



## Seniors say good-bye



After exchanging a hug with her mom (Laurie Gnad), Kate Gnad gets ready to give her dad, David Gnad, a hug as well during the opening portion of GACC's graduation ceremony on Mother's Day.

# GACC's 2022 graduation ceremony



**Above:** A remark directed at Ethan Baumert (far left) draws quite a reaction from Madison Brunsing (middle) and Francesca Calloni (right). Sitting behind them are Coy Kreikemeier and Nate Niewohner.

**Right:** Aubrey Kreikemeier accepts her high school diploma from GACC Principal Kate Hagemann.





**Nikolas Wietfeld is awarded his diploma at the 2022 graduation ceremony for GACC High School.**



**Bryce Bailey proceeds into the GACC graduation ceremony with his parents, Mike and Deb Bailey.**



## *Top of their '22 class*

**Guardian Angels Central Catholic High School's top seniors for 2022 were Sophia Hass, left, and Kayla Fischer. Hass was GACC's Valedictorian, and Fischer was the Salutatorian. Both earned their high school diplomas at the 2022 commencement ceremony May 8 at GACC Activity Center.**

# Svec will always remember relationships

Mark Svec is an avid golfer. Just ask his wife, Barb.

“Well, we’ll see him again in October,” Mark said in reference to what his wife would tell their two dogs once golf season rolled around each year.

While golfing was in Svec’s blood, coaching was not. That, however, changed in the early 2000’s.

The idea of coaching had been planted in Mark’s mind from parents at GACC High School. After some initial resistance, Svec attended a three-day golf school, which helped open the door to coaching.

After coaching in the Bluejay golf program since 2004, that door is now closing as Svec is retiring as the GACC golf coach.

“It’s been an enjoyable and rewarding experience,” Svec said. “What I will remember most is the relationships with the kids.”

Some of the strongest bonds were created at the state golf tournament.

“From 2009 to now, we were lucky enough to have teams or individuals qualify [for state] every year,” Svec said. “And that’s where you really get to know the kids, when you’re with them for three days in a row.”

In the Svec era, Henry Knobbe was his first-ever state qualifier. Mark also had five state medalists: Ben Eilerts (twice), Isaac Kreike-meier, Cody Steuter, Hannah Hunke and Andrew Franzluebbers (twice).

Steuter and Franzluebbers were the only four-time state qualifiers in program history.

One of the biggest accolades during the Svec-coached years was crowning the program’s lone state champion, Ben Eilerts, in 2011. That year, the Bluejays finished 3rd in Class D.

Ben Eilerts is the son of Mike Eilerts, who is also stepping away



**After serving as a GACC golf coach since 2004, Mark Svec is retiring. In this photo, Svec is with former Bluejay golfer Andrew Franzluebbers at the 2019 state golf tournament.**

**‘It’s been an enjoyable and rewarding experience. What I will remember most is the relationships with the kids.’**

**Mark Svec**

Recently retired GACC boys golf coach

## COACH SVEC: Will always remember the relationships

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from the GACC boys golf program. He served as Svec's assistant coach the past four seasons.

For Svec, his fellow coaches, Duane Mendlik, Daryl Boots and Eilerts, meant the world to him.

"I will never forget my relationships with Duane, Daryl and Mike, and what quality people they were," Svec said.

Svec served as assistant coach for Mendlik from 2004 to 2006.

"I learned more about kids from Duane, and how to manage personalities, in three years with him than I ever would have on my own," Svec said.

In 2007 with Boots, Svec maintained the assistant coach title but handled the head coaching duties. Then in 2019, Svec officially became the head coach.

"I couldn't have done this without my three coaches," Svec said.

Svec also noted he couldn't have coached without the support of his bosses at CharterWest Bank in West Point.

"They told us we needed to get involved with something in the community, and we'll support you. This was my way to be involved," Svec said. "I couldn't have done this without their support. They allowed me to do this."

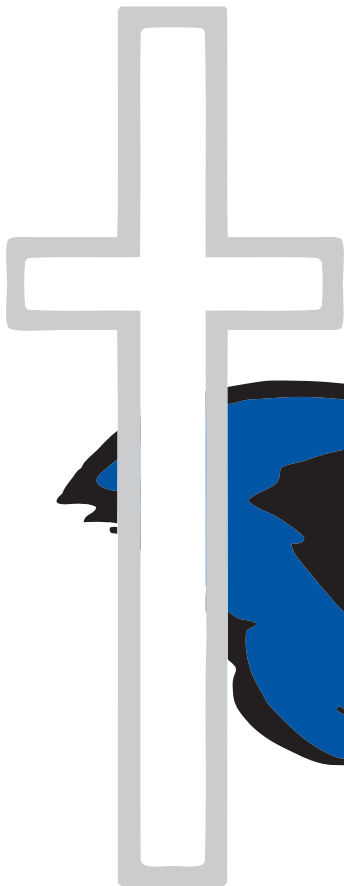
Support from parents in the

program was also huge. It was a driving force to allowing Bluejay golf flourish.

"We have some great kids in our school system. Parents [at GACC] do a really great job raising great kids," Svec said. "They are young men and women their parents can be proud of."

At GACC's end-of-the-year athletic banquet, Svec's message to golf parents, past and present, was:

"It has been an honor and a privilege to have been entrusted with your kids. I've never taken that trust for granted. I've gotten a lot more in return from your kids than I ever gave them."



**Thank you to all  
the Bluejay supporters!**

**You make  
GACC a  
very special place!!**



Taylor Timmerman accepts a handshake and diploma from GACC Principal Kate Hagemann during the commencement ceremony. Waiting their turns are Nikolas Wietfeld and Ethan Wooldrik.



Mitchell Plagge displays his diploma during GACC's graduation ceremony.



Lance Ditloff reacts to a comical moment at GACC's graduation ceremony.



Ethan Baumert shares a hug with his mom, Denise Baumert, as the GACC seniors proceed into the graduation ceremony. Standing beside them is Tyler Baumert, Ethan's dad.

# State track, golf for the Bluejays



GACC sophomore Jocelynn Skoda placed 5th in the 400-meter dash and 8th in the 4x4 relay. Other relay members were Sophia Hass, Reese Throener and Izzy Kreikemeier.



GACC's State Track & Field qualifiers were, from left, front: Reese Throener, Sophia Hass, Cassie Peatrowsky, Mackenzie Schmid; back: Isabel Hass, Izzy Kreikemeier, Jocelynn Skoda and Kennedy Baumert.



Competing at the Class D Boys State Golf meet from GACC were Ryan Hrbek and Livia Hunke. Hunke finished 19th (two strokes away from a medal) and Hrbek 37th.

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### JayFest June 9, 2023

### Alumni Banquet June 10, 2023

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