



Welcome to St. Pius X High School quarterly Alumni Newsletter. The focus of the newsletter is to inform you, our Alumni, what is happening on campus and to celebrate all accomplishments. We would love to hear from you!

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## Recent Events

### Class of 2020 Graduation



Students of the Class of 2020 completed their high school careers virtually this year, including a Virtual Fine Arts Night and Baccalaureate Mass. On May 19th, following a parade through Festus and Crystal City, the 2020 graduates were the first St. Pius X High School class to celebrate their graduation outdoors at Fr. Dalton Stadium. Strategically placed 6 ft apart spelling out 2020, the seniors were able to celebrate what is sure to be an unforgettable year with friends and family.



Given the anti-climatic final quarter for the seniors this year, the Alumni Association made an effort to provide recognition for all that the graduates accomplished in their four years. Each senior was given a St. Pius X alumni t-shirt with the school's logo. In addition, each graduate received via USPS a personalized congratulatory notecard from the Alumni Association with a painting of the St. Pius X campus on the front. A group of alumni divided the cards and wrote a heartfelt note to each graduate acknowledging their hard work and successes, welcoming them to the Alumni Association, and wishing them well in the future. Of course, we realize they are going off headlong to further education and careers, but we want to let them know that even though 'You Can Never Go Home Again', you can stay in touch with your roots through the Alumni Association.



## Class of 2020

80

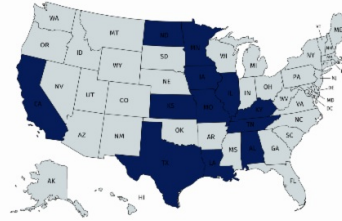
1 enlisting in the United States Navy  
1 starting full-time job May 18  
78 attending college

78 students attending 32 different colleges in 12 states

18 attending two-year/technical college

60 attending four-year college/university

59 students earned \$2,618,956 in accepted merit/talent scholarships as of May 15, 2020



### Virtual Fine Arts

This year St. Pius X High School hosted a Virtual Fine Arts Festival on May 13th. To view and listen to the talented work of our Lancers use the link below.



## Band Awards

Bailey Macke, Clara Kokenge, and Magdalena Kokenge all received Gold Medals.

Adam Bishop received a Silver Medal at the District Solo and Small Ensemble contest.

Maggie Key, Rose Surdyke and Dirina Selmon were all named to the Jefferson County Honors Band.

[See More](#)

### Virtual Legacy Gala

Raise your hand if you attended St. Pius X Catholic High School's very first black-tie gala (Bona Fortuna Auction) in 1984! I imagine that you have probably attended many that followed. But who would have guessed 36 years later, we would be the first to hold a Virtual Gala Auction in Jefferson County! Although it was not the night of handshaking, hugging and reminiscing that you alumni, and our guests, look forward to, it was a grand success on so many other levels! It brought us together as a community in a time when we could not "come together".

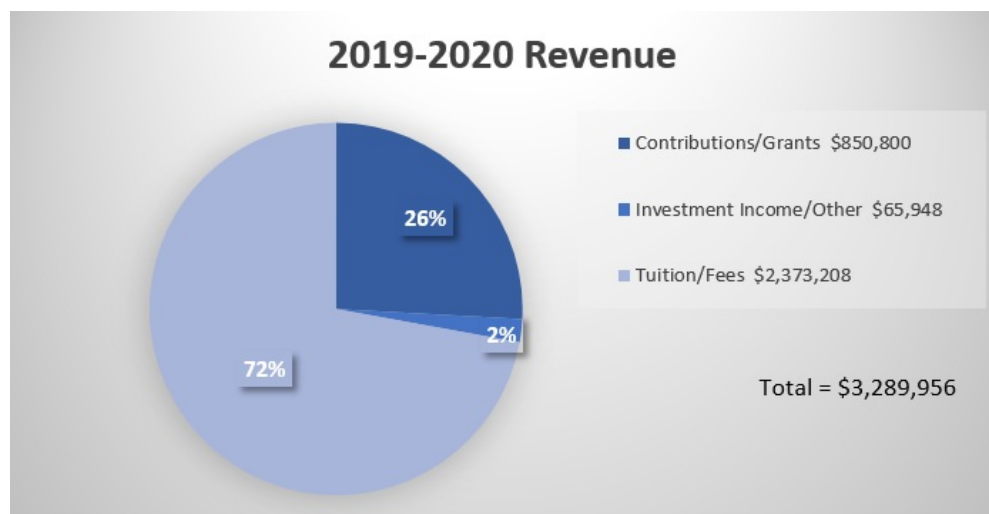
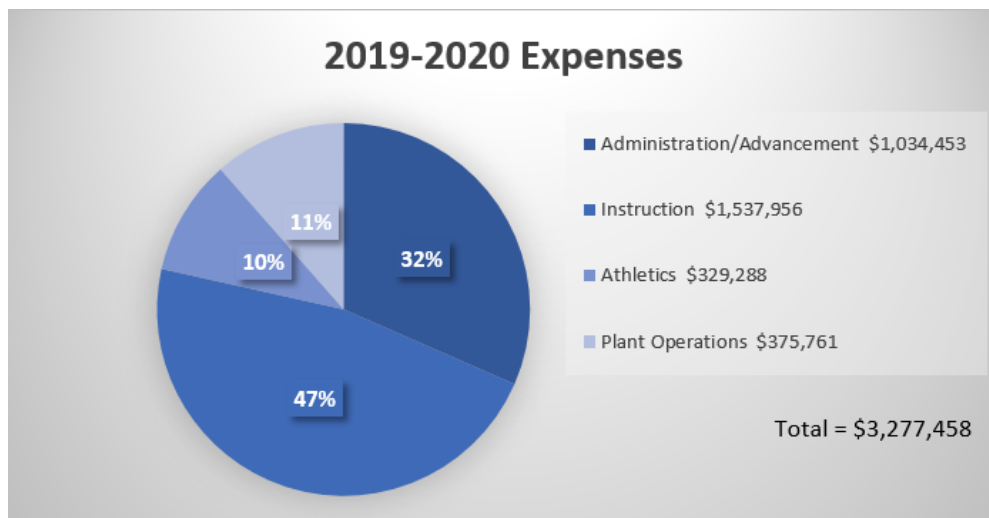
[Read More](#)

