



Visit us at [yumacatholic.org](http://yumacatholic.org) or call us at 928-317-7910 for more information

**PSALM 100: 4**

“Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name.”

**A Message from Principal Stallworth**



YC Family and Friends

Yuma Catholic is off to another great start. Yuma Catholic is at full capacity as we boast 426 students. Our school has never been bigger. This year was our biggest freshman class ever at 125 students. Our growth over the past 4 years has been steady. We have had a waiting list to get into YC for the last two years. We are truly blessed.

We are excited to announce that the last two modular buildings will be finished and ready for occupancy in December. The FFA program will move further east to far modular buildings. The classroom out to the east will be the biggest classroom and also boast a women’s and men’s bathroom along with a kitchen. We feel this classroom will meet the needs of the FFA program and

allow us to start working on other projects for FFA including land labs. One other lucky teacher will move the adjoined classroom so our FFA teacher does not get lonely.

Our students are taking a record number of dual credit classes. YC leads Yuma County when it comes to students taking dual credit classes. Last year we had seven students graduate with associate degrees prior to graduating Yuma Catholic. We are on track to break that record this year.

Our ACT scores came in from last year. We are excited to say that we meet or exceed the National Average in all categories. We exceed all of the State Averages. Our scores continue to rise and reflect our teacher and administration’s efforts to excel in the classroom.

As always, we would like to thank all of those in the community who continue to support our institution. Without your support, we would not be able to flourish like we are.

Respectfully,

Rhett Stallworth-Principal Yuma Catholic HS

**At Yuma Catholic,  
Tradition Never Graduates.**

Please demonstrate your faith in our students by donating Dec 3rd

Join these Lead Donors and make a difference!

To Give-Text *Shamrock* to 928-362-3199  
or go to [www.yumacatholic.org/support/dog.cfm](http://www.yumacatholic.org/support/dog.cfm)

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**Upcoming Calendar**

- 12-3  
The Day of Giving  
A 24 Hour Online Giving Opportunity
- 12-7  
Rib Cook Off  
11:00am to 3:00pm
- 12-9  
Winter Music Festival  
6:30pm in the YC Cafeteria
- 12-17  
Last Day of Exams
- 1-6  
2nd Semester Begins
- 1-10  
Early Acceptance Date  
For Incoming Freshman Class
- 1-26 to 2-1  
Catholic Schools Week



## Alumni Spotlight: Veronica Boyd, Class of 2016

Our alumni spotlight shines on class of 2016 graduate Veronica Boyd. Her four years at Yuma Catholic were filled with many activities. During her time here, Miss Boyd immersed herself in student life. She was a member of National Honor Society, student council, Eucharistic Ministry and cross country and those are just a few of her extracurricular endeavors.

While at YC, Miss Boyd got her first glimpse into what her future would hold. She stated, “I had to visit a family member in the hospital. It was my first time really stepping into the hospital and it was a feeling I knew I did not want to feel again.” What happened next is what led Veronica on her journey to her career in nursing. The medical staff took the time to make the family comfortable and help them understand what was happening. “They taught me signs and symptoms to look for, what to do if my loved one felt a certain way, they even brought me over and explained all of the monitors to me so I could have more of an understanding of what was going on.”

Shortly after that experience Miss Boyd signed up to be a volunteer at the Yuma Regional Medical Center and became a part of the University of Arizona Yuma Friends Mentorship program. The mentoring program allowed Veronica to shadow local medical professionals and really helped ease that initial feeling she had walking into a hospital for the first time. She stated, “When I walked through the doors of the hospital to volunteer or shadow, I no longer had an awful pit in my stomach, yet I looked forward to what the day ahead of me had in store.”

These experiences led Veronica to choose nursing as her course of study after high school. She chose to attend Grand Canyon University

in Phoenix. In addition to earning a Bachelor’s in Nursing, Miss Boyd earned enough credits to add a minor in Psychology. During her time at GCU, Veronica was a student ambassador, showing new and perspective students around campus, she continued her volunteering ways this time at St Joseph’s hospital in Phoenix and she also found time to be a tutor as well.

Yuma Catholic also played a big role in getting Veronica to where she is today. “With all the dual enrollment classes offered directly at Yuma Catholic, I was also able to get ahead in my college career, which allowed me to graduate early. Yuma Catholic allowed me to develop good study habits to maintain high grades and taught me how to balance my schedule to allow me to be involved with what was important to me.”

