

# BREAKING GROUND

ASSUMPTION MAGAZINE

*Fall 2020*



HOW WE STAY  
*healthy*  
AT SCHOOL

*congratulations*  
**CLASS OF**  
**2020**

**ALUMNAE**  
*in healthcare*  
**FIGHT COVID-19**

*students share what*  
**AHS**  
*means to them*



Rooted in the values of Jesus Christ and the spirit of the Sisters of Mercy, Assumption High School, dedicated to the development of the whole person, educates young women in a Catholic community where faith guides, compassion inspires, integrity matters, and excellence empowers.

OUR VISION

Assumption thrives as the college preparatory school of choice for young women by providing a wide range of educational and co-curricular programs that are complemented by spiritual and physical development opportunities. This unique experience educates the whole person in a caring, Christian environment that is permeated with the charism of Catherine McAuley, foundress of the Sisters of Mercy. Assumption graduates are socially responsible women, committed to gospel living, lifelong learning, and a life of leadership and service in society. We cultivate the investment and involvement of the community so that the legacy of this Catholic Mercy-sponsored school lives on for generations.

LEADERSHIP



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*President*
- Martha Pfaadt Tedesco '90**  
*Principal*
- Judy Fieldhouse H'19**  
*Assistant Principal/Dean of Studies/Dean of Curriculum*
- Theresa Liebert Schuhmann '92**  
*Assistant Principal/Dean of Studies/Dean of Student Activities*

- Cindi Baughman H'08**  
*Assistant Principal/Dean of Students*
- Mary Ann Steutermann**  
*Director of Campus Ministry*
- Michelle Coke Farmer '94**  
*Executive Director of Advancement*
- Lisa Raley**  
*Executive Director of Finance & Facilities*

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PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

Each year our student leaders choose a school theme that provides the context and sets the tone for the year. This year, our school theme is “We Are Home”. On its face, it might seem like an unusual choice considering the challenges we face this school year and the fact that we can’t all be together in the building.

But what our students know is that home is more than just a place. At our opening prayer service, junior Ashley Pope summed it up best: “It’s not only a place where everybody belongs but also a feeling of comfort and acceptance. No one is criticized or judged at home, and everyone is celebrated. At home, you are surrounded by people you trust, who love you for you, and a place you can always be yourself. Assumption is a home because it embodies all of these qualities and everyone feels welcome for who they are.”

And while there have been many changes to our Assumption home this year due to COVID-19, we’ve been able to welcome our students back to the building this fall. There are many differences – like temperature checks, one-way hallways and stairwells, lots of plexiglass, and wearing masks, but our students are excited to be back and are happy to once again be “home.”

Another reason “home” is a wonderful symbol for Assumption this year is because of the times in which we live. Home is where we come to new understandings about who we are and the world in which we live. It’s where we challenge ourselves to grow in new ways. This moment in history will be one remembered not only for the global pandemic but also for the call for racial justice. Assumption stands with our brothers and sisters of all backgrounds in condemning racism for the evil that it is. We also recognize our own need to evaluate how well we create a true home for our students of color and commit to continuously improving our efforts and results. Because of this, we are in the midst of developing a five-year diversity, equity, and inclusion plan that will guide these initiatives.

But this isn’t the only growth you’ll notice at Assumption. If you have come by campus, you noticed that construction is in full swing as we recently broke ground on a transformational addition to our Assumption home. This addition will add nearly 35,000 square feet of space, which will include a new main entrance, lobby, cafeteria, kitchen, chapel, and 10 additional classrooms. This, in turn, will pave the way for significant renovations in our current school building, including expanded space for our renowned learning differences program as well as additional space for our growing

science, engineering, and aviation curriculums. We will continue to share more news on this transformational project and plan on celebrating the grand opening of the expansion this time next year.

In line with the construction, our capital campaign, Launching the Future of Assumption High School, continues to gain momentum and I’m proud to say that we have raised over \$6M towards our \$8M goal! We hope you will join us in charting the future of AHS.

And all these changes come at a time when our beloved home celebrates its 65th anniversary – Assumption having opened its doors on September 6, 1955. Never could those valiant Sisters of Mercy have imagined what AHS would become and the home they created for countless young women ever since that time.

Even though our home is changing, what matters most hasn’t changed at all. The heart and soul of Assumption remains the same. The values we hold close – faith, integrity, compassion, and excellence -- continue to inspire and guide us as we work to educate and empower this next generation of young women who are poised to go out and change the world in ways we can’t even imagine.

Catherine McAuley, the foundress of the Sisters of Mercy, said it best when she advised, “The simplest and most practical lesson I know...is to resolve to be good today, but better tomorrow.” The Community of Assumption is doing just that at perhaps the most exciting time in our history. Through our innovative scheduling solutions and safety protocols; our commitment to growth in the areas of diversity, equity, and inclusion; and our campus expansion and capital campaign, we seek to transform so much that it good about our “home” today and make it exceptionally better tomorrow.



Mary Lang  
PRESIDENT

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HOW WE STAY HEALTHY AT SCHOOL
- ...AND MORE





Catherine McAuley, the foundress of the Sisters of Mercy, wrote over a century ago, “We must do ordinary things extraordinarily well.” This year Assumption High School celebrates 65 years of extraordinary work educating young women as Christian leaders who have shaped our local community, our church, and our world.

Although much has changed in the last 65 years, one thing has stayed the same. In Catherine’s own words, “No work of charity can be more productive of good to society than the careful instruction of young women.” In 1955, we opened our doors to our first students. In 2020, we continue to open the door to extraordinary new possibilities.

For 65 years, faith, compassion, integrity, and excellence have been the cornerstones of Assumption’s mission. And because we want to preserve that mission for all of the young women who seek an Assumption education over the next 65 years, we are taking the extraordinary steps of expanding our campus and developing our endowment. In doing so, we open the door to a new and exciting chapter in Assumption’s history.