## Fall Semester

St. Pius X High School president Jim Lehn and principal Karen (Foley '93) DeCosty are among five St. Pius X staff and faculty who are members of the Archdiocese of St. Louis Transition 2020 Task Force. The objective of this task force is to address the transition to the 2020-2021 academic year in light of COVID-19 in the areas of Operations, Teaching, and Learning, and Faith Formation/Community. The collective thinking of this task force will result in recommendations and planning scenario options to be presented for use by both the Archdiocese and individual schools. In addition, Archdiocesan leadership continues to conduct research and to maintain communication with local, state and federal authorities for addressing health and safety protocols, as well as the implications for resource acquisition. As of June 15th, St. Pius X High School is scheduled to start their 2020-2021 academic school year on August 17th.

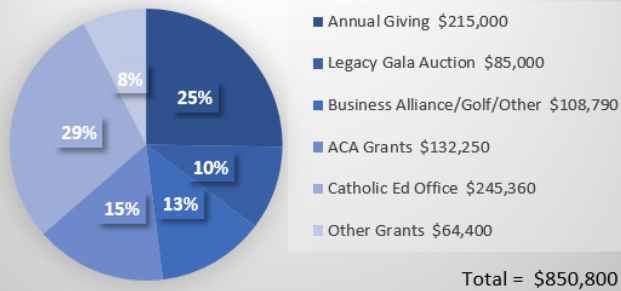
Official Press Release

### Financial Statement



The below contributions and grants represent the efforts put forth to contribute to our revenue.

## 2019-2020 Contributions/Grants



### Margarita Heisserer Obituary



#### ***A personal note from Rick and Norma Overberg, Class of 1966***

Our "history" with Margarita Heisserer began in 1962 when we entered St. Pius X High School as freshmen. Sr. Margarita was the librarian, the music teacher, and she taught us music appreciation. To say that she was busy was a terrible understatement. We remember her Christmas tableau productions, her hand in the school musicals, her involvement with the first Student Council during our sophomore year, her constant push to continue our education past high school, and her unending energy and enthusiasm for anything St. Pius X.

[View Obituary](#)

### Facilities Update

There have been many campus improvements this school year at St. Pius X High School. The following is a list of few of them.

**New Wheelchair Lift** - The new wheelchair lift was installed to replace the old chair lift allowing new patrons to no longer have to transfer from chair to lift to chair. They can simply drive onto the platform.

**New AD Office and Visitor Locker room**- The old weight room has been converted into a new AD office and visitor locker room.

**Art Room Remodel** - The art room overhaul started with removing the center wall to allow an open floor plan. Adding new floors, LED lighting, blinds, paint and a kiln room will complete the remodel.

**Robotics Lab/Industrial Art Room** - The lower level of the annex has been remodeled to include two new additions, the Robotics Lab/Industrial Arts Room and The Alumni Association Room.

**Electronic Door Entry** - A new keypad/electronic entry has been added to the exterior doors and gate with upgraded camera technology to increase the safety of our campus.

