

| SUMMER 2026

the Round Table

ARCHBISHOP ALTER
HIGH SCHOOL
COMMUNITY MAGAZINE

ALWAYS ALTER

CELEBRATING *the* CLASS of 1966

the Round Table

is produced biannually for the alumni, family and friends of Archbishop Alter High School.

Please report any oversights to the Advancement Office at advancement@alterhs.org or 937-434-2059.

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ANDERSON SCHAEFER '26 AND HIS GRANDFATHER JIM DAVIS '66



Dear Alter Knights,

Every school has its buildings, traditions and accomplishments. What makes Archbishop Alter High School enduring, however, is the people whose faith, generosity and commitment continue to shape its story across generations. As another school year comes to a close, I am reminded that while each graduating class leaves its own unique mark, every generation of Alter Knights builds upon the strong foundation laid by those who came before.

This edition of the *Roundtable* celebrates that enduring story through three themes that have defined Alter for nearly 64 years: Foundation, Distinction and Connection.

OUR FOUNDATION begins with the vision and sacrifice of those who first imagined Archbishop Alter High School. This year, we are especially honored to celebrate the Diamond Anniversary of the Class of 1966, our first graduating class. Their memories remind us that Alter has always been more than a school. It is a community where faith is nurtured, lifelong friendships are formed, and young people are prepared to lead lives of purpose. As we honor their legacy, we also celebrate our newest graduates and the dedicated faculty who continue to shape future generations of Knights.

OUR DISTINCTION is reflected in the remarkable achievements of our students. Whether in the classroom, on the stage, in athletic competition, through service or in leadership, they pursue excellence with integrity, compassion and determination. Their accomplishments are a testament not only to their talents, but to a community that challenges and supports them as they discover the gifts God has entrusted to them.

OUR CONNECTION is what makes Alter truly special. It is found in the alumni who return year after year, the families who entrust us with their children, the benefactors whose generosity sustains our mission and the countless volunteers who continue to strengthen our school. Together, they remind us that the Alter experience does not end at graduation, it becomes a life-long bond.

This magazine is itself a reflection of that connection. My sincere thanks to Kathy Weil Kargl '88 for her exceptional magazine redesign and photography; Kathy Brady Riegel '90, the Yearbook Committee and Easterling Studios for their beautiful photography; the Class of 1966 and Alter Marching Band alumni who generously shared their stories; our faculty contributors; the Advancement and Administrative teams whose dedication brings these stories to life; and Creative Impressions for their outstanding printing and mailing services.

Thank you for being part of the Alter family and for helping preserve the legacy we have inherited while inspiring the future we are building together.

May God continue to bless Archbishop Alter High School and all who call it home.

With hope and gratitude,

Lourdes Lambert, President

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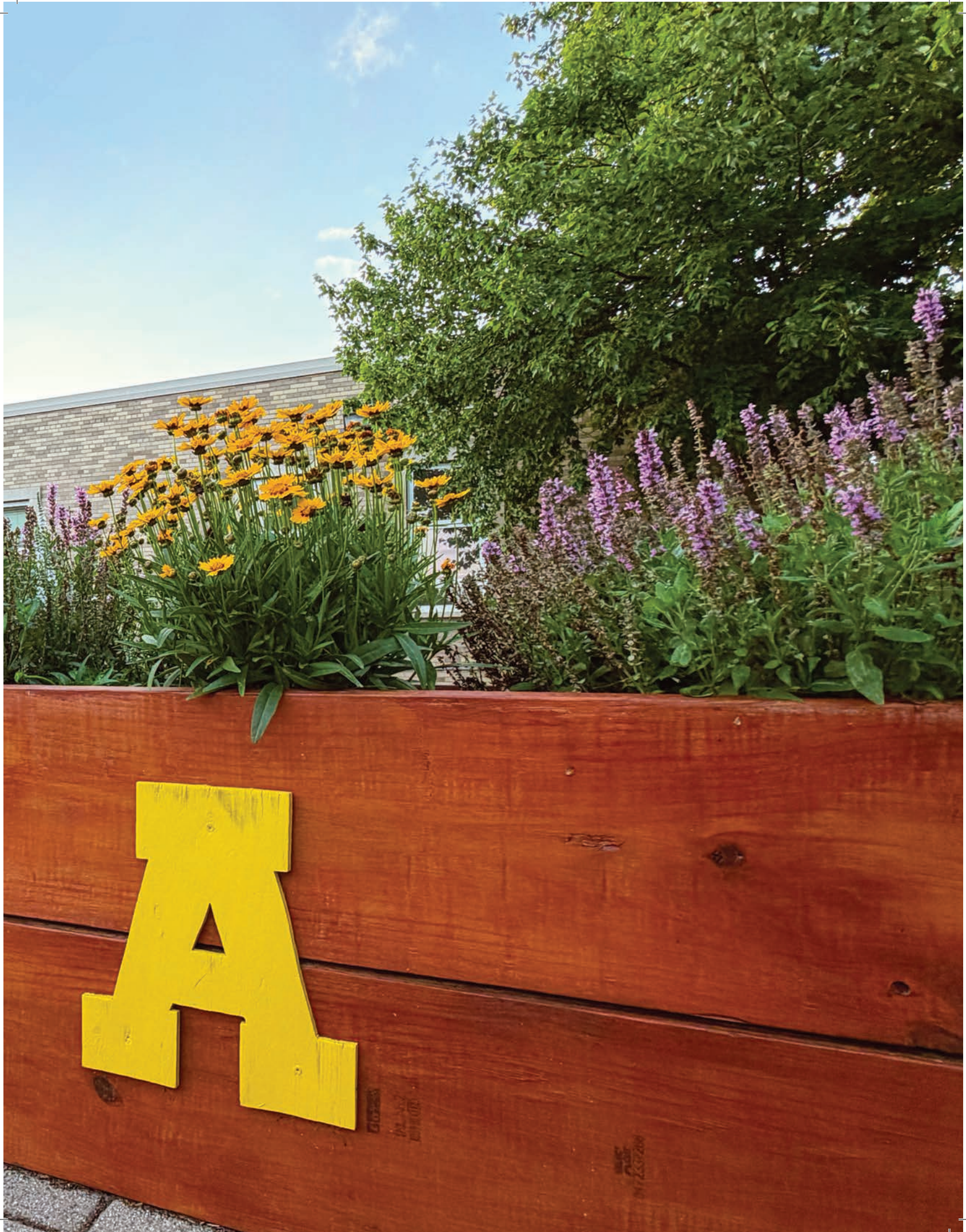
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SUMMER 2026

foundation





ALWAYS ALTER

ALTER
HS
60 YEARS

End of the Beginning



CELEBRATING *the* CLASS of 1966

In September 1962, there was no such thing as “the Alter tradition.”

No championship banners.

No alumni.

No established rivalries.

No generations of Knights returning home.

There was simply a brand-new Catholic high school, a group of nervous freshmen, and a shared belief—encouraged strongly by the priests and sisters—that something special could be built here.

Sixty years later, the members of the Class of 1966 still speak about those four years with remarkable affection, humor, and pride. What they remember most is not simply what they accomplished, but how deeply connected they became to one another and to Archbishop Alter High School itself.



Four years ago we made a beginning at Alter. Since then we have been constantly striving, reaching for that someday when we would achieve maturity as a school. We have met with success and failure along the way.

Now, after four years we take another long look at ourselves. And we see that we have grown out of the chrysalis, out of what was rough, unfinished, weak. The chrysalis was of a greater life, with greater heights to which we can soar on newfound wings . . . if only we try, if only we make use of what we learned in the chrysalis. Truly, it is the end of the beginning—and the beginning of greatness.





BUILDING A SCHOOL—AND A TRADITION

When Alter first opened its doors on September 5, 1962, it was a day for lasting impressions. Students arrived from many Catholic parishes across the Dayton area, led primarily by St. Albert the Great School. Many students were uncertain about attending a new school with no athletic history, no upperclassmen, and no traditions. Yet that uncertainty quickly gave way to pride and purpose.

The school community embraced a shared mindset: “Roll up your sleeves and let’s get it done.” Students, parents, priests, sisters and faculty worked together to create not only programs and activities, but the very identity of Alter itself.

MEMORABLE FACULTY

Founding principal Fr. Edward Haskamp carried the responsibility of leading a school that bore the name of The Most Reverend Archbishop Karl J. Alter. Expectations were high—academically, spiritually and morally.

Members of the Class of 1966 fondly remember:

- Fr. Breslin’s discipline
- Fr. Jensen’s habitual hallway cigarette breaks
- Fr. Guntzelman’s charisma and good looks
- Beloved teachers like Jack Ward and Joe Petrocelli

Faculty members were deeply invested in student success. They helped cultivate a keen sense of community and challenged students to grow their Catholic identity through character, responsibility and service—hallmarks which still define Alter today.

LIFE AT THE NEW ALTER

- Even in the first year of existence Alter had rules—lots of them.
- Classes were crowded, often with 35–40 students per room.

- Masses were celebrated in the gymnasium before the newly formed St. Charles Borromeo church building was completed in 1964.
- Athletics, clubs, dances, publications and traditions were all created for the first time.
- Most faculty were required to teach multiple academic disciplines.
- Although a coeducational institution, Alter operated with gender separation for locker hallways, homeroom, theology, PE, cafeteria and retreats.
- Discipline was king.

Despite many obstacles and struggles, Alumni consistently described the culture as joyful, spirited and deeply respectful.

SOME RULES ALUMNI WILL NEVER FORGET

- Never walk on the front lawn—demerits were guaranteed.
- Dating was acceptable; “going steady” was not allowed.
- Nuns checked the girls’ skirt lengths by having them kneel to verify hemlines touched the floor.
- Boys wore shirts and ties daily.
- Fr. Guntzelman famously warned students at dances: “Skin to skin, mortal sin.”
- Boys and girls were only allowed entrance through the back/ gym doors and followed strict one-way hallway patterns always turning right out of any classroom.
- Talking was restricted to certain areas and times of the day. Classmates laugh that “monks had more freedom to talk than Alter students!”

It was strict. It was structured. And somehow it became home.

SPIRIT BORN THROUGH ACTIVITIES AND ATHLETICS

What stands out most in alumni memories is how everyone was involved and participated in so many efforts. It was an



environment of “roll up your sleeves and get it done.” There was an unspoken understanding that if something needed done, you helped do it.

