

# THE PACELLI ANNUAL FUND



THE DUDAS FAMILY (L TO R): Josh '22, Mike '85, Branka, Jake, & Jared.

Dear Friend,

The root of what binds all of us together is our faith and love of God, without whom, none of mankind would even be here. That faith has been deeply instilled in me, my siblings, and my children. I owe a great deal of gratitude to my Catholic faith and am proud of it.

My family and I moved to Stevens Point in the summer of 1976. All four of my siblings and myself have benefited from our academic and Catholic education at Pacelli High School. My two younger siblings, Kristen Dudas '92 and Kurt Dudas '94, were some of the first who went through Saint Peter's Middle School and then on to Pacelli.

My wife, Branka, and I were parish members of St. Bronislava of Plover and are now members at Sacred Heart in Polonia. We are so appreciative of the religious education that our two older sons, Jared and Jacob, received through St. Bronislava. We chose the path of public school for Jared and Jacob and it was the right fit for them. With our youngest son, Joshua, we were thrilled when he decided, on his own, to attend Pacelli Catholic Middle School and is now a junior at Pacelli High School.

The day of Josh's middle school graduation Mass, Josh came to Branka and I and thanked us.

He said, "Mom and Dad, thank you for showing me the option of Pacelli and I'm so happy I decided to go here and I know it was the right choice."

How can a Catholic parent's heart not swell with pride after hearing that? As parents, Branka and I distinctly remember attending our first Pacelli Catholic Middle School football game. The game started with prayer and ended with prayer. Our first band concert started and ended with prayer. What a gift that is to be able to praise God in **public**, be proud of it, and have it fill our hearts with joy. Every game, concert, etc. we attend, that feeling never gets old. In fact it only deepens and solidifies why, especially now, everyone needs to have God in their lives.

There is never a more pressing time to support Catholic education. Our children need and deserve it. As parents, we need it. It's a comforting feeling knowing that along with high, rigorous academic excellence in Pacelli Catholic Schools, God is there, **present**, welcomed in school and alive in our children, guiding them every step of the way. Truly there is no greater gift than that.

Please join Branka and I in making a financial contribution to Pacelli Catholic Schools. Our children are worth it.

May God Bless each and every one of you.

*Mike Dudas Branka Dudas*

**MIKE '85 & BRANKA DUDAS**  
2020-2021 Annual Fund Chairs

[pacellicatholicschools.com/giving](http://pacellicatholicschools.com/giving)

# PRIORITIES FOR 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR

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## **SAFE, IN-PERSON K-12 EDUCATION 5 DAYS A WEEK**

In addition to normal operating expenses, there are additional costs associated with COVID safety measures, expected to exceed \$200,000. Our goal is to provide the safest, healthiest environment so that our students, teachers, and staff can have as much in-person instruction as possible.

## **TEACHER RECRUITMENT & RETENTION**

Our teachers and staff sacrifice much to remain committed to the success of our students. It has been, and continues to be, a key focus of ours to enhance teacher and staff salaries, providing competitive wages to allow us to attract and retain the best and brightest.

## **CONTINUED INVESTMENTS IN TECHNOLOGY**

The investments we've made in technology over the last several years, thanks to the Sentry Insurance Foundation, have enabled us to be better prepared to serve our students during transitions from in-person instruction to eLearning. We will continue to rely heavily on technology as an integral part of our instructional mode and make further investments in professional development to best equip our students and teachers with the resources needed to be successful.

