

EXCELLENCE IN CATHOLIC EDUCATION



ALL FAITHS WELCOME

ABERDEEN CATHOLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

We're growing. Come join us!



Who We Are

A small school offering a unique Catholic experience.

A one-of-a-kind school built on Catholic traditions, Roncalli offers a positive, prayerful take on private education. Faith is at the center of all we do, and a prime focus of the experience we provide.

We offer a full variety of activities, fine arts, and athletic programs, so there's something to fit most every student. We teach STREAM, which is STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) but with Religion and Arts added.

With under 600 total students system-wide, our class sizes stay small. We maintain a family-like atmosphere as we prepare our students for college, career, and a life spent in Christian discipleship.



Aberdeen Catholic School System

1400 N. Dakota St.
Aberdeen, SD 57401
605-226-2100
aberdeenroncalli.org

GRADES
PreK-12

TOTAL STUDENTS

564

STUDENT/TEACHER RATIO

11:1

SCHOOLS

3

NAMED AFTER

**ST. POPE
JOHN XXIII**

ALL GRADES PARTICIPATE IN

STREAM

OUR UNIQUE History

Catholic education has served Aberdeen for over 135 years.

The first Catholic school was established inside Sacred Heart Church in 1886, and St. Mary's opened their elementary school in 1912.

Roncalli High School was established in 1964. Roncalli Junior High, grades 7 and 8, was established in 1969 at Sacred Heart School. In 1988, those students moved to the high school, which became Roncalli Junior/Senior High School.

In 1980, the Aberdeen Catholic School System was consolidated and Sacred Heart and St. Mary's Schools were renamed Roncalli. Kindergarten was also added to the educational program. In the 1988-89 school year, the Roncalli Sonshine Patch Preschool/Daycare Program was created. In 2002-2004, new facilities were constructed for Roncalli Primary School and Roncalli Elementary School.

In 2023-2024 6th grade joined 7th and 8th grade to create Roncalli Middle School. This change was made to better align students academically and emotionally.



DEFINED BY Faith

Without Faith, there is no Roncalli.

As a ministry of Sacred Heart and St. Mary's Parishes in Aberdeen and under the auspices of the Sioux Falls Diocese, the Church is the defining element of our schooling experience.

In classes, school-wide masses, and outside the classroom in community service, our students are engaged in Christian formation on a daily basis.

Religion Every Day

We help faith come alive in our students by providing them with daily experiences and opportunities to deepen their faith and prayer life. Our mission is to guide them towards developing a personal relationship with Jesus Christ that becomes their foundation for missionary discipleship throughout their lives.

Mass & Prayer

Prayer is spread throughout each school day. Students attend weekly school Mass and Adoration. Confession is held during Advent and Lent seasons

Priests on the Premises

Roncalli is blessed by the regular presence of Priests in the school. The Priests also join us for recess, lunch, or just to walk down the hallways with students.



STUDENT Volunteerism, Retreats and Ministry

Volunteerism

Volunteering and giving back to our parishes and community is very important to us. Christian service and helping others is emphasized at all levels. Throughout the year you can find Roncalli students helping with the food pantry, community outreach, volunteer days, offering prayers of support and whatever may be needed.

"I like volunteering because it is fun to help people. I also like working together with my friends."

G.M. 8TH GRADE

Retreats

Starting at middle school and continuing through senior year, retreats are a big part of spiritual development at Roncalli. Each class has their own focused time together. This is a special, beloved time for students, when they can grow closer to God.

Campus Ministry

At all grade levels a campus minister is available to guide and help students on their faith journey by listening, teaching and building vital relationships.



SONSHINE PATCH Preschool

Our Programs

We offer preschool/childcare for children ages 3-5. We provide a safe, caring, Christian environment for children of all faiths. The Sonshine Patch has different options for your child, dependent upon your needs.

All programs are led by certified teachers using a developmentally appropriate curriculum. SD State Early Learning Guidelines are followed.

We believe children learn best through meaningful play. By integrating a meaningful play-based, child-centered program, we encourage curiosity, discovery, and problem solving which allows individual growth and development of a positive self-image, thus preparing the child for his/her school career.

Our Philosophy

We are committed to supporting children's development and learning by offering a developmentally appropriate environment that does not encroach upon the necessary psycho/social development of a child. We respect individual differences and help children learn to live, play, and work cooperatively.

Children learn concepts best when they are meaningful and relevant to them. They acquire knowledge through the active exploration of their environment, not solely through direct instruction. By using a reflective approach, instead of a directive approach, teachers will take the time to observe and reflect within the time in the classroom, thus changing and adapting to the needs of each child.