Students organized everything themselves:

- Sock hops after football and basketball games
- Pep rallies and bonfires
- Dances with live music
- Student elections
- Spirit Week activities
- The student newspaper, *The Sword*
- The *Excalibur* yearbook

Athletics at Alter began humbly. Early teams were loosely organized, there was no athletic budget or equipment, and schedules were limited. Not lacking was the determination of students, coaches, and parents who quickly transformed the athletic program.

The defining moment came in November of 1965, when Alter defeated rival Chaminade High School in a football game remembered as one of the most significant in school history. A bonfire pep rally, pervasive banners and overwhelming school spirit united the entire student body. The final score was more than a win; it signified that Alter had arrived.

LEAVING THEIR MARK

As seniors, the Class of 1966 believed they should leave something meaningful behind.

Through student-led fundraising efforts—dances, pancake breakfasts, faculty basketball games, style shows, wrestling matches, variety shows and more—they raised \$6,000 to commission *The Knight* statue that still stands at the front entrance today. It became far more than a sculpture. It became and has remained, the symbol of Alter spirit.

THE FIRST ALTER GRADUATION

On May 26, 1966, 238 seniors became the first graduates of Archbishop Alter High School.

Commencement, held at the National Cash Register auditorium, marked the culmination of four pioneering years. The Most Reverend Karl J. Alter was the honored guest speaker. Girls wore sunray gold gowns. Boys wore mahogany brown—a graduation tradition that remains recognizable today. The graduates performed their own version of *We Will Remember*, lyrics by Fr. Guntzelman.

Recalling the day, graduates describe it as emotional and historic, celebrated during a time overshadowed nationally by the Vietnam War and uncertainty about the future. Yet six decades later, the memories remain remarkably consistent with humbled gratitude.

LEGACY CREATED

The Class of 1966 did more than graduate from a new school—they established its culture. Without knowing what Alter would become, every spirit tradition, every rivalry, every pep rally, every act of service and every sense of Knight pride traces back to those pioneering students who walked through the gym doors in September 1962 without knowing what Alter would become.

Sixty years later...the answer is clear.

To the members of the Class of 1966: thank you for building the legacy that continues to guide Alter generations today. May God continue to bless you and your families.

Special thanks to 1966 classmates Bob Vari, Paul Zimmer, Michelle Michel Petrie, Patricia Lake Snyder, Carmelina Carone Klosterman, Toni Smith DiPasquale, Chris Collins and Jim Stangle who shared their high school memories and experiences, too many to include in a single article.

a look at

72 Women | 75 Men

94% Four Year College

4% Two Year School | Training Program

1% Entering Workforce

OVER \$27.4 MILLION IN SCHOLARSHIPS

4% Full Academic

80% Partial Academic

2% Full Athletic

3% Partial Athletic

1% ROTC

6% Other Agencies



Isaiah Elliot
UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI

Bridget Ennis
WRIGHT STATE UNIVERSITY

Nicolas Fairchild
MIAMI UNIVERSITY

Hannah Feerer
UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI

Sean Marco Feliciano
OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

Andrew Fink
MIAMI UNIVERSITY

Nicole Flynn
SINCLAIR COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Christopher Franco-Toro
MARIST UNIVERSITY

Makensie Funk
KENT STATE UNIVERSITY

Elle Gaeta
MIAMI UNIVERSITY

Tobias Garrison
DEFIANCE COLLEGE

Matthew Gebhart
WRIGHT STATE UNIVERSITY

Andrew Gochenouer
WRIGHT STATE UNIVERSITY

Graham Godlove
INDIANA UNIVERSITY

William Greene
OHIO DOMINICAN UNIVERSITY

Grant Guess
DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY

Alexander Hamilton
MIAMI UNIVERSITY

Zach Hamilton
MIAMI UNIVERSITY

Julia Hart
MIAMI UNIVERSITY

Ella Hawk
OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

Jacob Hawvermale
UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI

Cassidy Haynes
CAPITAL UNIVERSITY

Jacob Hemmert
SINCLAIR COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Chloe Herman
UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE

Colin Hess
OHIO DOMINICAN UNIVERSITY

Diarra Hill
BOWLING GREEN STATE UNIVERSITY

Whitney Hill
UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS

Zachary Hoey
UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON

Elizabeth Homan
OHIO UNIVERSITY

Hayden Humphreville
DAYTON IBEW 82 ELECTRICAL UNION

Catherine Hyland
WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY

Lily Ireton
UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON

Tabitha Irwin
OTTERBEIN UNIVERSITY

Isaiah Jacobs
MIAMI UNIVERSITY

Nicholas Johnston
OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

Noah Jones
UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON

Sebastian Kamil
OTTERBEIN UNIVERSITY

Caitlin Kasprzak
SAINT MARY'S COLLEGE

Sophia King
OTTERBEIN UNIVERSITY

Dane Koelker
MIAMI UNIVERSITY

Alexander Korenyi-Both
MIAMI UNIVERSITY

Ashlyn Korzan
XAVIER UNIVERSITY

Kathleen Kyre
OTTERBEIN UNIVERSITY

Nathan Kyre
OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

Jack Lampman
DEPAUL UNIVERSITY

Alison Link
UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE

Audrey Lombard
UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO

Moses Mabarak
UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON

Andrew Mahoney
UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON

Luca Malenich
OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

Isabella Markowski
UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE

Timothy Marsh
OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

Rocco Mauro
OHIO UNIVERSITY

Jane McKenna
OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

Sara McKenna
UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON

Trevor Meyer
PURDUE UNIVERSITY

Andrew Michelson
UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON

Aubrey Miller
MIAMI UNIVERSITY

Lauren Miller
UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON

Mason Miller
OHIO NORTHERN UNIVERSITY

Michael Miller
MIAMI UNIVERSITY

Raya-Rosine Mills
SINCLAIR COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Fernando Montoya
UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON

Jayden Mowbray
UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON

Zane Murray
UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON

Nolan Ogburn
OHIO UNIVERSITY

Alina Overman
PENN STATE UNIVERSITY

Roderick Owens
YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

Rizanna Peterson
UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI

Richard Phillips
MIAMI UNIVERSITY

Geneva Pickrel
OHIO UNIVERSITY

Samantha Pothast
MIAMI UNIVERSITY

Bennett Rau
UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY

Olivia Raucci
UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON

Noah Reed
OHIO UNIVERSITY

Wyatt Reifschneider
ASHLAND UNIVERSITY

Shalay Richardson
JOHNSON & WALES UNIVERSITY

Allison Roesch
FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

Nathan Romer
OHIO UNIVERSITY

Michael Rose
OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

Maliah Ross
UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON

Estelle Roth
UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME

Riley Rubertus
UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI

Colleen Russell
OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

Andersen Schaaf
UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON SINCLAIR ACADEMY

Michael Scheimann
UNIVERSITY OF FINDLAY

Cienna Schmidt
MOUNT ST. JOSEPH UNIVERSITY

Henry Schneider
MIAMI UNIVERSITY

Elizabeth Schoen
UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON

Evan Schulz
OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

Abigail Sheets
UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE

Da'Shai Shepard
BEREA COLLEGE

Corinne Simpson
UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON

Jackson Smith
FORDHAM UNIVERSITY

Jillian Smith
UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY

Noah Smith
MIAMI UNIVERSITY

Luke Snyder
MIAMI UNIVERSITY

Lucas Soin
CLEMSON UNIVERSITY

Elyse Stachler
OHIO UNIVERSITY

Olivia Stewart
UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI

Alora Strauser
GANNON UNIVERSITY

Owen Thompson
OHIO UNIVERSITY

Jordan Thornburg
MIAMI UNIVERSITY

Owen Tishaus
UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI

Aaron Tornes
OHIO UNIVERSITY

Gavin Torroll
MIAMI UNIVERSITY

Destiny Toth
MIAMI UNIVERSITY

Molly Trombley
MIAMI UNIVERSITY

Maximus Volk
MIAMI UNIVERSITY

Allison Ward
UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE

Gabrielle Wiley
AUBURN UNIVERSITY

Addison Willey
FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY

Norah Wine
SINCLAIR COMMUNITY COLLEGE



senior awards



Top 10 SENIORS

10. Colleen Russell
9. Mason Miller
8. Alison Link
7. Luca Malenich
6. Graham Godlove
5. Michael Rose
4. Allison Ward
3. Estelle Roth

Alina Overman, **SALUTATORIAN**

Corinne Simpson, **VALEDICTORIAN**

Alter LEGACIES

IN THE CLASS OF 2026

34 seniors have a parent, a grandparent or BOTH who graduated from Alter.

*Seven seniors are **THIRD generation** Alter Knights.*

There is no greater endorsement for a school than alumni choosing their alma mater for their child's high school education. The legacy of this institution is powerful, and it speaks to the loyalty of Alter Knights.





Outstanding SENIORS

Each year awards are presented to the outstanding young woman and the outstanding young man of the senior class.

Judgment is based on attitude, respect, participation and cooperation with faculty and fellow students. This award recognizes the student who is, indeed, outstanding among his or her peers. *This is the highest award given to an Alter student.* The 2026 Outstanding Seniors are **Megan Brandt** and **James Brooks**.

Special SENIOR AWARDS

GERALD BART AWARD Ashlyn Korzan and Rod Owens

THE WILLIAM F. RANKIN ATHLETIC AWARD Alina Overman & Michael Rose

HINKLE AWARD Matthew Gebhart

LEO F. TRICK MEMORIAL AWARD Michael Scheimann

OUTSTANDING SERVICE

Lily Ireton Nolan Ogburn

Dane Koelker Michael Rose

Moses Mabarak Abigail Sheets

WILLIAM TRUXEL AWARD Abigail Sheets

WAGING PEACE AWARD Miguel Delgado & Lauren Miller

SCHOOL CITIZENSHIP AWARD Miguel Delgado & Luca Malenich

VALOR AWARD Andrew Fink

MARIA JOSEPH AWARD Da'Shai Shepard

JOHN ERNST AWARD John Archibald

ARCHBISHOP ALTER AWARD Christopher Franco-Toro





2025

HALL of FAME INDUCTION

In October, Alter recognized and inducted another outstanding group of alumni who exhibit the qualities of commitment, discipline, integrity and passion. Each person is successful in different ways, but all are bound by their common connection to Alter.

