

**Name:** Jacob Schirz, Holy Family

**Why I am proud to attend Saint Bede Academy:** “I am proud to attend Saint Bede because it is a catholic school. I am proud to learn more about my faith.”

**What I like about Saint Bede:** “I like that the teachers and administrators truly care about the students.”

**What the phrase “Saint Bede Academy: Where You Belong” means to me:** “To me the phrase represents that the administrators want us to become part of the Saint Bede family.”

**Future plans (beyond high school):** I plan to go to college and become a doctor.

**Name:** Mia Mazzorana, Trinity Catholic

**Why I am proud to attend Saint Bede Academy:** “I am proud to attend Saint Bede Academy because of its outstanding student body and the moral and religious beliefs.”

**What I like about Saint Bede:** “I like Saint Bede because of its catholic beliefs and overall moral message.”

**What the phrase “Saint Bede Academy: Where You Belong” means to me:** “The phrase to me means that Saint Bede is an open and welcoming place.”

**Future plans (beyond high school):** I want to go to college and become a pediatric radiologist.

**Name:** Alyssa Heitz, Waltham

**Why I am proud to attend Saint Bede Academy:** “Because I know it will help me succeed beyond high school and I will try my hardest to improve the school as it improves me.”

**What I like about Saint Bede:** “It is a small, yet diverse community of close-knit students and faculty.”

**What the phrase “Saint Bede Academy: Where You Belong” means to me:** “It means that Saint Bede is a place where you can fit in and make friends.”

**Future plans (beyond high school):** I plan to go to law school and become a lawyer or politician.

**Name:** Lucy Kluszczewski, Trinity Catholic

**Why I am proud to attend Saint Bede Academy:** “Because I can learn more about God and the catholic faith.”

**What I like about Saint Bede:** “I like Saint Bede because it has good teachers and they will prepare me for college. I like that Saint Bede has a variety of clubs I can join.”

**What the phrase “Saint Bede Academy: Where You Belong” means to me:** “This phrase means that I belong in a catholic school and with God.”

**Future plans (beyond high school):** I plan to attend the University of Illinois

**Name:** Gunnar Jauch, Peru Catholic

**Why I am proud to attend Saint Bede Academy:** “It is a great school that will allow me to pursue a good career and prepare me for the rest of my life.”

**What I like about Saint Bede:** “I like the environment and the opportunities that Saint Bede offers.”

**What the phrase “Saint Bede Academy: Where You Belong” means to me:** “It means joining a family and community of people who help each other.”

**Name:** Yadi Garcia, Trinity Catholic

**Why I am proud to attend Saint Bede Academy:** “I am proud to attend Saint Bede because I know that I will get a great education and make long lasting friendships.”

**What I like about Saint Bede:** “I like that the teachers are so nice and so are the other students here.”

**What the phrase “Saint Bede Academy: Where You Belong” means to me:** “It means to me that it’s a place where I could make a lot of friends and another place and feel comfortable at.”



## Nicholas Vandervort - Freshman

**Grade School:** Ottawa Marquette

**Activities:** Football, Bass Fishing, Venturing, Tech Club, Lectio Divina

**Why I am proud to attend SBA:** *What drew me to Saint Bede was its amazing environment. Everyone at Saint Bede is very welcoming no matter who you are. Attending Saint Bede means that you will be a Bruin for life. Nothing makes me prouder than saying I’m a Bruin. This is my family for life.*



## Gianna Elias - Junior

**Grade School:** Spring Valley JFK

**Activities:** Softball, Golf, Scholastic Bowl, Spanish Club, Venturing, Interact Club, Ambassadors

**Why I am proud to attend SBA:** *I am proud to attend Saint Bede because of the family-like atmosphere. I only had three people from my graduating class and chose to attend Saint Bede. From the minute I walked through the door I felt accepted as part of the Saint Bede family. Everyone welcomed me like they had known me all their lives and not once have I felt like an outsider. I also feel that Saint Bede offers the best education around for those who want a challenge. I have no doubt that I made the right choice in choosing Saint Bede.*



## Abby Weber - Sophomore

**Grade School:** Mendota Holy Cross

**Activities:** Volleyball, Basketball, Softball, Venturing, Last Supper Club, Yearbook, Interact Club, Lectio Divina

**Why I am proud to attend SBA:** *I am proud to attend Saint Bede because it is such a welcoming place. Before I walked into the front doors I was told it would be my home. I didn’t really know what that meant, but now I do. They accept you here for who you are. They treat you like you are family, because that’s what Saint Bede is, one big family. I am proud to be in this family, not just for my four years here, but for the rest of my life.*



