

June 2024



La Salle Academy NEWSLETTER

PHILADELPHIA

In the News...

2024 LSA Proud Golf Outing - Register today to secure a spot at one of our two courses, WVCC or GVCC.

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The LSA Class of 2024 will graduate on Thursday, June 13, 2024. We wish them all the best of luck in high school!

...

Congratulations to five fourth graders whose artwork was selected for Temple University's Student Artwork Showcase!

...

On May 16th, LSA enjoyed a schoolwide trip to the Zoo!

Letter From the President

"You can perform miracles by touching the hearts of those entrusted with your care."


- St. John Baptist de La Salle

Dear Friends,

One of our mottos at La Salle Academy is: "More than a Mission, a Miracle Every Day!" Our patron saint – St. John Baptist de La Salle – speaks directly to our mission and the positive impact of our work on our students through our Catholic faith. On May 15, I was blessed to participate in Lasallian Founder's Day – celebrating St. John Baptist de La Salle as the Patron Saint of Teachers. This was a global event that involved schools as far away as the Philippines. I was proud to learn that LSA is one of 1,154 Lasallian Schools worldwide, reaching 1,160,328 students! As I reach the end of my first school year, I am still amazed at the longstanding and powerful impact of Catholic education, and LSA is doubly blessed by partnership and association with both the Brothers of the Christian Schools, stretching back to 1680, and the Sisters of St. Joseph, started in 1650!

As you will read in this newsletter, LSA is able to keep these traditions going through our amazing and committed team of educators and staff, board members and donors – living out our faith through providing high quality academics and sharing the Good News, Every Day!

Peace and blessings,


Maria J. Walker
President

More than a Mission, a Miracle Every Day!



Eighth Grade Memories

Victoria Adegboyega

MT. ST. JOSEPH ACADEMY

My time at La Salle Academy was both challenging and rewarding. My teachers and family have been by my side motivating me to be the best that I can and help me reach my potential. They helped me grow as an individual and understand myself as a person. I am thankful for their guidance, support, patience, and persistence. Their determination helped me to be accepted into Mount Saint Joseph Academy. I am excited to go to The Mount with abundant opportunities, such as graphic design, choral, and visual arts programs. I think it is very important for me to stop and reminisce over the memories I shared with my peers before my journey at La Salle comes to a halt. Together, we all wove a web of memories with each other. I personally think the best memory we shared was our trip to CADES, an organization that provides adult disability and educational services. We talked to each other about homework, our interests and little things. This trip was different. I could see the best in my classmates despite our differences. It was a very beautiful experience and a blessing being able to have fun while learning and helping others. My time at La Salle Academy has taught me a lot about myself as a person. I'm truly grateful for the memories, experiences, and knowledge that I gained. As I start my new journey at The Mount, I will continue to take the LSA goals with me.



Angel Jose Arevalo

MERCY CAREER AND TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

My time at La Salle Academy is something I will always cherish because it was filled with unforgettable memories and lifelong friendships. One standout moment was during my seventh-grade year when our class went on a beach trip to Avalon. We played soccer, indulged in ice cream sundaes, and bonded by the shoreline. It was a fun and meaningful day. This outing brought us closer as a class, and I will always remember it fondly. For my next step, I will attend Mercy Career and Technical High School. The school's exceptional workshops, sports, clubs, and activities are what drew me in. I'm thrilled about the many opportunities Mercy has to offer, and I'm confident that it will help me academically. It will expand my horizons. I owe a debt of gratitude to Sr. Margaret in the office. Her tireless work has helped countless students and families attend private Catholic high schools, including myself. Thanks to her support, I'm excited to pursue my education at Mercy, a school that I know will be the perfect fit for me. I am also grateful for my family, as they have played a significant role in shaping the person I am today.



