

Saint Andrew School

*PROVIDING A QUALITY
ROMAN CATHOLIC EDUCATION*

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

Summer 2025

Inside

This Issue

- 1 Pastor's Message
- 3 Principal's Message
- 4 AOP Award
- 5 Class of 1974
- 6 Fr. Joseph Farrell – '77
- 7 Msgr. Albin J. Grous Tribute
- 12 SAS Financials
- 14 Class of 2025
- 16 EDS Program
- 18 EITC Webinars
- 19 Foundation Commitment Form
- 20 EITC Donors / Financial Aid
- 22 SAS Annual Fund Donors
- 24 RMDs & QCDs
- 26 Annual Fund – Final Results
- 27-29 Annual Fund Campaign
- 28 Stay Connected

Saint Andrew School

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CONTINUING THE LEGACY

BUILDING A CULTURE OF LIFE, AND A CIVILIZATION OF LOVE THROUGH FAITH AND KNOWLEDGE.

Dear Parishioners, Alumni, and Friends of Saint Andrew School,

With great joy and humility, I write to you as your newly appointed pastor. It is a blessing to join this parish family and to share in the stewardship of our beloved parish and school. As I step into this role, I do so with deep gratitude for the trust placed in me, and with a sincere commitment to continue the remarkable legacy that has defined Saint Andrew School for more than a century.

For 103 years, our parish school has stood as a beacon of Catholic education—forming children in the richness of our faith, nurturing their intellectual curiosity, and helping them grow into compassionate young men and women who serve the world with Christ's love. When one thinks about what 103 years represents, it is humbling to imagine the countless lives that have been shaped within the walls of our classrooms: generations of students who first learned their prayers here, who discovered their talents here, and who formed lifelong friendships grounded in faith.

This extraordinary history is not only a source of pride—it is also a call to responsibility. We are entrusted with the sacred task of ensuring that the legacy handed down to us continues to flourish for the next generation. Catholic education is more than textbooks and tests.

(continued page 2)

It is a holistic formation—spiritual, social, and intellectual—that prepares young people not only for careers, but for lives of purpose, service, and discipleship.

As your pastor, I want to assure you of my dedication to supporting and strengthening our parish school. I believe deeply in the mission of Catholic education. Our children deserve to encounter truth, beauty, and goodness in their daily learning; they deserve a community that challenges them to grow academically while nurturing their moral character and spiritual life. These values are not abstract ideals—they are lived each day in our classrooms, at our liturgies and devotions, in our service projects, and in the ordinary interactions between teachers and students.



Rev. Marc F. Capizzi

One of the greatest strengths of our school is the community that surrounds it. The involvement of parishioners, parents, and alumni is what makes this mission possible. You—our supporters and friends—are the lifeblood of our efforts. Whether you have children currently enrolled, whether you once walked these hallways yourself, or whether you are a parishioner who recognizes the value of Catholic education, you are part of a story much larger than any one of us. Your prayers, your volunteerism, and your financial support sustain this vital work.

In the coming months, I look forward to meeting many of you personally—at Sunday Mass, at school events, at alumni gatherings, or even in casual encounters on campus. I want to hear your stories: the memories of your school days, the ways the parish has shaped your faith, and your hopes for the future of our school. Listening to you will help me learn the heart of this community and discern together how best to move forward.

We are blessed with dedicated teachers and administrative staff who give generously of themselves to ensure that our students receive an education marked by both academic excellence and Catholic identity. Their commitment inspires me, and I pledge to support them in their work. Together, we will strive to provide the resources and environment necessary for our children to thrive.

At the same time, we must be honest about the challenges facing Catholic schools today. Demographics shift, financial pressures mount, and the cultural landscape grows ever more complex. Yet, I firmly believe that these challenges are not reasons to retreat, but opportunities to recommit ourselves to the mission that has guided this parish for over a century. With faith in God's providence and with the active participation of our parishioners and alumni, we can and will ensure that SAS remains strong for generations to come.

As we look toward the future, I ask each of you to pray for our parish school. Pray for our students, that they may continue to grow in wisdom and grace. Pray for our teachers and staff, that they may be strengthened in their vocation. Pray for our alumni, that the seeds planted here may continue to bear fruit in their lives. And pray for me, that I may lead with humility, wisdom, and love.

God has a vision much farther than my sight.



Back in the early summer on a visit to the Amish Market, I was struck by a sign that read, "God has a vision much farther than my sight." I've become accustomed to receiving such messages and readily recognized it as a reminder from our Lord to trust Him. At the time I was still adjusting to the idea of working with a new pastor. Msgr. Grous' reassignment came as a shock to me. Monsignor was an answer to prayer in my early years as principal when all I longed for was a pastor who was fully committed to Catholic education, especially at the elementary level. God provided in Msgr. Grous an ardent advocate for the school who shed light on the good that was here. Monsignor held us all to a high standard, expecting nothing less than what he himself would do. Even though my vision has improved with age, literally and figuratively, I never saw what was coming. Never did I imagine Msgr. Grous would leave St. Andrew before I did. After all, as he reminded me quite often, he is a few years younger than me. I truly thought I would be the first to go. God's plan is not ours.

While I didn't see Monsignor's departure coming, I can say I did sense Fr. Joe Farrell's '77 promotion. Actually, when MaryAnne Rayer texted our school community that the conclave elected a Villanova graduate and an Augustinian to be the new Pope, I seriously thought the Cardinals found Joe Farrell. Okay, so I was off by a bit. Fr. Joe has been close to the hearts of St. Andrew parishioners for many years. He still holds close ties to our families. Many of us were hoping for Fr. Joe's return to the States. Again, God's plan is not ours.

Some other things I didn't see coming these last few months were the passing of three of my former students; Emily Conley Meakim '93, James Litz '01, and Patrick Connaughton '85. For each one, I have vivid, fond memories of the children that they were. Their families let me know of their journeys through adulthood and illnesses. Sent back to God at a young age when compared to mine, these three give me pause to wonder at life's mysteries. Additionally, the school community lost two instructors; Mrs. Susan Torrie, our music teacher and Mrs. Mary MacDonald Flanagan '69, who returned to SAS to teach first aid and CPR to our middle schoolers. Both women made a positive impact on our school students. Both left us too soon. God's plan is not ours.

