



La Salle Academy NEWSLETTER

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In the News...

With creative teachers and dedicated donors, LSA can confidently teach 20% of our student body remotely, while most of our student body is in person, in socially distant rooms and separate cohorts five days a week.

LSA welcomes our new teachers and volunteers. We are happy to announce our new Technology teacher is one of our founding teachers, Mrs. Bridget Grady Joram.

Our LSA Proud Golf Classic at WVCC was a smaller but wonderfully successful event.



4th Grade Student Arthur receiving his You are 'ONE'ful Award!

Letter From the President

Dear Friends,

It is always exciting to start a new school year. It has been a year of challenges in so many areas of our lives, and especially in the lives of our families and children. Here at La Salle Academy, we strive to provide an environment, even virtually, in which our students can discover and develop the core of goodness within them. We may not be able to change the adversity around them, like a pandemic and violence in our streets, but we can give them a sense of safety and value, and faith in God who will sustain them in the days ahead.

Our students have not been physically together since March 13th due to the Coronavirus. At that time, our teachers and students switched to virtual learning. This was a learning experience for us all, and I applaud our principal and staff for being true educators who are not afraid to learn as they teach. As the pandemic spread, the homicide rate in Philadelphia grew to the second highest in the country, according to CNN, while our cities across the nation erupted in response to the death of George Floyd. I am 100% supportive of peaceful protest. But unfortunately, that did not happen in a lot of the neighborhoods our students come from. With our students' safety in mind, Ms. Diamond and I felt that it would be beneficial to bring our students back in person. We were happy to invite 85 students back to LSA (67 in-person and 18 virtually). To keep our school community healthy and safe, we have a nurse practitioner in school every day. We were also gifted with desk shields, face masks, hand sanitizers, cleaning supplies, air purifiers, grocery store gift cards, and an assortment of technical devices. The generosity of so many has made this possible and we need your help to continue.

The good news about our graduates continues. Through all the adversity of the past months, I am happy to announce that La Salle Academy has a 100% graduation rate from high school for the class of 2020. We currently have 25 students in 4-year colleges, 29 students in 2-year colleges, 7 in technical schools, 8 in the military, and 40 have joined the workforce. They all make us proud.

Thank you for believing in our students and in our mission. They are our future, and our reason to be optimistic.

With prayerful gratitude,

Sister Jeanne McGowan, SSJ

Sister Jeanne McGowan, SSJ
President

Thank you for your continued generosity.

LSA: We Are One



LSA Students ready for Graduation Day!



Sr. Jeanne and Lasallian Volunteer Kayla, taking temperatures before school.

Letter From the Principal

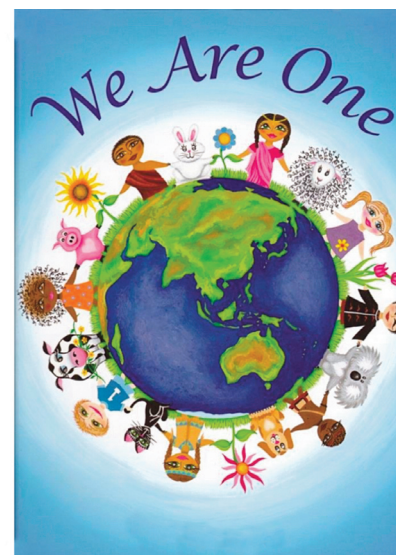
Dear Friends,

"It was the best of times and the worst of times."

- Charles Dickens

While I do not believe Charles Dickens had any idea of what life has been like for us since March 2020, I do believe we can all relate to his opening thoughts expressed in *The Tale of Two Cities* in real-time. It is easy for us to identify what makes it the worst of times: the effects of the pandemic, violence, and deaths perpetrated by systemic racism, unease associated with the opening of schools, and dare I suggest, virtual learning (only half kidding). It is more challenging for us to identify what makes it the best of times but upon reflection, we, hopefully, find comfort and even encouragement in recognizing the goodness and commitment of our essential workers, teachers, staff, Board Members, and benefactors. These workers, of all ages, races, and religions work to create an anti-racist culture as well as a renewed commitment and appreciation of the value of education.