**Learning Consultant Office** - The old AD office has been updated for this newly created full



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## Faculty Focus: Steve Smith



Mr. Smith earned a BSED degree at Missouri State University. He began his teaching career at his alma mater at Bishop DuBourg High School before transferring to St. Pius X High School. He's been teaching for 10 years now. He coached boys and girls soccer at both the junior varsity and varsity level for those 10 years. He was head of the boys soccer program at St. Pius X for 3 years before stepping down to spend more time with his young girls. During his teaching tenure, he's taken nearly 100 students to Washington, D.C. as part of the Close Up program which has been his favorite part of teaching.

The Close Up Foundation is the nation's largest non-profit and non-partisan citizenship education organization with the mission to inform, inspire, and empower young people to exercise the rights and accept the responsibilities of citizens in a democracy. Since 1971, Close Up has worked with students and educators across the country to promote active citizenship. Through seminars with Washington policymakers and explorations of government offices and historical sites, high school students get a "close-up" look at our nation's heritage and the processes of democracy.

"I would recommend this trip to anyone who wants to better understand and learn about American government and democracy to best discover their political efficacy. This trip was one of the best decisions I ever made and I honestly think everyone from St. Pius needs to experience this." - Brian Mathis Class of 2016

[Learn More](#)

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## Featured Alumni: Tom Tanner '70

# Tom Tanner '70

Location: Santa Clara, California

Volunteering with the Red Cross has been a family tradition going back to WWII. Tom is close to donating a total of 6 gallons of blood to the Red Cross. In addition to donating blood Tom serves as a Red Cross Responder. Tom has supported 14 national disasters. Usually with less than 24 hrs notice, he is off to volunteer for up to 2 weeks with the Red Cross at a disaster like a hurricane, flood, tornadoes or forest fires. This usually counts as his 'vacation' from working at Cisco, the internet company. He's done about 20 deployments since first going to help on Hurricane Katrina relief in New Orleans in 2005...



[More on Tom's Story](#)

We want to hear from you!  
Email [alumni@stpius.com](mailto:alumni@stpius.com) with all of your fun and exciting news.  
Maybe you'll be the next Featured Alumni!

[Featured Alumni](#)

## Year of the Lancer

It's been 50 years since the St. Pius class of 1970 graduated on May 29, 1970. We had a virtual 'reunion' via Zoom on May 29, 2020 to celebrate and remember old friends and discover how our lives had unfolded. The St. Pius X High School Alumni Association asked us to recall a little about the class of 1970 and what was going on in 1970 as we were seniors readying ourselves to take a major step in our lives.

[Read More](#)

## Status of Class Representatives

We are currently working on establishing our Class Representatives. There are volunteers for the following classes: 1963, 1964, 1966, 1968, 1970, 1975, 1980, 1984, 1998, 2000, and 2012.

[Learn More](#)

In 1964, largely due to the efforts of Father Dalton, John (Jackie) White ('68) and Gary Underwood ('68) became the first black students to enroll in St. Pius X High School. Thus began a long-standing tradition of encouraging the inclusion of all races. That inclusion is consistent with the theme of Solidarity, one of the seven central tenets of Catholic Social Teaching. We thank Messrs. White and Underwood for advancing that principle and for

continuing to work with St. Pius X students in advancing the theme of Solidarity.

*St. Pius X High School is a Catholic community dedicated to creating an environment where all students can be educated with extraordinary care and concern. We are now in a time where extraordinary care and concern needs to move beyond the classroom and into our everyday lives. Our concern stretches to family, friends, neighbors, coworkers, and strangers. Please pray with us:*

*Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.  
Where there is hatred, let me bring love.  
Where there is offence, let me bring pardon.  
Where there is discord, let me bring union.  
Where there is error, let me bring truth.  
Where there is doubt, let me bring faith.  
Where there is despair, let me bring hope.  
Where there is darkness, let me bring your light.  
Where there is sadness, let me bring joy.  
O Master, let me not seek as much  
to be consoled as to console,  
to be understood as to understand,  
to be loved as to love,  
for it is in giving that one receives,  
it is in self-forgetting that one finds,  
it is in pardoning that one is pardoned,  
it is in dying that one is raised to eternal life.*



**JULY 31, 2020**  
OAK VALLEY GOLF COURSE  
1230 ABBEY LANE  
PEVELY, MO 63070



ST. PIUS X HIGH SCHOOL



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CAMPS**

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[STPIUS.COM/SUMMERCAMPS](http://STPIUS.COM/SUMMERCAMPS)



**Join our St. Pius X Alumni Facebook Group for more up-to-date information!**

Search "St. Pius X Alumni" on Facebook and request to join.

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