On all of this, I can only look back with gratitude for all that has been. Msgr. Grous and Fr. Joe Farrell have been called to serve new missions. Our prayers go with them. Those who have journeyed to the next life have achieved our ultimate goal- to meet our Lord face to face. Our prayers go with them. Our sorrow will be consoled by God's love.

I look forward with hope for what is to come. Fr. Marc Capizzi, who has readily expressed enthusiasm and desire to work with the students and teachers, has graciously accepted the role of parochial administrator. Fr. Capizzi is also an advocate of Catholic education. God provides.

Miss Els O'Haren, my dear friend and former grade partner and one beloved by all those mentioned in this article, shared the following quote with me, "I've noticed that there are parts of you that are parts of me. Little things that you unknowingly left behind. And I realize now that instead of trying to get through life without you, I'll just take you with me."

(continued page 4 - Principal's Message)

**ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF ELEMENTARY EDUCATION**

222 North Seventeenth Street • Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-1299

July 22, 2025

Dear Dr. McLean,

On behalf of the Office of Catholic Elementary Education, I am pleased to share the exciting news that Saint Andrew School has earned the **School of Distinction Award for Growth**.

This recognition is based on your students' **exceptional academic growth**, as measured by year-over-year performance on the Normal Curve Equivalent (NCE) scale. To qualify for this distinction, schools must meet the following criteria:

Growth Award Criteria

A school must demonstrate that a majority of classes (80%) at each tested grade level showed growth in all content areas. NCE scores are norm-referenced and allow for fair and accurate comparisons across groups, reflecting not only achievement but the pace of academic progress.

Your school met these rigorous expectations, and we congratulate you and your faculty on your outstanding commitment to student learning and continuous improvement.

A formal invitation to the Schools of Distinction Awards Ceremony, which will be held on Wednesday, August 7th at Saints Simon and Jude School, will be sent to you shortly. We hope you will join us as we celebrate your school's dedication and success. Thank you again for your leadership and the incredible work being done in your school community.

Andrew M. McLaughlin, Ed.D.
Secretary of Elementary Education



(Principal's Message – continued from page 3)

I am ever grateful for the ability to reminisce about the times with colleagues and students. I will always remember with gratitude the parts of themselves they left behind.

My hope for our current students is that they come to know the love of God through the friendships they form in these early years. I hope that they take with them parts of all they meet. One day, I hope they realize that I carry them with me - that I have been made better because of them. This is one of the treasures of a Catholic education. Your support of Saint Andrew School is greatly appreciated. I can think of no better gift to give a child.



Class of 1974 – 50th Reunion



Group photo from the 50th reunion held on October 25, 2024 at The Yard Pub in Havertown. They had 70 members of their class attend this event. The Class of 1974 made a generous donation of \$1,000 to be equally divided between the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Program / Atrium and student financial aid. Thanks to all for remembering Saint Andrew School!

Pastor's Message (continued from page 2)

Together, let us celebrate the 103 years of faith and learning that have brought us to this moment, and let us step forward with confidence and hope. The Lord, who has blessed us abundantly in the past, will surely guide us into a future filled with promise.

With gratitude for the privilege of serving as your pastor, and with confidence in God's grace, I look forward to walking this journey of faith and education with all of you.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Marc F. Capizzi
Pastor



SAS Alumni – Major News Announcement



Rev. Joseph L. Farrell, O.S.A.
SAS Class of 1977

On September 9, 2025, at the 188th General Chapter of the order of Saint Augustine, 73 capitular brothers with voting rights elected Fr. Joseph L. Farrell, O.S.A. as the 98th Prior General in the 750+ year history of the Augustinian Order.

In a historic moment for the Augustinian Order, Father Joseph L. Farrell was elected as the new Prior General, marking the beginning of a new era for one of the Catholic Church's most esteemed religious communities. This election, which took place during the 2025 General Chapter, has stirred excitement within the Order and the broader Catholic community as it reflects the continuing vitality and adaptation of the Augustinian spirit to the challenges of the modern world.

The Augustinian Order, formally known as the Order of Saint Augustine (O.S.A.), was founded in 1256 and traces its roots back to the rule of St. Augustine of Hippo. The Order has long been known for its commitment to community life, contemplative prayer, and service to the Church and society, with members often dedicating themselves to education, pastoral work, and charitable efforts. *The Prior General serves as the spiritual and administrative leader of the Order worldwide, overseeing its many provinces, missions, and initiatives.*

As many of our readers already know, Fr. Farrell was born on July 11, 1963 in Drexel Hill and graduated from SAS in 1977. He's a 1981 graduate of Monsignor Bonner High School (Augustinians); the School of Business of Villanova University-1985 (Augustinians) and earned a Master of Arts Degree in Theology from the Washington Theological Union (1991). He professed his first vows as an Augustinian in 1987; his solemn vows in 1990 and was ordained in 1991 at Our Mother of Good Counsel Church in Bryn Mawr, PA. He returned to Drexel Hill to serve as Campus Minister at Msgr. Bonner High School from 1994-1996.

Father Joseph Farrell's election as Prior General of the Augustinian Order is a moment of great promise and excitement for the Order and the broader Church. His leadership offers a vision of hope and renewal, grounded in the Augustinian ideals of community, service, and contemplation. As the Order faces the challenges of a changing world, Father Farrell's guidance will be instrumental in helping the Augustinians remain a vital and vibrant force for the Gospel, both within the Church and in the world.



Thank You and May God Bless You !

After seventeen years as pastor at St. Andrew the Apostle Parish, Monsignor Albin J. Grous has been reassigned as the new pastor of St. Isaac Jogues Parish in Wayne, PA, just a short distance from Valley Forge National Park. Monsignor completed his pastoral leadership as the third longest serving pastor at St. Andrew behind the founding pastor, Rev. Joseph M. McShain – 1916-1949 (33 years) and Rev. John J. Hughes -1949-1970 (21 years).

One of the very first things Monsignor introduced shortly after his installation in 2008 was this Alumni Newsletter and the School's Annual Appeal initiative. Over the last seventeen years, there were many other milestones and accomplishments touching the lives of our parishioners, students, visitors and friends of St. Andrew.

Together with the constant support of our parish community, we highlight (in no particular order) a few of these memories over the past seventeen years on the following pages with our love, appreciation and gratitude for a job well done.

