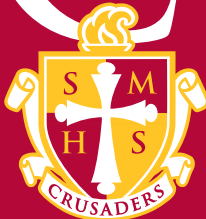


FATHER SCECINA



Magazine

SUMMER 2026



Class of **2026**

EAST DEANERY PARISHES AND SCHOOLS

Holy Spirit Parish and School

Pastor: Rev. Michael O'Mara
holyspirit-indy.org

Principal: Gina Fleming
school.holyspirit-indy.org

Little Flower Parish and School

Pastoral Administrator: Rev. Jude Meril Sahayam
littleflowerparish.org

Principal: Kevin Gawrys
littleflowerparishschool.org

Our Lady of Lourdes Parish and School

Pastor: Rev. Jude Meril Sahayam
ollindy.org/church

Principal: Angie (Leffler) Therber '84
ollindy.org/school

St. Michael (Greenfield) Parish and School

Pastor: Rev. Aaron Jenkins
stmichaelsgrfld.org

Principal: Ruth Hittel
school-stmichaelsgrfld.org

St. Philip Neri Parish and School

Pastor: Rev. Jeffrey L. Dufresne
spnindy.org

Principal: Chelsea Sheets
spnindy.org

Additional East Deanery Parishes

SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral

Rector: Very Rev. James Brockmeier
ssppc.org

St. Rita

Parish Administrator Pro Tempore:
Rev. Benjamin Syberg
stritaindy.org

St. Mary

Parish Administrator: Fr. José Aragón Bríñez
saintmarysindy.org

St. Thomas the Apostle (Fortville)

Pastor: Rev. Aaron Jenkins
stthomasfortville.com



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scecina.org

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CELEBRATING THE CLASS OF 2026

The Class of 2026 gained acceptance into 94 universities across the country. Our graduates are embarking on a variety of exciting paths, including attending colleges and universities, serving in the military, participating in apprenticeship programs, and beginning careers in the workforce.

Commencement for Scecina's 70th graduating class took place Friday, May 22, in the gymnasium.

MAJOR AWARDS

VALEDICTORIAN

Lennon Klinck

SALUTATORIAN

Bradley Hilbers

OUTSTANDING SENIOR BOY AND GIRL

Owen Weinzierl
Ashley Mendez Molina

Each year Scecina Memorial High School's faculty and staff nominate several senior boys and senior girls for the title of Outstanding Senior Boy and Outstanding Senior Girl.

JOHN J. HENNINGER MEMORIAL AWARD FOR CHRISTIAN SERVICE

Joseph Cheever

This award honors students who embody the Christian values of service, compassion, and commitment to others, reflecting

the legacy of the late John Henninger, a beloved teacher, coach, and dean at Scecina. Recipients are selected through nominations from their peers and a faculty vote.

CERTIFICATE OF MULTILINGUAL PROFICIENCY

Celeste Aguado-Bermudez
Eden Machuca Aguirre
Miguel Benitez Villa
John Ramirez-Hernandez
Jamile Isidoro
Elizabeth Sanchez-Barrientos
Ashley Mendez Molina
Angie Guerrero-Torres

This award, developed by the Indiana Department of Education, honors seniors who demonstrate literacy in English and at least one additional language. To qualify, students must meet specific academic and testing benchmarks.

ATHLETIC SCHOLASTIC ACHIEVEMENT

Lillian Linn
Lennon Klinck

MENTAL ATTITUDE (ATHLETICS)

Venice Sponsel
Caleb Davis

CAROLE J. HAMILTON (ATHLETICS)

Alaya Wilson

To the senior female athlete who exemplifies courage and who

displays outstanding character, leadership, and devotion to others, holding uppermost in her mind the respect and feelings of her teammates and opponents.

MICHAEL C. MCGARVEY (ATHLETICS)

Bradley Hilbers

To the senior male athlete who most exemplifies courage and who displays outstanding character, leadership, and devotion to others, holding uppermost in his mind the respect and feelings of his teammates and opponents.

SISTER LAVONNE LONG OUTSTANDING SENIOR FEMALE ATHLETE

Hillari Lathrop

KENNETH LEFFLER OUTSTANDING SENIOR MALE ATHLETE

Eric Montgomery

INDIANA CROSSROADS CONFERENCE MEDAL OF HONOR

Lillian Linn
Brady Ray

WAYNE "MIKE" KOLBUS STUDENT MANAGER AWARD

Miguel Benitez Villa ■

CLASS OF 2026



COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY ACCEPTANCES

Anderson University, Ball State University, Belhaven University, Bethel University, Bishop Simon Brute Seminary, Bowling Green State University, Butler University, California State University Fresno, Calumet College of St. Joseph, Central State University, Columbia College Chicago, Creighton University, DePauw University, Drake University, Earlham College, Fayetteville Technical Community College, Franklin College, Grace College, Hanover College, Hofstra University, Holy Cross College, Illinois Central College, Indiana State University, Indiana Tech, Indiana University, Indiana University East, Indiana University Indianapolis, Indiana University Southeast, Indiana Wesleyan University, Ivy Tech Community College, Kentucky State University, Long Island University, Loyola University Chicago, Manchester University, Marian University, Marian University's Ancilla College, Marian University's Saint Joseph's College, Marquette University, Marshall University, Miami University, Michigan State University, Michigan Technological University, Millikin University, Monmouth College, Murray State University, Northeastern University, Northern Illinois University, Oberlin College, Ohio University, Pepperdine University, Portland State University, Purdue University, Purdue University Fort Wayne, Purdue University in Indianapolis, Purdue University Northwest, Robert Morris University, Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College, Salem State University, Seattle University, South Carolina State University, South College, Southern Illinois University, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, Suffolk University, The Ohio State University, Trine University, Tuskegee University, Unity Environmental College, University of Akron, University of Alaska, University of Cincinnati, University of Dayton, University of Evansville, University of Findlay, University of Illinois Chicago, University of Indianapolis, University of Iowa, University of Louisville, University of Michigan-Dearborn, University of Missouri, University of Nevada, University of North Carolina Charlotte, University of Saint Francis, University of Southern Indiana, University of Utah, Valparaiso University, Vet Tech Institute of Indiana, Vincennes University, Wabash College, West Virginia University, Wilberforce University, Wittenberg University, Xavier University

CLASS OF 2026

YEARS OF HARD WORK PAY OFF FOR VALEDICTORIAN KLINCK, SALUTATORIAN HILBERS

Excellence unfolded in many ways across Seccina Memorial High School's Class of 2026, as Crusaders pursued their goals with focus, determination, and faith-filled purpose. At the forefront stood valedictorian **Lennon Klinck** and salutatorian **Bradley Hilbers**, whose sustained commitment to academic excellence reflected the values of the Crusader community and earned them the class' top honors.



