



ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023

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Support

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Paula Dolan - Director of Special Projects

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Karen Anvelt - Office Manager

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Alexandra Arnell - Teaching Assistant and Extended Day Coordinator

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## **FULFILLING OUR MISSION**



#### JAMES C. SMITH. PRESIDENT

As we reflect upon the past school year, we are filled with immense pride and gratitude as we the continue the journey to prepare tomorrow's leaders. The 2022-2023 academic year was a testament to the dedication and unwavering support of our donors, staff, volunteers, families, and students. Without your commitment, these accomplishments would not have been possible.

Among the most significant highlights of the year were the academic achievements of our students and graduates. We are thrilled to report that 70% of our students attained honor roll status during the fourth grading period. This demonstrates the remarkable progress and dedication of our students as they strive for excellence in their studies. Furthermore, we are proud to announce that 100% of the high school seniors who graduated from our middle school in 2019 received their high school diplomas in 2023, a testament to the strong foundation and support they received during their formative years at Nativity and in our Graduate Support Program during their high school years.

In the following sections of this report, you will find messages from our Principal, the Director of Graduate Support, and the Director of Student Support, each highlighting the unique contributions they make to our students' growth and development. We want to stress that none of this would be possible without the support of donors like you. Your generosity fuels our mission, and it is your faith in our cause that empowers us to thrive. As we look ahead, we are excited to share our school's model with others in the community, fostering a spirit of collaboration and growth to benefit even more young minds.

Let us not forget the impact of the record-setting 2023 Nativity In Bloom event and the support from the Billy D'Antonio Summer Classic in bringing us closer to realizing the vision of our founders. These events have not only secured our financial stability but also ignited a sense of community spirit that binds us all together. As we move forward, we are committed to expanding our reach and influence, and we are profoundly grateful for your support in helping us shape the leaders of tomorrow.

In closing, we extend our deepest gratitude to each one of you. Your belief in our mission and your dedicated support enables us to continue preparing tomorrow's leaders, making a real difference in their lives. Together, we are building a brighter future for our community, and we look forward to the exciting journey ahead.

## STRONGER TOGETHER



#### JENNIFER KREMER, PRINCIPAL

The 2022-2023 school year brought an abundance of blessings. The joy of learning that is experienced in the walls of Nativity continues to amaze me as we journey through each academic year. I am perpetually humbled by the generosity of our Nativity

Partners, as each member brings unique and heartfelt acts of kindness that truly make a difference.

In my position at Nativity, I see daily evidence that children grow here in ways beyond what students in other schools do. Our team of teachers and staff are not only dedicated to excellence in education for each child, but are also committed to the life-long learning and self-reflection that allows them to expand and develop new ways of instruction that culturally respond to our students. This dedication spurs excellence in the classroom, prepares students for a lifetime of success, and instills the confidence that their own voices can be strong enough to change the world.

Over the past few years, we have seen a myriad of changes in education that have affected families and communities. Those changes have helped us to renew our commitment to the Nativity mission and allowed us to capitalize on the unique opportunity that we have here. Nativity brings an environment of safety and values, where the variety of learning opportunities is maximized each moment. I am proud of our team and inspired by their passion for the social-emotional learning and academic success of every student. I am also proud of the hard work and focus that our students contribute to that success.

Throughout the school year, we celebrated our school theme, "Stronger Together" in a multitude of ways. Our year was filled with events such as prayer services, assemblies, community service projects, spirit weeks, teacher and volunteer appreciation days, silent discos, African dance, guest speakers, academic awards, the eighth-grade formal, field day activities and our annual talent show. We embraced these moments to celebrate our unique Nativity identity and virtues, deepening our understanding of our school mission. Over 100 volunteers bless our doors with their time, talent, and treasure to help make meaningful connections for our young people. Our tutoring and enrichment program continues to enhance the focus on the whole child approach here at Nativity.

"Stronger Together" was evident by the middle of our

school year, where 50% of our students earned honor roll recognition. By the fourth quarter, that amount rose to 70%! The joy that results from student achievement is unlike any other. Our Nativity students grow daily in this nurturing environment, gaining skills and pathways to identity and stronger roots in self-belief. I love being able to witness this joy and celebrate their accomplishments. The year ended with our summer program, which brought our students new and exciting experiences that included day trips to the museum, a baseball game at the Red Wings, a hot-dog lunch for our school families, an African drumming performance, and our overnight camp at Asbury retreat center. What a way to finish strong with a celebration of an incredible year!

