

June 2025



La Salle Academy NEWSLETTER

PHILADELPHIA

TO OUR PRINCIPAL, TERESA DIAMOND, CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR RETIREMENT!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR:

Consistent
love and care for
LSA students,
families, alumni and
teachers

Motivated
efforts to improve
LSA and to create
educational
opportunities

Peaceful
responses to
challenges

Responsibly
working to serve,
to teach

Respectfully
making an impact
each & every day



because i knew you
i have been
changed
for good



Thank you, Ms. Diamond!

We are grateful for your time, energy and love. You brought our mission to life in our school and in our students, families and alumni. We will miss you. Enjoy your retirement. May Jesus live in our hearts, forever. God bless!

In the News...

The LSA Class of 2025
will graduate on
Thursday June 12, 2025!
Congratulations and
best of luck as they
enter high school.

...

The 2025 LSA Proud Golf
Outing is Mon. Sept. 29,
2025- Register today to
secure a spot and help
'Swing for Our Students'

...

Thank you to our
Principal, Ms. Diamond
and our Art Teacher,
Mrs. Adler for your years
of service to LSA- We
wish you both all the
best in your retirement!

Letter From the President

"The decisive innovation of St. John Baptist de La Salle was that education is conducted within the context of community."

- Lasallian Spirituality Today



Dear Friends of LSA:

La Salle Academy lives the spirituality of the Lasallian mission every day by creating a community of students, teachers and staff who work together in a family-like environment guided by the Holy Spirit. Through our dual charisms of the Christian Brothers and Sisters of St. Joseph, we welcome all with respect and compassion and our shared love of the Gospels. LSA has been so fortunate to be led in this mission through the leadership of two strong women-in-faith: Sr. Jeanne McGowan, SSJ, LSA's founder and President Emerita, and Teresa Diamond, our beloved principal for more than 20 years. With Ms. Diamond's retirement at the end of this school year, we acknowledge her legacy of quality Catholic education, and we are so grateful for the way she shared her wisdom and spirit with all in the LSA community. We are so blessed and enriched to have had Ms. Diamond in our lives and wish her an abundance of blessings in her retirement. She and Sr. Jeanne continue to be sources of inspiration to each of us as they remain part of the LSA family!

Peace and blessings,

Maria J. Walker
President

**Archbishop Nelson Perez celebrates St. Joseph's Feast Day Mass with the LSA Community**

Thank you, Archbishop Nelson Perez, for celebrating a special St. Joseph's Day Mass at LSA on March 19th. Our very own Sisters of St. Joseph, Sr. Jeanne and Sr. Margaret, renewed their vows in front of our student body, board members, and special guests. It was a beautiful day, and a blessing to have the Archbishop visit LSA!

Letter From the Principal

Dear La Salle Academy Family,

God is good all the time; and all the time God is good. I know that to be true because of His Goodness that you have shared with me over the last twenty years.



As this school year draws to a close, my heart is full of deep gratitude and profound joy. With this year's theme, *Joy in the Journey*, I've found myself reflecting often on the beautiful and transformative path I've walked with you. The Sisters of St. Joseph work so that all may be one with God and each other. The Brothers of the Christian Schools educate to touch the hearts of those entrusted to their care. I have been blessed these last twenty years to have been united with these charisms, and with you, to share in the mission that is La Salle Academy. You have touched my heart in ways you may never know.

What a blessing it has been to serve with you as we travel through this incredible journey which is La Salle Academy. Celebrating milestones, praying together in faith, laughing in joy, sharing our sorrows, growing through every challenge and triumph, I have considered myself blessed. Whether in the classroom, at meetings, basketball games, Masses of Thanksgiving and Thanksgiving dinners, or sharing our journey through our newsletters, I have felt nothing but gratitude for this journey that has made La Salle Academy so special.

To our Board members, your vision and support have been a foundation of strength; you make all that we dream for the students and their families a reality. To our dedicated administrators, teachers and staff, your daily commitment to our mission and love for our students is changing the world. To our benefactors, your generosity makes so much possible. To our students and families, thank you for trusting me with your hopes, your stories, and your children — the heart of our school. To our Alumni, keep dreaming, keep working and keep believing. To our God, thank you for bringing us all together to share in the joy of your love.

