, and some can give a lot more. The fact that they do something, I’ve always felt good about.”

The BCACS Foundation fund drive operates from July 1-June 30, this year with a goal of \$200,000. Gifts from the campaign provide a subsidy for operations, keeping tuition as low as possible for all BCACS families.

“No gift is too small,” Shugars said. “When people do give, we ask ourselves, ‘How do we make that impactful?’ It’s not about the size of the gift, but about the fact that you are supporting. Every gift makes a difference. And for alumni, it’s about giving back for all those people that did the same for you, without you even really knowing it.”

For more information or to donate, visit bcacs.org or call 269-963-4771.

How well do you know St. Philip?



Test your knowledge of St. Philip Catholic Central High School history by taking this quiz (answers on page 13).

1. 1921 was the first graduating class. How many students graduated in this class?
A. 12
B. 5
C. 21
D. 32
2. What year was the first year St. Philip Catholic Central High School had a school bus?
A. 1961
B. 1959
C. 1947
D. 1965
3. In 1945 when the first hot lunch program was launched, how much was charged for lunch?
A. \$0.10
B. \$1
C. \$0.50
D. \$0.30
4. What was the STP mascot before we became the "Fighting Tigers"?
A. The Angels
B. The Warriors
C. The Harps
D. The Bears
5. In 1960, we purchased a building for recreational use for student clubs, socials and dances... what building was this?
6. In 1942, STP started what annual publication?
7. In 1932, this class was offered:
A. Sewing
B. Journalism
C. Tap dancing
D. Physical education
8. During the senior class retreat to Notre Dame in 1993, what movie was being filmed at the campus?
9. We called this football field our own in 1950:
10. In 1974, this sport made its debut at St. Philip:
11. The St. Philip fight song "On St. Philip" originated from what song?

HOMECOMING 2023: Class reunions



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: Members of the St. Philip Catholic Central Class of 2003; Class of 1981; Class of 1980; and Class of 1963 all gather for their respective class reunions.



CLASS REUNION – MILESTONE YEAR

Class of 1969 55th Reunion

Saturday, June 8, The Medallist (15701 N Drive North, Marshall, MI 49068)

Sunday, June 9th – Mass at St. Philip 9 a.m., Brunch at Clara's on the River at 10 a.m.

Class of 1974 50th Reunion July 26th and 27th

Contact Mary Rabbitt (rabbittm1@gmail.com) or Lea Reitz (lreizt@mei.net) for more details.

Schedule a reunion

Is your class hosting a reunion this year or next year? Contact Abby Lumbard at 269-963-4771 to let us know. We can help with providing class lists and contact information, promote your event

to other classmates, offer details on more Homecoming activities or opportunities to connect with our schools, as well as schedule school tours.

HOMECOMING 2023: School spirit



37th All Saints Superfest a success

The campus of St. Joseph Elementary and Middle School transforms each fall into a festival grounds open to the community.

The All Saints Superfest, held annually since 1987, is hosted by Battle Creek's three Catholic Parishes - St. Philip, St. Joseph and St. Jerome.

The first Superfest was envisioned to bring the St. Joseph parishioners together for a weekend of fun, food and entertainment and as a major fundraiser for the parish. In 1997, it was broadened to the other churches and the entire Battle Creek community was invited.

The all-ages event features carnival rides, games, a casino tent, auctions, live music and food. None of which would be possible without the generosity and support of individual donors and businesses. It is also through the dedication of volunteers from the parishes and school communities that have made the All Saints Superfest a staple fall event, generating over \$2 million to date.

The 2023 All Saints Superfest included live performances from the popular bands "Spazmatics" and "iPop," with additional entertainment provided through a children's talent show as well as a Knights of Columbus spelling bee.

The food tent included authentic Hispanic and Burmese dishes, as well as food hot off the grill thanks to the St. Lawrence Grill Team.

The 2024 All Saints Superfest will be held Sept. 13-15. For more information, visit allsaintssuperfest.org.



2023 Valedictorian: 'Thank you'

The following valedictory speech was delivered during the 2023 St. Philip Catholic Central High School graduation ceremony.