## Daryl Senica - Senior

**Grade School:** Waltham

**Activities:** Football, Wrestling, Interact Club, Track, SBASG, Venturing, Ambassadors, Pep Club

**Why I am proud to attend SBA:** *I am more than proud to attend Saint Bede Academy; I am thankful. Now I can extend my tree of knowledge to different branches of experiences that I could never have imagined. I get to follow and hopefully exceed in the footsteps and goals that my cousins, aunts, uncles, and grandfather set for me years ago. But best of all, I get to be a part of the biggest and best family around – the family of all the Saint Bede students.*

**Name:** Amber Meagher, Peru Catholic

**Why I am proud to attend Saint Bede Academy:** “I am proud to attend SBA because I know I will get far, not just in education but people skills, long lasting friendships and so much more.”

**What I like about Saint Bede:** “Everyone here is so nice and welcoming. SBA is kind to everyone.”

**What the phrase “Saint Bede Academy: Where You Belong” means to me:** “It means I’m home. All my “family” is here and it’s not just a school, it’s a family where everyone belongs.”

**Name:** Jacob Marcinkus, Tonica

**Why I am proud to attend Saint Bede Academy:** “I am proud to attend Saint Bede because we’re a great school and I want to be a part of that. I want to show my pride in this school as a Bruin for the next 4 years”

**What I like about Saint Bede:** “My favorite thing that Saint Bede offers is individuality. Everyone knows each other and students aren’t looked at like numbers.”

**What the phrase “Saint Bede Academy: Where You Belong” means to me:** “The phrase means this isn’t just a high school where I’ll be gone in four years. This tells me that I’ll be part of this family for life.”

**Future plans (beyond high school):** I plan to become a NASA engineer.

**Name:** Sage Terry, LaSalle Lincoln

**Why I am proud to attend Saint Bede Academy:** “I know I will get a good education here so that I can go on to do what I want with my future.”

**What I like about Saint Bede:** “The students and staff are close and work hard to include everyone as part of the family.”

**What the phrase “Saint Bede Academy: Where You Belong” means to me:** “It means that they’re welcoming anyone into the community if they choose.”

**Future plans (beyond high school):** I want to go to college to study creative writing and acting. I want to become an actor or short film director.

**Name:** Cassie Williams, Ottawa Shepherd

**Why I am proud to attend Saint Bede Academy:** “I am proud to attend Saint Bede Academy because school is a huge part of my life and SBA is going to give me the best chance in the future.”

**What I like about Saint Bede:** “Saint Bede is very diverse and is going to help me with whatever I need.”

**What the phrase “Saint Bede Academy: Where You Belong” means to me:** “It means that you belong somewhere great and that is what Saint Bede is.”

**Future plans (beyond high school):** “I plan to go to college, medical school, and then become a surgeon.”

**Name:** Grace Mertel, Holy Family

**Why I am proud to attend Saint Bede Academy:** “I am proud to attend Saint Bede Academy because Saint Bede offers a superb education and religious values in everyday life.”

**What I like about Saint Bede:** “The staff and students treat each other like family and SBA prepares you for the future.”

**What the phrase “Saint Bede Academy: Where You Belong” means to me:** “It means that this is where we fit in best. We will learn, make friends, and overall live better while attending SBA.”

**Future plans (beyond high school):** “I plan to go to college and find a successful job I enjoy.”



**Name:** Bill & Lynn Weber

**Daughter:** Abby Weber, Mendota Holy Cross

**Why I am proud to be a Bruin Parent:** *We know we have chosen a school our daughter is proud to attend. Our children's education is a top priority to us, and we have made sacrifices so that our children can attend SBA.*

*We know this is the right choice for our family.*

**These qualities attracted us to send our daughter to Saint Bede Academy for high school:** *We are impressed with the high standards set by the staff and the students. Having our child spend time in a place that encourages individuality, community service, and helps her strengthen her faith is important to us. We were worried about the logistics of getting to and from SBA since we live and work so far away. We now realize the drive is well worth the education she is receiving, and we are lucky to have a school like SBA this close to us.*

**What the phrase, "Saint Bede Academy: Where You Belong" means to me:** *We feel like SBA is a second home to our daughter, she is happy, well adjusted, and confident. We feel like we belong to something much bigger than just a high school career that ends in four years. We have been told numerous times, 'once a Bruin, always a Bruin.' We couldn't agree more.*

