



MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Photo attached

SMCHS Senior Named Best Friends High School Lunch Mentor of the Year

Alex Rosiejka, a senior at St. Mary Catholic High School (SMCHS) was recently named the High School Lunch Mentor of the Year by Best Friends of Neenah-Menasha. Alex has participated in the program since 2014 when he was matched with an elementary student at a Neenah elementary school and began meeting with that student once a week during the lunch hour.

The two developed good rapport, and the influence on the student was significant, according to Lunch Mentoring Program Director Patti Houlihan. "Alex is very mature for his age and handled a very tough situation at Lunch Mentoring this past school year – he was very empathic to his student and wanted to do whatever he could to help him be a better person," she stated. "...It was refreshing to see him truly care about his student and to see him bring a smile to the student's face. Alex is an excellent role model for all ages and we are proud he is a mentor at Best Friends."

St. Mary Catholic High School has partnered with Best Friends since 2003, when 37 matches were created. The program has grown each year, and this year, more than 70 SMCHS students make visits to area elementary schools each week, and an additional 20 are signed up for a future match. Parents of both the elementary students and the mentors attest to the positive impact the program has on their children.

For more information about St. Mary Catholic High Schools, visit smcatholicschools.org; for more information about Best Friends of Neenah-Menasha, please visit bestfriendsnm.org.

St. Mary Catholic High School (SMCHS) a regional high school, is part of [St. Mary Catholic Schools \(SMCS\)](http://smcatholicschools.org). The system also includes St. Mary Catholic Elementary Schools (St. Margaret Mary and St. Gabriel in Neenah, and St. Mary in Menasha), as

well as St. St. Mary Catholic Middle School in Neenah. SMCHS is dedicated to the individual development of each student by providing an education focused on faith, academics and service.



Alex Rosiejka and Patti Houlihan

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