My gratitude extends to all those who read this Annual Report each year, because you are the wings behind the mission. Your belief in Nativity leads us to accomplish so much more, together. Please stop by the doors of Nativity anytime, and you will feel the welcoming spirit that fuels all we do here. Hope fills these halls because of you. You are a part of our Nativity family, and along with our teachers, staff, volunteers, and students, we are blessed with a community of support. Thank you for being agents of love through your commitment to the lives of our students.



# NATIVITY MISSION

Nativity Preparatory Academy is Rochester's only tuition-free Catholic middle school serving students of all faiths. Strong academics coupled with the values of spirituality, morality, and personal responsibility create an environment where underserved students can transform their lives. We deliver a holistic education through a proven model: an extended school day and school year; dedicated and caring teachers, staff, and volunteers; personal mentoring; and support that extends through high school and beyond. Nativity Prep's secure and nurturing environment allows all students to realize their fullest potential.

Nativity was founded in 2009, with the first class of eighth grade students graduating in 2012. The school is jointly sponsored by McQuaid Jesuit and the Sisters of St. Joseph of Rochester.

Cost per Student \$14,500

PER YEAR IN THE MIDDLE SCHOOL PROGRAM

## Demographic Profile

# THE NUMBER

**60 Students** 

enrolled for 2022-2023

Female: 38 Male: 22

#### Grade Distribution

5th Grade: 12

**Ethnic** Makeup

African-American: 51% 6th Grade: 16 Asian: 30% Multi-Ethnic: 9% 7th Grade: 15 8th Grade: 17 Caucasian: 10%

Hispanic/Latino: 18% Non-Hispanic/Latino: 82%

Our students and graduates represent 20-plus nationalities and multiple faith traditions.

HIGH SCHOOL **GRADUATION RATE** 

148

GRADUATE SUPPORT **PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS** 

STUDENTS IN AN **AVERAGE CLASSROOM** 

2- OR 4-YEAR COLLEGE **GRADUATION RATE** 

THE 2020 5<sup>™</sup> GRADE COHORT BEGAN 55% BEHIND GRADE LEVEL FOR ELA AND MATH; UPON 8TH GRADE GRADUATION FROM NATIVITY. THIS COHORT WAS **ONLY 5%** BEHIND GRADE LEVEL ON AVERAGE FOR ELA AND MATH.

## Student Support: Social-Emotional Learning and **Preparing Our Students**

by Anna Doerr - Director of Student Support



As the Director of Student Support, I am immensely proud of the dedication and commitment of our team, which has made a profound impact on the lives of our students. This year, our focus on social-emotional learning (SEL) has been instrumental in fostering a nurturing environment where our students can thrive

academically and personally.

One of the major highlights of this year has been the continued growth and success of our SEL programs. We implemented a comprehensive curriculum that not only equips students with essential life skills but also fosters empathy, resilience, and emotional intelligence. Through workshops, counseling sessions, and peer support initiatives, we've seen remarkable improvements in students' self-esteem and interpersonal relationships. These skills are invaluable as our students prepare to transition to high school, where they will face new challenges and responsibilities.

In addition to our SEL efforts, our team has worked tirelessly to ensure that our students are well-prepared for the next stage of

exceptional growth in their academic achievements, and they are better equipped to make informed decisions about their future. It is heartening to witness the transformation of our students into confident, capable young individuals, ready to take on the challenges of high school and beyond. This year's annual report underscores our commitment to nurturing the whole child and preparing them for a successful future.

I would also like to take this opportunity to share a personal update. After two years of service at Nativity, I have made the bittersweet decision to step down from my role as Director of Student Support. It has been an incredible journey working with our students, families, and colleagues, and I am deeply grateful for the support and cooperation that has defined our community. While I will miss our daily interactions, I am excited to explore new opportunities and continue my commitment to education and youth development in different capacities. I am confident that our school will continue to thrive under new leadership, and I look forward to witnessing the continued growth and success of our students as they embark on their high school journeys. Thank you for allowing me to be a part of this incredible community.



## **GRADUATION 2023**

On Tuesday, June 20th, Nativity celebrated the graduation of the 8th grade Class of St. Ignatius of Loyola with a ceremony at St. Boniface Church attended by families, teachers, staff, alumni, Board members, and supporters. The graduation ceremony was a joyous celebration of the tremendous accomplishments of the Class of 2023 and a time to come together to highlight the work of so many in our community who help our students successfully cross the graduation stage ready for high school and beyond.