K - 1ST GRADE Primary

Growing Minds

The foundation for future learning is developed here. Students will start to build their learning skills while being exposed to a variety of subjects. Classes are designed to spark interest and curiosity in your student. Prayer and education of Catholic teachings are part of the daily activities.

STREAM activities introduce your child to critical thinking and problem solving skills. This approach allows learning to become relevant to each student and produces global thinkers who are ready for a world outside of our school.

Our goal in the Primary school is to provide a safe and fun learning environment for all children. Through forming relationships, and creating an environment of trust and mutual respect, we are building a strong foundation for the child's school career.

Parental Involvement

We want you, as a parent, to look into our busy, happy, noisy, creative classrooms and see your child at work and play. Parents and teachers together can help the children to develop their full potential.

Parents are the first educators of their children. You know your children best, and we look forward to working in a partnership to educate your child. We value your suggestions and support. Our staff and teachers are always available to visit with you.

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO LEARN
MORE AND ENROLL ONLINE:
ABERDEENRONCALLI.ORG**



2ND - 5TH GRADE Elementary



At Roncalli, academics are designed to help prepare students for an ever-changing world while discovering their own God-given talents.

Roncalli Believes:

- Every child is capable of learning.
- A teacher should be a guide and mentor.
- Kids need a safe environment to develop their skills.
- Students must have access to hands-on activities.
- Technology should enhance and support instruction.
- Catholic teachings should permeate all academic areas.

Caring Teachers

Our educators are committed to helping your child reach their full potential. We love seeing young minds grow in a safe and challenging learning environment.

Small classrooms ensure your child is getting the care and attention they need in this important life stage.

Our Continued Focus on Literacy

At Roncalli, our focus is ongoing, rigorous professional development that will empower our teachers to understand the science behind how children learn to read.

Our educators are gaining a deeper understanding of language structure and how to ensure that we not only meet but surpass the literacy needs of our students. With literacy comes academic success, improved self-esteem, personal empowerment, and equitable opportunities for all students.

“I love that our children can grow in their faith every day, which is amazing to see. Certainly the academics are wonderful, and the environment itself is so supportive.”

BRITT LORENZ
ACSS PARENT'



6TH-12TH GRADE

Middle & High School

Dual Credit Courses

One good way to save money on a college education: earn credits while in high school. Roncalli offers dual credit courses that allow our students to build toward enrollment in South Dakota universities and tech schools. In the case of our 2023 graduating class, over 3/4 of students earned such credits.

SEE OUR REGISTRATION BOOK FOR A FULL LIST OF AVAILABLE COURSES.

ACT Scores

We're proud to say our student scores are higher than the statewide and Aberdeen Public School averages. Since 2018 our scores have been at least 2 points higher than the national average!

High School Preview

We ask Roncalli 8th graders to spend some time making a four year plan for their upcoming high school experience. It helps them choose the right classes and enter their high school experience with more intent and purpose.

Laptops

All students grades 6-12 receive access to Chromebooks to use for studying, research, collaboration, and more. Younger students have regular access to technology as well.



“People describe Roncalli as a family, but for me, this idea takes on even greater meaning. Not only am I a Roncalli alum, my dad and his siblings, my siblings, my cousins, and my own children are also proud Roncalli graduates.”

STEPHANIE LITZEN
RONCALLI GRAD, PARENT, AND TEACHER



STREAM

In a world that's growing more and more complex, today's students need technical knowledge and skills.

Roncalli believes in providing education focused on the principles of **STEM** (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics).

We've heavily invested in **STREAM**, a curriculum that teaches the essential four disciplines above, but also adds **Religion** and **Arts**. To us, this modification leads to well-rounded students and the proper focus on God.

- **STREAM** curriculum is integrated in all grades
- Middle school students take a **STREAM** exploratory class, while high schoolers can choose from **STREAM**, Multimedia Design, Robotics, Computer Programming 1 & 2, and Senior Capstone.
- Dedicated **STREAM** labs are installed at both our Elementary and Middle/High school campuses and offer students a choice in hands-on curriculum.

Activities and Athletics



Activities for Every Student

We are proud of our strong participation rates. 92% of students are part of an activity, athletics, or fine arts program. We believe joining an activity or team can help students build relationships, learn valuable life lessons and create experiences they will remember for the rest of their lives. Everyone at Roncalli is encouraged to participate.

The Drama program has produced one act plays that have qualified for state competitions for ten straight years. Many times, the play was also awarded with a “Superior” designation.