# Mark Your Calendars

JANUARY

30

## ROCKET SPECTACULAR BENEFIT VIRTUAL FUNDRAISER EVENT

### SPECIAL THANKS TO LAST YEAR’S SPONSORS

#### DIAMOND



#### RUBY



Archdiocese of Louisville  
Diaconate Office



#### EMERALD

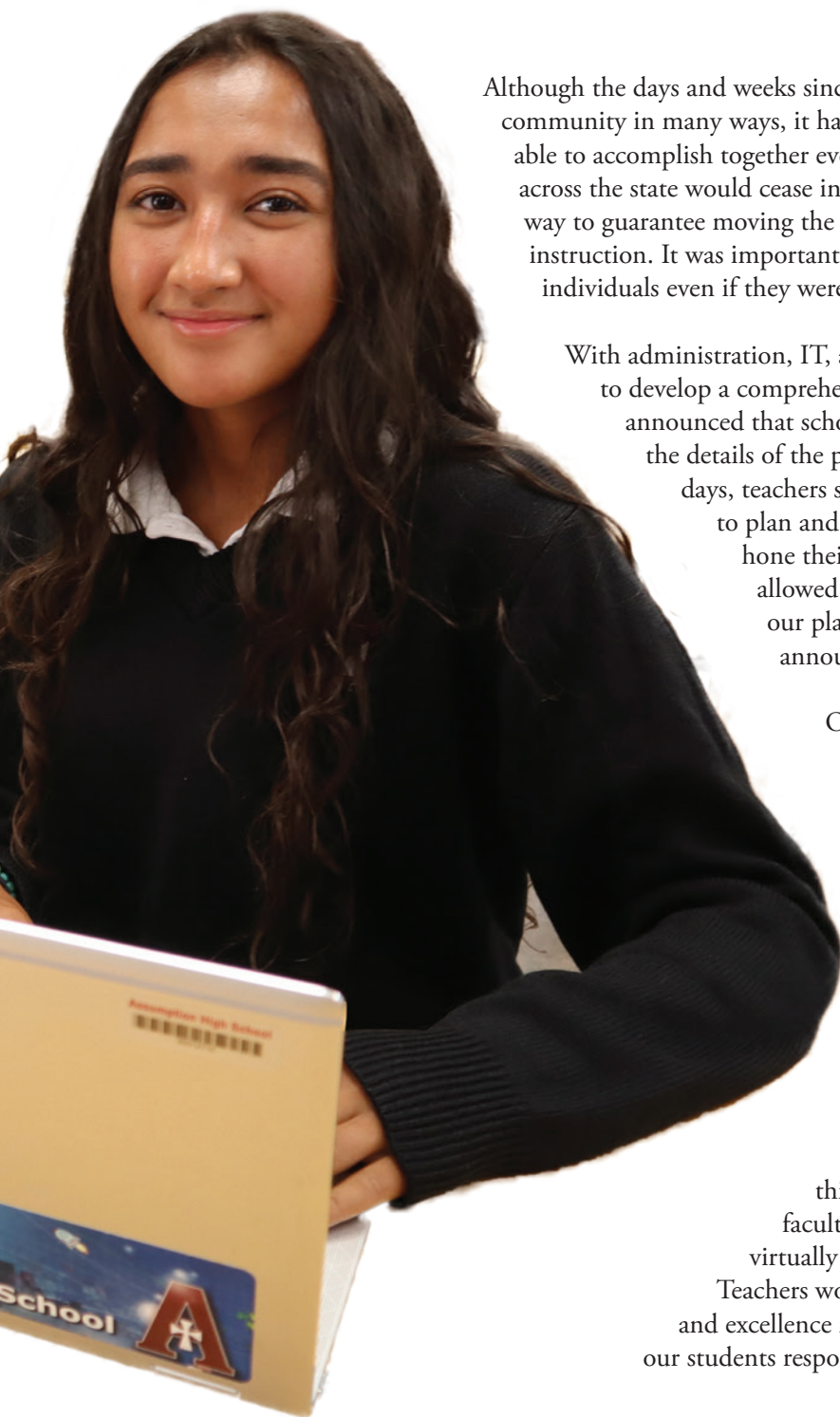
CORVUS CAPITAL LLC | DEYE FAMILY | FIFTH THIRD BANK

HANKE FAMILY | HARDY COMMUNICATIONS & CABLING

TJ AND LISA KOETTER | RATTERMAN & SONS FUNERAL HOME | UNIFIED TECHNOLOGIES



# WE DO *different better*



Although the days and weeks since March 11 have been surreal for the Assumption community in many ways, it has also been humbling to see what we have been able to accomplish together even while apart. When it became clear that schools across the state would cease in-person instruction, we knew we had to find a way to guarantee moving the content of our traditional classrooms to virtual instruction. It was important to continue to address our students as whole individuals even if they were no longer learning within our building's walls.

With administration, IT, and our academic departments working together to develop a comprehensive plan, 24 hours before Governor Beshear announced that schools would close, Assumption's faculty met to learn the details of the plan for continuing instruction. Over the next two days, teachers sprang into action, working together to continue to plan and, also, participating in professional development to hone their skills in Microsoft Teams. This forward thinking allowed the administration to confidently introduce our plan to students the morning after the Governor announced the order to close schools in March.

On our last day together, the administration acknowledged there would be challenges but also asked students to believe, trust, and lean into who we are as the community of Assumption. We promised the girls that we would figure out this new normal together. We assured our parents and students that while not perfect, we knew that the community of Assumption was prepared to "do different very, very well" and that we would get through these uncertain times together.

