



La Salle Academy NEWSLETTER

PHILADELPHIA

In the News...

Save the Date for our
LSA Proud Golf Classic
on **September 29, 2025.**



**Congrats to
Ms. Diamond-**
A Distinguished Lasallian
Educator of 2024!



**Thank you to all the
donors** who help LSA
provide quality Catholic
education!

Ite Ad Josph - Go To Joseph



La Salle Academy thanks everyone who celebrated Catholic Schools Week with us on January 30th. We welcomed our Board of Trustees, benefactors, families, and friends to honor the legacy of the Sisters of St. Joseph at our school. A special thank you to Rev. Monsignor David Diamond for blessing our nearly 130 year old Sisters of St. Joseph plaque and our entranceway photo of our Founder and President Emerita, Sr. Jeanne McGowan. Let these symbols represent where we have come from and the impact of our work on future generations.



Help support La Salle
Academy and
our programs by
donating to our
Day of Giving in honor
of the Feast of
St. Joseph and the
Sisters of St. Joseph on
Wed., March 19th.



Letter From the President



Dear Friends of LSA:

At LSA we have so much to celebrate – in addition to the recent Super Bowl win! Catholic Schools Week reminded us of our strong heritage and connections to both the Christian Brothers and the Sisters of St. Joseph. We took time to come together as a community to recognize our past and present blessings. We re-dedicated a plaque dating back to the original convent (*circa 1922*) that was discovered during kitchen renovations. The plaque is in the shape of a shield with the words “Ite Ad Joseph” (Go to Joseph) etched into it. It was a reminder to the Sisters of St. Joseph to bring their concerns in prayer to St. Joseph. It continues to serve as a reminder from its new position in the cafeteria.

This year, the Christian Brothers celebrate the 300th Anniversary of the Bull of Approbation, the official recognition of the Institute of the Christian Brothers by the Church, as well as the 75th anniversary of St. John Baptist de La Salle as patron saint of teachers. LSA students were treated to a special visit from the Christian Brothers’ Vicar General, Br. Carlos Gomez, and Regional Visitor Provincial, Br. Robert Schaeffer. Br. Carlos visited each classroom and encouraged the students to “ask Good Questions” every day!

LSA is doubly blessed by our rich connections to the legacies of both these institutions, as we continue to provide high quality Catholic education to our students. Your trust in, and support of, our mission allows us to carry on these traditions in West Kensington.

Peace and blessings,

Maria J. Walker
 Maria J. Walker

Always ask good questions everyday

On January 14th La Salle Academy received a special General Council Visit from Brother Carlos Gomez, FSC, Vicar General of the Institute of the Christian Brothers in Rome, and Brother Bob Schaefer, FSC, DENA Visitor Provincial. Bro. Carlos and Bro. Bob were joined by LSA Board members Sr. Jeanne McGowan, Bro. Joe Mahon, and Bro. Gerry Molyneaux. They attended our daily LSA Morning Assembly and visited classrooms to share what brings joy to their lives and celebrate Lasallian education and how it is connected around the world.



Letter From the Pincipal

Dear Friends,

As I write, JOY permeates the air in *and* around Philadelphia. All Eagles fans watched Super Bowl LIX, and then celebrated together for days. The Eagles players and coaches prepared well, and played with focus, intensity and grit.

Just like the determined athletes on our Eagles football team, each student's academic, social, and spiritual growth is a unique journey that requires hard work, commitment, and resilience. As we reflect on the theme for this school year - *Joy in the Journey* - we recognize that the path to success is not always easy. There are triumphs and setbacks, but in every step, we are called to find joy in the process of learning, growing, and discovering our true potential in God's plan.

Our LSA Community can look to the Eagles team for even more lessons. We saw teamwork and an incredible growth mindset, especially in the standout players. Our LSA Community can look to these stars even when trying to tackle complex math problems, to design solutions for STEM challenges, or to learn new dance steps in Ballroom Dancing. Personal success is built on a foundation of faith, effort, teamwork and resilience.

As the Eagles are motivated and buoyed by their fanbase, our students are grateful to you for your support, your cheerleading and your loyalty. Your generosity of time, talent, and treasure encourage us to strive for our goal to become lifelong learners and understand that education is critical to change. Thank you for cheering for us and for bringing JOY to our journeys!

And, one more time ... *Fly, Eagles, Fly ... E-A-G-L-E-S... EAGLES!*

With gratitude and blessings,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Teresa Diamond".