Angel Gabriel Arevalo

MERCY CAREER AND TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

During my time at La Salle Academy, I had the privilege of learning English as a new language, and experienced many unforgettable moments. One of my LSA highlights was the 7th Grade Washington DC trip. We explored new places and interactively learned about history. I am grateful to all the teachers who supported me throughout my five years at La Salle, but there is one teacher who I feel deserves special recognition - Mrs. Mulderig. She went above and beyond to help me with my studies by translating my subjects into my first language. This helped me understand Math and Science so much more. Her dedication to ensuring my success in the classroom was invaluable, and I am deeply grateful for her support. As I look ahead to high school, I have decided to attend Mercy Career and Technical High School. I chose Mercy because of their focus on building trades, advertising, and web design. These are subjects that I am passionate about, and I am excited to have the opportunity to explore them in more depth. Mercy offers a variety of sports opportunities, including soccer, which is a sport that I love. I am grateful for the experiences and opportunities that La Salle Academy provided me, and I am excited to continue my academic journey at Mercy Career and Technical High School.



Xavier Gonzalez

ROMAN CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

I look forward to the next academic year as I have decided to attend Roman Catholic High School. I was drawn to this school for its amazing community, where young men are taught to embrace and value the differences in each other. I am very eager to move on to this new chapter in my life and excited to explore the new opportunities that await me at Roman. For the last two years, I have been attending La Salle Academy, and it has been a fantastic experience for me. During my time here, I have gained new social skills and have become a more confident individual overall. I was the 2024 Class President. I am grateful to Mr. Rossi for his support and guidance. He has been my greatest motivator here and the best mentor. Additionally, my favorite memory of my time at La Salle was when our principal Ms. Diamond was our substitute, and we had a dance party during Homework Club. It was one of the most enjoyable times I had in eighth grade.



Eighth Grade Memories

Madison Grone

ST. HUBERT CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

My years at La Salle Academy will always be precious to me. From the first day that I walked in until my graduation, I always felt at home. There have been upsetting days throughout the years, but LSA has not only brought me joy and peace in my heart, it has also made me learn about myself. I understand why a community like this one is special. My favorite memory at La Salle Academy will always be the day I first walked into the school as a third-grade student. Sister Jeanne's smile immediately put me at ease, and the school's atmosphere made me feel at home. I believe the reason why the school feels so welcoming is because of the strong sense of community and connection that everyone shares. The school is also deeply rooted in faith, and I will take that with me when I attend Saint Hubert HS. I'm confident that Saint Hubert will provide me with the education and support I need to grow both intellectually and emotionally. I loved visiting Saint Hubert's and I could feel the true faith there. Throughout my years at La Salle Academy, I grew a lot through the support I had around me. I would like to thank all of my teachers who walked me through my life at this school. I would like to especially thank my 8th grade teacher, Mr. Rossi. Thank you for teaching me, and getting me ready for high school.



Jacob Martinez

CRISTO REY PHILADELPHIA HIGH SCHOOL

I started at La Salle Academy in third grade, and I have been here for six years. I have made lots of memories, and have had many amazing opportunities. Of all the memories I have at LSA, my favorite was going on our seventh-grade beach trip. It was my first time in Avalon. On the way there, everyone was talking and having fun and once we got there, some went into the pool while others went into a hot tub. We went to the beach, buried someone in the sand and then went into the water. We even had ice cream! We did so much more, and the trip was fun and my favorite memory at this school. I am most grateful for the Board of Trustees and the benefactors for making everything at this school possible. Without them, there would not be a La Salle Academy to attend, and I already know it made a difference for me. They make it possible to go on great field trips, and offer us a Catholic education. All of this shows that they care about us and want us to succeed. I will attend Cristo Rey Philadelphia High School next year. They prepare you for college, give work and job experience, and I know I will learn a lot there.



Santino Kidd

LIGUORI ACADEMY

Throughout my time here at La Salle Academy I have had many challenges and positives, especially during the Covid shutdown. When I look back, I can honestly say my 8th grade year has been the best. My favorite times during the year were when we would go off script from class, act goofy, but somehow find a lesson about life. All in all, I know Mr. Rossi truly cared about all of us and our education. I also want to thank my other teachers for providing me with the tools for future success. After much consideration, I have decided to attend Liguori Academy because it is a mix of a high school and a trade school. As someone who comes from a family with many struggles, I want to learn a trade so that I can provide for my family in the near future. Once again, I want to thank all the faculty and staff, as well as my friends, for making these last six years enjoyable. I will cherish all of these memories forever.



