Natalie Davies on “Dolly Levi”

St. Ambrose junior Natalie Davies jumped right into the student production of Annie her first year as an 8th grader. Beyond piquing her interest in musical theater, participating in the musical deepened her friendships at her new school: “I met and talked to many people who I had only seen in the hallways before. The musical is one of the centralizing aspects of our school year, and it really emphasizes the close-knit nature of the school!”

April Wish List

Would you like to help us with a wish list item?

- For a student printing station:
  - PC laptop (basic model, Windows 10 installed)
  - Monochrome laser printer (basic model, wireless connectivity preferred)
- Amazon or Office Depot gift cards
- Reams of white copy paper

Contact the school office for more details.

Save the Date

Please mark your calendars and join us!

- Friday, May 5, 2017: Grandparents’ Day. Mass (8:30 a.m.) followed by breakfast and special activities from 9-10:30 a.m.
- Sunday, May 28, 2017: Graduation Mass (1:00 p.m.) and Exercises (2:00 p.m.) at St. Ambrose Academy. It’s a celebration!
- Summer Workshops! We offer 4 exciting sessions: Tree Science (June 19-23), Wisconsin History Tour (June 26-30), Fitness through Chivalry (July 17-21) and Creative Writing (July 24-28).

Students entering grades 5-10 are recommended. Sessions run 8 a.m.-12 p.m.

Faculty Focus: Josh Rynish

Each of Josh Rynish’s Chemistry students learns about nature in a deeper way, but some, in his words, “...have a great desire to understand our world at the atomic level.” Mr. Rynish is well-equipped to open up the wonders of the physical world for his students. For one, he delved into Chemistry and Mathematics as part of his teaching certification for his Secondary Education degree from UW-Madison and surrounded himself with friends in the sciences. Further, Mr. Rynish learned in the School of Education how to encourage students to understand scientific and mathematical concepts on a deeper level. He always wants to learn more so that he can share what he loves with his students. And, Mr. Rynish’s students are poised to learn from this enthusiastic young teacher: “The students at St. Ambrose are dedicated to their vocation of education and are willing to put in the work to become the best they can be... because the school focuses on the stages of learning, we can teach students in a way that corresponds to their development as a child.”

Mr. Rynish can do more than instill a love for the sciences in his students. He explains, “I enjoy sharing my [personal] story with my students to give them a beautiful testimony to the wonderful vocation of marriage.” He recently married Kari on October 29, 2016, whom he met at St. Paul University Catholic Center. Mr. Rynish can share how he discerned the priesthood before proposing to Kari in October 2015. In this way, Mr. Rynish is more than a science teacher; he is a mentor for his students. This is his way of educating the “entire child” – and it works!
Angela Hineline’s methodical approach to the show: “She takes the rehearsal process a step further and treats a lot of it as though it were a curriculum, of which I am so appreciative.” May this production of Hello, Dolly! be, in Natalie’s words, “a true testament to the Glory of God!”

Perfectly Suited: Debate and St. Ambrose

Debate and St. Ambrose Academy go well together. “The process of debate mirrors classical education – I mean the Trivium – almost exactly,” explained debate team supervisor and history teacher Michael Kwas. The Trivium includes grammar, logic and rhetoric stages of learning. After the young debaters receive their resolution for the Public Forum style of debate – this is the issue that they will address – they must immediately gather data on both sides of the topic. After all, a coin toss at the tournament determines on which side of the issue the young debaters will be. Learning the facts is the first stage in classical education, grammar. Then, the debaters must proceed to the logic stage and make an argument. “They use reason to craft an argument in support of and against the resolution,” shared Mr. Kwas. Finally, debaters must use their logic to find truth, the impact of the resolution, and explain it persuasively. Students win debates based on whether the judge accepts debaters’ persuasive conclusions. “[Debate] is the perfect activity for a classical school,” concluded Mr. Kwas.

Not only did the St. Ambrose debaters compete well in their five tournaments this year – including the State tournament in West Bend in January – but they also discovered personal growth over the course of the debate season. One eighth grader observed, “What makes debate so amazing is that, while I grow closer to my peers, I also build my self-confidence. I am improving my logic and argumentative skills and increasing my knowledge of the buzzing world around me.” Another debater said, “I recognized a growth in my logic skills as well as my public speaking ability.” Watch out, world, these young debaters are bringing their knowledge, critical thinking and pursuit of truth to today’s issues!

Benefactor Profile: The Reis Family

Years later, 6th grader Will Reis is following in the footsteps of his former babysitter, Veronica Arntz, Class of 2012. Will’s parents, Tom and Rhonda remember, “We were very impressed with how [Veronica] held herself and how much she knew about her faith. She raved about St. Ambrose.” Since, Veronica graduated from Wyoming Catholic College last spring and is now studying theology at the Augustine Institute in Colorado. Despite Veronica’s rave reviews, the Reises initially dismissed St. Ambrose: “it was out of our family ‘skill set’ with how challenging the work was and the way the material was taught.” But, when it was time to tour schools for their children after graduation from St. John the Baptist School in Waunakee, where they live, Rhonda and Tom decided to consider St. Ambrose again. This time, they found “that the challenging academic agenda, structure and faith at St. Ambrose might be a great fit for Will.” Will shadowed St. Ambrose students and was hooked.

Now, St. Ambrose IS in the “skill set” of the Reis family. Tom and Rhonda explain, “We can easily see that Will is growing in faith and in his academics at St. Ambrose. Honestly, Will is not the only one growing! Will openly shares new connections and new knowledge that he has gained at school with the rest of us at the dinner table on a regular basis, and we are all learning new things!” It has been a journey from the days when Veronica babysat Will, but Rhonda and Tom conclude, “We are thrilled with all of the staff at St. Ambrose and feel blessed that God led us to St. Ambrose Academy.”