This journey has not always been easy, but it has always been joyful — not because everything went perfectly, but because we walked it together, rooted in faith, hope, and love. And for that, I am forever grateful.

With heartfelt thanks for 20 unforgettable years,

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

Teresa Diamond
Principal
La Salle Academy

Healthy NewsWorks

Our Fourth Graders completed their annual edition of their *Healthy Newsworks* newspaper, focusing on topics including nutrition and good sleeping habits. They were also invited to partake in a round-table discussion to present their findings. A special shout out to Fourth Graders Dillan and Jayli'anne for representing their class and LSA at the discussion table!



Eighth Grade Memories

Aarin Bennett

La Salle Academy was a big change from public school, and LSA made learning fun! I am grateful for the LSA teachers, and want to start by thanking Mrs. M. who is the best math teacher. When you don't understand a problem, she'll break it down and help you. I am very grateful for how she taught Math and for how she made me more confident. I'd also like to thank Mr. Plumer. He's given me tips on how to do things, and his patience with the 8th grade was amazing. I have made many friends and memories in my two years. My favorite memories are the ones I made with my friends. My LSA friends are easy going, kind and genuinely the best people I've ever met. They'd encourage me, get me things without me having to ask and make me laugh whenever I felt down. One memory I'll always remember is when my brother was getting surgery and my friends comforted me. LSA gave me a strong foundation, and next year I will attend Archbishop John Carroll. I'm excited to meet new people and take different classes in a bigger school. Finally, thank you, Mom and Dad! Thank you for helping me study, for creating different subject charts for me and for pushing me to try this new school. LSA made a big difference! Good luck to the LSA Class of '25!



Amaya Gonzalez

During my time at La Salle Academy, I've learned so many things I never thought I'd learn before high school. I want to thank the teachers, the staff, Ms. Diamond, and everyone who is a part of La Salle Academy for caring about me and supporting me throughout these years at LSA. All the things my classmates and I did together became some of my favorite memories. Some of the best were our sixth and seventh grade beach trips—especially when Sherrell and I went on the boat together. The boat ride on the Avalon bay was amazing, and I will never forget that! La Salle has truly been one of the best things that's ever happened to me. This school helped me realize that there are people who genuinely love and care about you. Next year, I'll be attending Mercy Career and Technical High School, and I'm so excited to go there for Cosmetology. Becoming a high school student feels like a huge step, and I'm thankful that La Salle has prepared me for what's next. For my LSA Class of '25 friends, I know you will all do well. Be proud!



Skyla Fowlkes

The Five Goals really are important. My La Salle Academy years were peaceful and loving. I want to thank my friends and family, especially Mom and Ms. Diamond, for encouraging me and supporting me all the way. I have been at La Salle for two years and meeting new people was the best thing that has ever happened to me. My best memory at La Salle was the Stations of the Cross. It encouraged me to learn more about my faith as a Christian and Catholic. One big obstacle that I had to overcome was the Terranovas. By studying hard, and asking for help, I was able to get through it. The highschool that I will be going to is Liguori Academy. I hope that I will make new friends, and find teachers there that will encourage me the way I felt encouraged at LSA. I want them to welcome me the way I would welcome them. I loved my time at La Salle, and I pray that all future La Salle Academy students know how lucky they are.



Anthony Gordon

During my time at La Salle, I had the privilege to learn about life and meet a lot of nice people. I would like to thank my family, friends, faculty, and administration that helped me throughout my six years here. My favorite moments were laughing and joking with my classmates. I'll always remember that Ms. M would always give us the **"You need to care"** speech. That speech will always remind me to care about what you do, how you do it, and why you do it. The best part of La Salle was meeting my friends. La Salle gave me my favorite core memories: winning two CYO Region championships and earning two CYO Regional MVP awards. LSA teaches us to embrace our flaws and helps us become nice young men and women. Remember the five LSA Goals! I am excited to continue my Lasallian education at West Catholic High School. I hope to make my mark on the basketball court as a West Catholic Burr to play basketball, meet new people and join high school clubs.