Outreach



SAINT **John's**
HOSPICE



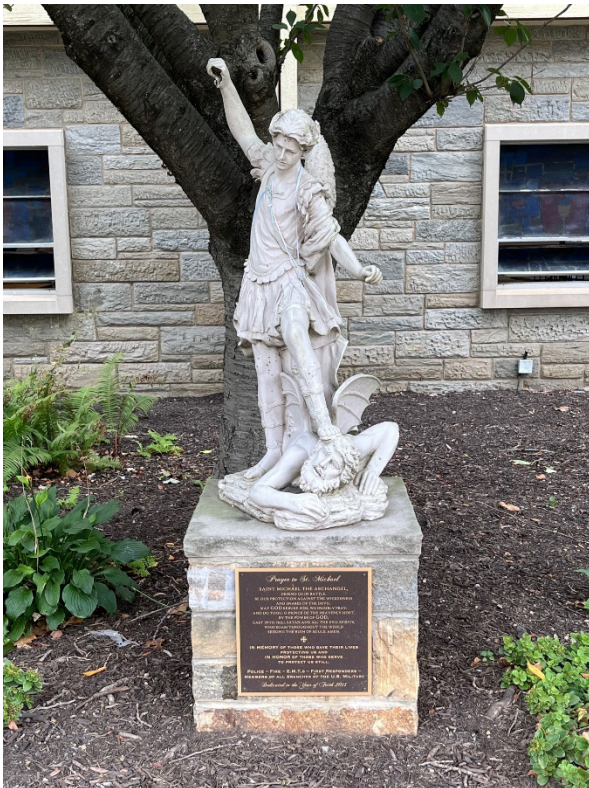
- St. Vincent de Paul Society-
 - St. Andrew Conference
- Bobby Staffieri Food Pantry
 - Thanksgiving, Christmas & Easter Food Drives
- Feed the Homeless – St. John's Hospice
- St. Andrew Elder Care Program
- 5K Spirit Run
- Formed
- Flocknotes
- *Fides & Scientia* Speaker Series



FORMED
THE CATHOLIC FAITH.
ON DEMAND.



Statuary



Saint Andrew School

- Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Program
- Successfully Appealed AOP Blue Ribbon Commission's Closure Recommendation - 2012
- Computer Lab / LabLeaner© Science Lab / Art Lab
- New Administrative Offices
- New Courtyard Entrance
- Financial Aid
- Alumni Newsletter
- Annual Fund Appeal



Financial Aid Awarded (2017-2025)



School Year	EITC	Annual Fund Finnacial Aid Directed Gifts	Children's Scholarship Fund	Verna Family Scholarship
2017-2018	\$ 68,800	\$ 6,810		
2018-2019	\$ 79,900	\$ 16,810	\$ 10,500	\$ 14,000
2019-2020	\$ 116,700	\$ 12,159	\$ 14,475	\$ 14,000
2020-2021	\$ 178,500	\$ 12,575	\$ 16,550	\$ 12,000
2021-2022	\$ 174,450	\$ 13,860	\$ 27,844	\$ 12,000
2022-2023	\$ 240,630	\$ 18,975	\$ 21,262	\$ 12,000
2023-2024	\$ 553,950	\$ 10,335	\$ 18,025	\$ 14,000
2024-2025	\$ 206,200	\$ 10,820	\$ 24,800	\$ 12,000
2025-2026	\$ 259,200	\$ 10,760	\$ 25,900	\$ 12,000
Totals	\$1,878,330	\$ 113,104	\$ 159,356	\$ 102,000

Grand Total Financial Aid - (9 years) \$2,252,790

Capital Improvements

2015 – 2025

Some of the major capital projects during the last nine years are quite visible (or audible) such as :

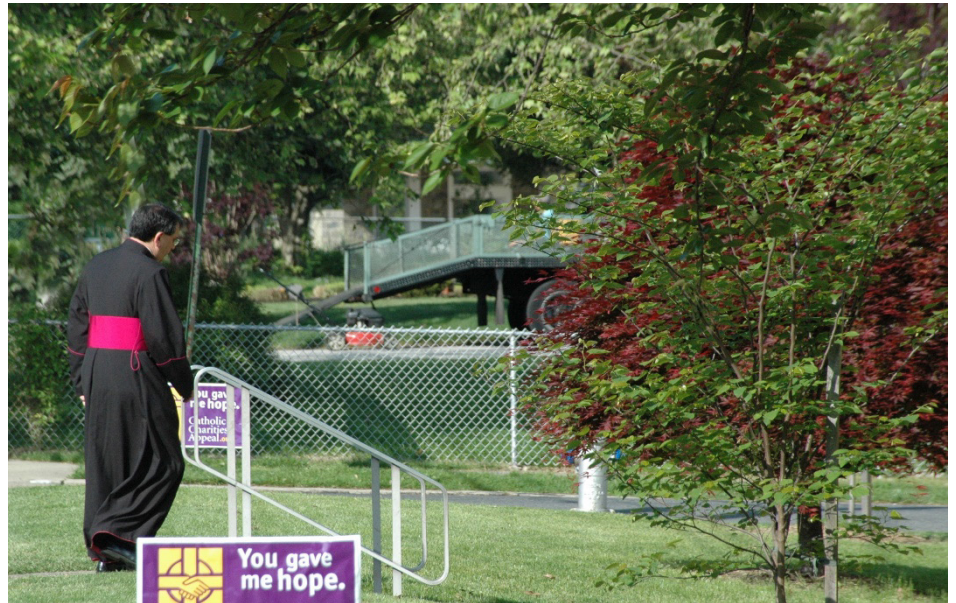
- Church interior painting, Stations of the Cross, Baptismal Font, lighting, and rest room remodeling that took place during our parish's Centennial celebration
- New Church Microphone Sound System
- New Church Carillon (church bells)

SAS Annual Fund History	
Total Gifts (24-25)	\$ 106,238
Total Gifts (23-24)	\$ 81,590
Total Gifts (22-23)	\$ 84,106
Total Gifts (21-22)	\$ 73,052
Total Gifts (20-21)	\$ 64,732
Total Gifts (19-20)	\$ 61,555
Total Gifts (18-19)	\$ 53,818
Total Gifts (17-18)	\$ 52,346
Total Gifts (16-17)	\$ 53,118
Total Gifts (15-16)	\$ 32,706
Total Gifts (14-15)	\$ 49,416
Total Gifts (13-14)	\$ 42,634
Total Gifts (12-13)	\$ 43,984
Total Gifts (11-12)	\$ 41,100
Total Gifts (10-11)	\$ 32,454
Total Gifts (09-10)	\$ 34,121
Total Gifts (08-09)	\$ 23,746
GRAND TOTAL	\$930,716