Veronica has returned home to Yuma where she has taken a position at Yuma Regional Medical Center. When asked how it felt to come home and contribute to the Yuma Community she responded, “Coming back and contributing to the Yuma community in such a unique and important way has been such a blessing for me; it’s difficult to find the words! Coming back to my hometown reminds me that every day I get to decide the type of caregiver I will be and how far I will go for my patients, especially since I know what it feels like to be in their shoes.”

Veronica plans to eventually continue on in her education to earn a Doctorate in Nursing Practice as well as a PhD, but for now she is excited about her new role and being back in Yuma with her family and her pets.



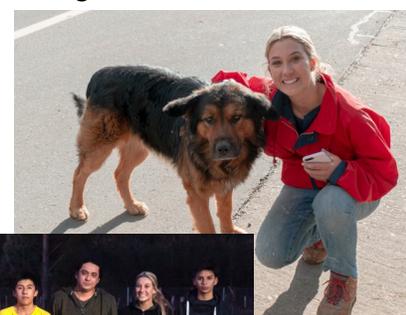
## On A Mission To Chile: Senior Ali Schmunk

Ali Schmunk is a member of the class of 2020 and for as long as she can remember she has been attending church camps. At an event in the summer of 2018, sponsored by Christ in Youth, Ali listened to many speakers but there was one who made her think very deeply about her role as a Christian. She stated, “He said something that stuck with me, Go so far out of your comfort zone you’re literally nauseous and ask yourself why am I doing this?” He followed up with “What are Christians doing to go out of our comfort zone?”

Ali admitted it was hard to take in all the thoughts that were going through her head at the time, but she took the question to heart. “I began to ask myself how God was going to use me.” It took several months of really searching for answers, but Ali stated, “God’s timing was incredible.” Ali was approached by her pastor one Sunday and he asked her if she would give some thought to joining a group from church on a mission to Chile.

“The only thing I could think of was “Ok Ali jump all in.” I was thrilled.”

She and a group of 9 others from the church spent 13 days in 3 different Chilean cities. The role there was to assist the locals in whatever projects they were working on at that time.



# Yuma Catholic Hosts the AIA State Chess Competition

Somewhere between 150 - 200 high school chess players from all over the state of Arizona are expected to arrive on the campus of YCHS for two days of intense competition as Yuma Catholic hosts the 2019 Arizona State Individuals Chess Championship on November 22-23. The competition rotates from region to region throughout the state and 2019 is Yuma County's turn in the rotation. Yuma Catholic won the right to host the event by virtue of their 2018 first-place finish in Region V, a chess conference consisting of the five YUHSD schools and Yuma Catholic. On the strength of their placing at the 2019 Region V individuals tournament at Kofa High School, the YCHS chess players also won the right to play in the competition they'll be hosting. Austin Doten took third place among 37 competitors at the regional tournament and three of Austin's teammates claimed spots in the top ten.

As for the 2019 Region V team standings, YC's chess team finished just half a point behind Kofa's to finish in second place, thereby qualifying to play in the 2019 state team competition that was held on November 8-9 in Tempe. Although the five YC varsity players did not win a round at this year's state team competition, they were competitive in Tempe, drawing once and losing 2 - 3 in three other best-of-five rounds. The seven YC students who traveled to Tempe as alternates added many victories to the individual wins tallied by YC's team.

By far, Yuma Catholic fielded the largest chess team in Region V with 15 active members, both boys and girls. The team is led by a strong group of veteran junior and sophomore players who are complemented well by promising freshmen. The future looks bright for YC's chess team as it stands to return most, if not all, of its members next school year.

Submitted by: **Mr. Bill Mork, Chess Coach**



# Music: We've Added A Drumline!

The Yuma Catholic Drum line has performed at school assemblies, home football games, Fall Concert in September and at the Immaculate Conception Bar-B-Q. What is remarkable about this group is that all students play different primary instruments so they really took the Drum line to heart and practiced extremely hard.

The Band, Choir, Guitar and Drama classes will be presenting the Annual Winter Holidaypalooza on Monday December 9th at 6:30 pm in the Yuma Catholic cafeteria/music room. In addition, the Choir will be singing carols with the Yuma Jazz Company Quartet on Thursday December 19th at the Village Jazz Series in the Village area of the Yuma Palms Regional Center.