This experience has allowed teachers to utilize technology that they have been trained in and used for nearly a decade in new and innovative ways and to think outside of the box to present new material. Our faculty has worked together every step of the way, meeting virtually to share successes, new strategies, and best practices. Teachers worked together to ensure that the educational rigor and excellence inherent to an Assumption education continue. And our students responded, working in concert with our faculty to make

this new learning environment one that uniquely reflected Assumption. From Creative Writing students participating in the Frazier History Museum's: A Coronavirus Time Capsule to our Rose Theatre Company's reworking the spring production of the Shakespearean classic as "A Midsummer Night's Stream!" via Zoom, our teachers and students continued to respond creatively to this new challenge.

As exciting as each of these innovations was, the most exciting work happened daily as students and teachers continued to meet as virtual learning communities, so that no matter when we are back together, students and teachers will be able to move forward effectively.

This is not to say that there was not tremendous loss. Most heartbreaking was the loss of our senior events and the milestone moments that bring closure to the high school experience. To honor these seniors, we committed

to marking each May senior event on the day that it was originally scheduled to occur. In order to determine how we would celebrate on those days, we reflected upon what we believe the essence or the heart of what each event represents for our seniors as they say goodbye to Assumption. This reflection guided our decision making about how to best plan these events virtually for the Class of 2020.

While our girls, faculty, and staff wanted to be on campus together, we are so proud of the way our entire community rose to the challenge and thrived in this time of social distancing. It has given all of us a greater appreciation for the relationships and learning that are built within the classroom, and we look forward to the day our community is whole again. While we wait for that day, we continue to take inspiration from our Class of 2020 whose class motto has been heartbreakingly on point for this time in history, "Always together, never apart, maybe at distance, but never at heart."





# PAYING IT FORWARD

*“Always together, never apart, maybe at distance but never at heart,”*

was the motto for the Class of 2020. This phrase grew to bring more meaning during the pandemic and will hold an even stronger meaning with this class for years to come. After their senior events were cancelled, the class officers discussed how they could make an impact despite all that they lost. They chose to be the first class to endow a scholarship to help more students experience Assumption.

Becca Armstrong, Alex Cissell, Isabella Pate, and Ainsley Wuerth are all graduating seniors who served as class officers and were faced with the decision of what to do with the class’s remaining funds, which they had fundraised over the four years. While talking to administration, they realized no class had ever funded a scholarship before, leading them to want to be the first. Becca shared, “The Class of 2020 had a very difficult senior year, but I think that it made each of us realize how much AHS actually means to us. By giving a scholarship, we can give someone the experiences that we had, but also hope that they receive the ending to their senior year that we never had.”

This class hopes to impact the future students of Assumption with this gift. Class President Alex Cissell said, “My hope for this scholarship is that it will help assist a young lady through her journey at Assumption. Assumption is a great school

because it challenges students in the classroom and beyond. I will forever be grateful for the education I received at Assumption, and I want to give other girls the chance to have that as well. I think this scholarship could pave the way for more classes to develop scholarships as well, which would ultimately open many doors for girls needing financial assistance! It doesn’t need to develop into something that grand though for myself, and my class, to be happy with its impact. The smile on even one girl’s face when she is awarded the money will be more than enough for us.”

Seniors have reflected on not just their senior year but their experience at Assumption as a whole. Ainsley Wuerth credits Assumption for helping her grow over the years. “I have no doubt that I would not be who I am today without the support, love, and guidance that Assumption has provided me with for the past four years. I have learned to appreciate my gifts, to find gratitude in the daily, to believe in my own capabilities, and to know that I can accomplish any of my goals. Assumption has allowed me to become a more compassionate, hardworking, understanding, organized, and determined person. I have found my passions and the ideas that drive my life. I know how to achieve my dreams, how to work hard, and how to create valuable relationships with those in my life. Assumption has created a version of myself that I would have never

believed could exist. Assumption will forever be one of the greatest gifts in my life.”

Though their senior year was cut short, Isabella Pate shared that she saw firsthand how much Assumption loves and cares for students. “The teachers, faculty, and staff work so hard for their students. This year they found other ways to celebrate the senior class despite the year being cut short. Assumption has shaped me into who I am as a person today. This place has shown me that I am a valuable person, I have dignity and worth, and what I do makes a difference. The community of AHS has empowered and supported me throughout these past four years and will forever be my family,” she said.

The physical distance this class experienced in their final months as seniors was difficult; however, these students have grown in ways no class has grown before. Their actions will forever remain in the heart of Assumption and the future of our students.



Photo by BIG Photo

## MESSAGES FROM THE SENIORS

**FROM ALEX** Assumption is a special place that will let your uniqueness shine if you allow it to. Cherish the time you have here and embrace each challenge with a heart of fortitude! The entire Class of 2020 could not be happier you get to walk those halls and we are cheering you on every step of the way!

**FROM ISABELLA** I would want her to remember the importance of living out the most of every day as an Assumption student. I would want her to remember to try new things, get involved, get to know everyone in her class, and take advantage of the endless opportunities.

**FROM BECCA** I hope that you live your AHS experience to the fullest. The Class of 2020 took every opportunity that we could, which gave us the experience of a lifetime.

**FROM AINSLEY** Take advantage of every single moment. Embrace Assumption’s quirks and mottos and Assumption-isms. Form relationships with your peers, your teachers, and the administration. Assumption is a gift; it’s okay to have bad days and not be in the mood for school, but when it comes down to it, don’t let this gift go to waste. You will never get these four years back, and you want to know that you took advantage of every opportunity that was available to you. Let the values and ideals of Assumption shape your life; become the best version of yourself.