- Renovations to Msgr. McGettigan Hall including a new acoustical tile drop ceiling, new lighting throughout, and a new sound system for guest speakers and SAS play productions.
- New windows; new steel exterior doors in Msgr. McGettigan Hall, food pantry, church rear entrance, school PK classroom entrance, administrative office rear entrance, and air handler room in the basement of the Fr. Hughes building.
- With the conversion from fuel oil to natural gas, all heating boilers have been replaced throughout the campus

	Church	School	Total
Heating, Ventilation & Air Conditioning (HVAC)	\$103,538	\$383,180	\$486,718
Roof Repairs	\$57,420	\$41,121	\$98,541
Exterior Doors	\$15,000	\$45,913	\$60,913
Msgr. McGettigan Hall Renovations	\$78,407		\$78,407
Church Sound System	\$39,150		\$39,150
New Classroom Windows		\$119,250	\$ 119,250
Church Interior Upgrades	\$146,845		\$146,845
Carillon System	\$13,325		\$13,325
Outdoor Security Cameras		\$18,577	\$18,577
Totals	\$453,685	\$608,041	\$1,061,726

Other Memories



- Centennial Church Organ
- Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass
- St. Michael the Archangel – First Responders Mass
- Verna Family Scholarships
- St. Katharine Drexel Conference Room Dedication

Amen!



Saint Andrew School Financial Results

Profit & Loss Statement – Fiscal year ending June 30, 2025

	Fiscal Year 7/1/2024- 6/30/2025	Fiscal Year 7/1/2023- 6/30/2024	\$ Change	% Change
Income				
Total Tuition Income & Financial Aid	\$ 1,439,357	\$ 1,516,395	\$ (77,038)	-5.1%
Registration Fees	\$ 32,700	\$ 38,488	\$ (5,788)	-15.0%
Technology Fees	\$ 15,055	\$ 16,710	\$ (1,655)	-9.9%
Other Misc. School Income /Fees	\$ 37,206	\$ 33,411	\$ 3,795	11.4%
Total School Other Income & Fees	\$ 84,961	\$ 88,609	\$ (3,648)	-4.1%
SAS Alumni Annual Fund	\$ 106,238	\$ 81,590	\$ 24,648	30.2%
Matching Gifts	\$ 154	\$ 1,146	\$ (992)	-86.6%
All Other Fundraising (Net of Expenses)	\$ 10,625	\$ 19,600	\$ (8,975)	-45.8%
Total Fundraising (Net of Expenses)	\$ 117,017	\$ 102,336	\$ 14,681	14.3%
CARES Income (Net of Expenses)	\$ 45,332	\$ 45,599	\$ (267)	-0.6%
Interest & Dividends	\$ 36,292	\$ 36,404	\$ (112)	-0.3%
Other Income	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
School Subsidy (from parish)	\$ 74,005	\$ 54,435	\$ 19,570	36.0%
Total School Operating Income	\$ 1,796,964	\$ 1,843,778	\$ (46,814)	-2.5%
Other School Income				
Unrealized Capital Gains (Losses)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Legacies & Bequests	\$ 5,000	\$ 47,500	\$ (42,500)	-89.5%
Parish Fund Transfer (25); UD Twp. ARPA - Grant (24)	\$ 147,850	\$ 80,000	\$ 67,850	84.8%
Total School Income	\$ 1,949,814	\$ 1,971,278	\$ (21,464)	-1.1%
Expense				
Salaries / Payroll Taxes / Benefits	\$ 1,535,711	\$ 1,609,563	\$ (73,852)	-4.6%
Property & Liability Insurance	\$ 34,514	\$ 34,099	\$ 415	1.2%
School Administration	\$ 9,600	\$ 12,674	\$ (3,074)	-24.3%
Professional Fees /Contracted Services	\$ 103,380	\$ 96,607	\$ 6,773	7.0%
Outside Printing & Publications	\$ 3,370	\$ 827	\$ 2,543	307.5%
Office Supplies & Equipment	\$ 3,201	\$ 4,485	\$ (1,284)	-28.6%
Instructional Material	\$ 41,781	\$ 35,903	\$ 5,878	16.4%
Maintenance	\$ 30,108	\$ 21,637	\$ 8,471	39.2%
Utilities (Gas, Electric, Water)	\$ 35,299	\$ 27,983	\$ 7,316	26.1%
Total School Operating Expenses	\$ 1,796,964	\$ 1,843,778	\$ (46,814)	-2.5%
Capital Expenses	\$ 150,090	\$ 119,250	\$ 30,840	25.9%
Other Expenditures			\$ -	
Bad Debt Expense	\$ -	\$ 3,870	\$ (3,870)	
Total School Expense	\$ 1,947,054	\$ 1,966,898	\$ (19,844)	-1.0%
Net Operating Income (Loss)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Net Income	\$ 2,760	\$ 4,380	\$ (1,620)	-90.8%