Those inducted offered inspiration, hope, and humor to the student body during their presentations at an all-school assembly. Regardless of the years between their time as a student and today, each inductee offered relevant wisdom and reflection for today's students to carry home. Congratulations to this class of remarkable individuals and to the collective achievements of the 2001 Knights Basketball Team and the 2004, 2007 and 2009 4x800 relay teams!

DISTINGUISHED

TOM PERNIK | *Class of 1975*



After graduating, Tom Pernik attended the University of Dayton, where he studied mechanical engineering and served as chair of the student chapter of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers. He led fundraising efforts, organized events, and worked on energy-efficient design projects. During college, he also met Peggy, his wife of 41 years.

Tom built a successful career at Bayer Corporation as a Maintenance Superintendent and Project Manager for capital projects. Beyond his professional achievements, he has dedicated his life to service and community impact. He led major fundraising and support efforts for his classmates, including scholarships, medical assistance and community aid, helping raise over \$80,000 for the Alter Class of 1975 Legacy Scholarship.

Tom has also supported organizations such as Pregnancy Center Plus, Rising Leaders and the Honor Flight Program, and has organized international eyeglass donation missions. His leadership and commitment to helping others have made a lasting difference in countless lives.

FR. JAMES MANNING | *Class of 1969* (POSTHUMOUSLY)



"Vocation is not a choice but a God-given calling."

Fr. James Manning lived his belief that vocation is a God-given calling, dedicating his life to faith, leadership and service. Ordained in 1975, he began ministry in Cincinnati while teaching at LaSalle High School, later serving St. Henry Parish, St. Albert and St. Mary in Franklin.

In 2005, he became Alter High School's first President, serving until 2016. His visionary leadership guided the \$8 million "Answering the Call" capital campaign, transforming campus facilities including science labs, chapel, stadium, cafeteria and the Conservatory of the Arts. He also established Alter's first Board of Limited Jurisdiction, ensuring strong governance and future stability.

After leaving Alter, Fr. Manning returned to parish ministry at St. Mary of the Assumption in Springboro, where he led another successful campaign to build a new church. Known for his joyful presence and pastoral care, he was a trusted mentor and spiritual guide to students, staff and parishioners. Fr. Manning passed away in September 2024, leaving a lasting legacy of faith, leadership and compassion across the many communities he served.

ATHLETIC

DOUG PENNO | *Class of 2003*



Doug Penno was a standout multi-sport Knight athlete, excelling in both football and basketball. Promoted to varsity midway through his freshman year, he quickly made an impact, highlighted by an unforgettable touchdown run against Fairmont in which he broke 11 tackles. By the end of his football career, he totaled 3,289 rushing yards, 4,731 all-purpose yards and 278 points. His honors included First Team All-State, GCL Player of the Year, Southwest District Offensive Player of the Year—and he was later ranked among Alter's all-time football greats.

On the basketball court, Doug played a key role in Alter's 2001 state championship run as a sophomore and helped lead the team to a state runner-up finish in 2003. Known for his energy and defensive intensity, he earned All-State Tournament Team honors, First Team GCL and Southwest District recognition, establishing himself as one of Alter's top all-around athletes.

ASHLEY CATTRAN | *Class of 2007*



Ashley Cattran was a multi-sport standout at Alter High School, earning varsity letters in track, cross country, gymnastics (team captain) and soccer. Her greatest impact came in track and cross country, where she became an 11-time state qualifier and competed in three state championship finals. Ashley set the school record in the 400-meter dash (56.18), winning the state title in 2007. She was

also a key member of two state championship 4x800 relay teams (2004, 2007) and earned runner-up finishes in the 4x400 relay (2004) and 4x800 relay (2005).

Her success across multiple sports and consistent excellence at the state level highlighted her versatility, leadership and competitive drive, establishing her as one of Alter's most accomplished high school athletes.

DANA JOHNSON | *Class of 1986*



Dana Johnson was a standout student-athlete at Alter High School, excelling in three sports at a time when opportunities for girls were still limited. Competing in the early years following Title IX, she demonstrated determination and helped pave the way for future female athletes.

Johnson's high school career was marked by resilience. After suffering a serious ACL injury during her sophomore basketball season, Dana underwent surgery and committed to a yearlong rehabilitation to return to volleyball and softball. Despite the setback, she made a strong comeback, contributing to the softball team's dramatic improvement from 2-15 to 12-12, including two tournament wins.

As a senior captain, Dana earned MVP and All-Metro honors while leading the area with a .588 batting average, 39 RBIs, 7 home runs and 29 stolen bases.

Beyond athletics, she was active in Student Government, French Club and Del Teens, while also balancing a part-time job—demonstrating exceptional leadership, discipline and perseverance.



SAVE THE DATE

**2026 HALL of FAME
INDUCTION**

OCTOBER 15, 2026

TEAMS

2001 BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM

STATE CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION II

The 2001 Alter High School boys' basketball team stands as the winningest in school history, finishing 25-2 and capturing the OHSAA Division II State Championship under coach Joe Petrocelli. Known for its depth, discipline and suffocating 2-3 zone defense, the team rebounded from a disappointing prior season with a focused, game-by-game approach.

Led by strong senior leadership and anchored by standout Adam Waleskowski, players embraced defined roles and put team success above individual accolades. Petrocelli fostered a culture of accountability and preparation, emphasizing daily improvement over pressure to win.

A key to their success was the "Brown Team" scout squad, whose intensity in practice pushed the starters to excel. Mid-season losses to St. Xavier and Elder refocused the group, fueling a dominant tournament run that included a GCL title and decisive state semifinal and final victories.

Balancing talent with chemistry, the team overcame personality challenges through unselfish play and mutual respect. Their legacy endures not only in their championship and record, but in the culture of teamwork, discipline and excellence they established for Alter basketball.

2004 GIRLS 4x800 RELAY TEAM

STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

The 2004 Alter girls 4x800 relay team delivered a historic breakthrough, capturing the OHSAA State Championship and establishing the program as a rising powerhouse. Led by senior Morgan Zech and bolstered by a talented freshman class—Emily Untener, Madeline Zofkie, Annie Colavincenzo, Lauren Bockrath and Ashley Cattran—the team combined experience with emerging talent.

Coach Matt Sableski strategically transformed key runners, pairing Zech, Bockrath, Cattran and Colavincenzo to maximize speed and endurance. Strong performances at league, district, and regional meets built confidence, though a state title initially seemed out of reach.

At the state finals in Jesse Owens Memorial Stadium, the team delivered a stunning performance. After running mid-pack early, anchor Ashley Cattran surged from fourth to first in the final laps, overtaking the heavily favored Barnesville team with 150 meters remaining. Her decisive kick secured victory in 9:36, finishing two seconds ahead of the field.

This unforgettable win not only earned a state championship but also marked the beginning of sustained excellence for Alter girls track and field.

2007 GIRLS 4x800 RELAY TEAM

STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

Girls track at Alter had become a consistent machine of high performance steeped with success. The cycle of winning continued to strengthen following the 2004 state meet, and the growth of the team and talent went hand in hand. The program was still early in what would become a decade plus of top ranked winning teams.

The 2007 team made up of seniors Lauren Bockrath and Ashley Cattran, junior Hilary Esselstein and sophomore Catherine Crisler, dominated the field all season. Their record was perfect, never losing a race and their average lead ahead of second place finishers was an amazing 15 seconds!

The girls dominated the State Championship race with a time of 9:20, a whopping 10 seconds faster than a talented Peninsula Woodridge team that finished 2nd in 9:30. Seniors Ashley Cattran and Lauren Bockrath dominated the 4x800 relay for four years and were able to conclude their high school careers with a final state meet championship...the same way they started as freshmen!

2009 GIRLS 4x800 RELAY TEAM

STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

The 2009 Alter girls 4x800 relay team upheld the program's tradition of excellence, adding another OHSAA State Championship to a legacy that included titles in 2004 and 2007 and runner-up finishes in 2005 and 2008. Senior Catherine Crisler, determined to finish her career on top, led a young but talented group alongside freshman Olivia Albers and sophomores Ashley Rodgers and Rebecca Esselstein. Under coach Matt Sableski's leadership, the team thrived in a culture of hard work, unity and support.

Their dominance was clear all season, as they consistently outpaced the competition. At the state meet, they delivered a commanding performance, winning in a then-school record time of 9:17—an impressive 11 seconds ahead of second place. The race capped a season in which their superiority was never in doubt. For Crisler, the victory was especially meaningful after illness prevented her from advancing in the open 800m. Anchoring the relay to victory, she and her teammates celebrated both personal resilience and shared success.



Top Left
INDIVIDUAL INDUCTEES
Front: Tom Pernik '75
Doug Penno '03
John Manning
(BROTHER OF FR. MANNING)
Back: Dana Johnson '86
Ashley Cattran '07

Top Right:
Catherine Crisler '09
Ashley Cattran '07
Annie Colavincenzo '07 Libero
Hilary Esselstein '08 Fenton



Middle Left:
Doug Penno '03
Jackson Penno
President Lambert

Middle Right:
Andrew Severyn '02
Chase Freshwater '01
Dutch Collins
(FORMER COACH)

Bottom Left:
2001 BASKETBALL TEAM

Bottom Right:
David Johnson '07
Dana Johnson '86



ALTER HALL of FAME

SCAN THE QR CODE FOR DETAILS TO NOMINATE
A DISTINGUISHED INDIVIDUAL, ATHLETE OR TEAM



faculty and staff awards **2026**

2026 Dave Imber Excellence in Teaching Award Recipients

The Dave C. Imber Excellence in Teaching Award established in 2022 was a parting gift of devotion to the late Dave Imber's teaching colleagues. He created an annual award to recognize outstanding teaching efforts and classroom success. It is a peer nominated award reviewed by a committee who selects a total of five faculty to each receive a \$2,500 financial gift. The selection committee looks for faculty who embody Dave's legacy of love for Catholic education and Alter students. The 2022 Dave C. Imber Excellence in Teaching Award was presented in May 2026 to the following outstanding educators who demonstrate day after day, year after year, their commitment to delivering excellence in all they do inside and outside the classroom.