Zahir McCain

MERCY CAREER AND TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

I want to thank the Board Members and benefactors for all of their hard work and dedication to La Salle Academy. I know I am lucky to have my LSA education. Without all of you, I would not have the opportunity to attend Mercy Career and Technical High School next year. I have always wanted to attend Mercy because of the workshop program and the athletic opportunities. La Salle has provided me with many memorable experiences, but my favorite experience was playing in the 2024 CYO Basketball All-Star Game. I was able to play with players from other teams, and against some of my teammates. The coaches let us shoot half court shots. It was so much fun! I am so thankful for the entire faculty and staff, but I feel Sister Margaret deserves special recognition. She has helped my family and me along the way and guided me to my decision to attend Mercy Career and Technical High School.



Eighth Grade Memories

Tawfiq McCandless Crosby LIGUORI ACADEMY

As my time at La Salle Academy comes to an end after six years, I find myself excited for the next chapter of my academic journey. I have decided to enroll at Liguori Academy for high school. I believe it is the perfect fit for me, and I will learn a lot and have access to job opportunities that I had not previously considered. I see my enrollment at Liguori Academy as another opportunity to assess my strengths and weaknesses and work towards achieving my goals. One of my fondest memories from La Salle Academy was during my sixth-grade year when we went on a beach trip. We had an incredible time tubing and taking turns driving the boat. We attempted to build a sandcastle, but it was not very successful. The food was also fantastic, with donuts, meatballs, fruit, and hamburgers. Mr. and Mrs. Maginnis were amazing hosts. I am immensely grateful to everyone at La Salle Academy for their unwavering support and guidance. I would like to extend my gratitude to the benefactors who supported me throughout my schooling years; Sister Jeanne, who provided me with invaluable assistance each day until her retirement; and Ms. Diamond, who instilled in me the qualities required to be a better person.



Caleb Paul LA SALLE COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL

Throughout my years at La Salle Academy, I have realized how much the staff and faculty care for us. Volunteers showed us nothing but care and love, even though they got no monetary value in return. The people I am most thankful for are the Board Members. These individuals worked the majority of their lives to make a living for their families, and now they are donating and working to support students at LSA. Because of their generosity, I am able to attend this amazing, Catholic school and I will be attending La Salle College High School. I chose LSCHS because I believe it is the best educational institution I can attend. My older brother Brant recently graduated from LSCHS, and he was transformed in high school. Getting a firsthand account about LSCHS made it my top choice, and I am grateful for the scholarships that will make it happen. My excitement to graduate does not reflect a desire to leave and forget LSA. My favorite memory at LSA is the trip we took last summer to a benefactor's house at the Jersey shore. Not only did we head to the beach, but we were able to play in their pool, and they even served us ice cream. I have made memories I will never forget at La Salle Academy, and will always be grateful to everyone that contributed to the success, founding, and education of this school.



Victoria Olivencia MERION MERCY ACADEMY

These years at La Salle Academy have been life changing for me and my family. Each day with my classmates will be remembered. I am extremely grateful for all the people I've met. Every person involved with this school, whether it's a staff or board member, my classmates, or younger students, have made me who I am today and I feel lucky. I have made lifelong friends, and I have been given numerous opportunities. For example, in the sixth grade I was recommended for an all girls program at Merion Mercy Academy. I attended classes every Saturday all-year round from sixth to eighth grade. This wonderful opportunity led me to find my future high school. I am excited to attend Merion Mercy, and work hard to achieve an even greater goal, going to college. I hope to become a journalist. I find this school to be a great fit because it has a challenging curriculum and high standards. High school will be a big and difficult step. Attending this school has been a blessing. I will miss my friends and LSA, but LSA will stay with me along my journey. I'll always remember my times at La Salle and miss its comfort and love. I will take the LSA Goals with me always - to be responsible, respectful, peaceful, motivated, and consistent through life.



Shakayraliz Rios CRISTO REY PHILADELPHIA HIGH SCHOOL

During my time at La Salle Academy, I have made so many memories. This school has offered me so many opportunities and shaped me into who I am today. Next year I will be attending Cristo Rey Philadelphia High School. I chose Cristo Rey primarily because of their work study program. I will be able to earn work experience and learn how to communicate effectively and be helpful in all kinds of situations. I'm excited to move onto the next chapter of my life, but I will admit I'm nervous. I've been here since third grade and have grown close with my classmates. I truly can't pick a favorite memory here at La Salle. Everyday of the last six years has been a blast with them. They have never failed to put a smile on my face or make me laugh. I'm extremely grateful for them. I am also very grateful for Sr. Margaret, who has helped not only me, but the whole eighth grade through the rigorous process of applying to high school. Even now after we've all been accepted, she still watches out for us, gives us advice, and motivates us to do our very best. My LSA experience has been incredible and it will always hold a special place in my heart.



