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An Inspiring Journey Together

JAMES C. SMITH, PRESIDENT



As we reflect on another remarkable year at Nativity Preparatory Academy, I am filled with immense pride and gratitude. Our mission of providing a transformative, tuition-free education to underserved students in Rochester continues to thrive, thanks to the unwavering support of our dedicated faculty, staff, families, and generous donors like you.

This past year has been a testament to the strength of our community. Despite challenges, our students have demonstrated resilience, excellence, and an unyielding commitment to their education. From academic achievements to personal growth, their success is a direct result of the opportunities you help provide.

I am thrilled to report that all our alumni who were high school seniors this year have successfully graduated, achieving a 100% graduation rate for the second consecutive year. This achievement underscores the enduring impact of a Nativity Preparatory Academy education.

In this report, you will see the impact of your contributions. You'll read stories of students who are achieving their dreams, programs that are changing lives, and the many milestones we've reached together. Your support has made all of this possible, and for that, we are truly grateful.

As we look ahead, we remain committed to fostering a nurturing, enriching environment where our students can continue to grow into the leaders of tomorrow. We will build on our successes, strengthen our community, and continue to ensure that every student at Nativity Prep has the tools and support they need to succeed.

Thank you for being an essential part of our journey. Together, we are changing lives and building brighter futures.





JENNIFER KREMER, PRINCIPAL

Our 2023-24 school year brought us some extraordinary opportunities to celebrate the power of community. The year's theme was "Better Together," and allowed us to build our

connections as the Nativity Prep family as we grow in our school virtues of Gratitude, Scholarship, Spirituality, Responsibility and Respect.

The entirety of the mission of Nativity Prep is reflected in our belief that we are better together. Our efforts as supporters of educational excellence are only impactful through our work together. As principal, I am so privileged to work collaboratively with so many who love Nativity. That love drives so many to support our scholars with their time, talent and treasure. They understand the value of the mission, and are moved to be an actual part of what we are doing here, in whatever capacity they can. Our dedicated teachers, staff and volunteers know that this is a collective effort, generously supporting each other to provide a comprehensive education to get to the next step of the journey.

Each day is an adventure in the lives of our middle school students, as this is a time where they grow in so many ways. Our unique school environment allows for so much work accomplished in the areas of social, emotional and academic growth. I am so grateful for our collective team of professionals who make the "whole child" philosophy a priority, providing meaningful relationships that foster mentoring, dreaming for the future and maximizing learning opportunities during these four precious years.

Unity as a school community is so important to Nativity, and we had many occasions to celebrate this throughout the school year. The culture of our school is captured in events like our prayer services, school assemblies, community service projects, school speakers, spirit weeks, silent discos, annual talent show, donor celebrations, academic awards, 8th grade decision day, formal and graduation. There is always something exciting happening within the walls of our special school. The excitement is contagious as students are smiling with pride as they receive recognition for academic growth or solicit applause for their incredible performance on the stage. They feel the support of classmates and our staff, as well as the synergy of the community of learners that share in their success. That feeling of family – being surrounded by a team that

believes in each individual — is what makes Nativity such an incredible place to grow.

That growth during this past school year was evident in so many areas of life at Nativity. Our 8th graders were all accepted into their high school of choice, finished strong with almost all students achieving honors. When I reflect upon the impact of this mission, I am humbled by the fact that, although Nativity provides an exceptional learning environment with resources and excellent teachers, it is our students who deserve the accolades for their accomplishments. I personally have not had the obstacles and mountains that many, if not all, of our students possess in their lives. The determination and self-belief each child develops here is a credit to their personal character and desire to be the very best version of themselves. These young people inspire me in ways that surprise me every day.

Our 2024-25 school year theme is, "Inspire and Achieve," and builds upon the culture of community at Nativity. No one can do this alone, and together we can do great things. Positivity, leading by example, celebrating our school virtues and our daily walk with each other provides a foundation for a lifetime of success. If you walk the halls of Nativity, you can feel the bonds of trust that allow for students to discover the possibilities of their own futures. There is joy in the building because it is filled with people who are dedicated to a single mission, and who love witnessing the beauty of growing minds. That feeling is what brings people like you into their lives through your generous hearts - supporting our scholars with your donations, volunteering and love.