Saint Andrew School

Balance Sheet - Prior FY Comparison

ASSETS	Fiscal Year as of 6/30/2025	Fiscal Year as of 6/30/2024	\$ Change	% Change
Current Assets				
Checking/Savings				
Cash & Investments				
Petty Cash Account	\$ 1,492	\$ 2,796	\$ (1,304)	-46.6%
General Operating Account	\$ 262,852	\$ 78,467	\$ 184,385	235.0%
Other Checking Accounts	\$ 51,302	\$ 42,507	\$ 8,795	20.7%
Total Cash Checking Accounts	\$ 315,646	\$ 123,770	\$ 191,876	155.0%
Investments				
Certificates of Deposit (CDs)	\$ -	\$ 312,028	\$ (312,028)	-100.0%
Restricted Funds			\$ -	
Endowment Funds	\$ 459,893	\$ 437,988	\$ 21,905	5.0%
Total Cash & Investments	\$ 775,539	\$ 873,786	\$ (98,247)	-11.2%
Accounts Receivable				
Tuition Receivable	\$ 3,539	\$ -	\$ 3,539	
Total Accounts Receivable	\$ 3,539	\$ -	\$ 3,539	
Other Current Assets				
Scrip Inventory (Gift Cards)	\$ 11,675	\$ 13,400	\$ (1,725)	-12.9%
Total Other Current Assets	\$ 11,675	\$ 13,400	\$ (1,725)	-12.9%
Total Current Assets	\$ 790,753	\$ 887,186	\$ (96,433)	-10.9%
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 790,753	\$ 887,186	\$ (96,433)	-10.9%
LIABILITIES				
Current Liabilities				
Other Current Liabilities				
Payroll Liabilities	\$ 188,582	\$ 201,781	\$ (13,199)	-6.5%
Unearned Income				
Unearned Registration Fees	\$ 30,990	\$ 31,300	\$ (310)	-1.0%
Unearned Tuition	\$ 59,484	\$ 64,329	\$ (4,845)	-7.5%
Other Unearned Income (Fin. Aid)	\$ 12,004	\$ 9,602	\$ 2,402	25.0%
Total Unearned Income	\$ 102,478	\$ 105,231	\$ (2,753)	-2.6%
Total Other Current Liabilities	\$ 291,060	\$ 307,012	\$ (15,952)	-5.2%
Total Current Liabilities	\$ 291,060	\$ 307,012	\$ (15,952)	-5.2%
Total Long Term Liabilities	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Total Liabilities	\$ 291,060	\$ 307,012	\$ (15,952)	-5.2%
Equity				
Opening Balance Equity	\$ 523,322	\$ 523,322	\$ -	
Unrestricted Net Assets	\$ 54,771	\$ 106,908	\$ (52,137)	-48.8%
Net Income	\$ (78,399)	\$ (50,055)	\$ (28,344)	56.6%
Total Equity	\$ 499,694	\$ 580,175	\$ (80,481)	-13.9%
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	\$ 790,754	\$ 887,187	\$ (96,433)	-10.9%

Payroll Liabilities reflect July & August pay periods for teacher salaries, payroll taxes, healthcare & pension expenses - incurred during the FY and paid in the following FY.

Unearned tuition, registration fees & financial aid reflects monies received and deposited during the respective FY for the tuition accounts of families for the subsequent FY.

Saint Andrew Class of 2025



Congratulations to the Class of 2025



Chase Anderson	Jenielle Gbahn	Isabella Miller
Brayden Begley	Madison Kearse	Owens Pierre
Brima Conteh	Clare Lester	Genevieve Skehan
Jaden Dowling	Tigidankay Mattia	Joel Alfredo Villavicencio
Jayvyn Flowers		

Stephen Dougherty	Taylor Rodriguez
Donato Lo Sasso	Roman Michael Scoleri
Daniel Matsinger	



Ryan Hewitt



Olivia Nguyen
Cassidy Oteri
Mackenzie Alexandria Williams-Miller



Saniyah Angela Allen	Kianna Gordon
Isatu Bangura	Aden Richards
Nicholas Barry	Weston Ross



WEST CATHOLIC
Preparatory High School
PREPARING STUDENTS FOR LIFE

Levi Jackson



Ayanna Mitchell



Inayah Claxton
Zora Lewis
Rafaella Sterling



Zayne Kritz

High School To be determined
Esor Antonio McCleary
Andrew Paul

Additional Financial Assistance for SAS Students

SAS was recently notified that our application for participation in Pennsylvania's Economically Disadvantaged School (EDS) Program was accepted for the 2025-2026 school year. To be eligible, an elementary school needs to provide 51% or more of their K-8 enrolled students with an EITC scholarship of at least \$500 in the current school year. Thanks to the generosity and support of our alumni, parishioners, business community and friends of SAS, we were able to provide over half of our enrollment with financial aid through the Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) Program.

In summary, the Economically Disadvantaged School (EDS) component of the Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) scholarship program provides supplementary scholarships for Pennsylvania students, who are economically disadvantaged and attend private schools on an EITC scholarship. While the current per-student caps on the EDS supplementary scholarships are \$2,000 for grades K-8 and \$4,000 for grades 9-12, the actual per student supplementary scholarships have been far less due to underfunding the program and the ever increasing number of schools statewide that are now eligible to participate. The EDS scholarship disbursement for the 2024-25 school year was far below this legal threshold. K-8 students, at **\$288**, and 9-12 students, at **\$576**, received only 14% of the respective \$2,000/\$4,000 amounts permitted by law.



Rachel Langan, Senior Education Policy Analyst from the Commonwealth Foundation, provides an overview of this EDS program below:

Footnotes can be found at:

<https://commonwealthfoundation.org/research/eitc-economically-disadvantaged-schools-pa/>

Reason for the Legislation

A student's access to a high-quality, high-performing school should not rely on a zip code. Low-income students and parents deserve the same flexibility wealthier families enjoy in finding the education that works best for them. Low-income and minority students in Pennsylvania experience widening achievement gaps, and pandemic-related closures only exacerbated the disparity.

- The Nations Report Card, or the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), recent publication shows that Pennsylvania public schools have made no measurable improvement since 2003 to close achievement gaps of more than 25 points for Black and Hispanic students, Economically Disadvantaged students, or English Language Learners.^[1]
- Increasing tax credit scholarships for Economically Disadvantaged Schools would provide direct relief to underserved and under-resourced children.

What are Economically Disadvantaged Schools?

- Economically Disadvantaged Schools are schools where 51 percent or more of the students received an EITC scholarship of at least \$500 in the preceding school year.^[2]
- Economically Disadvantaged Schools serve predominately low-income families unable to pay full tuition. Directing supplemental tax credit scholarships to students in these schools provides increased education funding to the kids and schools that need it most.

- The Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) oversees EDS funding, but the Business Leadership Organized for Catholic Schools (BLOCS) administers and distributes all EDS funds to qualifying schools.^[3] Neither schools nor students need to be Catholic to participate in the EDS program.



Economically Disadvantaged Schools in Pennsylvania

- There are 221 designated Economically Disadvantaged Schools in 43 counties across Pennsylvania for the 2025–26 school year, compared to 131 schools in 29 counties the previous year.
- Special education students with EDS scholarships receive services under Act 89 provisions to private school students, administered through the local school district and/or Intermediate Unit (IU).^[4]
 - The number of Economically Disadvantaged Schools providing dedicated special education services has increased by 50 percent over the last year. There are currently 54 Economically Disadvantaged Schools providing dedicated special education programming to meet the needs of students with learning disabilities, compared to 27 the previous year.