Eighth Grade Memories

Jazmin Rivera

CARDINAL O'HARA HIGH SCHOOL

During my two years at La Salle Academy, I found my faith in God and strived to live by the five goals that have helped shape me into a better person. I am excited to announce that I will be attending Cardinal O'Hara High School for my high school years. One of the main reasons behind this decision is that my family will be moving closer to this school over the summer, making it a more convenient choice. Nonetheless, my decision was not solely based on location. I am enthusiastic about the educational and extra-curricular opportunities. Cardinal O'Hara also offers various clubs, sports teams and activities. Looking back on my time at La Salle Academy, I truly can't think of one specific memory that I would consider my favorite. All the times I shared with my classmates over the past couple of years are memories I will cherish for the rest of my life. The trips to the beach, Washington D.C, New York and many more are truly life-changing memories. I am immensely grateful to the teachers who have supported me through the challenges of adolescence, and I will always cherish the moments we shared.



Joseph Smith

ROMAN CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Throughout my time at La Salle, I had the privilege of experiencing school with some of the most amazing teachers who not only shared their knowledge with us, but also showed me the values of kindness, empathy, and hard work. They have guided me through my educational journey and helped me unlock my full potential. I am grateful for their support, encouragement, and dedication to my personal and academic growth. I have formed lifelong connections with my classmates, who have become my second family. Together, we have created unforgettable memories and shared some incredible experiences. The support and friendships that I have received from the La Salle community have been invaluable, and I will always remember them. As I get ready for life at Roman Catholic High School, I am excited to continue my education and pursue my passion for learning about business. I am eager to learn from the best and to grow. One of my greatest LSA memories was when we organized the summer Olympics in the schoolyard. It was an event that brought the entire school community together, and the amount of teamwork and creativity shown was truly inspiring. It showcased the incredible spirit and unity of the La Salle community. I will always cherish this memory as a reminder of this amazing community.



Drake Rodriguez Smith

CRISTO REY PHILADELPHIA HIGH SCHOOL

La Salle Academy has changed my life. When I think of La Salle, I think of it as my second home. I've experienced so many enjoyable memories during my time here, but my favorite memory has to be our 7th grade summer trip to the beach. The waves were crazy that day, and Mr. Rossi was the most amazing lifeguard. It was so nice to end the trip with ice cream. I am really going to miss LSA, but I do understand it's time to move on. High school will be exciting and challenging. Next year I'll be attending Cristo Rey High School. I am so excited to start their work program and to try out for their baseball team. I am thankful to the entire LSA faculty and staff, especially Sister Margaret. In the future, I plan to work hard and become successful. I want to give back to La Salle Academy like the board members and benefactors have done for us. As I leave LSA, I want to thank my classmates for all those good times.



**Congratulations to our
LSA Graduates!**

Class of
2024



Mr. Rossi's 2023 Reflection

The Class of 2024 was “Poppin” all year long. Our school theme this year was **LSA: Good News is Poppin’** and there was plenty of good news surrounding the Class of 2024. This school year we were able to re-establish our relationship with CADES, which is a school dedicated to improving the lives of children and adults with intellectual and physical disabilities, and the lives of their families. We were able to visit CADES twice this year. The first time the class visited CADES, our students were separated into two classrooms, one in which they were working on developing social skills and one vocational classroom in which they were working on developing life skills. Our eighth graders enjoyed a great day of playing games, doing arts and crafts, singing and dancing, and baking rice krispie treats with the students at CADES. On our second trip to CADES, we helped with their Field Day. Visiting CADES is always my favorite day(s) of the school year because it’s so nice to see my class forget their own needs and wants and totally focus on making someone else’s day better. This year was also a major year for us because of Middle States. The Class of 2024 worked extremely hard over the course of the school year to make sure they were prepared for our visit. I was truly proud of all the time and effort they put into making their presentation as good as it was. Once again, I was super proud of the class for working hard and working together to make that visit a success. In closing, I want to let the Class of 2024 know that I am genuinely proud of each and every one of them and that Cristo Rey High School, Roman Catholic High School, Liguori Academy, Cardinal O’Hara High School, Merion Mercy Academy, Mount Saint Joseph Academy, Mercy Career and Technical High School, St. Hubert Catholic High School for Girls, and La Salle College High School are really lucky to be getting such wonderful students next year.