Valedictorian Lennon Klinck

LENNON KLINCK

Klinck, a member of St. Michael Parish in Greenfield, has distinguished himself through exceptional dedication in the classroom while also excelling as a student-athlete.

When beginning high school, Klinck set out to do two things: be the valedictorian and break the swim records at Seccina. He succeeded at both and now owns nearly every boys swimming record.

Reflecting on his time at Seccina, Klinck shared that "the school's small community has given me the personal support to thrive both academically and as a swimmer, proving that you can go anywhere from here." He plans to pursue a pre-law track in college, carrying forward the strong foundation built during his high school years. He will attend Monmouth College and join its swim team.

BRADLEY HILBERS

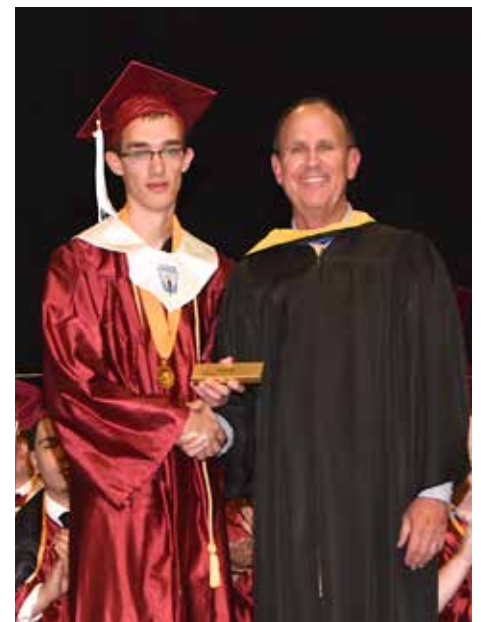
Salutatorian Hilbers, also of St. Michael Parish, has demonstrated remarkable consistency and commitment to growth throughout his time at Seccina. Bradley credits the school for fostering discipline and personal development, noting that the lessons he has learned will guide him as he takes on future challenges.

At Seccina, Hilbers led as captain of the cross country team, ran track, participated in National Honor Society, Boy Scouts, and 4-H, and volunteered weekly at a local food pantry. He was also named

a National Merit Commended Student.

He will attend Drake University to study actuarial science, continuing his path of academic excellence.

Seccina congratulates Lennon and Bradley on this outstanding accomplishment. Their success is a testament to years of hard work, perseverance, and the supportive community that empowers students to discover their potential. As they move on from graduation, they embody the school's message that with faith, determination, and opportunity, you truly can go anywhere from here. ■



Salutatorian Bradley Hilbers (left) with President Joe Therber



(left) President Joe Therber in front of The Scecina Story display. (right) The new athletic and activity fields, one of the goals of the Capital Campaign.

Celebrating the LEADERSHIP & LEGACY of Joe Therber

When **Joe Therber** first joined Scecina in 1986 as a teacher and coach, he began a decades-long journey of service to the school and the wider Archdiocese of Indianapolis that would touch nearly every dimension of Scecina's community and operations. Over the years, he served in roles of increasing responsibility, including teacher, coach, assistant athletic director, director of building and grounds, and athletic director, before returning in 2008 as president following a decade of service in leadership roles for

the Archdiocese of Indianapolis in the Office of Stewardship and Development. Across each chapter of his Scecina career, Therber led with a deep belief in the school's mission and the transformative power of Catholic education.

Inspired by Father Thomas Scecina's example of faith, service, and opportunity, Therber rallied the community to dream bigger, invest boldly, and, in Father Tom's words, "give that little extra". Through his leadership, Scecina strengthened its foundation,

expanded opportunities for students, and positioned itself for a vibrant future.

A VISIONARY

Therber saw not only what Scecina was, but also what it could become.

Throughout his career, he challenged the school community to think beyond immediate needs and embrace a bold vision for the future. He recognized the importance of building a school that was academically vibrant, clear in proclaiming the Catholic faith



(left) The new front entrance to the school building made possible by the funds raised in the Capital Campaign. (right) Joe Therber addressing students at the freshman retreat.

in words and actions, welcoming to students of all backgrounds, excellent in its extracurricular programs, and financially strong. Through strategic planning, community partnerships, and a steadfast belief in Scecina's mission, he has positioned the school to thrive for generations to come.

His vision helped:

- Unite alumni, families, and friends around a shared vision for Scecina's future.
- Expand opportunities for growth and innovation.
- Ensure that Scecina remained both faithful to its mission and relevant to the needs of future generations.

A TRANSFORMATIONAL LEADER

Truly great leaders leave places better than they found them, and Therber's impact can be seen throughout the Scecina community.

His vision became visible not only in planning, but also in the lived experience of the Scecina community. He understood that transformation requires investing in people, processes, and places. Under his leadership, the campus evolved into a more modern, welcoming, and inspiring environment for learning, faith formation, athletics and extracurriculars, and community life. At the same time, he strengthened the organizational structure of the school, empowering faculty and staff with the support and resources needed to serve students well.

His outstanding leadership was instrumental and helped:

- Modernize and enhance the campus experience.
- Strengthen school operations and organizational effectiveness.
- Expand leadership and support structures and systems across the school and the Indianapolis East Deanery.

A CHAMPION FOR STUDENTS

At the center of all of his decisions was a commitment to every one of Scecina's students.

