



## December 2019



The faculty and staff at St. Francis de Sales School wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year!

## Alumni Spotlight - Mike Skaff, '92



The holidays are a time for reflection. A time to look back at days gone by with wonder, with pride and often with a smile upon our face. We tend to reflect on where we started, the people who have helped us along the way and where we are now. In our minds, we go to the places that made us feel good, where we felt we belonged, and where we felt our purposes in life take root. Hopefully, when we are done, we have a smile on our faces.

For Mike Skaff, '90, St. Francis was "one of those places" although he didn't know it as an eighth-grade boy at St. Thomas Aquinas. According to Mike, while growing up in North Toledo, his parents did everything they could to ensure he would stay on the right track. So, when it came time to high school, his parents did a good deal of research and they, along with Mike, chose St. Francis. Mike had a group of friends from St. Thomas, including Jason Bacher, Dave Cunningham, Rob Alford, Joe Verkennes, and the Fernandes family join him at St. Francis.

While at St. Francis, Mike became involved in Intramurals, the school newspaper – The Lance, and the yearbook – The Accolade. It is no wonder that among his most influential teachers is John McCartney, the moderator of The Accolade. Some of his more memorable times while at St. Francis were the competitive Euchre games in the cafeteria as well as during his Senior year with the privileges it brought of sitting in the Senior Lounge or on the Senior Steps. As Mike says, "It just always felt great to be there."

Upon graduation from St. Francis, Mike attended the University of Toledo where he studied Business/Marketing while working multiple jobs. For a while, he worked for a small trade show exhibit house where he was able to learn a lot about the business and eventually work his way to become the senior account executive, managing a department. For the past seventeen years, Mike has been the Vice President of Business Development at 2020 Exhibits.

Mike has experienced extensive success beyond his career including being part of a wonderful family and a leader in the community. Mike married Elizabeth Skaff (Roemmele), a graduate of Notre Dame Academy, and together they have two children, Jake (16) and Macie (12). Mike makes spending time with his family a priority, whether it be having family dinners every night or spending time boating together in the summer. Mike intends to teach his children many of the lessons he learned through his time at St. Francis, including the importance of treating everyone with respect and thinking beyond yourself to help others.

When asked what advice he would offer any current Knights, Mike stressed the importance of staying focused and working towards your goals now to be successful later. Additionally, Mike would recommend that current Knights take it upon themselves to infuse kindness into a society that can be too quick to judge or too selfish. Whether it be a simple smile to a stranger or holding the door open for a person behind you, Mike emphasizes how even the smallest gestures can change the world.

As the holidays come closer, let us all reflect on happy times, and use the lessons we've learned to make the world kinder and more selfless. In the words of Mike, "Have fun, be nice, thank people, and mention a job well done."

## St. Francis Giving Tree



Tradition and giving are two values we cherish at St. Francis. This year's Giving Tree had book suggestions for the students, faculty, and staff to purchase and bring in to give students at a neighboring school. So many books were brought in that after each child at the school received a book, and teachers were able to use the remaining books in their classrooms' libraries. We are proud of our Knights as they continue to give back to their community!

## 2019-2020 Annual Fund



ST. FRANCIS DE SALES SCHOOL

Click Here to Make Your Gift

### A Tradition of Giving

Your **YEAR END** gift to the Annual Fund supports SFS in numerous ways. The Annual Fund supports every aspect of the Knight Experience including Academics, Tuition Assistance, the Arts, Athletics, Faculty & Classroom Resources, Student Life, Facilities and Maintenance. Your gift helps provide each student with the tools to ensure a strong, lifelong Salesian identity.

Please make your **YEAR END** gift to the Annual Fund today!

Inspires Leaders of Tomorrow

## Upcoming Events



**CALLING ALL MUSICAL ALUMNI.....**

**SAVE THE DATE!**

The **50th** Anniversary Celebration of the St. Francis Musicals will be held on Saturday, April 18, 2020. We hope to see as many as possible!

**More details to follow.**



## CELEBRITY WAIT KNIGHT

Please join us for our Annual Celebrity Wait Knight **Sunday, January 12th, 2020** at **Mancy's Steak House**. For more information, or to make your reservation, please contact Pam Sanford at [pamela\\_sanford@hotmail.com](mailto:pamela_sanford@hotmail.com)