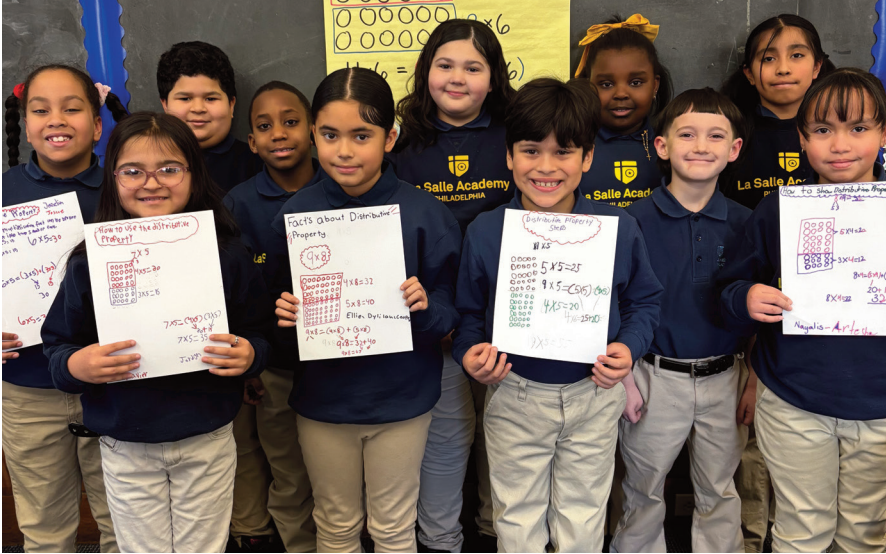
Teresa Diamond



Principal Teresa Diamond Receives the District of Eastern North America's Distinguished Lasallian Educator Award for 2024

As LSA's theme this year is Joy in the Journey, we joyfully celebrate Ms. Diamond's Achievement as a District of Eastern North America Distinguished Lasallian Educator for 2024! This award is given annually to three Lasallian educators who represent the tradition of Lasallian education "based on faith, fraternity, and zeal." Certainly Ms. Diamond has been that and much more to the LSA students and community: she is truly the heart and soul of LSA! We are so blessed to have Ms. Diamond leading our school, students, and community with faith-filled zeal and joy.





Third Grade

Our third graders have been thinking like mathematicians as they explore the distributive property of multiplication. By breaking apart numbers, multiplying in smaller steps, and adding the results, they're discovering new strategies to make multiplication easier. It's exciting to see their confidence grow as they apply this concept in creative ways!

Fourth Grade

Currently, the fourth graders are working very hard on their next issue for the La Salle Academy *Healthy News*. The topic for this issue is mindfulness! This is very special for the fourth graders because they practice mindfulness every Thursday here at La Salle Academy through yoga. Their hope for this issue is to tell other children how there are many benefits to practicing mindfulness such as performing better at school, reducing stress, and much more!

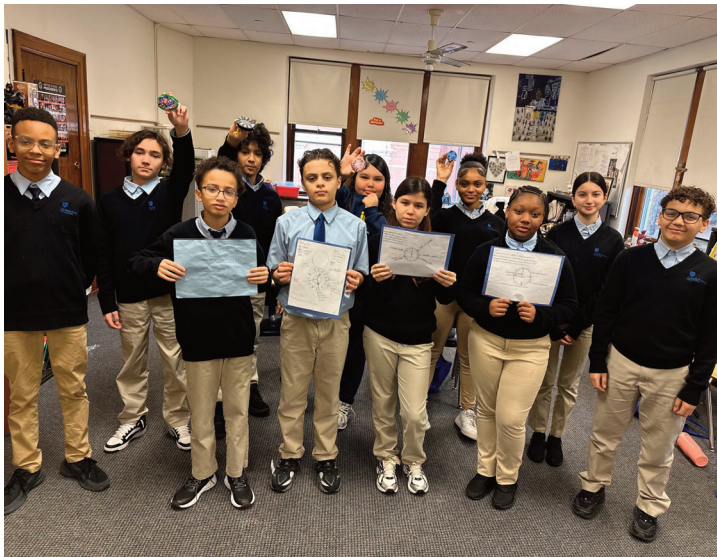


Fifth Grade

The fifth grade class is analyzing the elements of narrative writing. They are perfecting their writing craft by including sensory and concrete details, and dialogue. We plan to present the finished product at the end of February with a writing celebration. We are also exploring books written by African American authors and discussing their contribution to children's literature.

Sixth Grade

At LSA in sixth grade math class, the students are working on dividing fractions. They are very successful in using the Keep, Change, Flip, Method! In Religion class the students are moving through the Old Testament learning about the Kings of Israel as well as preparing for the season of Lent. In writing class they are creating Slideshow Presentations for Black History Month. Lastly, their “Compliment Counter” scored them a Valentine’s Party on February 14th. They received 10 compliments from teachers and staff for impressive behavior throughout the school in various situations.