Borrowing from the mission of the Sisters of St. Joseph, "We live and work so that all people may be united with God and with one another." *We Are One*, the 2020 school theme, is an intentional response to the unsettling situations that have affected us all. Our response is to make a difference, and as Gandhi once said, "to be the change that we want to see in the world." Students have identified and chosen to focus on specific life-giving efforts each month that are so necessary: LSA: We are one in dreams, hope, gratitude, kindness, peace, joy, service, faith, and unity. We are confident that all of us, working as one, can make the 2020-2021 school year *the best of times*.



With gratitude,

Teresa Diamond
Teresa Diamond
Principal



3rd Grade Students Madison (left) and Jaelyn (right) reading on the rooftop



LSA Students at the 2020 Graduation!

Third Grade

This year the third grade is going to work on our school's theme; *LSA: We Are One* by following the Five Goals every day, inside and outside of school, as we learn to become empathetic, accepting, and compassionate students of La Salle Academy. We are excited to become better readers and writers and to memorize our multiplication skills before fourth grade! We are looking forward to learning as much as we can about Jesus at our new Catholic school.



Fourth Grade

This year the fourth grade has set up and put in place many amazing goals. These goals include staying healthy by following safety guidelines, such as wearing masks and social distancing; completing assignments correctly on time, both at home and in school; using our technology for schoolwork. Also, one of our daily goals is to continue to grow in faith and love as disciples of Jesus.

Fifth Grade

The fifth-grade goals of the 2020-2021 school year are to develop increasing independence, improve problem-solving skills, enjoy integrating and socializing at school, and to use academic technology while building a positive learning community that will extend beyond the classroom.



Sixth Grade

Grade six is the year of transition. This year students will begin to make a connection with the skills that were learned in the past to be prepared for future high school education. Our 2020-2021 School Motto is, LSA: WE ARE ONE... whether learning at home or school, Grade six students will be focused on linking their past knowledge of Math to be able to compute integers, rational numbers, and solve many algebraic and geometric problems. Our literacy will focus on building a wider vocabulary, grammar skills, and writing abilities by exploring a variety of literacy genres. While the pandemic has crippled communication and prevented the opening of many schools, thanks to our generous Donors and Benefactors, LSA Grade six students have embraced the ability to use safe distancing learning structures that are in place at LSA to thrive!



Seventh Grade

The early ending of the last school year due to the outbreak of COVID-19 taught the students of La Salle Academy something unbelievably valuable. The seventh graders of LSA learned a different form of appreciation. They learned to appreciate the time spent with their classmates and teachers. Based on this, they constructed their own goals for the 2020-2021 school year. Our goals for the school year are to help virtual students feel part of the class, read and write twice the amount they did last year, serve as role models to the younger classes, and to find time to assist the homeless and hungry in the city of Philadelphia.



Eighth Grade

The Class of 2021 is committed to living out this school year's theme, LSA: We Are One. During the beginning of the school year, the eighth graders decided that they wanted to work together towards helping each other so that they can achieve the one common goal of being accepted to their first-choice high school. To achieve that goal, we know we must follow the five goals of our school: respectfulness, responsibility, consistency, peacefulness, and motivation.



LSA Welcomes New Faculty Members:

Our La Salle Academy community is happy to welcome Emma Mockler, Dominic Vesper, Lauren Schwartz, and Kayla Little. Emma and Kayla are our Lasallian Volunteers. Emma graduated from St. Mary's University of Minnesota and Kayla graduated from Christian Brothers University in Memphis, TN. Dominic graduated from La Salle University and is part of our LSA Development team. Lauren is our new third grade teacher. We are proud to welcome them to LSA!





La Salle Academy

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1434 North Second Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19122
215.739.5804

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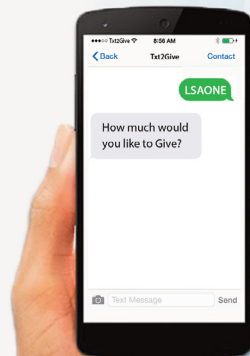


Please Like the **Friends of La Salle Academy** on Facebook to learn more about our events.

Business tax dollars can directly help La Salle Academy students!

There is still time to apply for the Pennsylvania Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) and Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit (OSTC) Programs for the 2020-2021 school year. We are grateful for those companies that support LSA students' tuition and scholarship programs through these critical state programs.

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



GIVE VIA TEXT MESSAGE

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- 2 Follow the prompts
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