Eighth Grade Memories

Phoebe Grone

During my six years at La Salle Academy, I have made many memories with my teachers and classmates. I wouldn't trade my experiences here with anyone. Leaving La Salle is bittersweet. I thank the people who made me who I am today: especially Ms. Diamond, Sr. Jeanne, Mrs. Walker, all of my LSA teachers, and my parents. These past few years have been an emotional ride. We have been through a lot. One of the toughest times was the pandemic and having to get used to being in school again. When I recall my years, I can't decide which year I like the most, because there have been great moments every year. One of my favorite moments was my seventh grade beach trip. The day was really fun, with the exception of getting pinched by a crab! Mr. and Mrs. Maginnis took us on a tubing ride with the boat and we had a great lunch. I am very excited to be going to Liguori Academy because I'm going to the same school as some of my friends. As a new chapter begins for all of us, I wish the LSA Class of '25 good luck.



Angel Machado

La Salle Academy helped me in so many ways with my education. I felt the support from the teachers and Ms. Diamond. I felt challenged to learn something new and to expand what I think. I know my time at La Salle was shorter, but this school was the best opportunity for me. I earned the Student Council class representative position in seventh grade, and then I was voted the School Vice President this year. My leadership skills grew, and I have learned so many things about school and about myself. The amazing people I met along my La Salle Academy journey made it the best two years of my life. My next step will be freshman year at Mercy Career Technical High school. This is a great high school choice for me because it is a good education and can get me into a practical career that I am interested in like IT Solutions. I hope to learn more about technology, and learn to fix computers. Thank you La Salle Academy for all you have done for me!



Colleen Jones

These six years at La Salle Academy have truly shaped me into the person I am today. My experiences here at La Salle are all memorable and I will carry them with me as I move forward in the future. My classmates, teachers, administrators, and the whole La Salle community will forever be in my heart and mind as I attend my new high school and move onto the next chapter of my life. Next year, I am so excited to attend Neumann Goretti High School. I wouldn't be able to attend Neumann Goretti if it wasn't for the help of Sister Margaret, Mr. B, and the benefactors, so I would like to especially thank them. I have attended La Salle Academy since the third grade and although it felt like an eternity, the school year is finally coming to an end. I will forever cherish the memories we created and the joy we shared with each other. I will especially remember our seventh grade Stations of the Cross, even though it required a lot of practice and differed from our normal school schedule, it was a fun memory that I will never forget. I will never forget the love, comfort, and happiness that the La Salle Academy community has given me. I am thankful and will be forever thankful for *every second* of it.



Anne Marie Orr Rivera

I want to thank God, my family, friends, and the staff of La Salle Academy, especially Ms. Diamond, Mrs. Walker, Sr. Jeanne, and the Board Members who supported me throughout my time at LSA. During my six years, my classmates and I had many memorable experiences including summer sessions, Living Stations, our sixth grade boat trip, and our seventh grade trip to the Rileys' house. As a class we also faced many challenges, such as navigating fully virtual classes during the pandemic. If that experience taught me anything, it is that you must adapt, have faith in God and keep your head up. Even though this is my final year at LSA and I will be moving on to Mercy Career and Technical High School, I will cherish my time here forever and continue to thank my family and Ms. Diamond for allowing me to attend LSA. Going to school here has been a wonderful experience filled with encouraging themes like "Jump for Joy!" Thank you for an amazing eighth grade year filled with memories I will always remember.



Neveah Rivera

For the past six years I have had the honor of attending La Salle Academy. I would like to thank Ms. Diamond, Mr. B, the Board Members, my teachers, and most importantly my aunt and uncle for giving me this amazing opportunity. These last six years have given me the knowledge and skills needed to begin my journey of meeting new people and trying new things like volleyball and cheerleading at Little Flower High School. For our last summer Beach Trip we went to Mr. and Mrs. Baiada's house. They were so generous! I remember all of us jumping in their pool and having a mini basketball game, going in the hot tub, and spending time at the beach. Now that our time at La Salle is ending, I think about my classmates and I graduating, moving on to high school, and embracing the changes that come with it. We will have to get used to not seeing each other every day as we attend different schools and meet new friends. I wish the class of 2025 the best of luck during their high school years and beyond.