If you or your class is interested in joining the Class of 2020 in making more scholarships available, please contact the Advancement Office at 502-271-2518 or [michelle.farmer@ahsrockets.org](mailto:michelle.farmer@ahsrockets.org)

# 2020 BY THE NUMBERS

## 248 GRADUATES

**7** KENTUCKY GOVERNOR’S SCHOLARS | **1** KENTUCKY GOVERNOR’S SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS ALUMNA | **1** UNITED STATES PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLAR CANDIDATE

**3** AP CAPSTONE DIPLOMA CANDIDATES | **5** KENTUCKY REGIONAL SCHOLASTIC ART AWARD WINNERS | **11** PUBLISHED WRITERS

**78** PRESIDENT’S EDUCATION AWARD RECIPIENTS | **24** COMMITTED COLLEGIATE ATHLETES | **25** ADVANCED PLACEMENT SCHOLARS

**10** AP SCHOLARS (5 with Honors, 10 with Distinction) | **1** PERFECT ACT SCORE | **2** NATIONAL MERIT CORPORATION FINALISTS | **4** NATIONAL MERIT CORPORATION COMMENDED STUDENTS

**3,045** COLLEGE CREDITS EARNED BY **83%** OF THE CLASS

**28,590** COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS OVER FOUR YEARS

**711** OFFERS OF ACCEPTANCE TO **95** DIFFERENT COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES.

Record-breaking  
**\$31 MILLION**  
IN SCHOLARSHIPS EARNED



# WHY I ❤️ MY SCHOOL



## *Alex Cissell '20, shares what Assumption High School means to her.*

Assumption High School: to everyone else in Louisville, it's just another school. To its students, Assumption is a home. A home that challenges students intellectually, encourages individuality, and teaches the power of a community rooted in love. A home I already miss.

I don't get to live through the last three months of senior year the way I envisioned. Ironically, amidst a global pandemic, when I haven't been to the building in a month, my love for Assumption has grown stronger. While it is upsetting that my last few weeks have been abruptly cut short, it has given me time to reflect on the past four years. I entered Assumption freshman year timid and insecure. I am exiting confident in myself as a leader, student, and friend. I am the woman I am to today because I was able to grow with the support of the Assumption community.

Assumption nourishes the minds of its students by pushing the boundaries of education. As a student at Assumption, I have been able to explore my subjects of interest, curate my own opinions, spark a passion for learning about other cultures, and dive into challenging issues. The teachers at Assumption share their passion of learning, fueling creativity and productivity within the classroom.

Assumption is also a school that focuses on education beyond the textbooks, educating the mind, body, and spirit. The importance of self-love and discovering inner spirituality are emphasized throughout all four years. These themes are developed with the guidance of incredible faculty and upperclasswomen, creating a safe environment for young women to discover their worth.

When contemplating "why I love my school," I realized there isn't only one reason. When I think of my love for Assumption, I am overwhelmed with a plethora of memories and emotions. The relief when the senior sitting behind me on my first day started talking to me. The support when I

stood in front of my class and asked them to vote for me as class officer. The compassion of an entire community during times of great loss. The collective excitement that electrifies the gym during pep rallies. The fierce loyalty that floods the stands. The pride that engulfed our class as we slipped on our class rings on for the first time. The eagerness of beginning my last year ready to experience it all one last time.

Despite the events I'm missing, I am grateful for the experiences I did have over the past four years. I have realized how unique it is to have a faculty and staff that cares for its students as deeply as the people at Assumption. Even though we are not physically together experiencing our last senior events, I still feel connected to the community of Assumption, because they are working diligently to make this new system feel as close to normal as possible. Despite this situation, I consider myself lucky to be able to go through this as an Assumption student. The community of Assumption makes it easy to find some light in the darkness.

Assumption High School has taught me to embrace my passions, explore my faith, challenge the status quo, and make my mark on the world. It is a home that has left me with a mind hungry for knowledge, a belly sore from laughing, and a heart swollen with love. A home that I wish I didn't have to leave so early, but I will carry with me through life. It has shaped me and so many others into women who know we have dignity and worth and what we do makes a difference.

## GRADUATION CELEBRATION

*On July 25, 2020, our graduates, their families, and our faculty and staff gathered safely in groups of 10 for the 63rd graduation of Assumption High School. The class walked through the halls one last time with their family, saying goodbye to their teachers, reminiscing on their high school days, and embarking on their journey as alumnae.*





# We Broke Ground!

In June, several members of our board of directors, campaign leadership and administration, along with our senior class president, hosted a ceremonial groundbreaking for “Launching the Future”. Due to Covid-19 restrictions we weren’t able to hold a full ceremony, but we didn’t want to miss the opportunity to capture this historic moment and major milestone for Assumption. However, we do look forward to celebrating when we can do this safely.

The expansion project will add nearly 35,000 square feet of space, including a new main entrance, lobby, cafeteria, kitchen, administrative offices, chapel, and 10 additional classrooms. The expansion will pave the way for significant renovations in our current school building, including a new

and expanded Learning Differences Center as well as more science classrooms and labs, a new center for visual arts, and designated space to accommodate our growing engineering curriculum and aviation program. This expansion and additional renovations are slated to be completed in the fall of 2021. The project will be funded by an \$8 million capital campaign that is currently underway.

We are incredibly grateful for the generosity and support of our donors. Nearly \$6 million has been raised to date, and we are looking to our Assumption community to join us in our continued efforts to help complete this transformational vision that will enhance the Assumption experience long into the future.