Michael Dixon
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Heather Dunn
DIRECTOR OF CAMPUS MINISTRY

Kat Hoffman
SCIENCE TEACHER

Susan Morris
SPANISH TEACHER

Michael Thunte
SCIENCE TEACHER

Duplain Family Spirit of Alter Award Recipients

The Duplain Family established a fund to honor faculty or staff members who are truly passionate about Archbishop Alter High School, and who have made it their mission to share the good news about Alter in our community. The following employees were presented with the Spirit of Alter Award in the amount of \$2,500 for exhibiting this faith, pride and spirit, recognizing that every faculty and staff member is essential to the success that we experience at Alter.

Heather Dunn
DIRECTOR OF CAMPUS MINISTRY

Barb Groene
INTERIM PRINCIPAL
AND DEAN OF STUDENTS

Chris Hart
DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS

Laura Eiken
PAYROLL SPECIALIST

Debbie Portman
DIRECTOR OF TECHNOLOGY

SUMMER 2026

distinction





Mock Trial Team Advances to State Competition

MAKING HISTORY



For the first time in the program's ten-year history, a team from Archbishop Alter High School has competed at the Ohio Mock Trial State competition—capping what coaches are calling the program's most successful season to date.

WHAT IS MOCK TRIAL?

Mock Trial is an academic competition run by the Ohio Center for Law Related Education and is the largest high school non-sport competition in the state of Ohio. The program gives students a hands-on look at the American legal system by placing them in the roles of attorneys and witnesses in a simulated court case, argued in front of practicing attorneys and judges.

Students learn far more than legal procedure along the way. Public speaking, critical thinking, teamwork and the real-world application of law are all part of the experience—all within the setting of a realistic trial.

At each competition, teams are divided into two sides: Prosecution and Defense. Alter's Prosecution team faces off against another school's Defense, while their Defense competes against a different school's Prosecution. Each trial begins with opening statements, followed by testimony from four witnesses—two per side—who handle both a direct examination from their own attorney and a cross-examination from the opposing side. Closing statements wrap up the proceedings, and a presiding judge along with two scoring judges evaluate each element of the trial. The team with the highest overall score advances.

A MILESTONE SEASON

Alter's Mock Trial program is entering its eleventh year of competition, and the 2025-26 team made it one to remember. Of the school's three competing teams, two advanced to

Regional competition and one went on to compete at the State level in Columbus—a first for the program.

The road to State took Alter's teams across Ohio and back. This season's competition schedule included tournaments at Case Western Reserve University, West Clermont High School, the University of Cincinnati and The Ohio State University, along with district competitions in both Warren County and Montgomery County, Regionals in Clermont County and the State tournament in Columbus. They also racked up 20 Best Attorney Awards and 30 Best Witness Awards along the way.

Over the years, Alter students have earned numerous Best Attorney and Best Witness awards at tournaments throughout the season, recognition that reflects the program's consistent preparation and commitment to excellence.

WHAT'S NEXT

The momentum isn't slowing down. With a strong group of returning students, Alter's Mock Trial program is already setting its sights higher for the coming year. In addition to their regular competition schedule—with another run toward Regionals and a return to State as goals—the team is planning to compete in a national competition in Tallahassee Florida: the Sunshine State Showdown.

For a program that has grown steadily over the past decade, this season marked a turning point. And if the energy surrounding next year's team is any indication, the best may still be ahead. The Mock Trial Team is advised by Social Studies teacher, Brad Clough and Legal Advisor, Bob Peterson.



A MILESTONE WIN

Alter Science Olympiad Makes State Appearance

IF YOU'VE EVER WATCHED A TRACK MEET, you already understand the basic idea behind Science Olympiad. Instead of sprinters and jumpers, students compete in 23 events spanning biology, chemistry, physics, engineering, earth science and technology. Like a traditional athletic competition, Science Olympiad requires preparation, commitment, coaching and practice throughout the year. Alter High School students have been doing exactly that for nearly two decades.

Founded in 1984, Science Olympiad is one of the premier science competitions in the nation, with nearly 5,500 teams competing at tournaments across all 50 states. Each team divides up across events that fall into three categories: written tests, hands-on lab challenges and engineering build events. Students typically compete in two to four events per tournament, diving deep into their chosen topics well beyond the typical classroom level. In many cases, the exams are considered more rigorous than the equivalent Advanced Placement test.

Ohio has eight regional tournaments across the state, from which teams vie for the opportunity to advance to the state tournament, held each spring at The Ohio State University. Beyond regionals and state, top performers can advance all the way to the national level. Alter also participates in invitational tournaments throughout the season. Those events that serve as valuable practice and preparation.

This year, the Knights had plenty to celebrate. After missing the state tournament last year, the team buckled down, qualified at regionals by finishing 3rd and earned their spot back

in the biggest Ohio high school science competition. The school even held a "Walk to State" send-off to honor the team's accomplishment. The highlight of the season came at the state tournament itself, when Alter beat St. Xavier, a long-time Cincinnati-area powerhouse, for the very first time.

It's the kind of milestone that doesn't happen without serious dedication. Science Olympiad asks students to master specialized content, collaborate with teammates under pressure, and compete with precision against some of the best science students in the state. The payoff goes far beyond a trophy. Participants develop the depth of knowledge, teamwork skills and competitive mindset that serve them well in college and beyond.

After nearly 20 years of Knights competing in Science Olympiad, this year's team added a chapter worth remembering. Science Olympiad is advised by Michael Thunte, Kat Hoffman '16 and Michelle Popp, Science teachers.

IDS OF AMERICA GRAND

SMALL BAND





Big Dreams



The Story of the Archbishop Alter Marching Knights

THE STORY OF THE ARCHBISHOP ALTER MARCHING KNIGHTS is about far more than marching band. It is a story of faith, perseverance and a community that has consistently accomplished more than anyone expected.

When Archbishop Alter High School welcomed its first students in September 1962, instrumental music existed only as an extension of the Hauer Elementary School program. By 1965, the school established its own band program under the direction of G. Ronald Bickert, who recruited a small group of student musicians and began rehearsals in the Little Theater.

The band's first uniforms arrived in 1966, and the first marching band took the field that fall. Though modest in size and resources, the program steadily grew. By 1970, the band had outgrown its rehearsal space, and plans were underway to create a dedicated music facility.

Throughout the 1970s, directors Paul Templon, Fred Miller, and David Leppla helped transform the young program. New facilities opened in 1977, providing much-needed rehearsal and classroom space. Success soon followed. The Alter Concert Band earned its first Superior rating at the Ohio Music Education Association State Contest in 1978 and repeated the achievement in 1980, establishing the program among Ohio's finest.

The band's first recording, *A Little Knight Music*, celebrated the dedication of the students and directors who built the foundation of Alter's musical tradition.

Growing a Tradition

Over the next several decades, the Alter Marching Knights built a reputation for excellence throughout the Miami Valley and beyond. Dedicated directors, staff members, parents and students cultivated a tradition of hard work, pride and family that has long distinguished the program.

Alumni from the late 1980s and early 1990s fondly remember marching in the Holiday at Home Parade, the annual Santa parade at Dayton Mall, and performing at Ohio Stadium. The band also attended summer camps at Bluffton College and traveled to destinations including Cedar Point, Tennessee, Stone Mountain, Georgia, and even Brussels, Belgium, where the Marching Knights performed in the early 1990s.

Unlike many larger competitive programs, Alter's band has always relied on the commitment of every member. Every performer matters. Every rehearsal counts. Every student plays a vital role in the ensemble's success.

As the program continued to grow, the Marching Knights became a familiar presence at football games, community festivals, parades and competitive marching band events. Consistently competing against schools with much larger enrollments, Alter earned a reputation for maximizing talent through discipline, creativity and teamwork. That relentless pursuit of excellence would eventually propel the Marching Knights onto the national stage.

The Modern Era

A new chapter began in 2007 when Todd Tucker became Director of Bands and Fine Arts Department Chair. Under his leadership, the music program expanded from a handful of extracurricular ensembles into a comprehensive fine arts program that includes marching band, jazz ensemble, color guard, winter guard and percussion ensemble.

Competitive success quickly followed. Beginning in 2009, the Marching Knights became regular participants in the prestigious Bands of America Grand National Championships in Indianapolis. Competing against some of the nation's most accomplished programs, Alter consistently proved that size alone does not determine success.

The band captured nine Mid States Band Association Class A championships, including six consecutive titles from 2012 through 2017. In 2013, the Marching Knights reached the Bands of America Grand National Semi-Finals for the first time, finishing among the nation's top Class A programs.

National recognition continued to grow. The band earned third place finishes at Grand Nationals in both 2014 and 2016 and captured its first Bands of America Super Regional Class A championship in St. Louis in 2016.

In 2021, the Marching Knights returned to the national spotlight with a second-place finish in Class A at Grand Nationals while also earning the Class A Visual Performance caption award—the highest national placement in school history at that time.

A Championship for the Ages

Everything came together in November 2022.

Performing their Stevie Wonder-inspired production, *Overjoyed*, the Marching Knights were crowned Bands of America Grand National Class A Champions at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis.

The achievement was remarkable not only because of the title itself, but because of who earned it. With just 36 members, Alter was one of the smallest bands ever to compete at that level. The ensemble also performed without a drum major, a rarity among national finalists.

The championship represented the culmination of decades of commitment from students, directors, parents, alumni and supporters who believed that excellence is not measured by numbers.

Looking Ahead

In 2018, Alter opened its \$4.3 million Conservatory of the Arts, featuring a two-story band hall and dedicated performance spaces. The facility provides today's students with opportunities that earlier generations could only imagine. Yet while the facilities, uniforms and performances have evolved, the heart of the program remains unchanged.

The Marching Knights continue to serve as musical ambassadors for Archbishop Alter High School, performing throughout the community while competing on regional and national stages. Their story demonstrates that determination, discipline and unity can overcome any perceived disadvantage.

From a handful of student musicians rehearsing in the Little Theater to a national championship performance in Indianapolis, the Archbishop Alter Marching Knights have built one of the most inspiring traditions in Ohio marching band history.



SMALL BAND. *Big Dreams. Extraordinary results.*



Come Celebrate 60 Years of Band at Homecoming this Fall!

OCTOBER 16, 2026

The Alter Marching Knights will host alumni and their families at a pregame tailgate before the Homecoming Game October 16 in the Bellbrook High School parking lot at 5:30 p.m. to visit with friends young and old.