Thank you to everyone who reads this report each year, because we celebrate our success with you. I tell everyone with listening ears about Nativity, and I am certain that you do, too. It is an honor to be a partner with you, as you give flight to the dreams of so many on the road to success. Your support allows for opportunities too infinite to even comprehend, yet can be felt by every Nativity student past, present and future. Thank you for all you have accomplished with us on this journey together. It's going to be an inspiring year!

INSPIRING NUMBERS

Demographic Profile

60 Students

enrolled for 2023-2024 Female: 40 Male: 20

Grade Distribution

5th Grade: 12 6th Grade: 15 7th Grade: 17 8th Grade: 16

Ethnic Makeup

African-American: 55% Caucasian: 29% Asian: 11% Two or More Races: 5%

Hispanic/Latino: 11% Non-Hispanic/Latino: 89%

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

Cost per Student **\$14,500**

PER YEAR IN THE MIDDLE SCHOOL PROGRAM

ABOUT NATIVITY

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.



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79% 2- OR 4-YEAR COLLEGE GRADUATION RATE

163

GRADUATE SUPPORT PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

> 1:7 FACULTY TO

STUDENT RATIO

99%

TEACHERS WITH AT LEAST A MASTER'S DEGREE

Student Support: Social-Emotional Learning and Preparing Our Students

by Alexis Jones - Director of Student Support



As I took on the role of Direct of Student Support in October in 2023, I am incredibly thankful to have been opened into the Nativity community with open arms from committee members to facility, students and families. I am excited to continue to grow and provide new opportunities for students to develop a

better sense of self and others.

This year, the focus on social-emotional learning (SEL) was to provide more tools for students to use that will allow them to grow to be their best authentic selves in and out of the classroom. With the continued use of the SEL curriculum program it is able to help students navigate key components of psychosocial competencies and interpersonal skills that will guide them to make informed decisions, solve problems, think critically and creatively, communicate effectively, build healthy relationships, empathize with others, and cope with and manage their lives in a healthy and productive manner.

With the support of the team, we were able to provide students with the proper readiness for them to succeed in their next educational adventure. It provided great joy to watch our students succeed in their personal goals but also their academic achievements they deservingly worked so hard on. To watch the students who didn't believe in themselves in the beginning to transform into self confident individuals has been a blessing to witness and be a part of.



GRADUATION 2024

On Tuesday, June 18, Nativity proudly celebrated the graduation of its 8th grade class. This momentous occasion marked the culmination of years of hard work, dedication, and growth for our students. Surrounded by family, friends, and faculty, the graduates took their final steps as Nativity students, ready to embark on the next chapter of their educational journey. We are incredibly proud of their achievements and excited to see what the future holds for each of these remarkable young individuals. Congratulations to the Nativity 8th grade class!

CLASS OF 2024 HIGH SCHOOL ENROLLMENT

15 graduates are headed to:

- RocSci Charter: 2 The Charles Finney School: 1
- McQuaid Jesuit: 5 Aquinas: 3
- School of the Arts: 2 RCSD: 1
- Hope Hall: 1

GRADUATE AWARDS

Presidential Award for Academic Achievement (4.0 GPA): Bernardini Cleophat, Dalton Hamer, Gabriella Ryan, Jeniya Scott, Talisa Scott, Kylie Soto, and Shamina Subba

Billy D'Antonio "Livin' the Dream" Scholarship Award: Kavion McKinney-Reyes

Colin F. Kennedy Foundation Scholarship: Kavion McKinney-Reyes and Amirah Sturgis

Dr. Ed Schnorr Memorial Bowtie Scholarship Award for The Aquinas Institute: Kavion McKinney Reyes, Amirah Sturgis, and Shamina Subba

Reverend John A. Reddington Award for Catholic Education: Bernardini Cleophat, Seamos Gurung, Anup Khadka, Kavion McKinney-Reyes, Amirah Sturgis, Shamina Subba, and Khanard Upshaw

00% CLASS OF 2024 PLACED IN COLLEGE-PREP HIGH SCHOOLS

65% 202 GRA

2023-24 EIGHTH GRADE HONOR ROLL ACHIEVEMENT

NATIVITY ALUMNI ARE ENROLLED IN COLLEGE

4 NATIVITY ALUMNI IN CAREERS OR ENTRY-LEVEL JOBS

Graduate Support Program Updates

by Amy Stell - Associate Director of Graduate Support



After teaching at Nativity for the last decade, I am thrilled to enter into the role of Associate Director of Graduate Support and connect with our 163 Nativity Rochester Alumni!