Good afternoon, my name is Braden Roosevelt, valedictorian of the St Philip class of 2023.



I would like to start today by thanking all of you for the tremendous support

you have provided to us, the class of 2023. Thank you to the parents who have provided us with help when we decided put off doing our math homework for a week, a shoulder to cry on when we became overwhelmed, and maybe most importantly, a firm hand when we decided that we had to cut working on our capstone project from our schedule because it was cutting into the time we had set aside for Netflix.

Thank you also to the great teachers and administrators of St. Philip, the Math and Science Center, and the Career Center who have always pushed us to be our best both inside and outside of the classroom. And a special thanks to Principal Groat and Mrs. Fuller for all the help they have given us through the chaos that is Senior year. If it weren't for the sacrifices they have made none of us would be here today. Finally, thank you to the friends, grandparents, brothers and sisters, aunts and uncles, coaches, bosses, co-workers, and all the other people who have sup-



ported us throughout our lives. Graduating from high school is a group effort in which each of you played an instrumental role.

You know it's funny, as I was preparing for this speech, I tried to think about what set our class apart. What has made us different from the St Philip classes of the past and what will continue to make us different from the St. Philip classes of the future? Whether it is because I am a pessimist or because of our how our society seems to sensationalize the bad stuff, I ended up finding some of our biggest failures, misfortunes, and shortcomings.

I thought about how, year after year we managed to lose every homecoming game, no matter how hard we tried.

I thought about how, during our freshman year, under my

leadership, our hallway decorations looked so bad that we didn't want the judges to have to see them.

I thought about how in 8th grade we weren't able to put on a passion play like every class before us because we didn't have enough new students.

I thought about how we were so apathetic about everything in middle school that we got cupcakes just for noticing Mrs Williamson was crying.

Then, I thought about some of my own failures. I remembered the time in second grade when, after being asked repeatedly whether I was going to puke, I proceeded to throw up right in the doorway of our classroom so no one could leave.

I remembered, more recently, when after a great season of

golf, I shot my worst score of the year at regionals. But, I also remembered after that day, a piece of advice my golf coach Mike Kimber gave to me, he told me to "Braden, just keep swimming."

Sure, our class has had some comical failures. But, what has truly made our class unique is not our failures, but our ability to bounce back from them.

The day after I made a wall of vomit around our second-grade classroom, no one berated me or got mad at me. Instead, everyone respected the fact that it was an embarrassing moment, and only occasionally poked fun at the incident.

The day after we were told we couldn't put on the passion play, we all moved on. In fact, I don't think I have heard about the play since 8th grade itself.

The day after we realized that we were a pretty apathetic class, we tried to get better. And today, we have become a caring class full of people who I would trust with my life.

The day after our freshman hallway inevitably got last place, we pledged to get better, and each year our hallways have gotten progressively more impressive.

So, as we graduate high-school, the future is, in many ways, unsure for all of us. As I'm sure many of the adults in this room can attest to, life is unpredictable. We will all have our fair share of failures, misfortunes, and shortcomings. However, if we just remember to keep swimming--to pick ourselves off the ground when life throws us down, just as we have done for the past 13 years. We will achieve something less common--success.

BCACS welcomes Bishop Lohse

Bishop Edward M. Lohse was ordained and installed as the fifth bishop for the Diocese of Kalamazoo on July 25, 2023.

On Sept. 28, Bishop Lohse celebrated an all-school Mass with Battle Creek Area Catholic Schools students and staff at St. Joseph Catholic Church before touring elementary and middle school classrooms.

Bishop Lohse most recently served as Pastor of St. Julie Parish in Erie, Pa. and Vicar General, Moderator of the Curia, and Director of the Office for the Protection of Children and Youth for the Diocese of Erie.



IN MEMORIAM

The following members of the BCACS Family passed from this life to the next in 2022. Please remember them in your thoughts and prayers. We extend our sincere condolences to their loved ones.

Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord,
And let perpetual Light shine upon
them. May their souls And the souls of
all the faithful departed Through the
mercy of God Rest in peace.
Amen.