Pat Armstrong, John Pieper, Claire Burgin '21, Michelle Coke Farmer '94, Mary Lang, Martha Pfaadt Tedesco '90, Sister Diana Newton RSM '65, Beth McAuliffe Mullins '76, Dr. John Buchino, Hank Robinson

## CAPITAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE

### CO-CHAIRS

**Beth McAuliffe Mullins '76 and Steve Mullins**  
Past Parents, Retired

**Hank and Karen Robinson**  
Board Member/Past Parents, VP Tax - Humana

### MEMBERS

**Pat Armstrong - Board Chair/Past Parent**  
President and CEO of Kentucky Derby Museum

**John Cunningham - Member of Investment Committee/Past Parent**  
Senior Vice President - Wealth Management  
Cunningham Financial Group at UBS

**Tom Ferree - Current Parent**  
Chairman and CEO - Connected Nation

**Diane Gahafer '94 - Secretary of the Board**  
Regional Vice President, Healthcare - Salesforce.com

**Akbar and Colleen Nawab - Current Parents**  
Dr. Akbar Nawab - Orthopaedic Surgeon -  
Ellis & Badenhause  
Dr. Colleen Nawab - Physical Medicine &  
Rehabilitation Specialist -  
Veteran's Affairs Medical Center

**Megan Pullem O'Reilly '97 - Past President, Alumnae Board**

**Sherry Miller Ott '77 and Matt Ott**  
Owners of Air Hydro Power

**Sarah Nopper Schurfranz '63 - Past Parent/ Current Grandparent**  
Retired

**Rosemary Bisig Smith '59 - Board Member/ Past Parent/Current Grandparent Retired**  
Executive Director - Catholic Education  
Foundation (CEF)

**Cammie Crawford Unruh '97 - Current Parent/ Vice President, Assumption Parent Organization**



A new, accessible main entrance will provide greater security while serving as a prominent focal point for the campus, eliminating the issue of multiple entry points to the school.



Additional classrooms and collaborative spaces will accommodate current enrollment while keeping class sizes small, allowing us to offer more courses and providing needed space for project-based and cooperative learning.



A larger cafeteria will allow for fewer lunch periods, paving the way for critical master schedule changes needed to advance our academic goals and expand our curriculum.



A large and dedicated chapel will serve as a visible witness to our Catholic identity and Mercy charism, providing more opportunities for communal prayer and worship.

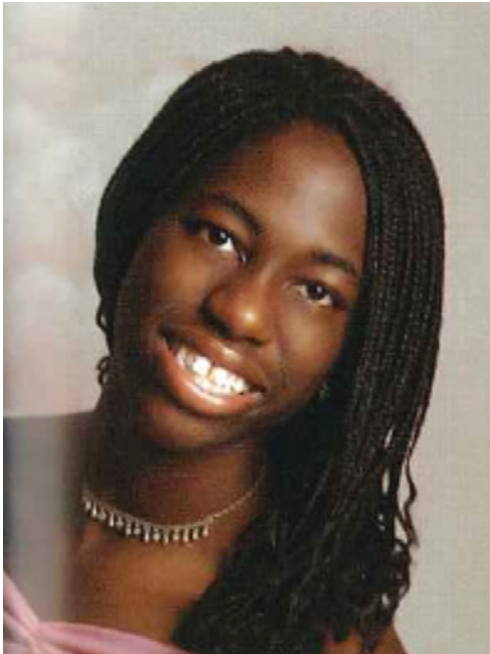
For more information on how you can help, please contact the Advancement Office at 502-271-2518 or [michelle.farmer@ahsrockets.org](mailto:michelle.farmer@ahsrockets.org)



# HEALTHCARE HEROES

*Heroes in healthcare are everywhere yet often go unnoticed. Throughout the pandemic, many have come to recognize and appreciate the hard work that each of these individuals put forth every day. Assumption is filled with many talented alumnae who work tirelessly in the healthcare field in a variety of ways. We are proud to highlight a few of these empowered women and their commitment to a life of service in society.*

## ESEOSA IGHODARO '07, MD, PHD



A member of the class of 2007, Eseosa Ighodaro, MD, PhD has made tremendous strides in healthcare and has passionately pursued lifelong learning. She graduated with honors and summa cum laude, earning a bachelor of science in biology and minors in chemistry and French. Following the completion of her undergraduate degree, she enrolled in the combined MD/PhD program at the University of Kentucky College of Medicine where she became the first African-American woman to complete the program. Dr. Ighodaro proudly earned a doctoral medical degree in medicine as well as her PhD in neuroanatomy. In addition to her medical training, she has published over 15 articles in the areas of hippocampal sclerosis of aging, cerebral small-vessel disease, and neurological health disparities in African Americans. Over the years she has received numerous awards for her activism work on University of Kentucky's campus and within the community.

As the first African-American female to graduate from the University of Kentucky College of Medicine MD/PhD program, Dr. Ighodaro feels honored to lead the way. She shared her journey was encouraged by her dad, who instilled in her hard work and persistence through his immigration to the United States from Nigeria. "He always told us, 'If I could come from a different country and study extremely hard to get my degree, there's no reason why you cannot also do the same.'" Her biggest advice to share with students is, "You are your own limitation. Whatever you set your mind to, reach for the moon and do not let anyone tell you that you cannot do something. Surround yourself with individuals who support you in your vision and if you do, you will you get to the next level." Dr. Ighodaro shared that Assumption provided phenomenal experiences in her science curriculum. Her teachers instilled the joy of science in her, staying after school with her to answer questions and help ignite her excitement and passion about the subject.

While her passion for science has fueled her professional career, Dr. Ighodaro said working during the pandemic was a challenging time for many physicians, "We did not fully understand the Covid-19 virus and a lot of things were changing on an hourly basis. It was a very stressful and demanding time for all of us but given that we are called to serve and required to serve, many people, including myself, stepped up and we took care of our patients and did what we had to do." The process was transformative for Dr. Ighodaro. "I was able to see the strength that I have inside of me and the strength my colleagues had inside of them and the audacity to keep coming to work even though we could also get the virus."