#### CLASS OF 2023 HIGH SCHOOL ENROLLMENT

McQuaid Jesuit (4)
Our Lady of Mercy School for Young Women (3)
Bishop Kearney High School (3)
The Aquinas Institute of Rochester (1)
Allendale Columbia (1)
Hope Hall (1)
LEAD Southeast Charter School, TN (1)

**GRADUATE AWARDS** 

Presidential Award for Academic Achievement (4.0 GPA): Hector DeJesus, Natalie Reagan, Elin Ski, Orea Agizo, and David Maldonado

Billy D'Antonio "Livin' the Dream" Scholarship Award for McQuaid Jesuit: Roman Khadka

Colin F. Kennedy Foundation Scholarship: Orea Agizo and Natalie Reagan

Dr. Ed Schnorr Memorial Bowtie Scholarship Award for The Aguinas Institute:

Greshila Gurung

 $Emerging\ Leaders\ Scholarship\ for\ Our\ Lady\ of\ Mercy:$ 

Orea Agizo and Natalie Reagan

Reverend John A. Reddington Award for Catholic Education:
Greshila Gurung

100%

CLASS OF 2023 PLACED IN COLLEGE-PREP HIGH SCHOOLS

93%

2022-23 EIGHTH GRADE HONOR ROLL ACHIEVEMENT

**42**%

2022-23 HIGH SCHOOL HONOR ROLL ACHIEVEMENT

62

2022-23 NATIVITY GRADUATES IN HIGH SCHOOL



## **Graduate Support Program Updates**

by Meredith McGann - Director of Graduate Support



The 2022-2023 school year was another great year for Nativity and our high school placement program, thanks to the many families, partners, and advocates who work to ensure best-fit placement for our scholars each year. In June we graduated 15 students who are now beginning their high school careers at schools around

Rochester and beyond. Students will be attending all four of our Catholic partner high schools, as well as independent private schools and charter schools. Each of these students worked diligently throughout their 8th grade year to be prepared for all that lies ahead in this next chapter, and we are excited to continue to witness their greatness shine through as they become important members of their high school communities!

In addition to our middle school graduates, 16 Nativity alumni graduated from high school this June, a 100% graduation rate for the Class of 2019! Students from the Class of 2019 will be attending four-year colleges, two-year colleges, and technical programs this coming school year, with 14 of them immediately entering some form of higher education. Our college-going and college-persistence rates continue to be well above the national average for similar populations, demonstrating our students' abilities to achieve at the highest levels.

As our alumni base continues to grow, so too do our partnerships with community partners and our supports for graduates. During the last school year, Nativity graduates were able to participate in many types of Graduate Support programming with us including:

- · Academic tutoring
- · Service projects
- Mentoring
- · Community events

Nativity continues to be a place of community for our alumni, with graduates coming back frequently for anything from help with chemistry homework to just visiting teachers and friends. This open-door policy has helped to maintain relationships with alumni so that we can better anticipate needs and provide resources, and is a key driver of our success with Graduate Support. Over the last few years Nativity's menu of supports for graduates has evolved to be comprehensive and holistic, with plans for even more programming around career planning, professional mentorship, and financial literacy in the works, thanks to growing partnerships.

Beyond our programmatic offerings, Nativity continues to meaningfully support our graduates and their families through our Tuition Support Program. Last year Nativity committed over \$30,000 in direct tuition assistance to students attending Our Lady of Mercy and The Aquinas Institute. This year we will support students attending Our Lady of Mercy, The Aquinas Institute, Bishop Kearney, and Hope Hall. The Tuition Support Program enables families to select the best-fit high school for their student with an understanding that Nativity will work with each family to close the gap between school-based aid and a family's ability to pay.

All of Nativity's students and alumni are exceptional scholars with great academic potential. With support, resources, and mentoring these young adults will soon become community leaders. It is a joy to watch each of them learn and grow from middle school through high school and beyond. Thank you to all who have been a part of the Graduate Support Program and its success this year!

#### **GRADUATE SUPPORT PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS**

**100%** of the Nativity Class of 2019 graduated high school on-time in Spring 2023.

**58** alumni had direct engagement with Nativity over the course of the 2022-2023 school year.

**Dozens** of service hours were performed by alumni for the Nativity community.

15 alumni in high school are taking Advanced Placement classes.



## DREAMING BIG at Nativity in Bloom

We want to share our deep gratitude for your generous support of Nativity in Bloom – Garden of Dreams. This year's event had an exceptional group of sponsors and donors. We are grateful to our returning sponsors and those making an initial donation.

We had a record setting event and surpassed our goal with over \$186,000 raised! As you know, the message of this year's program was focused on our student and graduate dreams. You heard our message about the aspirations of our students and graduates and the need for support to make their dreams a reality! The support that Nativity provides to ensure successful outcomes remains an essential part of our mission of



assuring education equity. Our holistic approach to education for our students and their families displays our commitment to changing lives and improving our community.