Want to play? Bring your own instrument (Don't have one? Cowbells, tambourines and kazoos are welcomed and encouraged). Get your *Alma Mater*, *Fight Song* and other pep tunes ready!

Email Advancement@alterhs.org to be sure you are on the list to get updates this Fall.



Excellence in Artistry

ALTER STUDENTS
EARN 48 REGIONAL
SCHOLASTIC ART AWARDS

Creativity, craftsmanship and personal expression are on display every day in the visual arts program at Archbishop Alter High School. This year, Alter students were recognized for those talents by earning 48 awards in the Regional Scholastic Art Awards competition, including four Gold Keys, twelve Silver Keys and thirty-two Honorable Mentions.

The visual arts program at Alter provides students with opportunities to explore a wide range of artistic disciplines through courses including Art I-IV, Ceramics I-IV, Digital Photography, Architecture, Product Design, Portfolio Studies, AP 2D Art & Design and AP 3D Art & Design. Whether working with clay, paint, graphite, digital media or fashion, students are encouraged to develop both technical skills and their own unique artistic voice.

Throughout the year, students create original works that are displayed in school exhibitions, featured in portfolios, and submitted to local, regional and national competitions. Students enrolled in advanced courses such as AP Art & Design and Portfolio Studies develop sustained bodies of work centered on personal themes and artistic inquiry, often producing college-level portfolios that showcase their creative growth and artistic vision.

One of the most prestigious opportunities available to high school artists is participation in the *Scholastic Art & Writing Awards*, the nation's longest-running and most distinguished recognition program for creative teenagers. Since 1923, the program has recognized young artists and writers who demonstrate exceptional creativity and skill. Some notable winners include Andy Warhol and Sylvia Plath.

In the Dayton region, artwork is submitted through K12 Gallery & TEJAS, where professional artists, educators and arts professionals evaluate thousands of student entries each year. Works are judged on three key criteria: originality, technical skill and the emergence of a personal vision or voice. Students may receive Honorable Mention, Silver Key or Gold Key recognition, with Gold Key recipients advancing to national adjudication.

This year, four Alter students earned Gold Key honors:

- Sophia Cason-Noland
Cory | Drawing
- Juliana Montoya
Amber Brown Teapot Set | Ceramics & Glass
- Megan Barker
Nathan's Portrait | Drawing
- Veronica Johnston
Vase | Ceramics & Glass

Notably, two of Alter's four Gold Keys were awarded in Ceramics and Glass, highlighting the strength and continued growth of the school's ceramics program, Alter ceramic students accounted for 45% of the region's ceramics and glass category, and 10% of the 2D category.

Several students also earned multiple awards, demonstrating a sustained commitment to artistic excellence and their focus on expanding their mediums and mastery. Their achievements reflect countless hours spent developing ideas, refining techniques, revising compositions and pursuing creative challenges both inside and outside the classroom. One of greatest benefits of the Alter fine arts curriculum is that students can become multifaceted in all mediums, or develop and hone a specific skill from introductory level to AP.

The success of Alter's artists is a testament not only to their talent and dedication, but also to the school's commitment to fostering creativity, innovation and artistic growth. As students continue to explore new ideas and develop their skills, they carry forward a tradition of excellence that reflects the mission of Archbishop Alter High School and the transformative power of the arts.

Eric Hall, Visual Arts Teacher

"Their achievements reflect countless hours spent developing ideas, refining techniques, revising compositions and pursuing creative challenges both inside and outside the classroom."

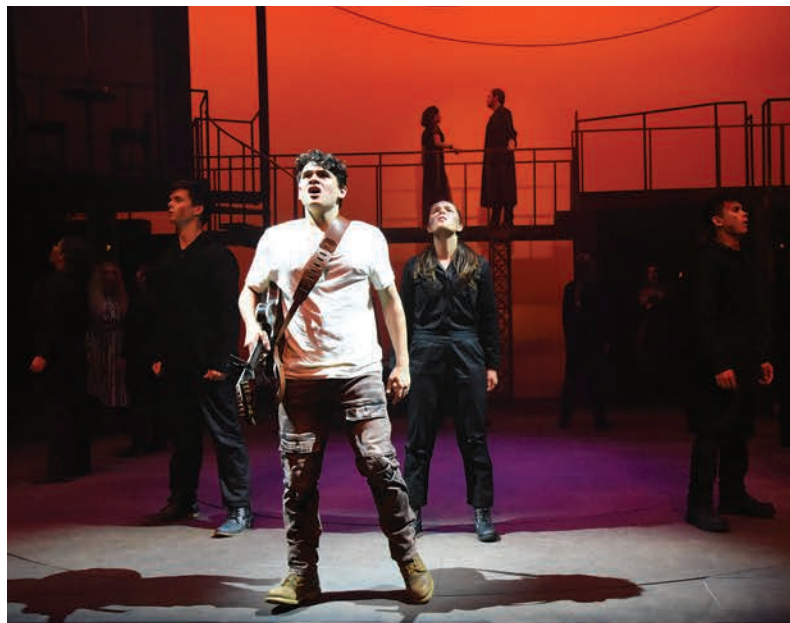


Castle Players **IN THE SPOTLIGHT**

THE ALTER CASTLE PLAYERS enjoyed an outstanding season, performing to sold-out audiences with their productions of *Hadestown*, *The Canterville Ghost* and *Seussical*. All three productions were honored with Outstanding Production awards at the Miami Valley High School Theatre Awards (MVHSTA), held at the Schuster Center in June.

In addition, five Castle Players were awarded Outstanding Lead Performer in a Musical honors and showcased their talents by performing solos from their award-winning roles during the MVHSTA ceremony. Altogether, the Alter Castle Players received an impressive 57 awards across multiple categories, highlighting the exceptional talent, dedication and professionalism of the Alter Theatre Program.

Looking ahead, the 2026–2027 season will feature *Dear Evan Hansen*, *Peter Pan Goes Wrong* and *9 to 5: The Musical*. Season tickets will go on sale in early September at alterhs.BookTix.com.





THESE COMFORTING, COLORFUL HEARTS LIVE ON THE WALLS OF CAROLINE'S SPACE IN SETON HALL

the ECHO Program

EXPANDING MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT FOR ALTER STUDENTS

Recognizing the growing need for student mental health services in Catholic schools, Brother Raymond Fitz, President Emeritus and Professor of Social Change at the University of Dayton, helped inspire the creation of the ECHO Program—Every Child Deserves Hope and Opportunity. Through a partnership with the University of Dayton Center for Catholic Education, ECHO now provides vital mental health resources to Alter and 23 other Catholic schools across the greater Dayton area.

The need for programs like ECHO continues to grow. National data shows that nearly one-third of teens experience anxiety disorders, half of all lifetime mental illness cases begin by age 14, and suicide remains the second leading cause of death among children ages 10–14. In the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, Alter also experienced a significant rise in student mental health concerns, prompting school leadership to seek additional support for students and families.

In fall of 2024, licensed therapist Caroline Barhorst joined Alter through the ECHO Program to provide onsite counseling and behavioral health support. ECHO therapists and social workers collaborate closely with school administrators, teachers, students and families to address non-academic barriers to learning, including trauma, anxiety, depression, grief, family instability and exposure to violence or addiction.

Because ECHO counselors are embedded within the school community each day, they are able to build meaningful relationships and provide immediate, accessible support without the barriers often associated with traditional counseling services, such as insurance referrals or long appointment wait times.

At Alter, Caroline has provided crisis intervention, counseling, assessments, and cognitive behavioral therapy to help students develop healthy coping strategies, communication

skills and emotional regulation techniques. Her work focuses on helping students identify and manage negative thought patterns so they can better navigate challenges and remain focused on learning.

From the beginning, Caroline intentionally immersed herself in student life to build trust and visibility. Students regularly see her in the cafeteria, at Mass and participating in activities as a moderator for Hope Squad, Key Club and Kairos retreats, as well as a guest speaker in health classes. One of her most meaningful milestones came when students began independently seeking her support. “When students started self-referring for counseling sessions, I knew trust had been established,” she shared.

“When students started self-referring for counseling sessions, I knew trust had been established.”

Caroline also encourages open dialogue through an anonymous “question basket” activity used during health classes, where students can confidentially submit concerns or questions related to difficult topics, including anxiety, relationships and suicide. This exercise has become an important tool for fostering communication and

reducing stigma surrounding mental health.

This year, Caroline expanded her support to faculty and staff and is already developing programming for seniors focused on managing transition-related stress and preparing for life after high school.

President Lambert, who helped bring ECHO to Alter, has witnessed the program’s impact firsthand and reflected, “It’s difficult to imagine how we managed without this level of support for our students and families.”

Initially funded through Ohio Auxiliary dollars, ECHO continues through a combination of public funding and private support. For more information about ECHO at Alter, contact Alter Advancement at advancement@alterhs.org.



IN THE SUMMER OF 2016, theology instructors Ryan Mahle '04 and Carleen Suttman found themselves reflecting in a parking lot after attending the Steubenville Summer Catholic Youth Conference in Steubenville, Ohio. Inspired by the enthusiasm and spiritual energy of the more than 100 Alter students who attended that year, they began discussing how to sustain that momentum once students returned to campus. From that conversation, the vision for a new student faith organization was born—one centered on prayer, fellowship and evangelization.

Mr. Mahle soon undertook the task of naming the group. Drawing inspiration from Scripture, he chose “Upper Room,” a name rich in both symbolic and spiritual meaning. In the Gospels, the Upper Room is the setting for pivotal moments in the life of Christ and the early Church, including the Last Supper, the Washing of the Feet, and Christ’s appearances after the Resurrection. It also served as a place of refuge, unity, prayer and preparation—where the disciples gathered to receive the Holy Spirit before being sent forth in mission. The name reflected the vision for a student community where young people could deepen their relationship with God, learn to hear His voice, pray together and courageously share the Gospel with others.

Now celebrating its tenth year, Upper Room has evolved into a thriving student-led ministry that continues to welcome all students each Wednesday morning at 7:30 a.m. in the chapel. Meetings follow a rotating format led entirely by student leaders and include activities such as:

- Community-building opportunities that foster authentic friendships
- Prayer experiences, including the Rosary, Lectio Divina, Visio Divina, Eucharistic exposition, worship music and prayer services
- Guest testimonies focused on faith and personal witness
- Presentations and discussions on the saints, sacraments, Catholic teachings and other aspects of the faith

Upper Room’s leadership model is intentionally designed for long-term sustainability. Graduating senior leaders prayerfully identify, recruit and mentor future student leaders before leaving Alter. Former faculty member and Upper Room

UPPER ROOM

from fearful followers to bold witnesses



mentor Carleen Suttman has been continually inspired by “the dedication and faithfulness of Upper Room leaders who provide well-prepared lessons and live the mission daily.” Their investment ensures that the ministry remains vibrant and rooted in authentic student leadership.