Mr. Bob Horner
Class of 1947
9/5/2023

Mrs. Donna Thiessen
Class of 1952
6/11/2023

Mrs. Anne Rolfe
Class of 1950
1/19/2023

Mr. John O'Donnell
Class of 1968
7/20/2023

Mrs. Mary Murray
Class of 1956
9/23/2023

Ms. Margaret Rossman
Class of 2002
9/27/2023

Ms. Patricia DePalma
Class of 1965
1/5/2023

Mrs. Mary Angela Huth
Class of 1953
5/31/2023

Mrs. Patricia Klusendorf
Class of 1952
3/2/2023

Mr. Daniel Salerno
Class of 1970
6/22/2023

Ms. Susan Sims
Class of 1961
1/28/2023

Mrs. Mary Alice Wilcox
Class of 1954
7/25/2023

Mr. Hugh Windham
Class of 1972
3/20/2023

Mr. Paul Zaborski
Class of 1979
7/29/2023



Pep and popcorn

Donors provide free popcorn, athletics admission to students

All K-12 students at Battle Creek Area Catholic Schools can now attend any home regular season athletic events for free, thanks to a generous donation gifted to the St. Philip Athletic Department in September.

Students at St. Joseph Elementary and Middle School have also been gifted free popcorn for the school year thanks to an anonymous donation. The popcorn is made each week by the "Popping Gran-nies," who volunteer their time to make and deliver bags to each classroom.

On behalf of BCACS students, thank you donors!



Congratulations St. Philip alumni!



Lydia-Marie (Cutshall), Class of 2019, married J.C. Downey, Class of 2019, on July 8, 2023.



ABOVE: Ryan Groat, born Aug. 24, 2022 to Blake and Amanda (Yacavoni) Groat, Class of 2015.

LEFT: Kevin Greenman, Class of 2015, married Aline (Vargas) Greenman on June 17, 2023.



ABOVE: Emily (Schaub) Tefft, Class of 2015 married Spencer Tefft on July 8, 2023.

LEFT: Oliver Grosso, born February 26, 2023 to Riley Grosso, Class of 2005.

St. Joseph 6th graders enjoy camp at Sherman Lake

The St. Joseph Middle School sixth grade class recently returned home from a week of adventures and activities at Sherman Lake YMCA Camp in Augusta.

The annual retreat aims to promote self-esteem and team-building. Students enjoyed wall climbing, a high-ropes course, indoor water sports and fire building.



Student Goretti Group prays for anyone in need

Several young female students at St. Joseph Middle School are part of a prayer group called the Goretti Group, meeting weekly before school to pray for anyone in need.

They would love to include any prayer intentions needed.

Please share your intentions to aschaub@bcacs.org and they will include them in their weekly prayers.



St. Philip's Vicky Groat recognized by MHSAA

Every year, the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) presents the Allen W. Bush Award to honor individuals for past and continuing service to prep athletics as a coach, administrator, official, trainer, doctor, or member of the media. This is the 32nd year of the award and is named for the former MHSAA Executive Director, with the selections being made by the MHSAA's Representative Council.

To recognize her dedication and far-reaching contributions to educational athletics, Vicky Groat has been named recipient of the Allen Bush Award for 2023. Ms. Groat ranks seventh on the MH-

SAA coaching list for wins in the sport of volleyball and has guided the Tigers to 12 MHSAA Finals championships, including a record nine straight in Class D from Winter 2006-07 through Fall 2014. Most recently, she guided St. Philip to back-to-back Division 4 championships to cap the 2020 and 2021 seasons.

A 1985 graduate of St. Philip, Ms. Groat is entering her 16th year as the Athletic Director and has also taken on the leadership as the Principal. She also served on the MHSAA Representative Council from 2016-20 and is a longtime leader as part of the Michigan Interscholastic



Volleyball Coaches Association.

Ms. Groat is a member of the Battle Creek St. Philip Athletic and MIVCA Halls of Fame and was named Michigan High School Coaches Association Volleyball Coach of the Year in 2009 and the National Coach of the Year for volleyball in 2021. She

earned her bachelor's degree from Central Michigan University and her master's from Fort Hays State University.