At the heart of Therber's leadership was a belief that all young people deserve the opportunity to discover their gifts, grow in faith, and prepare for a meaningful future. Whether through expanded academic programs, enhanced student support services, faith formation opportunities, or career pathways, his leadership consistently focused on helping students succeed. Because of his commitment, students have received the guidance, resources, and opportunities they need to thrive academically, spiritually, and personally.

Continued on the next page

Continued from previous page

His unswerving commitment helped:

- Strengthen student support services and college planning resources.
- Deepen faith formation and service experiences.
- Create pathways for students with diverse backgrounds, interests, and aspirations.

The accomplishments of Joe Therber's decades of service at Scecina are many, and the numbers tell an impressive story. But the true measure of his leadership is found in the lives he touched, the people he inspired, and the stronger school community he leaves behind.

His legacy is more than new programs, improved facilities, or financial strength. It is a renewed confidence in Scecina's mission and a shared commitment to continue "giving that little extra" as servant leaders who walk in the inspiring footsteps of Father Thomas Scecina.

Thank you, Joe, for your vision, your leadership, and your unwavering commitment to Scecina and its mission. ■

With gratitude for his years of service to Scecina Memorial High School, we congratulate Joe Therber on his appointment as President of the Lafayette Catholic School System and wish him continued success in this new role.



Monsignor Paul Koetter (left), John Hegarty, President Joe Therber, and former Scecina Board Chair J. Barry Schneider at the ribbon cutting ceremony for the new library in 2016.



Tom Griffin '62 (left), President Joe Therber, and Tom Blanford '65 at the Indiana Military Hall of Fame induction of Fr. Thomas Scecina in 2016.



President Therber adding to the Capital Campaign goal thermometer in 2020.

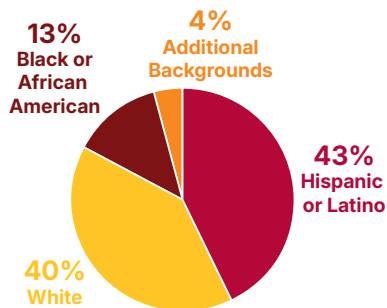
Highlights from Joe Therber's Tenure

Leadership that inspired a community to achieve more.



30% enrollment growth

Diversification of student body from 95% white to:



Internationalization of student body representing **21** countries across **5** continents



Transformed **90%** of campus greenspace and entire school building and added enhanced safety and security



- Added **5** full-time Director or Assistant Principal roles
- Added **3** School Counseling roles
- Created **2** Assistant Principal roles
- Added Administrative Support roles
- Designed and implemented multiple employee financial bonus programs



Initiated and expanded academic programs

- English Language Development
- Biomedical Sciences
- Performing Arts



Expansion of Christian Service program and launch of Underclass Retreats



Developed or expanded partnerships with:

- Community Hospital East
- Eastside Catholic School Partnership
- Indianapolis East Deanery
- The Oaks Academy
- Paramount School of Excellence
- Project Lead the Way
- University of Dayton
- University of Notre Dame



- Raised **\$7.65 million** in capital campaign
- **610% growth** in endowment funds
- **17** consecutive years of operating surpluses
- Grew annual support from alumni and friends to **\$1.4 million**
- **6+ months** cash reserves for operations
- **\$2 million+** cash reserves for future maintenance and other school-improvement purposes

NOWLAND NEWS

COMMEMORATING ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Each year Seccina recognizes the top 10 students in each class, along with those who have earned a GPA of 4.0 or above at the annual President's Academic Excellence Awards.

Forty-six remarkable Seccina students were honored with this prestigious award this year.

One of the award's most cherished traditions gives senior recipients the opportunity to recognize a mentor who has played an important role in their personal and academic journey. Together, seniors and mentors reflect on the impact of their relationship and the encouragement they have shared along the way.

Congratulations to all of this year's award recipients, their families, and the mentors whose support and guidance have contributed to their success.

CLASS OF 2026

Natalee A. Darzentas
Leah D. Gunn
Carter J. Hartman
Bradley M. Hilbers
Jamile Isidoro
Lennon Klinck
Hillari Lathrop
Lillian M. Linn
Jacob A. Minton
Leslie L. Molina
Owen S. Weinzierl

CLASS OF 2027

Olivia C. Anglemyer
Lucia H. Certo
Mila J. Christopher
Benjamin M. Gaudreau
Mariana Gonzalez
Benjamin Gonzalez-Esparza
Kimberlyn Klinck
Amelia Koenig
Shea E. McNulty
Brenda J. Mendoza
David E. Moreno-Jerez
Ashley Orozco-Montgomery
Kimberly N. Posadas-Gonzalez
Payton P. Roadley

CLASS OF 2028

Aryel J. Adair
Bella A. Barahona-Medrano
Catherine Carey
Noah S. Caylor
Sky R. Davis
Yiduo Hu
Andrew J. Kennedy
Luciana I. Moscoso-Mori
Aviana L. Mount
Adan M. Perez
Kimberly C. Valencia

CLASS OF 2029

Austin T. Anglemyer
Katherine C. Certo
Evelyn R. Covarrubias
Kayla M. Doster
Jeremiah R. Gascon
Santiago Gonzalez-Esparza
Isaac J. Lathrop
Dominic Linn
Levi J. Moran
Marie A. Soultz ■



Dr. Peg Dispenzieri, Owen Weinzierl, Owen's mother Mandy Weinzierl, and President Joe Therber



Leslie Molina and mentor Matt Black '10



Class of 2028 recipients

ISIDORO AWARDED FULL TUITION SCHOLARSHIP

Dr. Lee Ann Kwiatkowski, Dean of Marian University's Fred S. Klipsch Educators College, and **Scott DeFreese**, director of special projects within the college, stopped by Seccina to recognize senior **Jamile Isidoro** for her outstanding academic performance with an incredible honor—the Browning Academic Full Tuition Scholarship, covering all four years of her education.

This prestigious scholarship is part of the Browning Scholars Program at Marian University, made possible through a gift from Michael Browning and the Browning family.