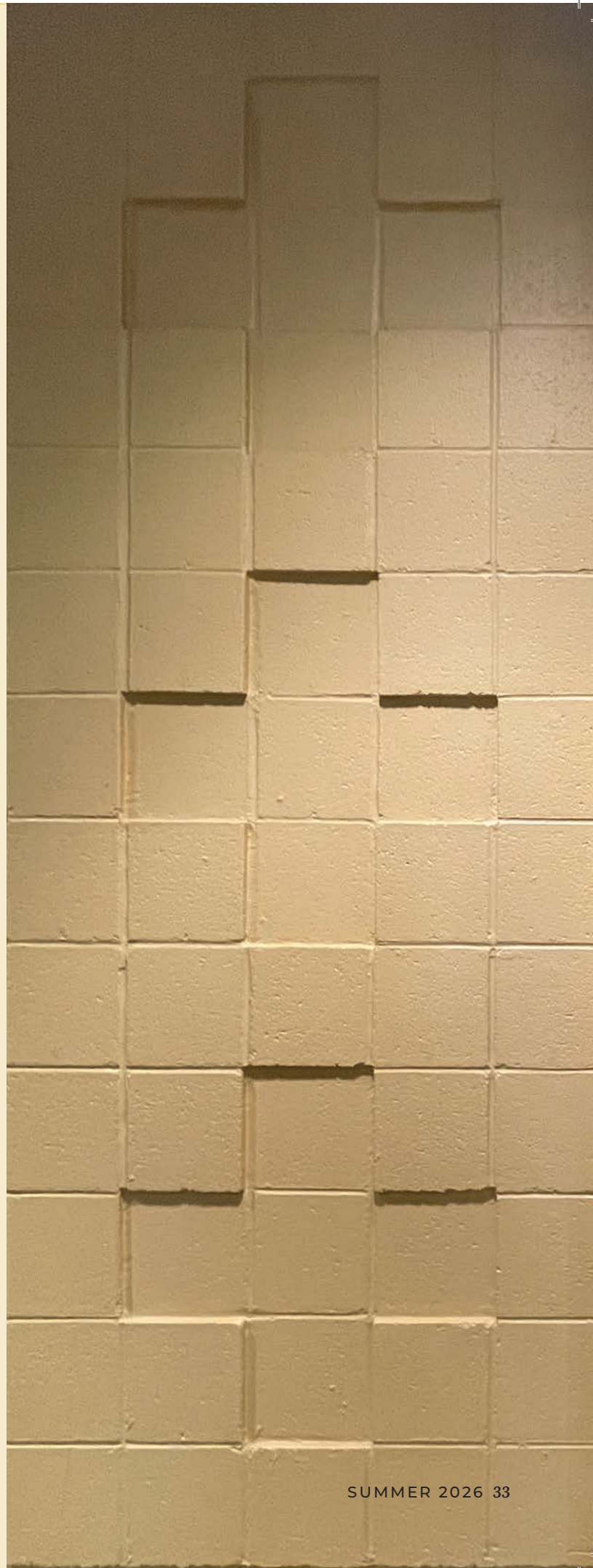
For alumna Maria Jasek '18, who first attended Upper Room during her junior year, the experience left a lasting impact. “Upper Room was a place of praise and worship where I felt a close presence of God,” she shared. “The chapel, the music and the people made it unlike anything else. I am so proud that Upper Room has continued to endure as an important faith opportunity at Alter.”

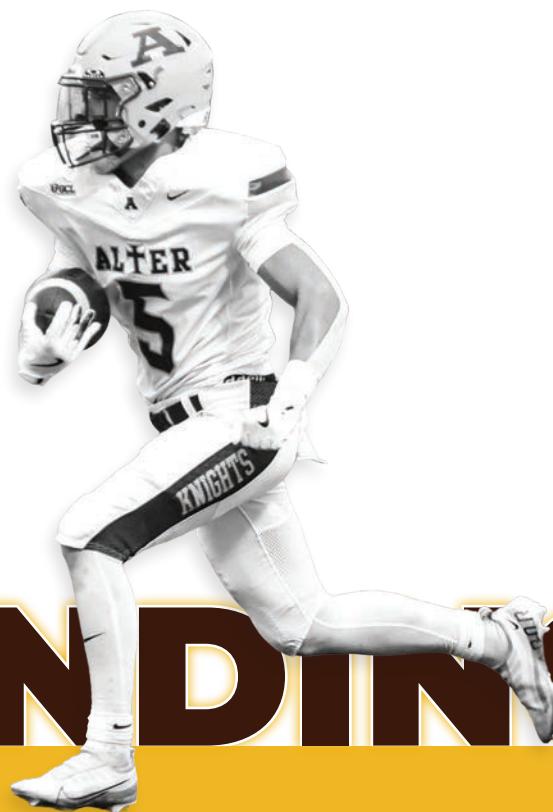
Current freshman Dorothy Back also discovered a meaningful sense of belonging through the ministry. Though initially hesitant to attend, she finally decided to participate after months of curiosity sparked by her involvement in Women’s Fellowship. During her first meeting, Dorothy experienced what she described as a powerful moment of openness and grace while sharing a personal fear during a group activity. She explained that she had been praying for God to “use me according to His plan,” and found that Upper Room provided a space where she could begin discerning that call more deeply.

Campus Ministry Director Heather Dunn believes the ministry’s strength lies in the relationships it fosters. “Upper Room gives students the opportunity to know one another on a deeper level through faith,” she said. “That connection and time spent praying together creates a strong sense of community. Faith is meant to be lived beyond the walls of Alter High School, and Upper Room seeks to form disciples who are prepared to do just that.”

Since 2019, Norm Rich has moderated Upper Room and has continued to guide the group with an emphasis on strong peer leadership and spiritual growth. Under his leadership, Upper Room remains committed to helping students cultivate a closer relationship with God while encouraging one another to live out their faith with confidence and purpose.

What began as a simple conversation after a summer conference has grown into a lasting tradition of discipleship at Alter High School—one that continues to transform students from fearful followers into bold witnesses of Christ.





OUTSTANDING

ALTER ATHLETICS CELEBRATES A RUN OF SUCCESS IN 25-26

Alter Athletics once again experienced an incredible year of success, with many of our teams competing and representing Alter at the highest level. We extend our sincere gratitude to our senior student-athletes for their leadership, dedication, and commitment to our athletic programs. Your impact on Alter Athletics will be lasting, and we wish you the very best in your future endeavors.

FALL SPORTS

Our football team had an outstanding season, finishing as GCL Co-Champions. Drew Cripps was named GCL Offensive Player of the Year, while Nolan Ogburn earned GCL Defensive Player of the Year honors.

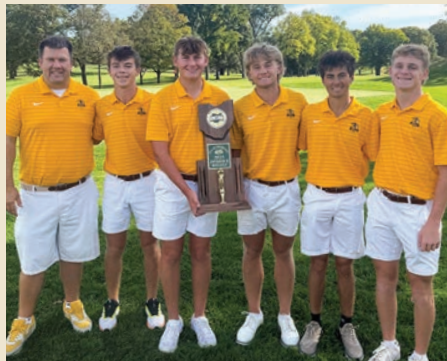
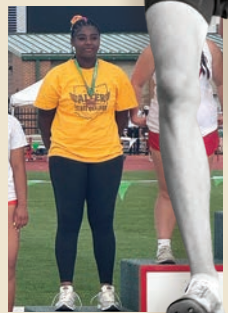
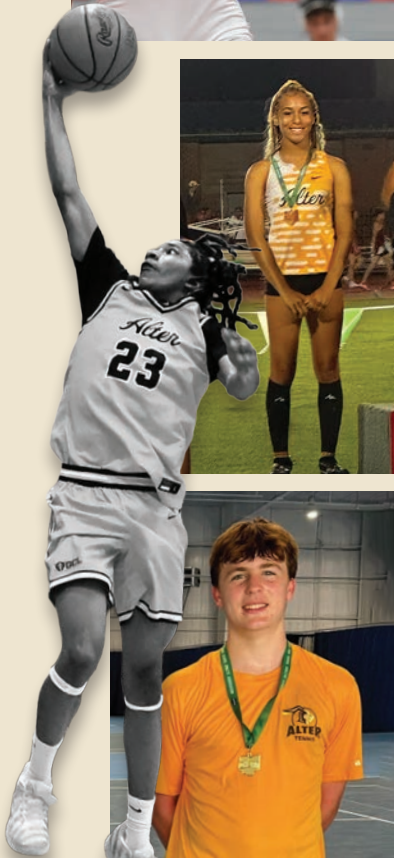
Both cross country programs had impressive seasons. The girls' team finished 3rd at the GCL Meet and produced nine regional qualifiers: Veronica Johnston, Nora Blakeley, Cora Simpson, Kenzie Dodge, Juliana Montoya, Maddie Zimmer, Sarah Kenyon, Brie Klatte and Cam Crotty. The boys' team also placed 3rd at the GCL Meet and featured regional qualifiers Bennett Rau and Matthew Orlando, with Matthew advancing to become a state qualifier.

Girls' tennis celebrated success both on and off the court. Megan Kreusch was recognized as the MVTCA Assistant Coach of the Year. Five players earned academic recognition from both the Ohio Tennis Coaches Association and the Miami Valley Tennis Coaches Association. Megan Brandt received MVTCA Academic Recognition and the prestigious OTCA Gold Ball, while Lauren Bigby, Marin Carpenter, Liz Doorley and Serena Paul earned MVTCA Academic Recognition and OTCA Silver Ball honors.

Golf continued its tradition of excellence this season. The girls' team qualified for districts, while the boys' team delivered another historic campaign—winning the GCL Championship, District Championship, and capturing their fourth consecutive State Championship. Andrew Gochenouer finished as the Individual State Runner-Up, while Matthew Kreusch earned both GCL Player of the Year and Southwest District Player of the Year honors. Alex Schuster was recognized as both GCL Co-Coach of the Year and Southwest District Division II Coach of the Year.