A special thanks to the Nativity in Bloom Committee whose work was essential to making our event happen and to John Kucko, who gave us the gift of his time and talents as a co-emcee for the program.

Your donations make all the difference, and we are blessed to have your support.

#### THANKS TO THE NATIVITY IN BLOOM COMMITTEE

Chrissy Carpenter Janet Hanford Judith Shaw Patti Doerr Christina Pearson

Save the Date for next year's Nativity In Bloom: Saturday, April 27, 2024



# THE SUMMER CLASSIC

## 2023 Billy D'Antonio Summer Classic at Shadow Lake Golf & Racquet Club

This year's tournament to honor our late Nativity teacher, Mr. D, was special, and it really showed in the determination and dedication of our supporters. Though we were technically rained out for our golf event, we had over 40 people show up at Shadow Lake on Saturday afternoon ready to play and over 100 people brave the rain to join us under the tent for dinner. We were able to bring together with friends and listen to our amazing Nativity alumni speakers, Orea Agizo (NPA '23, OLM '27) and Makayla Brooks (NPA '19, OLM '22) share how impactful the school has been, and continues to be, on their lives. This sort of fun and fellowship is what the Billy D'Antonio Summer Classic is all about!

We are excited to announce that over the past 11 years, the supporters of the Billy D'Antonio Summer Classic have contributed over \$558,000 to Nativity Preparatory Academy of Rochester! The D'Antonio Family and the Summer Classic committee continue to demonstrate their commitment to quality education for everyone and honoring the memory of Billy D'Antonio.

Next year we will return with another great tournament on Saturday, August 3, 2024. We can't wait to see you then!

#### BILLY D'ANTONIO SUMMER CLASSIC COMMITTEE

Jackie D'Antonio Joey D'Antonio Kathy D'Antonio Tommy D'Antonio Chaz Fiscella Pat McDonnell Will McDonnell

Thank you to our Sponsors!

SAVE THE DATE BILLY D AUG. 3 2024



NATIVITY CIRCLE Student Sponsorship Program

SUPPORTING THE JOURNEY OF THE NEXT GENERATION OF LEADERS

Nativity Preparatory Academy of Rochester is a Catholic middle school, serving students of all faiths, dedicated to educational equity that transforms the lives of underserved students. We are uniquely positioned to deliver a high-quality education to students from underserved and overlooked communities in the City of Rochester. When a student enrolls in 5th grade at Nativity, they have a great ability to learn, but have been underserved in their education prior to enrollment. At no tuition cost to families, Nativity's educational program is designed to empower underresourced youth in our community to be supported in education for grades 5-8, the high school years that follow, into college, and beyond.

Donations to our Student Sponsorship Program ensure that we can continue to educate our students for the four years they are enrolled at Nativity. When you join the program your four-year commitment makes the journey of a student's education possible. Sponsorship of our students supports our mission of educational equity by providing the financial support for students to attend Nativity tuition-free.

The cost of educating one student is \$14,500 per year, but we are a tuition-free school. All that we ask of student families is a \$250 activity fee per year. A Nativity education is funded almost entirely by private donors.

We invite you to become a member of our Student Sponsorship Program and support the journey of the next generation of leaders!



St. Martin de Porres \$25,000+/year

St. Ignatius of Loyola \$14,500 - \$24,999/year

**St. Joseph** \$7,500 - \$14,499/year

St. Teresa of Calcutta \$3,000 - \$7,499/year

**St. Boniface** \$1,500 - \$2,999/year

Learn more about joining the sponsorship program today! Contact James C. Smith, President of Nativity Preparatory Academy of Rochester, at jcsmith@nativityrochester.org or 585-271-1630.

## **Extended Day Programming**

Nativity's Extended Day Program in 2022-23 was a success, leaving a lasting impact on our students. It combined academic support, character development, and social-emotional growth in a unique and integrated way. Our dedicated community volunteers led one-on-one and group tutoring sessions, resulting in tangible academic improvements and increased student accountability. Beyond the classroom, our program offered a diverse range of 30 enrichment activities over three sessions, allowing students to explore their passions and interests. These activities fostered not only skill development but also empathy and social connections, strengthening student-teacher relationships. The active involvement of our community was a

cornerstone of our program's success, bridging the gap between students and experienced mentors. The year brought increased student agency, engagement, and well-rounded enrichment offerings centered around student interests. As we look forward to the upcoming school year, we are committed to building upon these achievements, ensuring that our middle school students will flourish.