During her time at Seccina, Jamile has been actively involved in



Scott DeFreese (left), Jamile Isidoro, and Dr. Lee Ann Kwiatkowski

Book Club, Creative Writing Club, Spanish Club, fall plays, and spring musicals, and is a member of the

National Honor Society—truly making the most of her high school experience.

Jamile, a proud graduate of Holy Spirit Catholic School, plans to pursue a career in education, with hopes of teaching middle or high school students. She is currently considering Spanish and theater as her future teaching subjects—an inspiring path that reflects both her academic strengths and passions. We are so proud of Jamile and grateful to Marian University for creating opportunities like this for students—showing that “You Can Go Anywhere From Here!” ■

NOLTON DRAKE AWARDED FRANKLIN COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP

Through the Ben Franklin Scholars Program, our very own **Keaten Nolton Drake** was selected to receive the distinguished Presidential Scholarship to attend Franklin College. We couldn't be prouder!

A graduate of St. Michael Catholic School, Keaten has made the most of his time at Seccina—serving as a student ambassador, competing in baseball, basketball, and football, and contributing as a member of the National Honor Society and the Red and Gold Going Green Club.

A fun full-circle moment: Keaten first earned a Presidential Scholarship back in eighth grade to attend Seccina—making this achievement even more special!

In addition to his many accomplishments, Keaten is also an entrepreneur, having launched his own marketing and social media business, Nolton Drake Creative.

Congratulations, Keaten! Your hard work, leadership, and drive continue to inspire us all. We can't wait to see what's next! ■



Franklin College Director of Admissions Travis Reber (left) and Keaten Nolton Drake

AWARD-WINNING ARTWORK

Scecina students earned top honors at the April 28, 2026, Indiana Crossroads Conference (ICC) Art Show, showcasing their creativity and talent among some of the best young artists in the area. The ICC Art Show continues to be an inspiring celebration of student creativity, and this year's results highlight Scecina's growing excellence in the arts.

Top Honors

- 3rd Place: "Untitled" by **Edith Andrade Gonzalez**
- 4th Place: "Monday" by **Payton Roadley**
- 6th Place: "Bright Sunshiny Day" by **Cassie Henley**

Category Awards

- 1st Place: "Self Portrait" by **Olivia Anglemyer** (*Drawing*)
- 2nd Place: "Waiting" by **Molly Potthast** (*Sculpture*)
- Honorable Mention: "Under the Sea" by **Morly Lorthe** (*Ceramics*)
- Honorable Mention: "DoFlamingo" by **Justus Hunter-Kline** (*Painting*)
- Honorable Mention: "Harmony" by **Daniela Quinonez** (*Painting*)
- 3rd Place: "Untitled" by **Ashley Orozco-Montgomery** (*Digital Design*)
- 2nd Place: "Tulip" by **Henry McKiernan** (*Glass*)
- 1st Place: **Luis Rodrigo Manosalvas** (*Visual Sketchbook*) ■

STUDENTS MAKE A SPLASH IN DISNEY'S 'THE LITTLE MERMAID'

The spring production of Disney's "The Little Mermaid" delighted audiences on March 13 and 14 with a colorful showcase of student talent, music, and storytelling. Performing beloved songs such as "Part of Your World," "Under the Sea," and "Kiss the Girl," the cast brought Ariel's journey to life with energy and enthusiasm.

Directed by **Leslie (Zimmerman) Young '99**, the production highlighted strong performances, impressive vocals, and the teamwork that makes Scecina's

performing arts program thrive. Students' hard work and dedication were evident throughout the show, creating a memorable experience for audiences. ■



Photo by Indy Ghost Light

MUSICIANS SHINE AT ISSMA COMPETITION

Scecina's Music Department had an impressive showing during this year's Indiana State School Music Association (ISSMA) season, earning numerous top ratings and state qualifications.

Band students **Kimberly Posadas** and **Mina Whiteman** received Gold-Superior ratings. Vocalists **Carter Hartman**, **Santiago Gonzalez-Esparza**, **Benjamin Gonzalez-Esparza**, **Mariana Gonzalez**, **Alice Branco**, and **Jeffrey Swinefurth** also earned Gold ratings.

Scecina's ensembles continued the success, with Brothers in Harmony earning Gold in Division II and the Sacred Sounds Chamber Choir receiving Gold in Division I. ■



Front: **Mina Whiteman** (left), **Alice Branco**, **Mariana Gonzalez**, **Ashley Mendez Molina**, and **Santiago Gonzalez-Esparza**; Back: **Carter Hartman**, **Benjamin Gonzalez-Esparza**, and **Jeffrey Swinefurth**

ATHLETICS

2026 SCHOLAR ATHLETE AWARDS

The 30th annual Scholar Athlete Awards celebration took place on April 30 and recognized a long list of athletes who excel both on the field and in the classroom. Scecina students and their families had the privilege of hearing from guest speaker **Brian Avery**, a former Scecina teacher and coach (1983-1988).

Avery currently serves as director of Champions Together, a partnership between the Indiana High School Athletic Association and Special Olympics Indiana that promotes inclusive school cultures through servant leadership. He also serves as secretary/treasurer of the Indiana Crossroads Conference.

To be designated as a Scecina Memorial Scholar Athlete, a



Lillian Linn receives William E. Bevan award from Brian Avery

student must participate in one or more athletic programs and maintain a grade-point average of 3.00 or higher.

Eight exceptional student-athletes received The William E.