For her dedication and contributions to education athletics, the MHSAA and St. Philip High School are proud to present the "Al Bush Award" to Ms. Vicky Groat! Congratulations!

BCACS fund drive supports dreams

Are you familiar with the song, "Just Like A Mustard Seed"? The chorus sings, "Just like a mustard seed, that's one day small, and then a tree."

When you compare this to the evolution of the BCACS Foundation, this song resonates at a deeper level. 40 years ago, a committee of parents, pastors, and staff met to review and evaluate every aspect of our schools. They started to plant their own "mustard seed" by establishing the BCACS Foundation as its own fundraising body for our schools.

Over the next 40 years, countless individuals nurtured

this seed by serving on boards, committees, and donating to our important work. While the seed was one day small, 40 years has allowed it to flourish into a stable tree, with the help of our generous community.

As we reflect and celebrate our past and sincerely thank those that came before us to plant and nourish this seed, we also continue to dream of and anticipate the future growth of our tree. We cannot do this without you.

Every year, the financial demands upon our schools increase, requiring more nurturing for this tree to continue



growing to support our schools. For 40 years, the Battle Creek Area

Catholic Schools Foundation's Annual Fund Drive has addressed this by providing our schools the added revenues necessary to support our dreams.

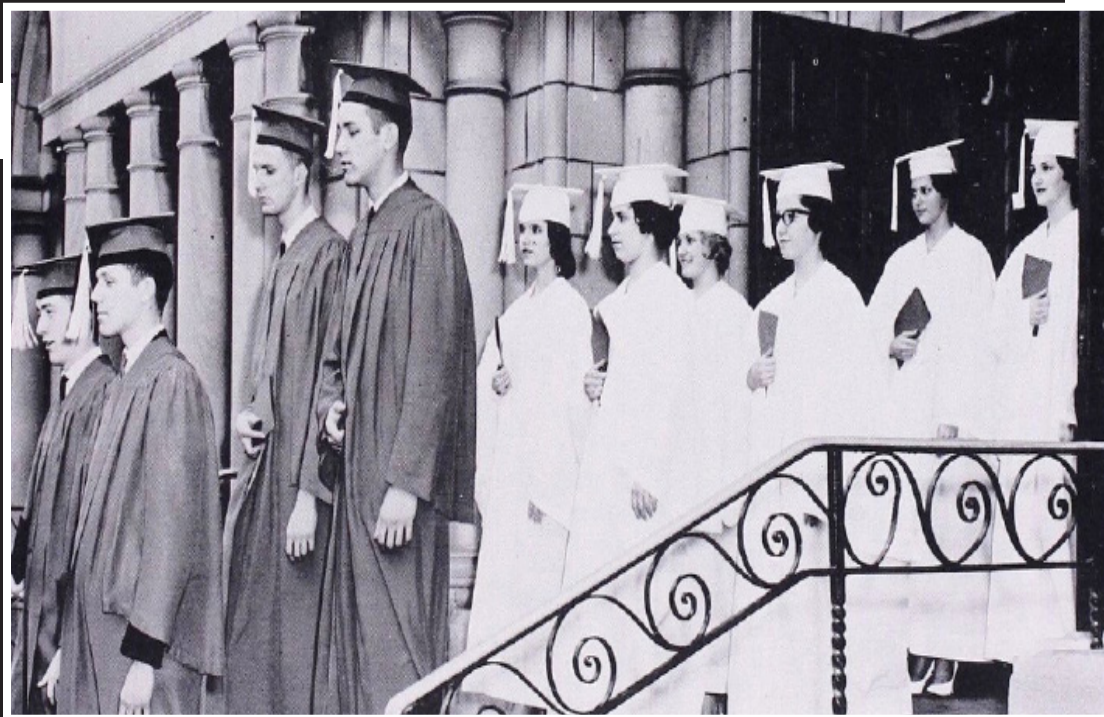
Will you join us in celebrating our 40th Annual Fund Drive by donating today?