Angelina Soberal

When I first came to La Salle Academy it was difficult to adjust to a new set of rules, leading to a rocky start but a gratifying experience in the end. With the help of my teachers I overcame every obstacle I faced in the classroom. I would like to thank my family, friends, teachers, and especially Ms. Diamond for helping me make it this far. Thank you for supporting me daily by guiding me through the tough times and encouraging me to do better than the day before. While I have only been here for two years, I am forever grateful for LSA, the teachers who have guided me and the friends I have made. I will always remember the times we laughed until our stomachs hurt and when our class played 'pass the basketball' with Ms. Diamond. As my time at LSA comes to an end, I look forward to embracing a new schedule and meeting new friends at Community Academy Charter.



Alexandra Romanowski

My time at La Salle Academy has been filled with easy and hard times, fun, joy, and amazing memories. I want to thank every teacher, administrator, and classmate who have played an important role in molding me into the person I am today. They have always been there to help me find my way through challenging times in school and life. Without their guidance and wisdom, I would not be prepared to take my next steps of finding opportunities in sports, academics, and friendships at Neumann Goretti High School. I will carry what I learned at LSA with me, especially the Five Goals- to be consistent, motivated, peaceful, respectful, and responsible. Lasting bonds and wonderful memories with classmates, such as our Beach Trips, Living Stations, and simple conversations were formed over the years. I wish the Class of 2025 good luck and success in their futures.



Arthur Spiller

For a long time I have been passionate about building, which is why I am excited to join the Building Trades Program at Mercy Tech. While I am excited for the chance to make new friends, I want to take some time to thank everyone who has helped me be successful over my six years at LSA. Ms. Diamond, thank you for leading me in the right direction after I made a mistake and for always brightening my day with a simple 'good morning,' it means a lot to me. Mr. Plumer, thank you for being patient with our class and reminding me to get my work done, especially when I forgot. Ms. M, thank you for turning Math into my favorite subject by making it fun and easy to understand. Mr. Shack, thank you for caring for me and telling me funny stories to raise my spirits. Finally, thank you to those not mentioned by name but who pushed me toward reaching my potential. Despite the ups and downs, everyone at LSA has supported me and my personal growth. I want to wish my fellow eighth graders well as they begin their high school journeys.



8th Grade Trip

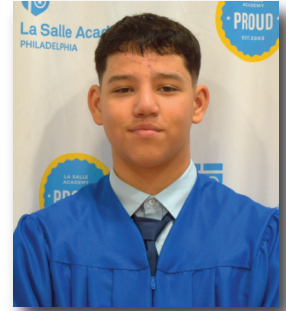
Just weeks before graduating from LSA, our eighth graders went on a trip to New York City! After taking a short tour of the city, the Class of 2025 enjoyed a matinee performance of *Aladdin*. As our graduates prepare for high school we hope they remember the words of Aladdin and Jasmine- "When you choose to lose yourself, who knows what you might find." May they embrace the 'whole new world' of high school, step outside their comfort zones and explore every opportunity high school has to offer. A special thank you to Jim and Mary Jo Danella and Danella Companies for making this memorable trip possible!

Samuel Velazquez

During my time at La Salle Academy, I became a better student, athlete and friend. Over the years, I have made a lot of great memories. One of my favorites being our seventh grade Beach Trip. Even though I was sad it was our last, we made the most of our time together by the pool and at the beach. Another memorable time for me was Living Stations because not only did I play Jesus, I also saw what can come from our whole class working hard together to bring the story to life for the whole school. Two of the greatest things about La Salle are the memories I have made and the friends I have been lucky to share them with. While I will always be grateful for La Salle and everything that it and the people have done for me, I am excited to meet new people and enjoy new experiences through Mercy Career and Technical High School's Building Trades Workshop and Sports Programs. I will always be so grateful for LSA and everything that it, and the people there, have done for me.