The 2023-2024 school year saw another successful graduation of 15 young men and

women thanks to the Nativity educators, families, community partners and volunteers who are daily committed to student success. All 15 students are starting on their high school journeys at competitive high schools including our Catholic partner high schools and other private and charter schools in the Rochester area. We are excited to support them and watch them grow and thrive academically, socially, and emotionally as they develop relationships and become successful members of their new high school communities.

The Nativity Class of 2020 also graduated from high school this year with 10 students crossing the stage! We proudly support our Class of 2020 Nativity graduates at the Rochester Institute of Technology, St. Bonaventure University, SUNY Brockport, Prairie View Texas A&M, and Monroe Community College. Furthermore, our graduates are successful members of the local workforce. Nativity boasts 100% high school graduation rate and our college-going rates continue to be well above the national average for similar populations. We credit these successes to the determination and hard work of our incredible students, and the support of their families, partner schools, and community advocates.

As our alumni base continues to grow, we also aim to increase opportunities for alumni at different stages in their lives to connect with one another, with Nativity, and with the greater Rochester community.

For our high schoolers, we offer:

- Academic tutoring
- Study brunches

- Service projects
- Community events
- Mentoring
- College and career counseling
- Financial support
- An open-door policy to visit Nativity

For our high school graduates, we offer:

- Community events
- Networking events
- College and career counseling
- Mentorship
- An open-door policy to visit Nativity

Nativity's open-door policy welcomes graduates to remain a part of the Nativity community. In this way, we have seen students come to Nativity to visit old teachers and mentors, to get help on homework, and to give back to the same community which poured into them! We love seeing students return to help coach basketball, to tutor middle schoolers, and to help out with service projects around the school.

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 have allocated \$37,000 to support students attending Our Lady of Mercy, The Aquinas Institute, Bishop Kearney, McQuaid Jesuit, Charles Finney, 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.

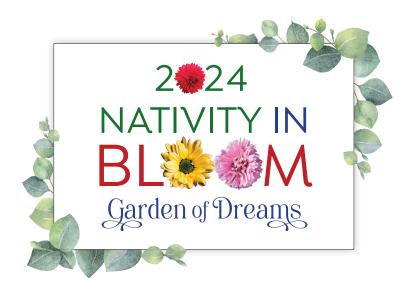
Nativity is blessed with exceptional scholars and a wonderful network of community volunteers, advocates, and partnerships. We look forward to growing the graduate support programs and to celebrating the successes of our students this coming school year!

GRADUATE SUPPORT PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

100% of the Nativity Class of 2020 graduated high school in 2024.

92% of alumni had direct engagement with Nativity over the course of the 2023-2024 school year.

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



HONOR ROLL OF SPONSORS

Summa Cum Laude

The Carpenter Family Michael and Daria Quataert -Happy Birthday Daria! Dan and Doreen Spoor

Magna Cum Laude

Charles and Mary Crossed Foundation Henry and Kate DePippo PD and Jim Dillon Timothy and Patti Doerr Feminists Choosing Life of NY Friends of Elizabeth Ann Seton McQuaid Jesuit Mark and Beth Patterson

High Honors with Distinction

Scott and Kathleen Cristman Davie Kaplan, CPA P.C. GLC Business Services Harris Beach PLLC John and Dorothy Hayes The Riedman Foundation The Rochester Group at UBS Philip J. DiPasquale Michael Amico Michael H. Cooper

High Honors

The Aquinas Institute Bond Schoeneck & King PLLC The Crowe Family John and Meghan DiPasquale The Dolan Family Dollinger Associates Five Star Bank John and Leslie Glynn Patrick and Tricia Hanley Mary Ann and Pat Hanna Jim and Alice Holihan Howe & Rusling Mark Lee In Memory of Renee Simone-Lee Litron Laboratories Ltd. Living Roots Wine & Co. Anna Lynch Amy and Joe Maxwell McCarthy Tents & Events Tim and Marabeth Nally John D. Norante Our Lady of Mercy School for Young Women Lowell and Nancy Patric David and Christina Pearson The Purcell Family Gary and Renee Rigoni Rochester Area Community Foundation Rohrbach Brewing Company Erin and Tom Roth Jim and Dawn Schnell Gary and Judy Shaw James and Kylee Smith Dawn Sweeney Woods Oviatt Gilman LLP YMCA of Greater Rochester

Honorable Achievement

Adam Baber Joseph Brongo DiFelice Development, Inc. Joel and Katy DiMarco Laurie and Kevin Dwyer Tom and Kelly Gilman Greenlight Networks Thomas and Cathy Huber Margaret Joynt Anne Kremer Bryan and Cristina Lanahan Parker and Burke Group at Sage Rutty & Co., Inc.