Currently, Dr. Ighodaro is a neurology resident (PGY-2) and neuroscientist at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota. Her research interests focus on understanding the role of racism in neurological health disparities and risk factors for cerebral small-vessel disease. After residency, she plans to matriculate into a stroke or behavioral neurology fellowship.



## MOLLY PARSCH '10

Molly Parsch '10 works at the Kentucky Department for Public Health as an Epidemiologist for Communicable Disease at Louisville Metro Public Health. Prior to the pandemic, her work was focused on the HIV needle exchange program, prevention and education of cancer, sexually transmitted diseases, foodborne illnesses, tuberculosis, and opioids. Wherever there is a need for public health intervention, Molly is there to serve the community. At the beginning of the pandemic, she was tracing coronavirus cases by identifying exposure from Covid positive individuals. This aspect in the pandemic is extremely important to discovering where the virus starts and how best to stop it from continuing.

In addition to contact tracing, Molly also educates and assists individuals facing challenging circumstances. She provides comfort and knowledge, establishing a rapport with those who need assistance. Through her role in public health, Molly helps coordinate food, prescription, and supply deliveries. Throughout the pandemic she has found that listening and conversing with people means more than anything. So many people are lonely and missing human interactions that her phone calls, though they are primarily related to an individual's Covid-19 status, have grown to be more than just a medical update. Molly said, "Being in this role and living during a pandemic has resulted in me having patience with others and connecting me directly with people who need extra assistance. Providing someone with the resources they need has been very fulfilling." She shared that during her years at Assumption she learned how to be compassionate; Assumption programs such as ACTS (A Christian Through Service) and ARISE Mission Trips inspired her growth and commitment to compassionate service.

## JENNIFER EFFINGER KOCH '93, MD

Jennifer Effinger Koch '93, MD, serves as a Professor of Medicine and Internal Medicine Residency Program Director at the University of Louisville. Dr. Effinger said that working during the pandemic has "been the biggest challenge I have ever encountered" during her 15 years as a physician and educator. "In addition to experiencing the same fears for personal and family health that we all experienced, I faced the challenge of planning in the hospital and clinic for a thousand different scenarios, because so much was uncertain. The outpouring of support from the community was an unexpected silver lining."

Dr. Effinger admitted that she has always been a "hyper-organized germaphobe who is pretty good in a crisis," so she was born for the pandemic. All joking aside, she shared her expertise during this uncertain time to spread awareness. Overcoming her fear of the spotlight, Dr. Effinger used social media and local news platforms to educate the community on the importance of flattening the curve and understanding the pandemic.

Dr. Effinger's time at Assumption equipped her with skills to achieve success throughout her career. "I learned principles of social justice which have informed my outlook and my medical practice. Also, attending a high school which explicitly empowers women has led me to confront gender bias in my profession," she stated. Assumption provided a foundation for Dr. Effinger to have confidence in herself and her ability to lead boldly, even amid a pandemic.





# we are HOME



**“I WILL COMMIT TO MAKING SURE ASSUMPTION IS HOME THIS YEAR BY MAKING SURE EVERYONE IS INCLUDED AND FEELS IMPORTANT AND LOVED.”**

*-Molly Evola, Family Council*

The week before the pandemic began, Danielle Granger '22 listened to the announcements about International Week of the Woman. She was inspired by the announcement, the words about female empowerment, and the importance of women in the world, so she took to art. “I didn’t have any work to do, so I started doing some sketches and came up with the design. I was thinking about how diverse and accepting Assumption is and came up with strength in sisterhood,” Danielle shared. What Danielle didn’t realize was how impactful her image would become.

Each year the student leaders, comprised of the Family Council, Class Officers, and Homeroom Moms, spend their summer leadership workshop executing the meaning of the school theme. As they do each year, student leaders met in the spring to select the school theme. This year they

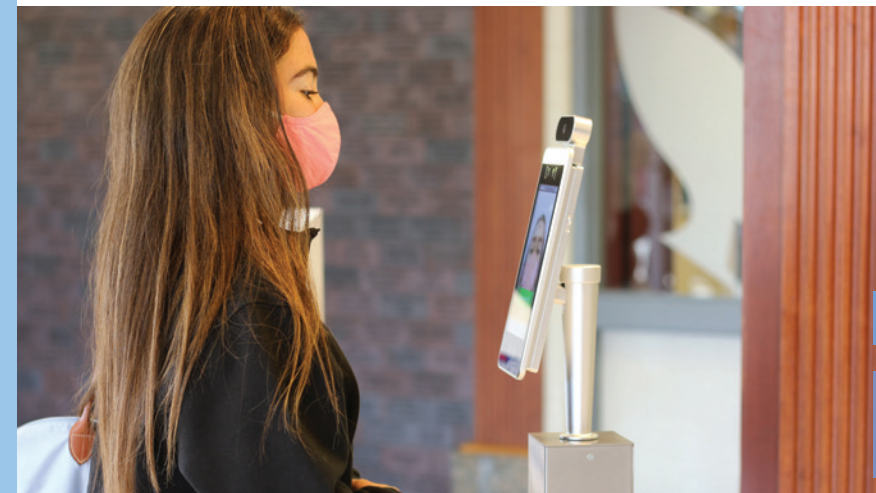
met virtually and reflected on what Assumption means to them. With the pandemic, the feelings were strong that Assumption is a home away from home for students. Together, the leaders chose the theme, “We Are Home,” paired with Danielle’s image to symbolize the sisterhood and the home that Assumption provides. Riley Stull '21, Family Council president, said, “my personal definition of home is a place that makes me loved and like I belong there. Assumption instantly fit this definition for me when I shadowed.” As a senior, Riley feels that home is where the heart is and her heart is with the community of Assumption.

The image Danielle created matched the “We Are Home” theme so much that it felt serendipitous. Standing together, no matter what the year would bring, connected through their uniform, our students are home...no matter where they are.