Our Oral Interpretation team received an award of excellence and numerous students awarded “Superior” at state competition.

We have an All-State chorus and marching band, winning gold awards at Gypsy Days, Arlington, Groton and Aberdeen.

The Dance team has been selected to perform at state basketball tournaments.

Our Cheer team won “Spirit of 6 award”.

Fine Arts

- Band
- Debate
- Drama
- Oral Interpretation
- Vocal

Activities

- Campus Ministry
- Cavalier Club
- Cheer Team
- Dance Team
- Jazz Band
- Journalism and Yearbook
- Liturgical Ministries
- Liturgical Music
- National Honor Society
- Retreat Team
- Robotics
- Sound Crew
- Student Council
- Trapshoot

Student Athletes Achieve

Our student athletes work hard in both their sports and in the classroom. Roncalli teams and individual sports are highly competitive and regularly qualify for post-season play.

Roncalli received the SDHSAA (South Dakota High School Activities Association) “Academic All-State” award, given to schools in which all students enrolled in varsity athletics and fine arts achieve a combined grade point average of 3.0 or higher.

Athletics Programs

- Boys Basketball
- Boys Cross Country
- Boys Golf
- Boys Soccer
- Boys Tennis
- Boys Track & Field
- Cheerleading
- Competition Cheer
- Competition Dance
- Football
- Girls Basketball
- Girls Cross Country
- Girls Golf
- Girls Soccer
- Girls Tennis
- Girls Track & Field
- Gymnastics
- Volleyball
- Wrestling

“I love playing football, basketball and running track at Roncalli. We are a smaller school, so I get a chance to try a lot of different things.”

M.M, SOPHOMORE CLASS



Roncalli Life

Building the foundation for a life full of learning, personal development, and a relationship with Christ.



What I remember are the friends I made working as a team and praying as a family. I remember constant encouragement and high expectations from coaches and teachers and families who believed in me... and I especially appreciate the opportunities I was given to grow in my faith, making it my own, real faith and gaining confidence in my role as a child of our loving God. Thank you for showing me God's love. I hope we remember that every day, everyone at Roncalli and everyone in the Roncalli family who has landed elsewhere, has the opportunity and the responsibility to love people, especially our young people, with God's true love.

Meg Larson Kugler, Class of 1998 • 2021 Hall of Fame Inductee in Athletics



What I know to be true is, I'm no different than any of my Roncalli classmates or our incredible body of alumni. I am who I am today, first and foremost by the grace of God. Then, because of my dad, Hollis—who was a True Gentleman; my Mom, Jean—who is a Proverbs 31 woman; and crucially, because of the tremendous education and Catholic values I received through my 12 years in the Aberdeen Catholic School System.

My story rests on the foundation of what Roncalli has provided in Aberdeen since 1964, and what it will continue to provide for years to come: Instilling Catholic values and promoting academic excellence while nurturing mind, body and soul.

Brigadier General Jeff Hurlbert, Class of 1987 • 2020 Hall of Fame Inductee

Jeff Hurlbert is the 32nd Commandant of the National War College, Fort Lesley J. McNair, Washington, D.C.



While being at Roncalli, you have a super safe environment to express your faith because everyone most likely believes what you believe. But it's an important part of your faith to be tested and placed in uncomfortable positions, and that's just what college has done for me.

I didn't expect to step into college and have a leadership role, but it's what my coaches preach to me often. I wouldn't be the leader I am today without my coaches in high school placing that role on my shoulders, trusting in me, and giving me the confidence to do it.

Morgan Fiedler, Class of 2022 • NSU student and women's basketball player

What's Next?

If you sincerely wish to come here, we'll do everything we can to make it work.

To learn all about Admissions, Enrollment, Financial Aid, and Scholarships, simply go to:

aberdeenroncalli.org/admissions

Schedule a Visit

Schedule a school tour by visiting:
www.aberdeenroncalli.org or call 605-226-2100.

Apply Online

www.aberdeenroncalli.org/admissions/enroll

Questions?

Call: 605-226-2100

Online: www.aberdeenroncalli.org

Email: info@aberdeenroncalli.org

Financial Aid

Numerous generous donors have established tuition scholarships at Roncalli, and we are able to offer over \$100,000 in tuition assistance annually for K-12 students. Tuition assistance is also available through the state.

Learn more about Roncalli at **ABERDEENRONCALLI.ORG**





Get in touch to schedule your visit today. **We look forward to seeing you soon!**



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Scan the
code to
schedule
your visit!