ANSWERS from page 5

1. B (5)
2. C (1947)
3. A (\$0.10)
4. C (The Harps)
5. Tiger Room
6. Yearbook
7. C (Tap dancing)
8. 'Rudy'
9. Walsh Field
10. Volleyball
11. 'On Wisconsin'

BLAST FROM THE PAST: CLASS OF 1963

Celebrating 60 years...



BLAST FROM THE PAST: CLASS OF 1983

Celebrating 40 years...



Congratulations to our BCACS Alumni celebrating their milestone graduation years. Enjoy these excerpts from their digital yearbooks now available at www.bcacs.org. We are still looking for a 2007 yearbook to digitalize. Have one? Let us know!

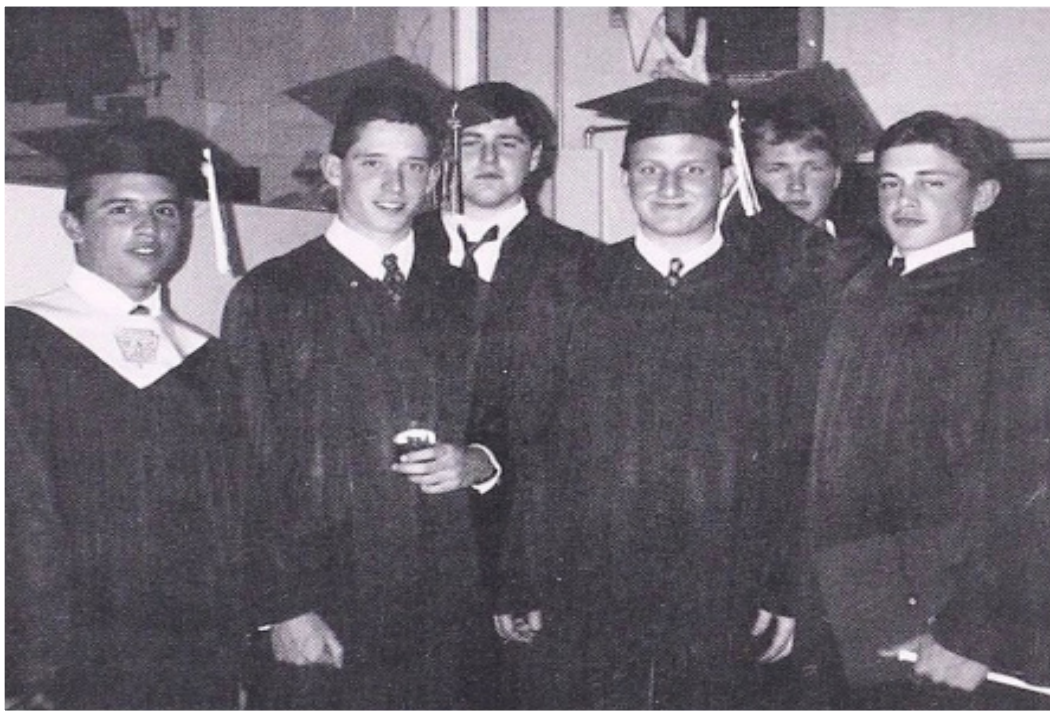
BLAST FROM THE PAST: CLASS OF 1973

Celebrating 50 years...



BLAST FROM THE PAST: CLASS OF 1993

Celebrating 30 years...



You don't have to have a milestone reunion year to see your old yearbook. Check out www.bcacs.org and look for your graduation year. Yearbooks will be released on the 10-year anniversary date of each class.

Tiger Tracks
BCACS Foundation
63 North 24th Street
Battle Creek, MI 49017

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Battle Creek, MI
Permit #1136

Keeping our BCACS Students, Alumni, Family, and Friends connected!



Alumni website

BCACS.org has a page dedicated to memories and fellowship with fellow STP graduates!

Visit bcacs.org/bcacs-alumni/:

- To find your digital yearbook
- Access back issues of the Alumni News
- Nominate your fellow alumni for Hall of Fame and Distinguished Alumni
- Update your information
- Get reunion help

...and so much more!

Prefer to conserve resources? Sign-up to receive this publication electronically by emailing stpalumni@bcacs.org.