Bevan Award for Outstanding Achievement in Academics and Athletics. The award is given to the top male and female scholar athletes in the sophomore and junior classes and the top two male and female scholar athletes from the senior class. The recipients were **Andrew Kennedy '28, Luciana Moscoso Mori '28, Benjamin Gonzalez-Esparza '27, Mila Christopher '27, Bradley Hilbers '26, Lennon Klinck '26, Hillari Lathrop '26, and Lillian Linn '26.**

To view the full roster of scholar athletes, please scan the QR code. ■



College Signings



Lennon Klinck
SWIMMING
Monmouth College



Bryce Mathis
BASKETBALL
Anderson University



Eric Montgomery
FOOTBALL
Wabash College



Brady Ray
FOOTBALL
Marian University

WINTER SEASON RECAPS

BOYS BASKETBALL

The boys basketball team accomplished a number of team and individual honors this past season. The team finished 18-7 playing against the fifth strongest schedule in the 2A Class. There were key wins against teams like New Castle, Ritter, Tech, Attucks, Heritage Christian, Covenant Christian, and Anderson. The team also won the Indiana Crossroads Conference Championship for the first time in school history! The team advanced to the Indianapolis City Tournament Championship game before losing by seven to Cathedral on their floor. ■

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Mia Miller averaged 10 points and 9 rebounds a game while fellow junior and team leader **Shea McNulty** averaged 7 points and 3.5 assists. These two did an admirable job while having to compensate for 38 lost points from the previous year. The outlook for the next season is bright as Miller, McNulty, and **Preston Willams** (5 points, 2 steals) have been guiding the team during summer competition. **Harmony Lyle** and **Sopia Tubbs** are also expected to give the Crusaders some valuable minutes next season. ■

CHEER

Bringing energy, enthusiasm, and unfaltering support to every event, the cheerleaders helped create an exciting atmosphere throughout winter sports season. The highlight of the season came when the Crusaders captured the Indiana Crossroads Conference (ICC) Cheer Championship, showcasing the team's hard work, preparation, and ability to perform at a high level. Seniors **Sarah Bui** and **Alaya Wilson**, whose commitment, leadership, and positive influence have left a lasting impact on the program, will certainly be missed. With an expected large roster returning for both the fall and winter seasons, head coach **Jana Montgomery** is excited about the continued growth of the program and the opportunities ahead. ■

SWIMMING

The boys and girls swimming teams enjoyed another successful season, highlighted by strong performances in both conference and city competition. The boys finished as conference runners-up and placed fifth at the city tournament, while the girls also earned a second-place conference finish and improved to fourth at the city tournament. This year's team was led by an outstanding

senior class that included **Nathanial Green**, **Lennon Klinck**, **Nicolas Gonzalez**, **Venice Sponsel**, and **Molly Potthast**. Their leadership, dedication, and commitment helped set the standard for the program. A special congratulations goes to senior Klinck, who leaves the program as one of its most accomplished swimmers, holding nearly every school swimming record—an incredible achievement that reflects years of hard work and excellence in the pool. ■

WRESTLING

The wrestling team wrapped up an impressive season marked by steady growth, determination, and success on the mat. Throughout the year, the team consistently improved, culminating in a strong second-place finish in the conference standings. A key part of the team's success came from its senior leadership. **Frank Cheever**, **Miguel Benitez Villa**, **Felipe Puliti**, and **Edward Salvio** provided valuable experience, work ethic, and dedication that helped set the tone for the program. Returning wrestlers **Jeremiah Gascon**, **Isaac Lathrop**, and **Gavin Connel** are expected to lead the team next season. Their experience and commitment will provide a strong foundation as the program continues to build on this year's accomplishments. ■



SPRING SEASON RECAPS

BASEBALL

Under the leadership of head coach **Dave Gandolph** and his coaching staff, the Crusaders relied heavily on a large senior class that set the standard both on and off the field. Seniors **Brady Ray** and **Keaten Noltton Drake** provided steady leadership, accountability, and a competitive example for the program's younger players. The future of Scecina baseball is bright thanks to an impressive group of underclassmen. Freshmen **Isaac Lathrop**, **Henry McKiernan**, and **Jermaine Wallace** were among several newcomers who made meaningful contributions throughout the season. Their experience competing at the varsity level will serve as an important building block as the program continues to develop. ■

BOYS GOLF

With four returning starters from last year's squad and multiple strong prospects from last year's JV squad, coach **Matthew Schroeder** expects the boys golf team will improve on last year's results. Led by junior **Andrew Wilhelm** and his senior brother **Nate Wilhelm**, the team expects to be competitive against each of their opponents, win 75% of their matches, and have multiple All City as well as All Conference honorees. ■

SOFTBALL

Led by new head coach **Mike Mendez**, the softball team embraced the challenges that come with new leadership and a strong conference schedule while building a culture centered on hard work, accountability, and competing. Seniors **Olivia Covarrubias**, **Sarah Causemaker**, and **Makayla Gary** set the standard for what it means to be a Crusader, leading by example both on and off the field. Their commitment to the program, dedication to their teammates, and willingness to work hard every practice and game helped establish a strong foundation for future success. Several underclassmen, like **Evelyn Covarrubias**, **Addyka Smith**, and **Paisley Torzewski**, demonstrated the potential to become key contributors in the years ahead. ■

GIRLS TENNIS

The girls tennis team had a strong season, finishing fourth in the conference and fifth in the city tournament. The program graduated three seniors who made valuable contributions during their careers: **Lola Carey**, **Lillian Linn**, and **Ashley Mendez Molina**. Their leadership, dedication, and experience will be missed. With many players returning next season, the team will bring back valuable experience and depth. ■

TRACK AND FIELD

The co-ed track and field team, led by first-year head coach **Mike Harris**, had a very competitive season. The boys team was led by distance runners **Bradley Hilbers** and **Sky Davis**, sprinters **Eric Montgomery** and **Gavin Connel**, and thrower **Nathanial Green**. The girls team was led by distance runners **Venice Sponsel**, **Luci Tovar**, and **Vivian Kolakovich**, sprinter **Kate Certo**, and throwers **Isabela Orozco-Montgomery** and **Genevieve Cline**. ■

BOYS VOLLEYBALL

The boys volleyball team showed tremendous improvement this season, increasing its win total from four victories last year to 12 this year. Their hard work earned them the No. 2 seed in the city tournament, highlighting the progress the program has made. With every player returning except senior **John Ramirez-Hernandez**, the team has a strong foundation and is excited about building on this season's success next year. We thank Ramirez for his leadership and contributions to the program and wish him the best in his future endeavors. ■