We are thrilled to share that your incredible support at our *Nativity In Bloom – Garden of Dreams 2024* event has not only surpassed our goal by raising over \$266,000 but will also directly fund student tuition and provide vital support for our dedicated teachers! Your contributions make a tangible difference in the lives of our students and educators at Nativity Prep. Thank you for believing in our mission and for your invaluable support!

Dr. Vito C. Quatela Rich and Meg Smerbeck SRGMF CUSP Media Alive+Well St. John Fisher University Nancy and Jerry Tirabassi Wegmans Food Markets

Many Thanks to the Nativity in Bloom Planning Committee Chrissy Carpenter Patti Doerr Janet Hanford Shannon Hansford Carol Mizelle Christina Pearson Judith Shaw





The Nativity Pledge

WHAT MAKES NATIVITY PREPARATORY ACADEMY DIFFERENT?

Certainly it's the extended school day, the student-faculty ratio, and the alumnae support. But it's also how everyone at Nativity works together to create a place where all can feel welcome and inspired—to create a Nativity family. To help us achieve this, our students recite the Nativity Student Pledge every morning, making a promise to follow the five key virtues we aspire to at Nativity:

- 1. Respect
- 2. Responsibility
- 3. Gratitude
- 4. Spirituality
- 5. Scholarship

Did you know that The Nativity Miguel Coalition (NMC) is an alliance of fifty nonpublic schools serving students from pre-k through twelfth grade in the U.S. and Canada that work together to bring equity to all students through education?

Investing in the fundamental belief that every student deserves the opportunity to become their best authentic self, the NMC provides its members with the support and structure needed to deliver a holistic education that values empathy, equality, and connection.

NMC member schools, like Nativity Preparatory Academy, are the driving force of our organization. Through these remarkable institutions, all children–regardless of faith, race, gender, or income–are provided with an inclusive education that meets each child's individual needs and nurtures their unique aspirations. With love and support, NMC member schools teach all students how vital they are to their cultures, communities, and society.

Thank you all for being a vital part of our Nativity family.



THE BILLY D'ANTONIO SUMMER CLASSIC

We are thrilled to announce that the 2024 Billy D'Antonio Summer Classic at Shadow Lake Golf & Racquet Club was a tremendous success raising more than \$60,000! Thanks to the unwavering support of the D'Antonio Family, the Summer Classic Committee, golfers, sponsors, and volunteers, we were able to make this event one of the best yet.

nativity

Your involvement not only helped create a memorable day but also contributed significantly to advancing the mission of Nativity Preparatory Academy and the ongoing memorial to Nativity teacher Billy D'Antonio. The funds raised will have a lasting impact on the education and opportunities we provide for our students.

Thank you to everyone who played a part in making this event such a success, especially the Committee.

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 for next year's Billy D'Antonio Summer Classic: August 2, 2025

Extended Day Programming Builds Skills and Confidence

by Alexandra Arnell - Extended Day Coordinator

The 2023-2024 school year has been such a fun and successful year for our extended day activities here at Nativity.

During study hall, Nativity students had the opportunity to work one on one or in small groups with various community members and college students to get help with their homework and improve their academic skills. This past year has included wonderful student-tutor relationships which gave our students the encouragement and support to reach their full potential. Nativity students also had the opportunity to choose a double study hall instead of enrichment on most days this past year. As a result, students learned to advocate for themselves, taking their academic goals into their own hands, ultimately leading to higher grades and more confidence in themselves and their academic abilities.

Students were offered 20 to 25 different enrichment choices including basketball, flag football, chess, step dance, and more. They can learn a new instrument or try a new hobby, all while developing their hard and soft skills, as well as building lasting relationships with community members and college partners.