**Jonathan Williams**

Coming to La Salle Academy three years ago has changed me and my mindset in life. It has been challenging with lots of ups and downs but it has also been fun and transformative. Throughout my time at LSA I received support from my teachers, the faculty, my friends, and most importantly, my dad. Whenever I did something wrong, they always believed in me to learn from my mistake and do better moving forward. I loved playing CYO basketball. We played really well and won Region 3 two years in a row. Coach Joe really motivated me to focus and to "keep my head up!" Next year I will be attending Strath Haven High School, which offers an ROTC officer training program. A dream of mine has always been to serve in the military so that I can help others and be remembered for something bigger. I can leave a lasting impression on others. La Salle helped prepare me for the future and I will always be thankful.

**Mr. Plumer's 2024-2025 Reflection**

The theme for the 2024-2025 school year was "Joy in the Journey" and the Class of 2025 certainly had many moments of joy during their final year at La Salle Academy. Eighth grade started off the school year by participating in the Outward Bound program, which provides peer bonding activities, the most notable being a zipline course! Another key stop in the eighth grade journey was their unit on the Holocaust. Not only did they analyze *The Diary of Anne Frank* in ELA and create art pieces that highlighted various themes from their lesson, they also had a once in a lifetime opportunity to meet and hear the life story of Holocaust survivor, Ruth Hartz. As they reach the final stop of their LSA journey, I want to say how proud I am for the hard work and growth displayed by the Class of 2025. I am certain they will find "Joy in their Journeys" at Mercy Career and Technical High School, Liguori Academy, Archbishop Carroll High School, Little Flower High School, Community Academy Charter of Philadelphia, West Catholic High School, Strath Haven High School, and Neumann Goretti High School. Best of luck to the LSA Class of 2025!



Enrichment Activities

A critical piece of La Salle Academy's model is our Extended Day Program, where we aim to facilitate the necessary growth and development for students to become successful lifelong learners. The LSA Extended day means that students stay until 5pm three days a week, during which time they participate in activities to improve their knowledge, skills, and abilities in addition to homework help. The LSA Enrichment activities include:



DANCING WITH THE STUDENTS

It takes two to Tango! Students in grades 4 to 7 took a spin around the gym as they learned how to dance a Tango, Waltz, Swing, and Merengue. Thank you to Susan Shea and the dance instructors who brought out the rhythm in our students.

MY FAMILY KITCHEN

Thanks to My Family Kitchen, our 6th graders learned how to prepare healthy and balanced meals from start to finish. They gained proper kitchen skills as they baked, sliced, sauteed, and grated their way to delicious *meals that left us wonton more!*



MINDFULNESS THROUGH MOVEMENT

Let's get *zen-sational!* Every Thursday our 3rd and 4th grades participate in the Mindfulness Through Movement Program. Through exercise and meditation, students learn various techniques to help reduce stress, improve mental health, and increase positivity.



SCRABBLE CLUB

New this year, Scrabble Club is a great way for students to practice their vocabulary and spelling skills while also improving their memory, math, and strategy skills. *Scrabble is all fun and games until someone loses an 'I'!* A special shout-out to Club Leaders Angel and Phoebe for their outstanding work!



ART CLUB

The artistic vision of our students is not limited just to Art Class. Once a week students have the chance to participate in Art Club and continue developing their skills. This year, we saw decorated pumpkins, Christmas cards, snowmen, decorated letters based on their names, brooches and necklaces. *We were easel-y impressed by their creativity!*

LSA Connects

LSA Connects, an extension of our Graduate Support Program, meets monthly to support our alumni and guide them on their paths to achieving a successful high school experience. Recently our alumni had the opportunity to participate in two events thanks to our incredible Board Members.

In April, eight alumni accompanied Paul Barycki, Graduate Support Director, and Maria Walker, President, to Agile Cat, a branding and design agency, to learn about careers in marketing, branding, and advertising. A special thanks to Board Member Peter Madden for inviting the students to Agile Cat for a tour and to hear from motivational speaker, entrepreneur, and singer Jessie Kyle!