INDIVIDUAL ATHLETIC HONORS

ALL-CONFERENCE

BASEBALL

Brady Ray '26

BOYS BASKETBALL

Ian Collins '28

Jaylin Foster '28

Adrian Hill '26

Bryce Mathis '26

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Mia Miller '27

SOFTBALL

Olivia Covarrubias '26

ALL-CITY

BASEBALL

Brady Ray '26

BOYS BASKETBALL

Jaylin Foster '28

3RD TEAM

Bryce Mathis '26

2ND TEAM

Jim Stanbrough

COACH OF THE YEAR

BOYS GOLF

Andrew Wilhelm '27

GIRLS TENNIS

Lillian Linn '26

SOFTBALL

Evelyn Covarrubias '29

Olivia Covarrubias '26

ACADEMIC ALL-CONFERENCE

BASEBALL

Miguel Benitez Villa '26

Keaten Nolton Drake '26

BOYS GOLF

Cole Gaudreau '26

Owen Weinzierl '26

BOYS VOLLEYBALL

David Moreno-Jerez '27

CHEER

Ashley Orozco-Montgomery '27

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Hillari Lathrop '26

Shea McNulty '27

GIRLS TENNIS

Lola Carey '26

Mariana Gonzalez '27

Lillian Linn '26

Ashley Mendez Molina '26

Payton Roadley '27

SOFTBALL

Olivia Covarrubias '26

Makayla Gary '26

SWIMMING

Lucy Certo '27

Kim Klinck '27

Lennon Klinck '26

Amelia Koenig '27

Lida Xu '27

TRACK AND FIELD

Ashley Orozco-Montgomery '27

WRESTLING

Miguel Benitez Villa '26

Frank Cheever '26

*These recognitions are accurate as of June 25
and may not include all individual spring sports.*

ALUMNI NEWS

ALUMNI GOLF CLASSIC

Thank you to all of our golfers, sponsors, and volunteers who joined us June 19 at our annual Alumni Golf Classic! It was a beautiful day, and we had a great time seeing everyone come together to support the Kenneth R. Leffler Scholarship.

Congratulations to the winning foursome of **Jason Bledsoe**, **Nick Bozzelli '95**, **Chris Lucas '09**, and **Vinnie Redell '05**!

Also, a big congratulations to this year's recipient of the Kenneth R. Leffler Scholarship, **Olivia Anglemyer '27**.

Since 1989, the golf classic has funded the scholarship for an outstanding incoming senior who is in the top 25% of the class, is a child or grandchild of a Scecina alumnus, and is recommended by Scecina faculty and staff. ■



Winning foursome: (left to right) Jason Bledsoe, Nick Bozzelli '95, Chris Lucas '09, and Vinnie Redell '05



Interim Director of Development Adam Smith, Carrie Anglemyer, Olivia Anglemyer, and President Joe Therber

Class Reunions Guide

Class of 1966 | 60th Reunion

Saturday, Aug. 22, 2026 | 3-6 p.m.

Join our All City Catholic High School 60th

Celebration at the Carmel VFW

12863 Old Meridian, Carmel IN 46032

For information, contact:

Laura (Wehlage) Anderson

(laanderson1515@aol.com),

Margy (Mulhern) Beyne (mbeyne0989@gmail.com),

or Trish (Kelly) Condon (trishcondon@att.net)

Class of 1976 | 50th Reunion

Saturday, Sept. 26, 2026

Mass in the new chapel and school tours at Scecina.

Reunion to follow at the Irvington Event Center,

6767 E. Washington St., Indianapolis IN, 46219

Class of 1986 | 40th Reunion

Saturday, Sept. 12, 2026 | 6-10:30 p.m.

Barrel Room at The Roost

1435 E. 86th St., Suite A, Indianapolis, IN 46240

For more information, contact:

Joe Meyer at jm@jmeyer.org

Class of 2001 | 25th Reunion

Saturday, Aug. 22, 2026 | 6-11 p.m.

Lucas Oil Stadium

We're skipping the traditional banquet hall and taking over Lucas Oil Stadium for a Colts game!

Get ready for a day of great football, catching up with old friends, and showing downtown Indy how Crusaders roll.

For more information, visit: scecina.org/alumni/alumni-events ■

MATT BLACK '10: ASKING QUESTIONS, GIVING BACK, AND TEACHING FULL CIRCLE

For **Matt Black '10**, Scecina Memorial High School is not just where he went to school—it is where his faith, vocation, and sense of responsibility were formed, and where they continue to grow.

Now a science teacher at Scecina, Matt teaches anatomy and physiology, biology, and is launching a new botany course this year. Outside the classroom, he wears many hats, running Student Council and the Crusader Cup and advising Gaming Club, Roblox Club, Minecraft Club, and the Red and Gold Going Green Club. It's a wide scope of work, but for Matt, that breadth is part of what education demands.

“Being a teacher is a hard job—it's very demanding in ways that people don't expect,” he says. “You're answering hundreds of questions a day, often unrelated to your subject. Teachers frequently have to help students emotionally regulate and handle both good and bad news.” Beyond content, Matt sees his role as guiding students toward who they are becoming. “You have to guide them without leading them where to go, helping them become a version of themselves and not who you think they should become.”

Despite the challenges, he is clear about the reward. “You have a huge impact on every student's future, and that is a giant responsibility—but if you can handle all of that, it can be very fulfilling.”



Matt Black '10 with students

When Matt reflects on his own time at Scecina, he does so with deep gratitude. “Scecina gave me almost everything I have in life,” he says. The school provided an education that helped him earn a full-tuition scholarship to Marian University, lifelong friendships, and even his future wife, **Katie (Hammans) Black '10**.

Two student experiences continue to influence Matt's approach to faith and learning. One involved after-school conversations with teacher **Margaret Zeh**. “I would meet with her after school with my notebook full of questions,” he recalls. “Her taking the time to take my questions seriously and not dismiss them helped me grow in my faith—even when I had doubts.” That openness left a lasting impression. “It taught me that we don't have to accept what we don't understand. We are encouraged to ask and question and seek out answers, not just blindly accept on faith.”

Another formative memory came from **Chad Tuley's** classroom, where creative projects—like a mock trial

of *Lord of the Flies*—sparked Matt's love for innovative teaching. Today, he finds himself on the other side of those moments. “Now I'm a teacher, acting in a skit or workshopping new segments on the Red and Gold Show,” he says. “Seeing the work and effort needed and the positive outcome you get from it—it just feels full circle.”