## HEALTHY AT SCHOOL

With each new year comes new challenges, and the 2020-2021 school year is no different. Assumption is committed to following the best practice recommendations of the Kentucky Department of Education and the Archdiocese of Louisville to ensure we meet the high standards and rigor of an Assumption education as well as prioritizing health and safety for our entire community. Numerous policies and protocols have been put into place to ensure the safety of our students, faculty, and staff.

Students were given the option to choose between virtual or in-person instruction for the time being. All students experienced a full virtual schedule in the spring, but schedules have all been adjusted to find what works best to work hybrid. To seamlessly transition our students into the hybrid model of instruction, we divided our student body into two cohort groups. Each class attended virtual orientations to learn processes and protocols as well as in-person orientations to receive beginning-of-school information, experience the one-way hallways, and take care of any in-person needs.



### KEY SAFETY MEASURES

Ensuring physical distancing with staggered arrival and dismissal times

Maintaining six feet of distance between all members of the school community and discontinuing unnecessary contact

Reducing physical class sizes

Reducing congestion in common areas and cancelling all in-person assemblies, field trips, and large group gatherings

Requiring proper use of face masks in the building

Requiring temperature screening and symptom checks before arriving as well as taking temperature upon arrival

Creating one-way hallways

Increasing schoolwide cleaning and disinfecting protocols

Giving students wristbands upon entry after screening

Prioritizing procedures that simplify and expedite contact tracing



ROCKET IN REVIEW

1956



The original Assumption Convent broke ground in 1956 and was added as a home for the Mercy Sisters, opening in 1957. Prior to being built, the sisters lived on the third floor of the main building. In 1998 the convent was renamed the McAuley Center.

1989



A small expansion project to the front area of the school was started, opening in 1990. The building included new classrooms and office space. The Boeckmann computer lab was added during this time.

1994

The Arts and Sciences wing officially broke ground on June 28, 1994, and opened in spring 1995. This wing provided Assumption with a dedicated space for science labs as well as a new art classroom and music room.



2001

The Convocation and Athletic Center was built and finished in 2002 as part one of a major renovation that included a new gymnasium, athletic office, weight room, campus store, media center, chapel, and nine classrooms. The original gymnasium was transformed into the Humana Foundation Performing and Fine Arts Center, opening in 2005.



2005

The Assumption Green sits on 11.9 acres of land and began with the completion of the track and field area in 2005. In 2006, the softball field was completed. The indoor sports complex was completed in 2012, featuring classrooms, solar panels, a green roof system, and other environmentally friendly amenities. The indoor softball facility was built and opened in spring of 2020, providing space year round for our softball team to train.

IN MEMORIAM

Our deepest sympathy to the following members of the Assumption community and their families.

MARY HELEN ZAHN KESSLER 1948 - 2020



Mary Helen Zahn Kessler passed away unexpectedly on September 26, 2020. She devoted over 35 years of her life to Assumption. Mary Helen came to AHS in 1970 as a PE and Health teacher, coached multiple sports and was athletic director from 1970-1983. Her coaching career included many outstanding accomplishments in basketball, field hockey, volleyball, track, and softball. In 2003 she was inducted into the Metro Athletic Directors Hall of Fame and in 2004 she was inducted in the Assumption Hall of Fame. Many remember her "Death and Dying" class fondly. Mary Helen touched many lives and will be missed by all who had the privilege of knowing her.

Ruth Thomas Billings Luckey '58, Norma Thomas Coon '63, Nancy Thomas Langan '67 and Linda Thomas Coke '72 on the death of their sister, Katherine Langan Bartosik '98 on the death of her aunt, and to the Class of 1979 on the death of their classmate, **Susan Thomas Glass '79**, on August 19, 2020.

To the family, friends, and the Class of 1959 on the death of their classmate, **Joan Chester Koerber '59**, on May 1, 2020.

To the family, friends, and the Class of 1959 on the death of their classmate, **Dianne O'Dea White '59**, on July 5, 2020.

To the family, friends, and Class of 1960 on the death of their classmate, **Mary Alice Lawler**, on August 3, 2020.

Judy Hyman Butler '61 on the death of her husband, **Howard A. Butler**, on May 26, 2020.

To the family, friends, and Class of 1962 on the death of their classmate, **Emily Besendorf Barker '62**, on September 17, 2020.

To the family, friends, and the Class of 1962 on the death of their classmate, **Paula Kaelin Eads '62**, on May 12, 2020.

Nancy Vittitoe Stanfield '63, Barbara Vittitoe Maurice '66, Rosemary Vittitoe Anderson '70, and Patricia Vittitoe '73 on the death of their sister, Amy Koch-Nett '89 on the death of her mother-in-law, and to the Class of 1965 on the death of their classmate, **Mary Vittitoe Nett '65**, on August 17, 2020.

Joyce Bornschein Barnes '64 on the death of her mother, **Grace N. Hadberg Bornschein**, on April 28, 2020.

Sister Diana Newton '65, RSM on the death of her mother, **Mary Costigan Newton**, on August 18, 2020.

Karen Schnurr Benz '68 and Janet Schnurr Myers '72 on the death of their sister, Pat Chase Schnurr '69 on the death of her sister-in-law, Sarah Myers '03 on the death of her aunt, and the class of 1964 on the death of their classmate, **Mary Schnurr Thompson '64**, on July 13, 2020.

Constance Cogan Spalding '73, Kelly Cogan Krampe '78, Kathleen "Kitty" Cogan Pfeiffer '80, Courtney Cogan Brooks '83 on the death of their mother, Antoinette Chumbley-Cogan '76 on the death of her

mother-in-law, and Cynthia Spalding Knappek '90, Candace Cogan '00, Stephanie Spalding Bilbrey '02, Caroline Cogan Eromo '04, and Sabrina Spalding '10 on the death of their grandmother, **Doris Cogan**, on July 20, 2020.