Our soccer programs also enjoyed tremendous success. The girls' soccer team finished as District Runners-Up, while Andy Vollmar was named Miami Valley District Division IV Private Coach of the Year and Lauren Miller earned Miami Valley District Division IV Private Assistant Coach of the Year honors. Boys' soccer also finished as District Runners-Up, highlighted by Thomas Howell being named both GCL Co-Coach of the Year and Miami Valley District Division IV Coach of the Year. Mason Miller capped off an incredible season by earning GCL Player of the Year, Miami Valley District Division IV Player of the Year and All-American honors.





WINTER SPORTS

Our basketball programs enjoyed strong seasons on the hardwood. The girls' basketball team captured a District Championship and finished as Regional Runners-Up. The boys' basketball team claimed GCL Championships, District Championships, and advanced to regional competition. Will Peagler was honored as GCL Player of the Year.

The swim program produced five state qualifiers this season. Emerson Cason represented the girls' team at state, while Henry Kaufman, Nathan Kyre, Hank McCall and Max McCall qualified on the boys' side. Nathan Kyre was also recognized as the GCL Athlete of the Year.

Wrestling once again showcased excellence across the board. Alora Strauser captured a GCL Championship and earned 3rd place at the State Tournament. The boys' wrestling team claimed the GCL Team Championship and finished 3rd overall at the State Meet. Individual state placers included Bronson Begley (3rd), Dash Koelker (5th), Blake Foucht (7th) and RJ Morgan (8th). Keith Butler qualified for state in the heavy-weight division, while Rod Owens cemented his dominance by winning his second consecutive Individual State Championship.

Our hockey team had a remarkable season, capturing the SWOHSHL League Championship for the first time in four years.

SPRING SPORTS

Boys' lacrosse continued to excel, with Ed Montgomery being recognized as GCL Coach of the Year.

Boys' tennis enjoyed another successful season as Michael Shope and Moses Mabarak advanced to districts. Michael Shope continued his impressive postseason run by qualifying for state and earning GCL Player of the Year honors. Coach Megan Kreusch was also recognized with the prestigious OHSAA Clair Muscaro Sportsmanship Award.

Track and field shattered records throughout the season and delivered outstanding performances at the State Meet. Da'Shai Shepard earned 6th place in shot put, while Johanna Washington finished 6th in the 100-meter dash and 7th in the 200-meter dash. The 4x200 relay team placed 5th in the state, while the 4x400 relay team finished the season as State Champions. Both relay teams featured Tobias Garrison, Rhylen Dawson, Chimdi Eze, Quardrell Thomas and Pierce Dressman.

As another incredible athletic year ends, we celebrate all of our student athletes who competed with passion, determination, and pride while representing Alter at the highest level. We are excited to build on this success and look forward to another outstanding year ahead.



FORMER ALTER COACH RECEIVES OHIO BOYS SCHOLASTIC VOLLEYBALL COACHES ASSOCIATION INAUGURAL HALL OF FAME HONOR

THE OHIO BOYS SCHOLASTIC VOLLEYBALL COACHES ASSOCIATION (OBSVCA) inducted former Alter Boys Volleyball coach Craig Erford into its inaugural Hall of Fame class on June 12 at Wilmington College. The honor recognized individuals whose extraordinary achievements and lasting contributions have helped shape boys' volleyball in Ohio.

Craig Erford established himself as one of the most successful coaches in Ohio boys' volleyball history during his 12-year run as head coach at Archbishop Alter High School. From 2010 through 2021, Erford guided the Knights to a remarkable 217–67 record, eight Greater Catholic League championships, nine regional championships and six Ohio Division II State Championships. His teams consistently excelled on the court and in the classroom. His teams produced 29 All-Ohio players and three State Players of the Year. Erford's coaching excellence earned him numerous league, regional and state Coach of the Year awards, culminating in the prestigious 2021 USMC/AVCA National High School Boys Volleyball Coach of the Year honor. Beyond the championships and accolades, Erford's greatest legacy is reflected in the countless student-athletes, coaches and families whose lives were positively influenced by his leadership, mentorship and passion for the game.

The OBSVCA Hall of Fame recognizes individuals whose accomplishments, leadership and dedication have made a significant and lasting impact on boys' scholastic volleyball. As an inaugural inductee, Craig Erford exemplifies the excellence, commitment and character that have helped elevate the sport across the state.

SUMMER 2026

connection





ALTER Fish Fry!

RAISES \$48,000 for the Annual Fund

After years away, bringing back our beloved Fish Fry was both exciting and a little uncertain. Hundreds of parents, alumni, grandparents, faculty, staff and friends filled our school with laughter, conversation, and the unmistakable spirit that makes Archbishop Alter High School so special. Seeing generations of Knights together again reminded us that Alter is not just a school building, but a living, faith-filled family. Thank you to everyone who purchased tickets, invited friends, bid in the silent auction, tried their luck in the 50/50 or supported us through sponsorships or carry-out orders. Your presence and generosity made a powerful statement: this tradition matters. Because of you, we raised over \$48,000 for Alter High School!

Funds raised from the Fish Fry and AlterFest support student activities, programs, services and special events that enhance educational opportunities at Alter. A special word of gratitude goes to our incredible volunteers and sponsors—you gave your time, resources and talent so generously. Quite simply, the Fish Fry returned because you stepped forward. Special thanks to the chair, Diana Woods and the committee of people who took the lead! We are deeply grateful for the enthusiasm and support shown this year. If this first year back is any indication, the Fish Fry has a bright future ahead. Thank you for helping us bring this cherished tradition back to Alter High School. **Save the date for next year: February 26, 2027!**



ALTER Fest!

BRINGING THE COMMUNITY TOGETHER FOR **45 YEARS**

September 4-6, 2026

For 45 years AlterFest has been more than just a festival to alumni, family and friends—it's a Labor Day weekend tradition that brings the entire community together. Each year, thousands gather at Archbishop Alter High School to enjoy great entertainment, delicious food, exciting rides and the spirit that makes Alter so special.

This year's AlterFest promises to be bigger and better than ever. Festival-goers can enjoy the return of the world famous chicken dinner, a lineup of 10 bands throughout the Labor Day weekend, featuring some of the Miami Valley's most popular local performers. Whether you're looking to dance, relax with friends or enjoy live music under the lights, there's something for everyone.

Families will find amusement rides and additional games designed especially for children. New food vendors will join the festival this year, complementing AlterFest favorites and offering even more options for hungry guests.

The popular beer and wine garden returns with an expanded selection of craft beers and hard seltzers, while longtime festival traditions remain at the heart of the event. Guests can once again try their luck at blackjack, poker, Big Six and instant bingo—all games that have become annual favorites.

No visit to AlterFest is complete without enjoying the full food menu, highlighted by the festival's famous cabbage rolls, a longtime crowd favorite.

Families can also celebrate their Knight pride by purchasing a Family Banner, which returns this year as a visible show of support for Archbishop Alter High School. Businesses looking to connect with the community are encouraged to explore corporate sponsorship opportunities that help make the festival possible while providing valuable exposure to thousands of attendees.

Mark your calendar and join us for another unforgettable Labor Day weekend celebration.

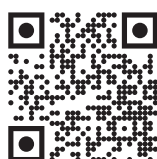
For schedules, sponsorship information, Family Banner purchases and festival news, visit alterhs.org/alterfest. Follow @AlterFest on Facebook and Instagram for updates and announcements. Contact AlterFest Chair Diana Woods at dlmw@aol.com for more information or to volunteer.





— OUR FESTIVAL. OUR COMMUNITY. OUR TRADITION. —

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



To learn more, use the QR code
or visit alterhs.org/alterfest

ALTERFEST LEVELED SPONSORSHIPS

PRESENTING SPONSOR – \$10,000

- Exclusive Promotion
- Spotlight in future RoundTable Magazine
- Promotion announced at all Fall Home Games
- Knight Times Monthly Digital promotion
- Yearlong Stadium Fence Line Banner
- Alter Website and Social Media Promotion
- VIP Parking Pass for AlterFest
- Banner promotion under the tent at AlterFest
- Weekly Digital Newsletter Promotion

KNIGHTS SPONSOR – \$5,000

- Promotion announced at all Fall Home Games
- Knight Times Monthly Digital promotion
- Yearlong Stadium Fence Line Banner
- Alter Website and Social Media Promotion
- VIP Parking Pass for AlterFest
- Banner promotion under the tent at AlterFest
- Weekly Digital Newsletter Promotion

EXCALIBUR SPONSOR – \$2,500

- Yearlong Stadium Fence Line Banner
- Alter Website and Social Media Promotion
- VIP Parking Pass for AlterFest
- Banner promotion under the tent at AlterFest
- Weekly Digital Newsletter Promotion

GOLD SPONSOR – \$1,000

- VIP Parking Pass for AlterFest
- Banner promotion under the tent at AlterFest
- Weekly Digital Newsletter Promotion

BROWN SPONSOR – \$500

- Banner promotion under the tent at AlterFest
- Weekly Digital Newsletter Promotion



FAMILY BANNER SPONSORSHIP

Families in our community have the opportunity to show their support for Alter with a Family Banner displayed during AlterFest Weekend. The banners are a great way to celebrate your Alter Pride for years to come.

NEW FAMILY SPONSOR \$300 (first year purchase; includes banner production)
Annual renewal \$150 with reminders emailed yearly

All existing Family Banners will continue to be displayed.



CREATE YOUR LEGACY through planned giving

PLANNED GIVING

Planned gifts can be received by Alter during or after your lifetime with potentially significant tax advantages.

Common Examples:

Gift some or all of your IRA Required Minimum Distribution (RMD)

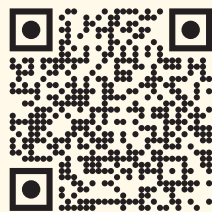
Gift appreciated stocks

Include Alter in your will

Name Alter as a beneficiary of a life insurance policy

Create a donor advised fund to provide periodic gifts to Alter at your discretion

These are only a few options to consider for a planned gift.



To learn more, use this QR code or visit alterhs.myplannedgift.org or contact Cari Wallace, Director of Advancement by phone at 937-428-5331, or email Cari.Wallace@alterhs.org

TURN YOUR TAXES INTO A GIFT TO ALTER!