How Much is a Supplemental Scholarship

- Any student attending an Economically Disadvantaged School with an EITC scholarship of at least \$500 also receives the supplemental scholarship. BLOCS must fundraise tax credits to finance the EDS scholarships across Pennsylvania.
- Currently, there is a \$60 million cap on tax credits for donations to EDS supplemental scholarships. The total scholarship amount awarded to a student cannot exceed the costs of tuition and school-related fees.
- Donors to the EDS program receive a 99 percent tax credit against their Pennsylvania tax liability.^[5]

Policy Recommendations

Improve scholarship reliability for Pennsylvania’s most vulnerable students.

- Lawmakers must work diligently to pass the state budget by June 30, 2025, in accordance with state law to provide families with reliable scholarship funds by the start of the 2025–26 school year.

Fund Students Directly

- Pennsylvania tax dollars should follow all students—including special education—to the school of their choice, whether to public, private, charter, career and technical, or home education programs.
- Funding students directly—as with the Lifeline Scholarship Program—would be a vital step toward fulfilling the Pennsylvania Commonwealth Court 2023 ruling, which states that lawmakers should work to ensure “every student receives a meaningful opportunity to succeed.”^[6]



Pennsylvania Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) Program

Redirect your State Tax Dollars to support Catholic Education!
Individuals or Businesses can join our Special Purpose Entity

- ✓ You can join if you have PA tax liability
- ✓ No maximum contribution
- ✓ Redirect tax dollars to Catholic schools
- ✓ Receive a 90% tax credit

EITC Informational Webinars

Learn how to redirect your state tax dollars to support students in the Archdiocese and receive a 90% Tax Credit with the Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) program.

Webinar Dates

Monday, October 20 at 3:00 PM

Friday, November 7 at 11:00 AM

Wednesday, November 19 at 4:00 PM

SIGN UP FOR A WEBINAR TODAY →



For more information, contact Kevin Kelly at KKelly@FoundationFCE.org
or 610-793-8597 (Office)

INDIVIDUAL COMMITMENT TO CONTRIBUTE TO SPE

I agree to contribute the sum of \$_____ per year to the SPE designated by the Foundation for Catholic Education. I understand that the SPE will provide me with a final Operating Agreement. I also understand that my commitment to the SPE will not be final until I agree and sign the SPE's Operating Agreement.

Please accept my contribution for this time period:

☐ Fall 2025 (Check written October-November)

Member Name:	_____
Spouse Name:	_____
School Name:	_____
Home Address:	_____ _____
E-Mail Address:	_____
Cell Phone:	_____
Social Security Number	_____

Date: _____

Signature: _____

Mail completed form to:
Foundation for Catholic Education
1373 Enterprise Drive
West Chester, PA 19380

For more information, contact: Kevin Kelly at KKelly@FoundationFCE.org

Yet another record year for Financial Aid for the 2025-2026 School Year

Thanks to the generosity of our alumni, parishioners, business community, Foundations, and friends of SAS, we will distribute over \$300,000 in financial aid to over 175 students during the upcoming school year. We wish to recognize all the various individuals and groups that made this extraordinary financial aid program result possible:



**Business Leadership Organized for Catholic Schools
(BLOCS)**

EITC = Educational Improvement Tax Credit Program

Donors:

Thomas & Anne Brophy
Brendan Dolan
Mike & Carie Litz
Pat & Alicia O'Grady
Greg Rice
Bill Touey

EITC Individual Donor Contributions	\$ 37,000
Lincoln Investment Group Holdings, Inc.	\$ 10,000
BLOCS Matching Funds EITC	\$ 105,000
BLOCS Pre-K Awards	\$ 3,600

The Verna Family Scholarship **\$ 12,000**

The Verna Scholarship is privately funded by the Verna family and has special criteria for eligibility:

- ❖ Fifth Grade Student* at Saint Andrew School with a minimum of a B average
- ❖ Parishioner of St. Andrew the Apostle Parish
- ❖ Attends Sunday Mass
- ❖ Actively involved in the Parish and School Community
- ❖ Presentation (essay, power-point, artistic expression) of what SAS means to them.

(*Students initially apply for the scholarship in the fifth grade. Scholarship is applied to the tuition during the sixth, seventh and eighth grade years.)

**Verna Family Scholarship Award (in honor of their parents – Bob & Marie Verna)
Marie, Gloria, Dorothy, Paul & Thomas - all SAS Graduates**



The Foundation for Catholic Education – Special Purpose Entity (SPE)

Donors:

Frank & Desiree Altieri
 Frank & Susan Angelo
 James Burke
 Michael & Florence Cunningham, Jr.
 Marianne & Ron Grace
 Thomas Grogan
 Brian & Rosey Lester, Jr.

Steve & Mary Anne Litz
 Rev. Philip J. Lowe
 Michael McErlean
 Bill & Kate Paffett
 Edward Riedlinger
 Deacon Tom & Nicky Verna

EITC Individual Donor Contributions

\$ 107,200



\$ 25,900

Directed Gifts from SAS Annual Fund & Good Samaritan Donations

\$ 10,760

Office of Catholic Education – Heritage of Faith Endowment disbursement

\$ 12,004

Given the number of financial aid applicants together with the current economic challenges many families are facing, these donations have truly been a blessing – enabling families to register or re-register their children at SAS for the 2025-2026 school year. It is our prayerful wish that more individual and businesses will consider supporting this noble cause of helping families afford a quality Catholic education.

Learn how to make a donation to BLOCS or the Foundation for Catholic Education's SPE and get at least 90% of your donation back while providing financial aid to families through the EITC / OSTC Programs by scanning the QR code



Saint Andrew School

2024 - 2025 Annual Fund Campaign

(Gifts Received – March 1, 2025 – August 31, 2025)

We are deeply appreciative of all the donors listed below and on the following page for their generosity in supporting and funding the on-going needs of our parish school.