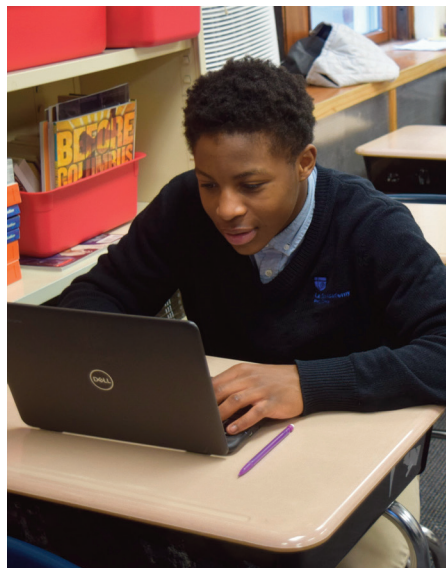


Seventh Grade

Seventh grade science has been working diligently on a real-world, problem-solving STEM integration project. Their task was to design and engineer a watch/time piece to help visually impaired people to tell time without artificial intelligence and to help those with limited technology. Part of the project was to research the features needed, what features would not work and what features are often not considered. Seventh grade conducted interviews with Levon Taylor Cruz who is blind and was able to tell the class her experiences in different features as well as the strength and limitations of technology for their watch design. Each design had their share of failures and successes, but that also was necessary for improvement. I am very proud of grade seven.

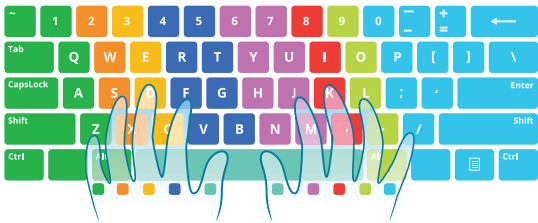
Eighth Grade

Our eighth graders have been learning about the Holocaust and researching an individual or group that resisted the Nazis, despite the consequences. The lessons learned in class and the stories found in their research prove that every person connected to the Holocaust has a unique story to tell. The lesson was brought to life when Holocaust survivor, Ruth Kapp Hartz, visited LSA to tell her story. The students are actively compiling their work into virtual posters on the website, Padlet.



Technology Department

In technology class students in third grade worked with the Wonder Workshop robot, Dash, to program different sounds and movements. We even had a fun race in our classroom together!



Art

Week in and week out our Art Teacher, Mrs. Adler helps bring the creativity and artistic talents of our students to life. Students are taught a variety of techniques and skills, which results in unique pieces of art! For example, students learned about proportions in figure drawing using wooden mannequins. They then had to design a costume to show the figure's personality.



Music

Our Student Choir's musical talents were on full display during their performance at our Catholic Schools Week Event. Our guests were treated to four songs featuring soloists Isaac, Aurora, Samantha, Ian, and Angel! Each week, Mr. Williams's music class ensures that our students will hit all the right notes during their appearances at events, Mass, and more!



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



"Play hard, play smart, play together"
-Coach Joe

LSA welcomed its new Boys Basketball Coach, Joe Magarity, who led the undefeated team to win the CYO Region 3 Championship this year! Coach Joe shared that he learned about teamwork while working at his family's car dealership. While coaching, he encourages his players to forget their worries and focus on becoming better athletes, teammates, and friends. He aims to support students so that they can always give their best when playing. Joe emphasizes the importance of building relationships and is currently mentoring La Salle College High School (LSCH) student Matt Morris, who is acting as LSA's Assistant Coach and who is the grandson of local Basketball legend Speedy Morris. Recently, they took the LSA team to watch a LSCHS game where they met James Franklin, Penn State's football coach! LSA is so lucky to have Coach Joe leading the team to victory!



**La Salle Academy's
Annual Golf Outing**

**SAVE THE
DATE**



-  Monday, Sept. 29th
-  Whitmarsh Valley Country Club & Green Valley Country Club
-  Golf, Silent Auction, and light dinner at WVCC



LSA Student Council organized a canned food drive to support local food cupboards in Philadelphia for our Catholic Schools Week Community Appreciation Day. We are SOUPer excited to share that LSA collected hundreds of cans for our local community!



La Salle Academy

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*After an undefeated season, La Salle Academy's Boys Basketball Team is once again the **CYO Region 3 Champions!** The LSA team lost a tough game in the Archdiocesan-wide Playoffs.*



There is still time to apply for the Pennsylvania Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) and Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit (OSTC) Programs for the 2024-2025 school year. We are grateful for those companies that support LSA students' tuition and scholarship program through these critical state programs.

Please contact Megan G. Thomson to learn more about how your business can participate at 215.739.5804 or mgthomson@lasalleacademy.net.

Stay Connected With LSA



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