**8th Grade Trip**

While walking these halls, our soon-to-be graduates have created many memories that will last a lifetime, and their 8th grade trip to New York City is undoubtedly one of them. Students took a brief tour of the city, seeing St. Patrick’s Cathedral and Times Square, and attended a matinee show of *Wicked*. To complete their trip and discuss their favorite parts of the day, everyone enjoyed dinner at Carmine’s. We would like to thank Jim and Mary Jo Danella and Danella Companies for making this trip possible.



Letter From the Principal

“You cannot put a limit on anything. The more you dream, the farther you get.”

- Michael Phelps



Dear Friends,

The La Salle Academy June Newsletter always gives me a time to both look back on the year, and to look forward to our LSA Extended Year Summer Session. The 2023 – 2024 school year came with challenges and setbacks but, not surprisingly, there were so many successes. I feel inspired by the success of our Middle States review, by the students' LSA Spring Art Show and by the successes in the classroom. Our students are ending June with our school theme leaving them with love and some pep into their breaks. They are “Poppin’ into the summer!”

Our LSA Community looks forward to our July Extended Year Summer session and the 2024 Summer Olympics. I see a teacher in every classroom helping students dream. I hope that you can see in our newsletters, posts and in these 8th grade essays, children who are dreaming BIG things all because you helped remove limits that they did not even know were there.

Gratefully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Teresa Diamond".

Teresa Diamond

Thank you for helping our students dream BIG.

Sr. Jeanne Travels to Italy!

Sr. Jeanne enjoyed her recent trip to Italy, thanks to the generosity of our Board of Trustees, Faculty, and Staff! During her travels, Sr. Jeanne, along with Sr. Cathy and Sr. Lisa, experienced the history and beauty of places including the Colosseum, Vatican City, and St. Peter's Basilica. We are confident a special prayer was said for everyone part of the LSA community.

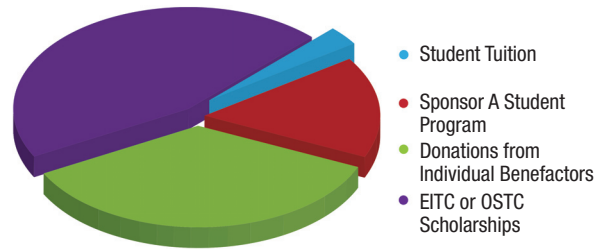


La Salle Academy would like to thank every individual, business, and business leader who donated to LSA through the EITC or OSTC Programs.

These state programs provide critical scholarship funding for our students, allowing them to experience our unique mission and culture.

We hope that in this coming school year you stop by and visit La Salle Academy! To learn more about how you or your business can participate in **EITC or OSTC** programs and create a positive impact for LSA students, please contact Megan G. Thomson at mgthomson@lasalleacademy.net or 215-739-5804

Covering the Costs to Educate



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT:

Cayla Cook '12



La Salle Academy is proud to spotlight Cayla Cook, a member of the 2012 graduating class! Following her time at LSA, Cayla went on to attend Little Flower Catholic High School for Girls and La Salle University, where she received a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration. She now works as a licensed insurance agent with Amica Mutual. Cayla has never forgotten the impact LSA had on both her and her education stating, "LSA provided me the foundation and the confidence to achieve the success I have today." Cayla even came back to LSA to speak during our 2023 Career Day and 20th Anniversary Gala!