Submitted by: **Mr. Brandon Coz, Music**



# Yuma Catholic Welcomes Five New Staff Members



**Name:** Jessa J. Sandoval  
**Birthplace:** Bacolod City, Philippines  
**Educational Background:** Bachelor of Secondary Education Major in General Science  
**Previous Job:** Teacher in the Philippines

**What are you teaching at YC?** Chemistry

**Why did you choose YC?**

I believe in the mission and vision of YC. Also, I know that in YC I can improve my craft in teaching and I want to be of help in teaching minds, touching hearts and transforming lives of students.

**One thing everyone should know about you?**

I am a proud Filipino!



**Name:** Jennifer Miller  
**Birthplace:** Knoxville, Tennessee  
**Educational Background:** Mohave Community College, Grand Canyon University  
**Previous Job:** worked as a teacher at Kofa

**What are you teaching at YC?**

Free enterprise & government

**Why did you choose YC?**

Because YC is the elite...it's where you want to be. The best of the best.

**One thing everyone should know about you?**

She is crazy about Chihuahuas, she loves animals, & wants world peace.



**Name:** Soledad R. Rodriguez  
**Birthplace:** San Luis Rio Colorado, Sonora Mx  
**Educational Background:** I went to AWC after high school and took a long break raising my two older daughters before completing my Associates of Arts in 2003. I then proceeded with my education at the University of Phoenix and in 2006 I obtained my Bachelor of Science in Human Services. I then continued my education further at NAU of Yuma and obtained my Master of Education School Counseling in 2010.  
**Previous Job:**

I was at Vista High School for three years as a School Counselor. Before that, I worked for Arizona Western College for ten years. During my last four years with them, I was the Director of Educational Talent Search and Upward Bound. My other six years I was the Academic Coordinator for Educational Talent Search.

**What are you teaching at YC?**

I'm one of the three counselors at YC.

**Why did you choose YC?**

I feel like my experience in counseling can be utilize here at YC and help make the difference in many students' lives. I know that working with the other two counselors we can make a great team.

**One thing everyone should know about you?**

I sing in the Choir for St. Francis Spanish mass every other Sunday. I enjoy helping people and enjoy spending time with my three beautiful daughters. I'm the first and only one in my family to obtain a Master's degree of my seven siblings.

**Name:** Iordanis Vlasios Moutsakidis

**Birthplace:** Athens, Greece

**Educational Background:** National Technical University of Athens, Civil Engineering- Bachelor's  
 University of Iowa, Civil Environmental Engineering - Master's, Ph.D

**Previous Job:** Professor of Engineering at AWC

**What are you teaching at YC?**

Engineering, Calc I, Calc II, Calc III, College Physics

**Why did you choose YC?**

Because it's a school with a good reputation, smart kids, great work environment

**One thing everyone should know about you?**

His first name (Iordanis) translates to Jordan, as he was named after the Jordan River, so it was destiny that he worked on river mechanics during his time at the University of Iowa.



**Name:** Douglas William DiIorio

**Birthplace:** Ridley, Pennsylvania

**Educational Background:** Homeschooled most of grade school, attended a Catholic high school, then Franciscan University and earned his Associate's degree. He received

his Bachelor's in theology a year later through online schooling, as he was already working.

**Previous Job:** Substitute teacher

**What are you teaching at YC?**

Sophomore Theology

**Why did you choose YC?**

It's a really good school to be teaching at. He needed a job and he feels God led his family and him here from Illinois. It was a really good fit and he is excited that school is in its first twenty-five years, as it means he can be a part of building YC's legacy. He likes YC because it is a good community with a good Catholic identity.

**One thing everyone should know about you?**

He likes to laugh

## Ali Schmunk Story Continued From Page 2:

The group assisted with painting, general carpentry and other construction work on a portion of a local church that had been damaged in the heavy rains.

"I learned the value of hard physical labor that I've never experienced before. I learned to always be grateful. I had one of the most incredible experiences of my life and can say I've never felt closer to God. Chile will forever have an impact on my heart, and if God provides I will be traveling there again next summer. I would strongly encourage everyone to at least give it some thought, I found myself praying constantly about if it was the right choice for me. I promise it will change your life forever."

Ali has shared her experience with many of the church members and has spent time discussing the details with new members of the youth group. She hopes to be able to return to Chile next summer.