Legacy Circle

(\$10,000 +)

David and Donna Garrison
Anonymous

in memory of David F. Garrison '04 (#6)
Endowment Fund & Financial Aid

Principal's Circle +

(\$2,500 +)

Anonymous

in honor of the SAS Drama Club &
Future City Team

Principal's Circle

(\$1,000 +)

Class of 1974 - 50th Reunion
Michael Golden
Mr. Rob Liberatore
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Skrovanek

\$500 Atrium - \$500 Financial Aid Program
in memory of Harry L. Golden

Friends of SAS

(\$250 +)

Anonymous
Dr. Helen McLean
Maryann Andruszko Mellor '83

in memory of Michael (Dutchie) Avicolti
with gratitude for Msgr. Grous & Steve Litz
in memory of Raymond Andruszko '75

SAS Steward
(\$100 +)

Ralph A. Babusci, Jr. '59
Alessio Benincasa '61
Francis X. Bernard '58
John Bevilacqua
Robert DeSimone '55
John & Mary Dunbar '72

Mr. Vince Jones

Eilleen McElwee Lauersen '64
Donna McGann '83
Bill and Theresa Murphy
Thomas M. Pitetti '61
Paul Sullivan
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Vanderveer

in memory of Deacon Dan DeLucca
in memory of the Sisters of St. Joseph - SAS '61
in memory of Joseph & Virginia Bernard

in memory of Luke Dunbar
in memory of Mary "Mimi" Lyon
on behalf of the Jones Family
in memory of Eilleen & Dan McElwee
in memory of Regina M. Kelly
in memory of Samick and Murphy Families
in memory of Denny A. Pitetti, Jr.
in memory of Al Tegler & Jeff Jenemann - SAS '56

SAS Donor
(to \$99)

Anonymous
Rosemary Foley
Fran Ditmore Giblin '67
John Knapp '64
Mary Ann McGarrigle
Frances Ranieri
Mr. and Mrs. John A. Vantine

in memory of Marie Therese Megill

in memory of Edward Ranieri
in honor of Nicholas & Mary C. Palucci



Supporting the SAS Annual Fund through a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD)

Fast Fact: Thirty-two (32%) of the funds raised during the 24-25 Annual Fund Campaign came from donors who directed their Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from their IRAs to Saint Andrew School. That amounted to **\$33,568** in QCD donations of the \$106,238 raised.

A **Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD)** from an IRA offers several benefits, especially when it comes to fulfilling Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs). Here's a breakdown of the key benefits:

1. Tax Savings

- **Tax-Free Transfer:** When you direct your RMD to a qualified charity via a QCD, the amount donated is excluded from your taxable income, meaning you do not pay income tax on that portion of the RMD. This can be a significant tax-saving strategy.
- **Reduces Adjusted Gross Income (AGI):** Since the QCD is excluded from your taxable income, it helps reduce your AGI. Lowering your AGI can have other tax benefits, such as reducing the impact of Social Security income taxation and limiting the phase-out of certain deductions and credits.

2. Fulfillment of RMD Requirements



- **Satisfies RMD:** If you're 73 or older and required to take RMDs from your IRA, you can use a QCD to meet this requirement without having to add the distribution to your taxable income.
- **No Need for Cash Distributions:** A QCD allows you to fulfill your RMD obligation by giving directly to charity rather than receiving the distribution and then potentially making a donation out of pocket.

3. Potential for Lower Medicare Premiums

- **Impact on Medicare:** A lower AGI from a QCD may reduce your income-based Medicare premiums. High-income beneficiaries pay higher premiums, so reducing your AGI through QCDs could potentially lower these premiums.

4. Maximizes Charitable Giving

- **Direct Giving:** If you're charitably inclined, a QCD allows you to give directly from your IRA to a qualified charity, which can be a more efficient way to donate compared to taking a distribution and then writing a check.
- **Avoids Impact on Tax Deductions:** Since the QCD is excluded from income, you don't need to itemize your deductions to benefit from it. This makes charitable giving easier and more straightforward for people who do not itemize their tax returns.

5. Strategic Tax Planning

- **Maximizing RMDs without Tax Impact:** For individuals who are subject to high RMD amounts and are looking for ways to mitigate the tax impact, using a QCD for charitable donations can make the most of those distributions without incurring additional tax liability.
- **Consolidating Charitable Contributions:** A QCD can help consolidate donations into one year, helping you manage the timing of your giving in a way that may allow you to take advantage of other tax strategies, especially for those with fluctuating income or planning for future tax implications.

6. No Impact on Itemized Deductions

- **Even Without Itemizing:** You can still benefit from the QCD even if you don't itemize your deductions on your tax return. This is particularly useful for individuals who take the standard deduction but want to make charitable contributions without the tax impact.

Key Conditions for a QCD:

- The donor must be at least 70½ years old at the time of the distribution.
- The donation must be made directly to a qualified 501(c)(3) charity (not a donor-advised fund or a private foundation).
- The maximum annual QCD is \$108,000 per individual (\$216,000 for a married couple).

How Qualified Charitable Distribution Works



Conclusion

A QCD is a powerful tax strategy for IRA owners who are required to take RMDs. It allows for charitable giving while minimizing tax liability, reducing AGI, and potentially lowering other costs like Medicare premiums. For those who are charitably inclined, it's an efficient and tax-friendly way to make donations directly from their retirement funds.

<https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/irs-releases-tax-inflation-adjustments-for-tax-year-2025>

NOTE: The information herein is general and educational in nature and should not be considered legal or tax advice. Tax laws and regulations are complex and subject to change, which can materially impact investment results. Consult an attorney or tax professional regarding your specific situation.