Leigh Ann Quesenberry Gahn '75, Jacqueline Quesenberry Aldred '79, Susan M. Quesenberry Bennett '82, and Colleen Quesenberry Zirnheld '88 on the death of their father and Tori Gahn Klamo '03, Amanda Bennett Carlisle '10, and Brooke Gahn '10, on the death of their grandfather, **David L. Quesenberry**, on March 17, 2020.

Nora Lusher Shipman '75, Peggy Lusher '77, and Nancy Lusher Burke '78 on the death of their mother, **Connie Kelley Lusher**, on July 19, 2020.

Kathryn Dillon Borg '77 on the death of her sister and to the Class of 1969 on the death of their classmate, **Emily Dillon Dyre '69**, on March 23, 2020.

Michelle Henle Jacobsen '80 and Sally Henle Murr '85 on the death of their father, Bonnie Martin Henle '77 on the death of her father-in-law, and Mallorie Campbell '09 and Lily Henle '18 on the death of their grandfather, **Theodore Anthony "Ted" Henle**, on October 17, 2019.

Michelle Henle Jacobsen '80 and Sally Henle Murr '85 on the death of their mother, Bonnie Martin Henle '77 on the death of her mother-in-law, and Mallorie Campbell '09 and Lily Henle '18 on the death of their grandmother, **Jane "Nonnie" Henle**, on February 22, 2020.

Tina Fussenegger Young '85 on the death of her husband and Sydney Young '19 on the death of her father, **William "Bill" Z. Young III**, on June 19, 2020.

Shawna Coke Strode '91 on the death of her mother-in-law, **Mary Catherine Strode**, on June 18, 2020.

Theresa Liebert Schuhmann '92, Susan Liebert Spalding '93, Angela Liebert Hobbs '95, and Karen Liebert Pate '99 on the death of their father and Gracie Spalding '20 and Caroline Schuhmann '22 on the death of their grandfather, **James Jordan "Jordie" "Jim" Liebert**, on April 15, 2020.

Meagan Hardin Schmidt '00 on the death of her mother, Margaret Mullarkey Flynn '62, Mary Mullarkey Mills '65, Sally Mullarkey

Hattermer '68, and Joan Mullarkey Nohalty '75 on the death of their sister, and to the Class of 1973 on the death of their classmate, **Martha Mullarkey Hardin '73**, on April 22, 2020.

Brittany Gerth Loewen '03 and Tiffany Gerth Hensley '07 on the death of their brother, **Tyler Gerth**, on June 27, 2020.

Devin Roos '05 on the death of her mother-in-law, **Mary Jane Ruf**, on March 17, 2020.

To the family, friends, and Class of 2006 on the death of their classmate, **Cary Wise '06**, on July 21, 2020.

To the family, friends and Class of 2008 on the death of their classmate, **Sara Krebs Osborne '08**, on August 21, 2020.

To the family, friends, and Class of 2009 on the death of their classmate, **Brittany "Dylan" Jenkins '09**, on July 19, 2020.

Katherine Eschels '14 on the death of her mother, **Mary Eschels**, on February 24, 2020.

Morgan Monsour '16 and Riley Monsour '19 on the death of their grandmother and to the Class of 1962 on the death of their classmate, **Elaine Quarles Monsour '62**, on February 1, 2020.

Haley Brents '18 on the death of her mother, **TaLisa Renee Brents**, on April 9, 2020.

Lucy Maggard '20 on the death of her father, **Jason Maggard**, on Friday, August 7, 2020.

Sydney Hendrick '22 and Ryley Hendrick '24 on the death of their father, **Bryan Miller Hendrick**, on May 18, 2020.

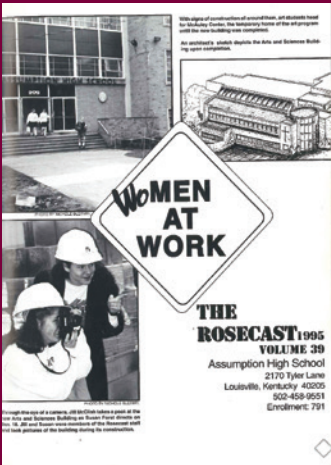
Former faculty member Allie Curley Metzler on the death of her brother, **John Thomas Renn Jr.**, on March 31, 2020.

Faculty member, Daniel Hamm, on the death of his father, **Harold Davis Hamm**, on May 19, 2020.

Guidance counselor Dawn Flamm Deweese on the death of her father, **John Irvin "Jack" Flamm**, on August 4, 2020.

Board of directors chair, Pat Armstrong, on the death of his mother, and to Devin Armstrong '14 and Becca Armstrong '20 on the death of their grandmother, **Emma Mae Armstrong**, on September 30, 2020.

In the spirit of our new construction, here's a look at past campus renovations and improvements.



2020

Go back to page 12 if you missed our announcement!



# ASSUMPTION HIGH SCHOOL

Fall Magazine 2020

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**Change Service Requested**

*Assumption High School cares about the environment.  
Please recycle this magazine when finished or share it with a friend.*

At this time, while trying to keep our students and our community safe, we are limiting gatherings on campus. In the meantime, we will continue to send information via email which may include virtual ways to participate in activities such as prayer, meditation, and other fun activities. Our goal is to keep you informed and connected with your Assumption community, now more than ever. Please be sure to let us know your contact information. We look forward to seeing everyone soon and on campus when it is safe to do so.

*If you have any questions, please contact the Advancement Office at  
502.271.2518 or [michelle.farmer@ahsrockets.org](mailto:michelle.farmer@ahsrockets.org)*

# ASSUMPTION HIGH SCHOOL

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