Thanks to all of our supporters, volunteers, partner organizations, and schools for their collaboration on this programming!

#### ENRICHMENT AND TUTORING PARTNERS

#### Step Team & CYO Basketball

Coach Emil Anderson Coach Charles Arnell

#### Flower City Arts Center

Rashaad Parker

#### **Blanket Making**

Diane Dailey Mary Alyce Streb

#### Jewelry and Mindfulness

Alexandra Arnell Lisa Carter

#### Girl Scouts

Alonda Starks Iieshia Hall

#### Kiwanis Builders Club

Danielle Bedient

#### The Hochstein School

Gary Palmer
African Dance and Drumming –
Adrienne Santucci
Creative Music – Dave Chisholm
Drumming – Emma Gierszal

#### The Fitness Initiative

Mido Zelenjakovic

#### U of R STEM

Molly Killian

#### **Book Club**

Jennifer Nesbitt

#### 4H Workshop

Susan Covle

## Nazareth Occupational Therapy Students

Lisa Sykes

#### Leaders Quest & Games

Jessica Tette

#### Junior Climate Ambassadors

Brady Fergusson, Climate Solutions Accelerator

#### Sound Collaborative

Ray Mahar

#### **Tutors**

University of Rochester Medicine St. John Fisher Nursing Students Our Lady of Mercy School for Young Women McQuaid Jesuit





Kalind Adhikari Monica Allen '21 Mohammed Almetlehi **Emil Anderson** Branden Beaman '20 Danielle Bedient Mary Benedett Dipendra Bharati Dipesh Biswa '20 Jacob Breed Makaylah Brooks '17 Carolyn Cafro Daniel Cairns Jacob Carpenter Dave Chilshom Grace Cook Kelly Curran Kevin Curran

Alvssa Deacon Gina DeJesus '19 Priscila DeJesus '22 Kathleen DiPasquale Soleil Disalvo '22 Dugan Doeblin Patti Doerr Shawn Gee Emma Gierszal Manisha Giri '17 Robert Grau Kiara Green '19 Olivia Griffi Ishan Gurung '20 Janet Hanford Mona Hatem Timothy Hoang Jim Holihan Jessie Huang

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## Thank you to our program committee members!

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Jillian Beaman
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Charla Kucko
Michael Marsh
Maureen Mattia
James Smith
Dan Spoor
Allison Wendorf

### ANNUAL REPORT OF GIVING

Thank you for helping to remove financial barriers for our students and their families by contributing to our school. Because of our tuition-free model, 100% of the donations received fund our school and its programs. Your gift to Nativity provides Rochester city youth with the opportunity to succeed. We are grateful for your support!

We gratefully recognize the following individuals, organizations, corporations, and foundations for their contributions to Nativity Preparatory Academy of Rochester between July 1, 2022, and June 30, 2023. While we have made every effort possible to list all financial and in-kind gifts for the period noted, we realize that something could have been missed. If you have a correction, please email us at *ibeaman@nativiturochester.org* or call 585-271-1630, so we can make corrections. Thank you for your financial contributions!

#### Gifts of \$25,000 or more

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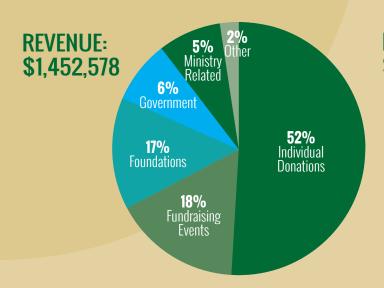
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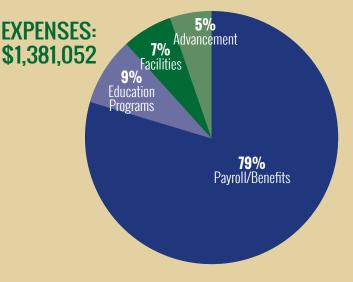
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This report was edited by Jillian Beaman, Director of Development at Nativity Preparatory Academy of Rochester and designed by Wayne Bulling of Parachute Graphics.

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You're Invited!

Join us on Friday, October 20 from 8:30-10:00 am at Nativity Preparatory Academy of Rochester 15 Whalin St, Rochester 14620

Help us celebrate our student and graduate accomplishments made possible through your support! Continental breakfast will be served and there will be a short program featuring our students, graduates, volunteers, and staff. We look forward to saying thank you and updating you about all the great things happening at Nativity.

R.S.V.P. by calling 585-271-1630 or email *jbeaman@nativityrochester.org*. This is a *free* event.