Saint Andrew School

2024-2025 Annual Fund Campaign

Final Results

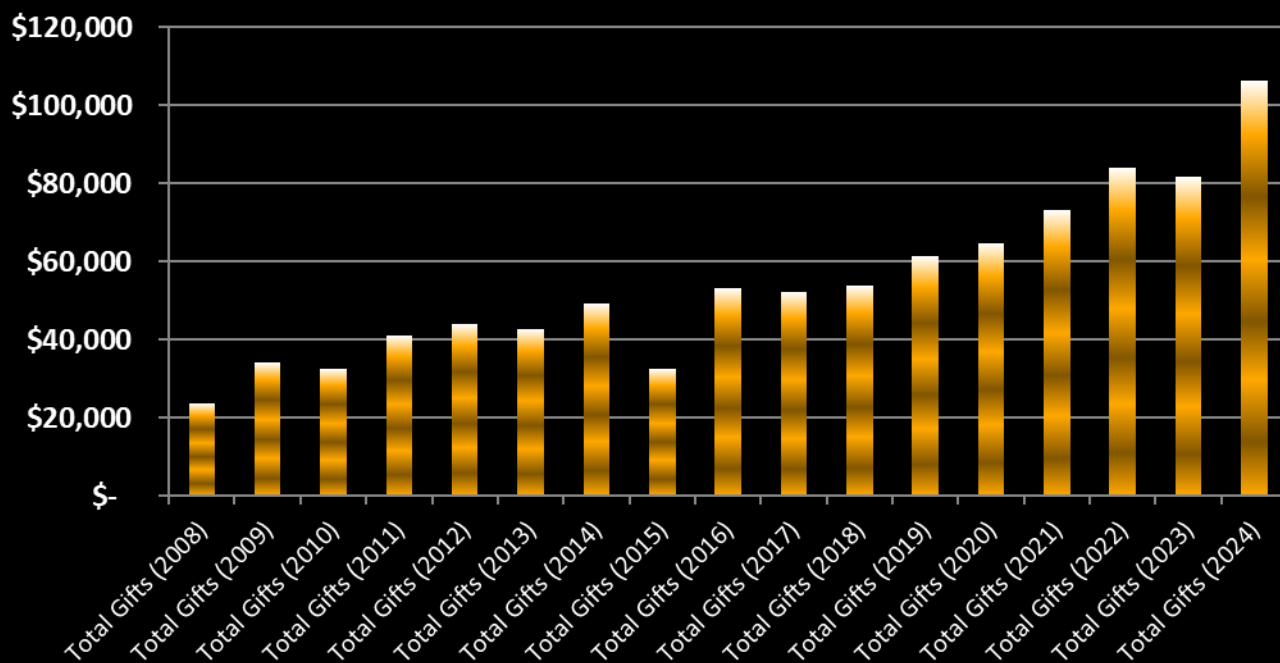
Our sincere thanks and gratitude to all who generously supported the 2024-2025 SAS Annual Fund Campaign. It was yet another record year thanks to directed gifts in support of multiple initiatives, especially the support of our new steam boiler capital project for the Fr. Joseph McShain school building

Annual Fund History	
Total Gifts (24-25)	\$ 106,238
Total Gifts (23-24)	\$ 81,590
Total Gifts (22-23)	\$ 84,106
Total Gifts (21-22)	\$ 73,052
Total Gifts (20-21)	\$ 64,732
Total Gifts (19-20)	\$ 61,555
Total Gifts (18-19)	\$ 53,818
Total Gifts (17-18)	\$ 52,346
Total Gifts (16-17)	\$ 53,118
Total Gifts (15-16)	\$ 32,706
Total Gifts (14-15)	\$ 49,416
Total Gifts (13-14)	\$ 42,634
Total Gifts (12-13)	\$ 43,984
Total Gifts (11-12)	\$ 41,100
Total Gifts (10-11)	\$ 32,454
Total Gifts (09-10)	\$ 34,121
Total Gifts (08-09)	\$ 23,746
GRAND TOTAL	\$ 930,716

Our **2025 – 2026 Annual Fund Campaign** begins this September (see page 27). Please watch your mail and take that extra step by contacting your employer (or former employer if retired) about their matching gift program. Your support is indeed making a difference. All gifts, regardless of size, are welcomed and truly appreciated.

2024 -25 Directed Gifts	
(July 1, 2024 - June 30,2025)	
Financial Aid	\$ 10,760
STREAM	\$ 2,900
General Operations	\$ 16,301
Capital Campaign	\$ 3,850
New Boilers	\$ 34,388
Undirected	\$ 38,039
TOTAL GIFTS	\$ 106,238

SAS Annual Fund Donations



Saint Andrew School

2025-2026 Annual Fund Campaign

Our 2025-2026 **Annual Fund Campaign** is underway as we begin another school year of providing a quality Catholic education rooted in the Gospel to students in Drexel Hill and surrounding communities (from 18 different zip codes). Your gifts truly do make a difference in the lives of our students, and your continued generosity, as evidenced by a **NEW** all-time high Annual Fund results for the past school year of **\$106,238**, is enabling many families to continue their enrollment at SAS. Whether it is upgrading our facilities or simply assisting in the funding of critical academic endeavors, we are truly blessed and forever grateful for your prayers, generosity and support of our school.

Teachers

"The life of a teacher, as I know from personal experience, is very challenging and demanding, but it is also profoundly satisfying. It is more than a job, for it is rooted in our deepest convictions and values. To be intimately concerned in the development of a young person, of hundreds of young people, is a highly responsible task. As teachers, you kindle in your students a thirst for truth and wisdom. You spark off in them a desire for beauty. You introduce them to their cultural heritage. You help them to discover the treasures of other cultures and peoples. What an awesome responsibility and privilege is yours in the teaching profession."

St. Pope John Paul II - November 28, 1986

Please complete this section and print your name as you would like it to appear in the Winter 2026 edition of the SAS Alumni Newsletter

☐ Check here if anonymity is desired

Name _____ Graduate of SAS? ☐ No ☐ Yes – Class of _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Saint Andrew School Annual Fund Campaign

Please accept the enclosed gift of \$_____ to Saint Andrew School

Giving Levels:

- ☐ Legacy Circle \$10,000+
- ☐ SSJ Circle \$5,000+
- ☐ Principal's Circle \$1,000+
- ☐ Red & White Club \$500+
- ☐ Friends of SAS \$250+
- ☐ SAS Steward \$100+
- ☐ SAS Donor to \$99

My Gift is: ☐ in honor of _____

☐ in memory of _____

(Please Print)

☐

**I have remembered
Saint Andrew
Parish / School in my
Will.**

Please direct my gift to:

- ☐ Capital Campaign (Gymnasium)
- ☐ Financial Assistance for a SAS Student
- ☐ STREAM Projects (Science, Technology, Religion, Engineering, Art & Math)
- ☐ General School Operations

Saint Andrew School

535 Mason Ave.

Drexel Hill, PA 19026

610-259-5145

saintandrewschool.com

Address Service Requested

Stay Connected



Just moved? New job? Earned a degree? Welcomed a new family member? Or just want to connect with friends and classmates. Please send your latest news to:

Alumni Newsletter, Saint Andrew School, 535 Mason Ave., Drexel Hill, PA 19026

Name _____ Maiden _____ Class of _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (H) _____ E-mail _____

☐

I have remembered Saint Andrew Parish / School in my Will.

News about you or remembrances of SAS: _____

Note to Parents: If your son or daughter has moved from your home address, please help us update SAS's alumni records by completing the above form and returning in the envelope provided with this newsletter.
