

# You are my beloved child; with you I am well pleased.

Mark 1:11



January 24, 2022

It was the fall of 2012 and we felt like we were at a crossroads in our lives. Our oldest son was about to begin 7th grade in our local public school system. While we felt like he was getting a well-rounded education, there was still always something missing. Many discussions took place about enrolling to Beckman Catholic but at the end of the day we ended up sending him to his previous school system. Even though that decision was comfortable from a social standpoint, it still left many unanswered questions in our minds as parents. “What is he missing from an education and opportunities perspective?” “How is he growing in his discipleship aside from the faith presented to him within our family?” “How are the choices we are making in his life today influencing the man he is to become spiritually and professionally?”

The Wessel Family from left to right:  
John, Kara, Luke, Liz '21, Justin '18

Even though the school year was already in session, we decided it is never too late to pursue what we were feeling called to explore. Thankfully, we resumed our research into Beckman Catholic and made a call to visit. We did not make it halfway through the tour and we could already see Beckman Catholic was the place for our family. The many opportunities and diverse programs that Beckman Catholic had to offer was very attractive. Plus, we both grew up with a strong Catholic faith but neither of us had an opportunity to attend a Catholic school and we wanted more for our children. We ended up transferring our oldest son to Beckman Catholic halfway through his first semester of his 7th grade year. Fast forward to today and we have two Beckman Catholic graduates and one in high school at Beckman Catholic. All of our children have felt like they are “part of a family” at Beckman Catholic. All of our kids have said, “Everyone knows who you are and truly cares.” The faith community at Beckman Catholic is definitely something special. Our children have thanked us multiple times for allowing them to attend Beckman Catholic and as a parent you cannot ask for a greater blessing.

Beckman Catholic has been more than just a school to our family. It is a beacon of faith-based education in a world that wants to eliminate any ties between religion and education. We have been impressed by the quality of education and the countless opportunities from arts, music, sports, agricultural programs, athletics, clubs, faith, community service and so much more. Without a doubt, our graduated children have left Beckman Catholic as well-rounded leaders and disciples who have a strong foundation for whatever lies ahead.

We feel beyond blessed to have Beckman Catholic in our community and are grateful to all the amazing faculty, staff, parishes, parents, and students who support Beckman Catholic. We feel very strongly that affordable Catholic education is vital to our community to continue to lead our youth down a path of faith and discipleship. Sending our children to Beckman Catholic is the best decision we have ever made for our family. We pray with your support that Beckman Catholic continues to change the lives of so many more families and students for years to come.

Sincerely,

John and Kara Wessel

Turn the page to read about Matt Naber’s Beckman Catholic experience.

- The 2021 Beckman Catholic Annual Appeal generated over \$223,000 for operation costs. Please consider a gift to the 2022 Annual Appeal and help us exceed last year’s total.
- The 2021-22 Beckman Catholic Annual Report with donor acknowledgment will follow in December 2022. All donors will receive a copy of the Annual Report.

Please Note: All checks received and not designated will be recognized in our Annual Report as such:  
Check from business account - full amount recognized under business. Check from individual account - full amount recognized under individual.  
• If one individual is an alumni, recognition will be under your graduating class in our alumni section.  
• If both spouses are alumni, recognition will be under both graduating classes - full donation amount in our alumni section.  
• If individual is from an affiliated parish or a friend of Beckman Catholic, recognition will be under our parish & friend section.  
(Please feel free to split the donation if you would like)

## YES! I want to strengthen Beckman Catholic High School by giving to the Beckman Catholic Annual Appeal.

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Please return this form in the envelope provided, or you can give online at <https://beckman.revtrak.net/Donate-Now/#/list>, or by phone at 563-875-7188. Thank you for your gift, which is tax deductible as provided by law.

☐ I would like my gift to be anonymous.





**Mission statement: Forming disciples of Jesus Christ in faith and reason for success in this life and for eternity.**



*Matt, Matthew and Molly Naber*

Beckman is home to me. My first experience of Beckman was at Jenk field when football games were held there. I made the choice to attend Beckman because of experiences shared by my aunts and uncles. I never knew I would become engrained in the family culture surrounding Beckman, that it would become my home. Although my role at Beckman has changed over the years from student, to alumni, to teacher, it still feels like a place of comfort.

I look back fondly on my time as a student at Beckman Catholic and see those experiences through a new point of view as a teacher. Staff members have always been dedicated to making events memorable. I think back to my excitement and awkwardness at junior high dances as I am organizing dances for our current students. I now understand why the staff so willingly gives their time to chaperone these events. It is because they love to see the bonds, the joy, and welcoming atmosphere shared between our students.

I recall stories from my family about Tom Jenk, Jim Sheston, Todd Troutman, Jim Derr, Beth Derr, and others. As I heard them as a student and hear them again as a teacher, different lessons surface highlighting the timeless nature of the lessons Beckman’s faculty offers. I recall the anticipation and nerves surrounding school plays and musicals. Now I witness seventh graders become senior actors and actresses with talents flourishing through the dedication of teachers and upper classmen taking the lead as student directors.

I recall the dedication of school counselors preparing my classmates and I for the ACT and teachers giving class opportunities to push me to hone my skills and expand my interests. I recall confessions, weekly mass, retreats, speakers, and theology classes, all a natural part of the Beckman experience. Now I see how strongly my beliefs were shaped by those seemingly routine events. I have found purpose in my life, not because I was told to follow a faith blindly, but given tools to pursue my faith continuously. This has solidly set me down a path toward adulthood, marriage, and fatherhood.

As my life changed through marriage, my wife and I struggled about where to live. Near her family in Madison, Wisconsin, there were many lucrative opportunities we wanted for our family: a variety of schools, numerous sports opportunities, a large community, and a diverse culture. However, it was our desire and focus on our new family drawing us back to Dyersville with Beckman at its core. My wife saw the dedication of the staff, sincerity emanating from our students, and the faith it instilled in me. We wanted these virtues for our children and set our sights on Dyersville. It is not an easy road, but there is immense joy that comes from working at this school.

Much has changed at Beckman since I saw that first football game at Jenk Field but Beckman’s mission never has: faith. Beckman Catholic’s focus of “disciples today, saints for eternity” echoes our school’s desire to follow moral leadership and work toward excellence every day to become the best version of ourselves for the service of others.

Sincerely,

*Matt Naber*

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