Matt also recalls a pivotal leadership lesson from his time as a student. When the student body grew upset over a school issue and prepared to protest, then-Principal **Tom Davis** chose conversation over consequences. “He brought us into his office and heard our concerns,” Matt says. “He communicated with us like we were equals, not just students.” That moment still influences him. “Students are going to be adults, and the only way to prepare them is to treat them like adults—give them opportunities to surprise you in how mature they can be.”

Giving back to Scecina feels natural for Matt. His family has been part of the community since 2002, and after graduating in 2010, he continued helping with senior retreats before joining the faculty in 2014. “It was instilled in me by my parents that if you're going to do something, then commit to it.”

For Matt, Scecina is not just part of his past. It is a living community he continues to serve—one question, one student, and one lesson at a time. ■

DEVELOPMENT

GIVING DAY IS NOVEMBER 10, 2026

Giving Day is an opportunity for all Crusaders to come together and celebrate what makes Scecina so special. Since 2020, our community has shown incredible generosity on Giving Day, helping support students, faculty, academics, campus ministry, and many other important programs.

We hope you will join us for our next Giving Day on November 10, 2026. Let's honor Father Thomas Scecina and "give that little extra."

Be sure to follow along on social media and through email for special activities and updates throughout the day. Giving Day is a chance to celebrate Scecina and the impact it has on our community. ■



SCECINA
GIVINGDAY

KEY DATES TO SUPPORT SCECINA IN 2026-27

We welcome your gifts of prayer, service, and treasure throughout the year!

August:

Make-A-Will Month. Please consider including Scecina as a residual beneficiary after your family members in your estate planning.

September 18, 2026:

Homecoming Game (Place TBD)

September 21, 2026:

Scecina's 72nd birthday

November 10, 2026:

Scecina Giving Day, a 24-hour online blitz that focuses on celebrating the school and giving back to Scecina.

November 11, 2026:

Father Tom Mass, our annual event dedicated to honoring the life and sacrifice of Father Thomas Scecina.

December 31, 2026:

Last day for Indiana residents to give to Scecina through the Institute for Quality Education and receive a 50% Indiana state tax credit for the 2026 tax year.

January 24 - January 30, 2027:

National School Choice Week and National Catholic Schools Week. Support your favorite high school

(S-C-E-C-I-N-A) so more students can receive need-based tuition assistance and choose Scecina.

April 15, 2027:

IRS tax deadline. Consider giving to Scecina directly through your IRA and using a qualified charitable distribution (QCD) to avoid those taxes on your required minimum distributions (RMD). Consult with your financial or tax advisor to see how it works for you.

May - June 2027:

The "Final Push" of the fiscal year to fund specific projects at Scecina.

UNDERSTANDING THE NEW FEDERAL SCHOLARSHIP TAX CREDIT PROGRAM

A New Opportunity to Support Students and Expand Educational Access

A significant new federal program is set to take effect in 2027, creating an opportunity for individuals to support K–12 education while receiving a federal tax credit in return. Known as the Federal Scholarship Tax Credit, the program was established by Congress in 2025 and is designed to encourage charitable giving to Scholarship Granting Organizations (SGOs) that provide educational scholarships to eligible students.

For families, schools, and educational organizations, this legislation could open new pathways to educational opportunity. For donors, it creates a unique way to direct charitable support toward student scholarships while receiving a dollar-for-dollar federal tax credit of up to \$1,700 annually.

How Does the Program Work?

Beginning January 1, 2027, taxpayers in participating states may contribute to approved SGOs and receive a federal income tax credit equal to the amount donated, up to \$1,700 per year. Unlike a tax deduction, which reduces taxable income, a tax credit directly reduces a taxpayer's federal tax liability.

Scholarship Granting Organizations will then use

those contributions to provide scholarships that help students access educational opportunities and services. Here in Indiana, the SGO will be Indiana Quality Education, which is the same SGO for the Indiana Tax Credit Scholarship.

These funds may be used in connection with public, private, or religious elementary and secondary schools, depending on the scholarship program's design and eligibility requirements.

Who Can Benefit?

The program is intended to serve students from low- and middle-income households. Under the federal law, scholarship eligibility is generally limited to students whose family income falls below 300% of the area's median income.

Currently, more than half of Sccecina's students would be eligible for the scholarship.

What Does This Mean for Indiana?

Indiana has already elected to participate in the Federal Scholarship Tax Credit program, positioning organizations and schools throughout the state to benefit once the program becomes operational on January 1, 2027.

As federal regulations and implementation guidelines continue to be finalized, SGOs will work with state and federal officials to establish the framework

for accepting contributions and awarding scholarships.

Why This Matters

For generations, philanthropic support has helped make educational opportunities accessible to students regardless of financial circumstances. This new federal initiative creates an additional tool to strengthen that tradition.

For Sccecina, this means that we have a new way to fund our most important initiative, making sure that anyone can attend Sccecina regardless of financial circumstances.

Looking Ahead

While contributions eligible for the federal tax credit will not begin until 2027, schools, scholarship organizations, and supporters are already preparing for the opportunities this program may create.

As additional guidance is released by the U.S. Department of the Treasury and the Internal Revenue Service, families and donors will have a clearer picture of how to participate and maximize the benefits available through this new initiative. For schools committed to making transformational educational experiences accessible to more students, the Federal Scholarship Tax Credit represents an exciting development worth watching in the months ahead. ■



BENEFITS OF GIVING TO THE SGO PROGRAM

OFFSET your state tax liability with a 50% Indiana state tax credit—those funds go to qualified Seccina students instead of going to the state in the form of taxes.

INCREASE your impact through a larger gift with the same (or less) net cost to you.

IMPACT the next generation of Crusaders by supporting financial aid for Catholic education.

