Fall 2026

La Salle Academy NEWSLETTER
PHILADELPHIA

In the News...

LSA looks forward to an exciting school year. From a new English curriculum to new Enrichment activities, LSA is sure to fulfill its **Strive for Greatness** school year theme!

• • •

Thank you to all our sponsors, donors, and golfers who supported the 2026 LSA Proud Golf Outing.

• • •

On Sunday, October 25th LSA will host a **3 v 3 Basketball Tournament** at LSU. A special thank you to everyone who helped plan this event.

• • •

Congratulations to the **2026-2027 LSA Student Council!** Students will be officially installed on October 21st during our monthly school Mass.

• • •

Thank you to Helm Creative Studio for helping our community highlight how BLOCS and the PA EITC program help our students.

LSA's 2026-2027 School Theme

LSA's 2026-2027 school theme is **"Strive for Greatness."** This school year, we will challenge our students, administration, faculty, and staff to become the best versions of themselves. We will tap into a core Lasallian conviction, **"Together and by Association,"** as we recognize that greatness is not achieved by any one individual. Together, our gifts become one mission, the La Salle Academy mission, which is larger than any one person. Just as the Sisters of Saint Joseph taught, we will **see God in the dear neighbor** and celebrate every accomplishment our students achieve.

LA SALLE ACADEMY
STRIVE FOR GREATNESS
2026-2027

Above all, we will remember that a *La Salle Academy education can transform our students' lives.*







Letter From the President



"Some seek knowledge for the sake of knowledge: that is curiosity. Others seek knowledge that they themselves be known: that is vanity. But there are still others who seek knowledge in order to serve others, and that is [true] charity."

– St. Bernard of Clairvaux

Dear Friends of La Salle Academy,

As I begin to serve this community as the President of La Salle Academy, I do so with gratitude, humility and excitement for what lies ahead. Over the summer, I had the privilege of meeting with some members of our Board of Trustees. I learned more about the wonderful community that makes La Salle such a special place. Following in the footsteps of our inspirational founder, Sr. Jeanne McGowan SSJ, I plan to build upon her remarkable legacy of faith, academic excellence, service, and love.

La Salle Academy is more than a school. It is a faith-filled community where young people discover their God-given gifts, and are nurtured, challenged, and supported. Our commitment to academic excellence calls us to develop not only knowledgeable and capable students, but young people who think critically, lead courageously, and use their gifts in service to others.

I am grateful for our dedicated faculty and staff, whose passion, care and commitment are the foundation of our success. I am especially honored to partner with both our Principal, Lauren Zanoni, and with our Director of Student and Family Support, Colleen Burns. Lauren and Colleen embody our LSA Mission and their faith, wisdom, high expectations, and unwavering commitment to our students inspire all of us to be better.

Our students are among God's greatest blessings. Each day, the spirit of St. John Baptist de La Salle comes alive in our halls as our students strive to be Peaceful, Responsible, Consistent, Motivated, and Respectful.

As we look to the future, I am filled with hope, not merely optimism, but the hope rooted in God's promise to guide our path with purpose. That hope gives us the courage to persevere, the confidence to dream, and the faith to embrace what lies ahead. **Together, we will continue to *strive for greatness*** for our students, for our community and for all of us.

Live Jesus in our hearts forever,

Charles Arroyave

Charles Arroyave
President of La Salle Academy

La Salle University Student Teachers





Over the next few months, La Salle Academy will host a group of six student teachers from La Salle University. These students will gain valuable classroom experience as they participate in skill development and hands-on learning opportunities while they spend time with our fourth and sixth grades. We hope this time proves beneficial and provides them with knowledge and skills they can carry with them throughout their courses and career. Special thank you to Dr. Laurel Byrne for accompanying the students throughout their time at LSA!

Letter From the Principal



Dear Friends of La Salle Academy,

As we begin another school year at La Salle Academy, I am filled with gratitude and excitement for all that lies ahead. It is truly an honor and a privilege to serve as principal of a school community that has meant so much to me and to so many others. La Salle Academy is a special place because of the students, families, faculty, staff, friends, board, and supporters who bring our mission to life each day.

Our theme for the 2026–2027 school year is "LSA: Strive for Greatness." At La Salle Academy, greatness is not simply about being the best or achieving the most. It is about becoming the people God has created and called us to be. We remind our students and one another that we are "Created by God and Called to Greatness." Each of us has unique gifts, talents, and opportunities to make a difference, and our responsibility is to use those gifts with purpose, courage, compassion, and faith.

Every day, I have the privilege of seeing greatness in action at LSA. It can be found in a student persevering through a challenging lesson, a teacher finding a new way to reach a child, a classmate showing kindness to someone who needs it, or a staff member going above and beyond for our students and families. Greatness is present in the small moments just as much as the big ones. It is found in the way our community loves, serves, encourages, and believes in one another.