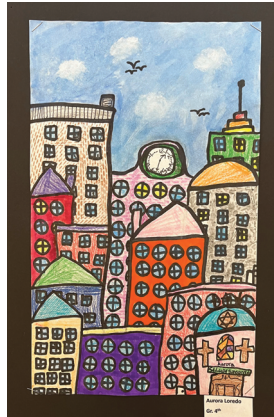
Career Day

Thank you to our presenters (including 3 LSA Alums) – Elizabeth, Zayne, Haley, Erin, Ariadna, David, and Tianna – for dedicating their time to showing our students a mix of potential career paths. From a Surgical Technician and Nurses to an Electrician, Architect, Forensic Tech, and Advertising Executive, LSA students learned what it is like to work in each of these fields. It wasn't all just listening, students were able to practice taking blood pressures, draw and build houses with Magna tiles, and fingerprint their teacher! What fun!



Temple University Art Show

Congratulations to LSA fourth graders Jayden, Michael, Aurora, Lezlyann, and Samantha who were selected to participate in Temple University's Student Artwork Showcase at Temple's Student Center. Special thanks to the college students for donating art kits for each of the students who participated!



Living Stations

Under the direction of Mr. Shack, our seventh graders continued a La Salle Academy tradition by leading our LSA community in a prayerful Living Stations of the Cross. Samuel, Skylar, Arthur, Jonathan, Anthony, Phoebe, Anne Marie and the rest of seventh grade delivered a graceful service that reminded us of the power of Jesus' sacrifice.



Art Show



Our 2024 Spring Art Show showcased the talent and creativity of every student at LSA. Family, friends, Board Members, faculty, and students not only had a chance to see a year's worth of artwork, they were also treated to the musical talents of 8th graders Victoria and Santino, accompanied by Mr. Marc Adler! Additionally, students had the opportunity to nominate five of their peer's work to receive one of the following Art Awards- Leonardo Da Vinci Award for Drawing, Pablo Picasso Award for Painting, Frida Kahlo Award for use of Color, Jacob Lawrence Award for creative idea/imagination, and Faith Ringgold Award for the one you would like to have in your home. What a great way for our students to recognize and celebrate each other's hard work. Special thanks to Art teacher, Marlene Adler for her hard work and dedication to making the show a success!





“Ready for Any Good Work”

Sr. Jeanne visited fifth grade to assist with planning for their service learning project that includes sharing acts of kindness with and showing gratitude towards senior citizens. The students learned from Sr. Jeanne about her volunteer work at the Sisters of St. Joseph's Villa in Flourtown. Soon after, the students made needlepoint crosses and delivered them to the sisters at St. Joseph's Villa!



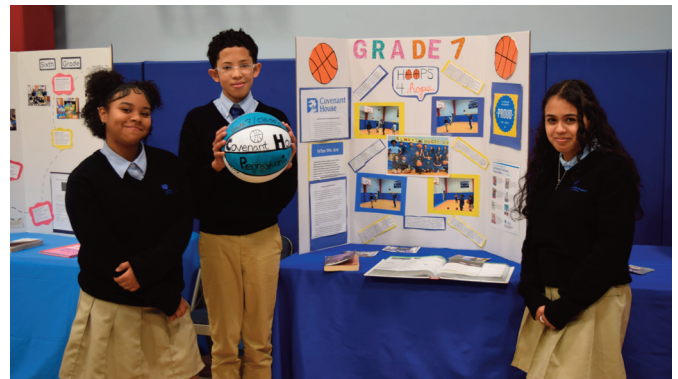
Sr. Jeanne McGowan, SSJ



Middle States Colloquium

Congratulations!

Congratulations to our La Salle Academy community for receiving honored Middle States Re-Accreditation, through the distinguished SUSTAINING EXCELLENCE process. Special thanks to Ms. Diamond, Ms. Schwartz, and Mrs. Fynes for leading the committee. Our LSA community discovered that Service Learning does not just help our students and others, the Service Learning experiences helped our students and alums learn invaluable lessons. We worked with Clean Water Project in Africa, Casa Del Carmen, St. Joseph's Villa, Ronald McDonald House, Covenant House, and CADES.





La Salle Academy

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La Salle Academy Golf Outing MARK YOUR CALENDARS! September 30, 2024

Whitemarsh Valley Country Club

1:00pm Shot Gun Start

Green Valley Country Club

12:30pm Shot Gun Start

Dinner and Refreshments to follow at WVCC

For more information, visit LSAgolf2024.givesmart.com

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