WAYS TO GIVE

- One-time donation of cash, check, or credit card
- Monthly giving
- Indiana Tax Credit Scholarships (TCS)
- Individual Retirement Account (IRA), Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs), and Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs)
- Gifts of stock and appreciated securities
- Employer matching gifts
- Planned giving

HOW YOU BENEFIT



50% TAX CREDIT

Offsets Indiana state tax liability



FEDERAL TAX DEDUCTION

Available if itemizing federal tax return



ELIMINATE TAXABLE GAINS

Gifts of appreciated stock

CONTACT US

Interim Director of Development

Adam Smith

adamsmith@scecina.org

Donor Database Coordinator

Gia Spaulding

gspaulding@scecina.org

READY TO MAKE A GIFT TODAY?

Scan the QR code to make your secure online gift and support the mission of Seccina Memorial High School.



CLASS NOTES

1990s

Suzanne Walker '96 recently accepted a new job at the Center for the Book Manager–Library of Congress, Washington D.C.



Donald Winston '96 was inducted into the Indiana Football Coaches Association Region 7 Hall of Fame on June 25, 2026. Donald was a student-athlete in football, basketball, and track and field, and attributes his success in coaching, in part, to his time at Scecina. Congratulations, Donald!



2000s

Emily (Schenkenfelder) Davis '02 was awarded "Outstanding Art Educator" by the Ohio Art Educators Association at its annual state conference. Emily was selected among nearly 2,500 art educators in Ohio for her exceptional work at Our Lady of Perpetual Help School in Grove City, Ohio. Way to go, Emily!



2010s

Emily Yohler '11 wrote a children's book called "Madison's Rainbow: A Children's Book on Love, Loss,

and The Rainbow Bridge." It's now part of the Library of Congress! You can find it on Amazon.



2020s

Faith Bakemeyer '22 graduated from Indiana University in December 2025 with a BA in English with high distinction. ■

Did you receive a promotion? Have a baby? Get married? Please share your good news with us! Submit your Class Note to: scecina.org/alumni/share-your-news

Class Notes from Scecina alumni are compiled each month in The Crusader e-newsletter and twice a year into the Father Scecina Magazine.

ACTIVE-DUTY OR RETIRED MILITARY? WE'D LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

To the Scecina alumni and friends who are active or retired members of the United States military services: We deeply appreciate your bravery and your spirit of service and sacrifice!

Please keep us updated with your contact information by using the form on the Scecina Veterans page of our website (listed below).

To properly thank and recognize you, we want to continually update our listing of Scecina alumni and friends who are active in or retired from each branch of the U.S. military services.

Scan the QR code to update your information or visit: scecina.org/alumni/scecina-veterans



IN MEMORIAM

ALUMNI DEATHS

Barbara (Regan) Cory '57
Harry Rail '57
Barbara (Tate) Cox '58
George M. Seal '58
David Johnson '59
Paul Evans '60
William Fowler '60
Robert J. Keller '60
John Lutz '60
Vincent M. Bozzelli '61
Ronald Heinzen '61
John Culley '62
Dan L. Feeney '62
Chere (King) Feerst '62
Camilla Sue (Budreau) Gatewood '62
John Gruner '62
Noel Nauber '62
Joseph "Rick" Stratmann II '62
Susan K. (Thompson) Torzewski '62
Peter F. Zimmerle '62

Thomas Cardis '63
Ann (Ryan) Carrico '63
Michael J. Kelly '63
Michael A. Gruner '64
James Hudson '65
Linda Zappia '65
Jan (Williams) Mescall '66
David Wolsiffer '66
Riccardo "Rick" Girolami '67
Thomas M. Brown '68
Peggy (Robinson) Hess '69
Richard Miller '69
Dennis Amberger '72
Philip E. Lines '72
Nancy (Schalk) Connor '73

J. Fred Bower '74
Carol (Nichols) Junker '77
Gerard Moriarty '77
Michael Boyle '80
Mark Clemens '80
Shane Barroso '94

SCECINA COMMUNITY DEATHS

Patricia (Walsh) Bardes
Joseph Lakin

SCECINA PAST BOARD MEMBER

Phil Kenney

Class Notes and In Memoriam reflect notices received on or before May 31, 2026. To update your information (home or email address), submit a class note, or report an alumni death, please contact Gia Spaulding, Advancement Coordinator, at gspaulding@scecina.org, or submit information via the online form at: scecina.org/alumni/welcome-back

PHILIP G. KENNEY | OCTOBER 17, 1960 – MARCH 22, 2026



Phil Kenney's contributions to Scecina Memorial High School as a past parent and Board of Directors chairman will be

felt for years to come.

Phil was a respected business leader, serving as president of F.A. Wilhelm Construction from

2001 until 2025, as well as a devoted family man and generous community servant. As a leader, Phil was insightful, creative, disciplined, devoted to co-workers' safety and well-being, and humble.

As a Scecina Board of Directors chairman, Phil provided wise and steadfast leadership at a critical juncture in Scecina's history. He never wavered from the challenges of the time and always had a special place in his heart for our students.

Phil was unsurpassed in his devotion to family. He and his wife, **Colleen**, raised five children—**Bridget '05, Eileen '07, Vince '09, Mary Kate '12, and Pat '14**—in the Irvington neighborhood on the eastside of Indianapolis.

We remember Phil Kenney with deep gratitude and admiration. ■



**SCECINA
MEMORIAL
HIGH SCHOOL**

5000 NOWLAND AVENUE
INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46201



@ScecinaMemorial



@ScecinaNow



@ScecinaNow

INTRODUCING DIGITAL SUBSCRIPTIONS!

Beginning with the Winter 2027 issue, Father Scecina Magazine will be available in a new digital format!

You'll be able to enjoy the same Crusader stories, alumni updates, school news, and community highlights—now accessible from your computer, tablet, or phone.

Going digital is a convenient way to keep every issue at your fingertips, reduce paper use, and help us manage printing and mailing costs more effectively.

To choose your preferred delivery option, simply scan the QR code. You can opt for a digital-only subscription or select digital + print to receive both versions. Prefer to keep things as they are? We've got you covered. We'll continue to send a print edition unless we hear from you that you'd like to switch to digital.

Thank you for helping us keep the Crusader community connected.
Go Crusaders!