This year, we will continue to challenge our students to grow academically, socially, and spiritually. We want them to recognize that greatness does not happen all at once. It is built through daily choices, choosing to work hard, to learn from mistakes, to treat others with respect, to serve generously, and to keep moving forward even when something is difficult.

As I begin this chapter as principal, I am deeply grateful for the trust placed in me and for the opportunity to walk alongside our students, families, faculty, staff, and supporters. I look forward to all that we will accomplish together and to the many ways we will see greatness shine throughout La Salle Academy this year.

May we always remember that at LSA, we are created by God, called to greatness, and surrounded by countless examples of greatness in action.

Gratefully,

Lauren Schwartz Zanoni

Lauren Schwartz Zanoni
Principal

Live, Jesus, in our hearts, forever!



Third Grade

Teacher: Mr. Derek Rodriguez

In our classroom, we are Striving for Greatness every day! We will learn, grow, and work together to reach our goals. We will be kind, respectful, responsible, and ready to learn. We will celebrate our differences, support one another, and never give up when things get challenging. We believe greatness comes from trying our best, learning from our mistakes, helping others, and believing in ourselves. Together, we will learn. Together, we will grow. Together, we will Strive for Greatness!

Fourth Grade

Teacher: Mrs. Maureen Davis

Fourth graders are hard at work learning the routines and procedures that help our classroom run smoothly. We are looking forward to continuing to build our reading stamina and learning about "Networks" in our first MyView literacy unit and applying collaboration and problem-solving strategies to our work in Eureka math. Most importantly, fourth graders are committed to intentionally living out the five goals of La Salle Academy and supporting each other on their academic and social journeys.





Fifth Grade

Teacher: Mrs. Maryann Fynes

Adapting the LSA Mission Statement and Philosophy to each classroom was a beneficial exercise during our faculty and staff in-service week. This exercise highlighted the need to make sure we are true to the cause and focused on the desired outcome. Here in Grade 5, we will be "Inspired by the gospel message so that our classroom is a place that nurtures personal growth and is supportive of one another."

Sixth Grade



Teacher: Mrs. Jennifer Mulderig

The Sixth graders at LSA have jumped right into their Math work. They are currently reviewing basic operations but will begin working with ratios and proportions. In Religion class they are starting at the beginning of the Bible learning about the story of Creation. In ELA, they are learning tips and tricks to assist their study skills while acquiring new vocabulary words and planning to write a Personal Narrative. They are adjusting well to being on the third floor and switching classes for Social Studies and Science.



Seventh Grade

Teacher: Mr. Michael ShackelfordPeña-Taylor II

Seventh graders will use their enthusiasm, energy, and zeal for learning. We will be doing more in the form of Debate club training, educational podcasts, and integrating civics along with their Social Studies curriculum. We will also explore how the Social teachings of the church can be used to help others on a daily basis.

Eighth Grade

Teacher: Mr. Chris Dana

The focus for the 8th grade will be not just learning, but learning **how to learn**. We'll help students build the skills to study, stay organized, and become more independent—a foundation that will serve them well in high school and beyond. Just as important, we hope the 8th graders will work together, build strong connections, and create the confidence and lasting memories that make their final year special.





Art

Teacher: Mrs. Kitty Maley

My goal in the art room this year is to help every student recognize the greatness in their own artwork—and in themselves. Greatness isn't about being perfect; it comes from creativity, effort, and the courage to keep trying. Every student's unique ideas and hard work make their artwork something truly special!

Music

Teacher: Mr. Darin Williams

This year in music students will focus on learning the ins and outs of rhythm and beat, music notation, tempo and pitch. By returning to basics, students can take their musical talents to the next level. From vocal warm-ups and learning new songs to sing during school Masses to staying on beat while playing the drums, students have the space to create beautiful music that fills our LSA Community with joy.





Technology

Teacher: Mrs. Bridget Grady Joram

In technology this year, we will learn to type with speed and accuracy while using the home row keys. We will also continue to learn about various skills in coding and work to identify and debug systems. Various long term cross curricular research projects will help apply our technology skills. It's going to be a fun-filled year of learning!

Grad Support

Director: Mr. Vince Balestrino

I am most excited to be working with our students, particularly the 8th graders. I look forward to helping them prepare for and finding their perfect high school. I'm also looking forward to supporting our alums as they navigate life both inside and outside of the classroom.



Vince's high school graduation with Br. Kevin Dalmasse



La Salle Academy's Annual Golf Outing

LSA extends a massive THANK YOU to everyone who supported the 2026 LSA Proud Golf Outing!