Just in time for summer, Board Members Kris Derewicz and Julie Pukas stopped by a recent LSA Connects to give a presentation on job search tips and interview techniques to help prepare our alumni for applying to summer jobs. Students also got in some real practice during a series of mock interviews. Before we know it, they'll be acing those interviews and embracing working life!



Thank you, Penn Treaty Special Services District!

LSA thanks Penn Treaty SSD for their generous Grant Donation supporting our new LSA Family and Community Engagement Initiative. Our Social Worker and Principal are planning events and efforts in the late spring, summer and early fall. Stay tuned!

Philadelphia Green Schools Grant



LSA was awarded a Green Schools Grant from the Philadelphia Streets Department to transform our concrete space into the St. Francis Peace Garden. On May 7th our third grade class was invited to the Horticulture Center to receive a Certificate of Participation in the Green Schools Program during the Grants Award Ceremony.

Art Show



LSA's Art Show, "The Joy of Creating Art" was truly a work of art! Special thanks to Art Teacher, Marlene Adler for the hard work and dedication she put into beautifully displaying our students' artwork. "The Joy of Creating Art" transformed our SSJ Center into a walking exhibition of artwork from throughout the year. The creativity of every student is brought to life through the passion and support of Mrs. Adler's direction.



La Salle Academy would like to extend a massive thank you to Marlene Adler for her 12 years of dedicated service as LSA's Art Teacher.



As she enters into retirement, we want to acknowledge all of the imagination and artistry she has brought to our students. With her guidance, our students can freely express themselves in their work to create truly one-of-a-kind pieces. We thank Mrs. Adler for her time, talent, and joy she brought to LSA and for the unique projects she helped to create, including our Five Goals Planters and an upcoming mural in the Assembly Room. Thank you Mrs. Adler for all you did for LSA!



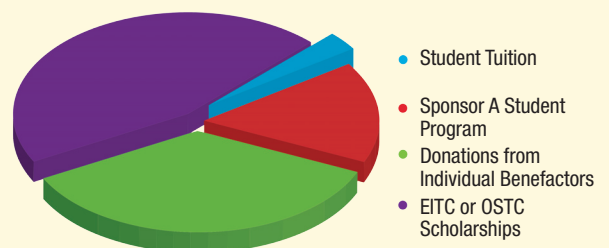
Thank You from Sr. Jeanne!

LSA was fortunate, and blessed, when we found Teresa Diamond. We needed to hire the best possible principal for our students, families, teachers, and the school, and Teresa was excellent. Teresa incorporated the Five LSA goals in each day, made each LSA Assembly special and guided La Salle Academy to become a loving, high quality school. I also feel personally blessed to have worked with Teresa to shape La Salle Academy, to make the San Miguel model unique to La Salle Academy Philadelphia. When celebrating Teresa, I think of this quote from *Les Miserables*: "To love another person is to see the face of God." **Thank you, Teresa for helping me, the hundreds of LSA students and the LSA Community see the face of God through your love and dedication.**



LSA took a school trip to experience the magic of *Aladdin, Jr.* at Walnut Street Theater. Our students learned about the value of friendship, even if it is a blue genie, as well the importance of working hard to make their dreams come true.

Covering the Costs to Educate



There is still time to apply for the Pennsylvania Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) and Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit (OSTC) Programs for the 2025-2026 school year.

We are grateful for those companies that support LSA students' tuition and scholarship program through these critical state programs.

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.

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



La Salle Academy

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La Salle Academy's Annual Proud Golf Classic

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Monday, September 29, 2025



Whitemarsh Valley Country Club (Shotgun 1pm) & Green Valley Country Club (shotgun 12:30pm)



Golf, Silent Auction, and light dinner at WVCC



Registration and Warm Ups begin at 11:30am



FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT [HTTPS://LSAGOLF2025.GIVSMART.COM](https://lsagolf2025.givesmart.com)

OR CONTACT MEGAN G. THOMSON AT 215-739-5804



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