To wrap up the school year, students and enrichment leaders participated in our Enrichment Showcase to share their newly learned skills and interests! The showcase included:

ENRICHMENT AND COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Amazing Race: Dr. Lisa Sykes, Nazareth University Occupational Therapy

Art & Illustration: Patti Doerr

Basketball: Emil Anderson, Charles Arnell, De Green

Book Club: Joe Appleby Bracelet Making: Jessica Tette Brain Games: Charles Arnell



- The Sound Collaborative led by Ray Mahar who performed their own song mash-up on stage;
- The Art Enrichment group led by Patti Doerr whose participants told stories about their beautiful art pieces and what inspired them;
- Walking the Wedge led by Nativity 5th grade teacher Susan DiFabio which shared group members' experiences of building relationships with small businesses and community spaces in the South Wedge area;
- African Dance and Drumming led by Adrianne Santucci from Hochstein School of Music whose students put on a performance of drumming and dancing skills with a traditional African song; and
- The Green Team led by the RIT CASCADE group who shared their love for science and their passion for cleaning up the environment by teaching us about their efforts in keeping the world green.

Overall, the 2023-2024 school year for our dear students provided opportunities to try new things, learn new skills, and advocate for and believe in themselves. They have built solid relationships to contribute to their success, and have strived to be the best they can be with the support of our teachers, tutors, and volunteers – all who make a world of difference.

It has been a wonderful year to say the least!

Alive & Well: Shawn Gee

Chorus & Kremer Club: Jennifer Kremer

Flag Football: Khan Smith, James C. Smith

Girl Scouts of Western NY: Iieshia Hall

Green Team: Amy Stell, RIT CASCADE Group

Health & Wellness: St. John Fisher University Nurses, Charles Arnell

Hochstein School of Music African Dance & Drumming: Adrienne Santucci

Hochstein School of Music Percussion: Emma Gierszal

Jones' Junction: Alexis Jones

Kickball: Amanda Adams

Leaders Quest & Games – St. Monica's: Jessica Tette

Lego Legends: Amanda Adams

Maplewood YMCA Swimming: Omar Hidalgo

Marketing and Media: De Green

Math Games: Kelly & Kevin Curran, Tracey O'Brien, Matt Lewis

Step Team: Emil Anderson

The Sound Collaborative: Ray Mahar

Trivia: Amanda Adams

Volleyball: Khan Smith

Walking the Wedge: Susan DiFabio

Word Art: Susan DiFabio



Thank you to our Community Volunteers

Mohammed Almeflehi Mary Benedett Jacob Breed Danny Cairns Jake Carpenter Joe Carrier Haley Chesbro Andrew Cho Claire Crilly Kelly & Kevin Curran Diane Daily Alyssa Deacon Dugan Doeblin Desire Eternity Anna Exford De Green Mona Hatem Jim Holihan Jessie Huang Jess Inman Dana Jolly Bill Keane

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Thank you to our program committee members!

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Marketing & Communications Committee

Mike Hurley, *Chair* Katie Flynn Shawn Gee Goburn Michael Marsh Maureen Mattia James Smith Kathy Smith Dan Spoor Allison Wendorf

ANNUAL REPORT OF GIVING

Thank you for your generous support of Nativity Prep Academy. By helping to remove financial barriers for our students and families, you are making a direct and meaningful impact on their lives and future success. Your commitment to our school allows our students to focus on their education, grow into community leaders, and thrive in an environment where they can achieve their fullest potential.

We recognize the following individuals, organizations, corporations and foundations for their contributions to Nativity between July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024. If you have corrections, please email us at: *crogers@nativityrochester.org* or call 585-271-1630. Thank you for your contributions to our school.

Gifts of \$25,000 or more

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Gifts of \$500 - 999

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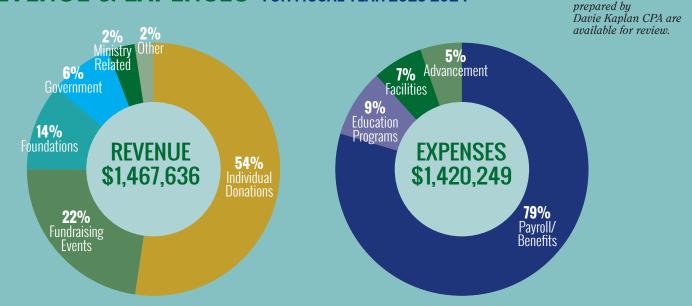
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