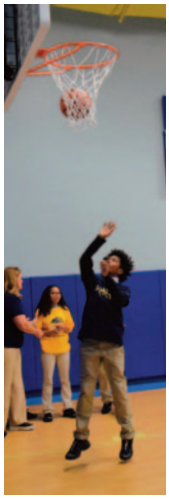
Thank you to our LSA Board Members, businesses, foundations, donors, and golfers who helped to make this year's outing a *tee*-rific success!

Although a Nor'easter storm caused our original outing date to be rained out, we are grateful to Whitemarsh Valley Counrty Club Staff for their help in securing our new outing date of October 19th.

Thank you for 'swinging for our students' and supporting the LSA Mission!



Bob Kelly from Fox 29 Visits La Salle Academy!



Ahead of our first LSA Blue and Gold Basketball Shootout, LSA had a special visit from Bob Kelly of Fox 29 News! Thank you for highlighting La Salle Academy, our mission, and our 3-on-3 tournament during a Kelly's Classroom segment. A BIG thank you to Board Member, Mike Wade and his wife, Sue, for making this incredible opportunity a reality. Thank you for spending a morning supporting LSA!







1 LaSalle Student Ambassadors

As part of the District of Eastern North America (DENA), a group of LSA students were selected to be 1 LaSalle Student Ambassadors and they participated in a Zoom call with LaSallians from across the LaSallian Region of North America (RELAN) as well as England, Ireland, Malta, and Bethlehem (Palestine). During the call, students learned about the roots and history of the International LaSallian Days of Peace and had the chance to discuss how each of their schools promote peace in their community. In the coming weeks, students will be working on a peace project connected to these themes. What an exciting opportunity for our LSA students!

La Salle Academy
PHILADELPHIA

1434 North Second Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19122
215.739.5804

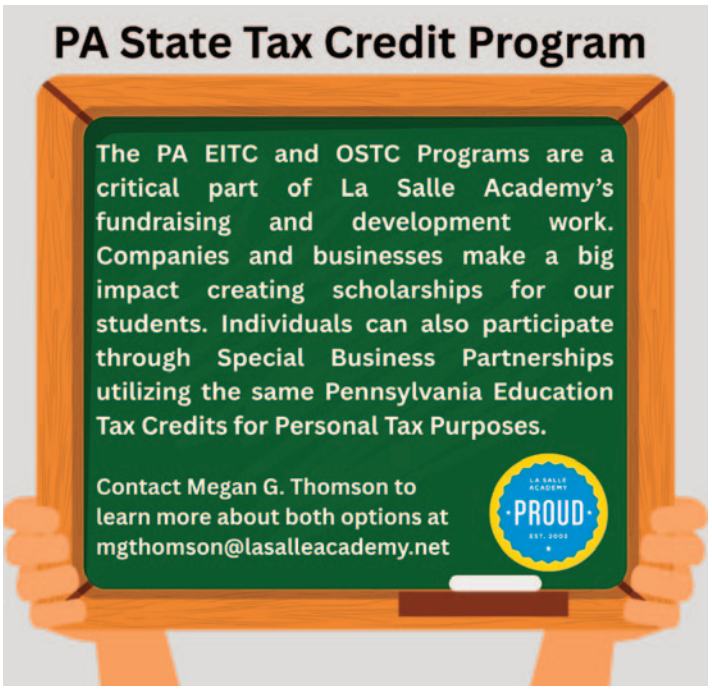
FIRST CLASS
PRSRT
US POSTAGE
PAID
Permit 146
Southeastern, PA

Board of Trustees

Kristine Grady Derewicz, Esq., *Board Chair*
Charles Arroyave, *President*
Sr. Jeanne McGowan, SSJ, *LSA Founder and President Emerita*

Timothy J. Abell
Theresa Allen
Donna Bartynski
Paul Bucco, Esq.
James Danella
Sr. Karen Dietrich, SSJ, PhD
M. Cathlene Driscoll, Esq.
Dennis M. Durkin
John Fenningham, Esq.*
Mary Beth Hughes, Esq.
Robert Johnson
Dale Lintner, Jr.
James Lynch*
Kathleen G. Lynch
Peter Madden
Eileen Maginnis
Br. Joseph Mahon, FSC, PhD
Lindsay Higgins McFadden
Br. Gerard Molyneaux, FSC
Alanna Mora-Mickens
Michael J. O'Neill, Jr.
Sr. Rosann Orchon, SSJ
Frank C. Palopoli
Carol Melvin Pate, EdD
Thomas S. Perrino
Julie Pukas
Brian Riley
John Rilling, CPA
Al Salvitti
Mark Steffens
Gregory F. Vizza, Esq.
Michael Wade
Timothy Woolley

**Board Chair Emeritus*





Stay Connected With LSA

@LaSalleAcademyPhiladelphia

@ La Salle Academy