The State of Ohio allows you to receive a dollar-for-dollar tax credit on your state income taxes with a gift to a Scholarship Granting Organization (SGO). Gifts to an SGO made by April 15, 2027 or before you file your taxes (whichever comes first) can earn a non-refundable tax credit up to \$750 (\$1,500 if filing jointly) against your 2026 Ohio state tax liability. When making your gift, designate Alter High School to receive your gift that will directly provide financial aid to Alter students.

How Can I Receive The Ohio Tax Credit?

Step 1

Estimate your State of Ohio tax liability. Review your 2024 Form 1040 IT, Line 8c.

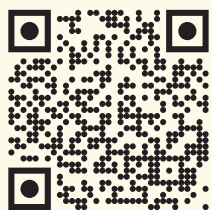
Step 2

Donate online or by check to the Cincinnati Education Foundation (CEF) Scholarship Granting Organization (SGO).

Step 3

Complete your State of Ohio income tax return. Include your contribution receipt letter from the CEF and claim your tax credit.

Important Notes About Gifts To The CEF-SGO:



If your estimated Ohio income tax liability is less than \$750 individually/ \$1,500 jointly, only gift up to your tax liability.

If you are married filing jointly and want to earn the maximum tax credit, EACH spouse must make a separate gift of \$750 to receive the \$1,500 tax credit.

To learn more, use this QR code or visit Catholicbestchoice.org/sgo



upcoming reunions

Class of 1971 55th Reunion

October 1-3, 2026

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2026 at 4:30 P.M.

Buffalo Wild Wings
Town & Country Shopping Center
262 East Stroop Road
Kettering, OH 45429
Show up when you can!

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2026

Golf Scramble
for classmates and / or spouses

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2026 AT 2:30 P.M.

Marion's Piazza
8991 Kingsridge Road
Dayton, OH 45458
No need to pay up front;
pay as you go for food and drink.

RSVP coming in July!

Class Champions

Patty Crotty Steck, Jane Henahan Wolf
Maureen O'Donnell Becker, Lou Brinkman

Class of 1986 40th Reunion

September 4 & 6, 2026

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2026 6-11 P.M.

AlterFest Alumni Lounge
Alter High School Conservatory of the Arts

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2026 4-8 P.M.

Bellbrook Brewing Company
26 East Franklin Street
Bellbrook, OH 45305

More information coming soon!

Class Champions

Beth Prevish Zientko, Suzette Haley Koller
1986Alter@gmail.com

Class of 1991 25th Reunion

September 4 & 6, 2026

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2026 6-11 P.M.

AlterFest Alumni Lounge
Alter High School Conservatory of the Arts

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2026
7 P.M.-MIDNIGHT**

Mr. Boro's Tavern
495 North Main Street
Springboro, OH 45066
\$20 per person covers 1 drink and appetizers.

Class Champions

Ellen Miller, EMA715@ME.com
Alissa Gantt, BCGantt13@AOL.com

Class of 2006 20th Reunion

Class of 2021 5th Reunion

Information coming soon!





Scan the QR code
or visit
alterhs.org/alumni
for up-to-date
information
on class reunions
and more!

WHERE ARE YOU NOW?

Tell us how you're doing!

The average American moves once every five years.

We know you're not average (after all, you are an
Alter graduate) but we'd love to stay in touch.

Near or far, in the United States or abroad,
let us know where you are.

Simply fill out and submit the form at
alterhs.org/update-your-information/.

That way we can keep you up to date on what's
happening at Alter High School, invite you to special
events and make sure you get access to all the
perks of being a Knight. This information is shared
with your reunion committees.

No matter where you go,
your Alter Alumni Association
will always be here for you!



ALTER ALUMNI, HAVE YOU JOINED OUR EXCLUSIVE ALUMNIFIRE?

ALUMNIFIRE is the ultimate platform
for fostering connections among
our valued alumni community!

Here, you can easily reconnect with
fellow graduates, explore new career
opportunities tailored to your field,
and stay informed about the latest
news and events at Alter.

Whether you're looking to network,
seek advice or simply catch up,
ALUMNIFIRE is your go-to resource
for maintaining and enriching your
professional and personal relationships.

Join us today and ignite the potential
within Alter's alumni network!

VISIT **[ALTERHS.ALUMNIFIRE.COM](https://alterhs.org/alumnifire.com)** TO JOIN
THE ALTER FOREVER KNIGHTS ONLINE
ALUMNI NETWORK TODAY.

ALUMNIFIRE

In Memoriam 2025-26

We offer families of the deceased our deepest sympathy and prayers.
We appreciate those of you who write to inform us of deaths within the Alter family.
You may provide information by calling the Advancement Office at (937)428-5335
or emailing renee.miller@alterhs.org.

The following were shared with us between May 9, 2025 through June 5, 2026.
A full list of deceased Alter Alumni can be found at alterhs.org/in-memoriam-alumni-directory.

Erin Sierschula Abbot '96
June 2025
Daughter of Bonnie Hecht '69
Sierschula and Gary '69
(deceased), Sister of Mark '99
and Matthew '01

Daniel Armstrong '76
January 2026

Lori Balster '91
January 2026

William "Bill" Beachler '98
July 2025
Son of Jeanne Keyes '68
Beachler; Brother of Daniel '01
and Aubry '08

Barbara Bitticker
May 2026
Retired Alter Faculty

Carolyn Wisch Clark '83
March 2026

Betty Ritterhoff Cotter '71
September 2025

Robert G. Cox '72
October 2025

Nicholas Craft '17
December 2025
Brother of Alex '15

Ronald T. Deger, Sr.
April 2025
Father of Ron Jr. '84,
David '85 and John '89

Sue Hannan
February 2026
Former Alter Staff

Paul Hickey '66
February 2026

Michael Idell '74
March 2026
Brother of Susan Idell '68
Friedmann, Linda Idell '69 Miller,
William '71, Christopher '79
(deceased), Kathleen Idell '80
Kwolek, Mary Beth Idell '83
McIntosh and Lisa Idell '86 Sassi

Marge Klein
May 2026
Mother of Katherine Klein '74
Kane, Jon '77, Kevin '79 (deceased),
Ann Marie Klein '82, Dan '83,
Tricia Klein '85 Allen and Maggie
Klein '88 Abruzzese

Jeffrey Linck
January 2026
Father of Andrew '95
and Jared '99

William Lincoln
February 2026
Father of Christopher '01

Matthew Horstman '86
November 2025

**Barbara Suttmiller
Murtaugh '73**
March 2023

Virginia Osburn
May 2025
Retired Alter Staff

Diane Balsamo Rupp '76
February 2026

Stephen Spraley '71
August 2025

Benjamin Stearns '22
November 2025
Brother of Zach '20, Elizabeth '24
and Madeline '28

John N. Taylor, Jr.
September 2025
Scholarship Benefactor,
Father of Elizabeth '78
(deceased), Anne Taylor '82
Heutel, Anthony '82, Gregory '82
and Margaret Taylor '87 Hogarth

Donald Thomas '76
March 2026

Joseph Wade
September 2024
Father of Lori Wade '82
Moodie, Mark '84 and
Sharon Wade '88 Maurer

Howard Walker '71
February 2026

Ed Wendeln '69
October 2025
Brother of Diane Wendeln '71
Schulte, Mary Wendeln '73
Seibel, Janet '75, John '77,
Judith Wendeln '78 Miller,
Donna Wendeln '80 Bange,
Michael '82 and Karen
Wendeln '83 Sparling

May their souls, and the souls of all the faithful departed,
through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.



A career
of character,
commitment
and faith

CHRISTINA HART '80

Former Alter Coach and Alterknights.tv broadcaster Theresa Check was the first to recognize Chris Hart's talents in the fall 1976 as a freshman PE student. Chris' relentless enthusiasm would make her a delight to coach, provide player leadership for her Alter and Xavier teams and set the stage for prolific success as a player, coach and athletic director.

Coach Hart served 39 years in the role of head girls' basketball coach, the first seven at the College of Wooster and the last 32 years at Archbishop Alter High School. Under her leadership, Alter's basketball program has achieved extraordinary success, including:

- 5 OHSAA State Championships
- 3 State Runner-Up finishes
- 10 Regional Championships
- 17 District Championships
- 11 Greater Catholic League Championships

Beyond wins and titles, Coach Hart is widely respected for the culture she builds—one grounded in faith, discipline, accountability and service. Her coaching philosophy centers on servant leadership, emphasizing character development alongside athletic excellence. Mental toughness, sportsmanship, integrity and strong relationships form the foundation of her program.

Chris has a long history of earning accolades and awards, most recently she received the 2024–2025 NFHS National Girls Basketball Coach of the Year from the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS). Additionally, Coach Hart was recognized as Ohio State Coach of the Year and

Sectional Coach of the Year. On the national stage, she joins an elite group of just 24 coaches nationwide, representing 24 different sports, to receive this prestigious honor. Consideration for this award is given only to coaches who exemplify outstanding character, leadership and advocacy for their sport—standards Coach Hart has embodied for nearly four decades.

In early spring, President Lambert announced Coach Hart's retirement to the Alter community, sharing, "For more than three decades, Chris has been a constant and inspiring presence in the life of our school. Her leadership has shaped generations of student-athletes, coaches and families, helping to build and sustain the proud tradition of excellence that defines Alter athletics. Beyond wins and championships, Chris has always kept the focus on where it belongs—on the formation of young men and women of character, commitment and faith."

Dave Homan '87 was MC to a special Pep Rally Celebration on June 4, 2026, honoring Chris' lifetime achievements. Special guests Tom Donnelly, GCL Commissioner and Matt Daniels, AOC Superintendent offered remarks and the Alter Band, Cheerleaders and Lancerettes pumped up the crowd for this final tribute.

Thank you, Chris Hart '80, for your loyalty and devotion to Alter. We are forever grateful for your service and the impact on the people of this institution. Coach Check reminds us, "Chris is an award-winning championship coach...but an even more remarkable and wonderful friend."

Congratulations and God bless Coach Hart!



Alter Advancement Office
940 East David Rd.
Kettering, OH 45429

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WELCOME, CLASS OF 2030!

As you walk past the painted parking spaces of the graduating seniors, know that one day, your creativity and spirit will mark this place as your own—your journey begins now.

We can't wait to witness the faith, friendship and memories you'll make in the years ahead.