**Name:** Elizabeth Penrod

**Daughter:** Kinnason Jackson, Oglesby Washington

**Why I am proud to be a Bruin Parent:** *I am proud because of the rewarding benefits Saint Bede has to offer their students over and above a great education. I feel my hard work as a parent to give my children the best start in life is being fulfilled through Saint Bede.*

**What the phrase, "Saint Bede Academy: Where You Belong" means to us:** *She belongs at Saint Bede because she wants to continue to do her very best in the environment Saint Bede has to offer- family, positive attitude, morals, and the support to succeed.*

**Name:** Craig & Jennifer Searl

**Daughter:** Rhiannon Searl, Princeton Christian Academy

**Why I am proud to be a Bruin Parent:** *I could not think of a better place for our daughter to grow into a highly successful person both professionally and with her journey with God.*

**These qualities attracted us to send our daughter to Saint Bede Academy for high school:** *Saint Bede offers the best possible education environment. When our daughter applies to college, admissions offices take notice of a premier school like Saint Bede and, in particular, the Honors program that Rhiannon has the privilege of being part of.*

**You Belong" means to me:** *It means a feeling of family and fellowship.*

**Name:** Edward & Dana (Strell) Jauch

**Son:** Gunnar Jauch, Peru Catholic

**Why I am proud to be a Bruin parent:** *"I loved SBA when I was here as a student and I am excited to share this family, education, and tradition with my child and experience it now as a parent."*

**These qualities attracted us to send our son to Saint Bede Academy for high school:** *"As an alum I feel that Saint Bede completely prepared me for my college years. The education was top notch and I want that for my son!!"*

**What the phrase "Saint Bede Academy: Where You Belong" means to us:** *"Saint Bede means FAMILY and always having a "home" to return to."*

**Name:** Angie Harmon & Jason Lee

**Daughter:** Addison Lee, Waltham

**Why I am proud to be a Bruin parent:** *"I'm proud of my daughter and being a Bruin is important to her."*

**These qualities attracted us to send our daughter to Saint Bede Academy for high school:** *"Saint Bede offers a religious environment and a high quality education."*

**What the phrase "Saint Bede Academy: Where You Belong" means to us:** *"Our daughter is very sweet and shy we want her to break out of her shell and blossom. We know that Saint Bede is the place where she will be encouraged to do that."*

**Name:** Wendy Johnson

**Daughter:** Hannah Johnson, Dalzell

**Why I am proud to be a Bruin Parent:** *Saint Bede has a strong sense of community and family values. It has a positive reputation in the community. I've never spoken to a single alumnus that hasn't felt a positive effect from attending Saint Bede. The stories I hear are of praise, pride, and accomplishment. Once a Bruin, always a Bruin. I wish I could have gone to school there.*

**These qualities attracted me to send my daughter to Saint Bede Academy for high school:** *Saint Bede is known for its academic excellence and its contribution back to the community. Saint Bede is an anomaly in its ability to accept and understand that everyone has value.*

**What the phrase, "Saint Bede Academy: Where You Belong" means to me:** *The phrase gives me a sense of home, family; a place you can come home to.*

**Name:** Shawn & Heidi (Heuser) Addis

**Son:** Griffen Heuser, Peru Catholic

**Why I am proud to be a Bruin parent:** *"As a Bruin Alumni I couldn't think of anywhere else I would want my son to go to school. It's a great school with a great family atmosphere."*

**These qualities attracted us to send our son to Saint Bede Academy for high school:** *"When I was in high school at Saint Bede I had such great memories; vivid memories of favorite events and teachers. Every year I have been back for homecoming or other activities and it's like I have never been gone."*

**What the phrase "Saint Bede Academy: Where You Belong" means to us:** *"Saint Bede always makes you feel welcomed; like you belong there and are part of the family."*

**Name:** Paul & Debbie Cisneros

**Daughter:** Olivia Cisneros, Holy Family

**Why I am proud to be a Bruin parent:** *"Our daughter wanted to attend Saint Bede. She wanted to continue her education in a Catholic environment. I knew she wanted to go when she saved her baby sitting money to help pay for this opportunity."*

**These qualities attracted us to send our daughter to Saint Bede Academy for high school:** *"The strong catholic environment and strong academic environment."*

**What the phrase "Saint Bede Academy: Where You Belong" means to us:** *"This is a safe place to be; a place that makes you proud to attend and proud to represent."*



# SAINT BEDE Academy

24 W. US HWY 6 • Peru, IL 61354  
815-223-3140 • Fax 815-223-8580  
www.st-bede.com