



La Salle Academy NEWSLETTER

PHILADELPHIA

In the News...



La Salle Academy has partnered with Education Plus Health to offer COVID-19 Assurance Testing.

Stay tuned for the launch of LSA's new and improved school website.

Teachers, Faculty, and Staff have qualified for COVID-19 Vaccines being administered by CHOP.

Letter From the President

Since the middle of the summer, we have put many COVID-19 safety measures into place. These safety measures are meant to keep the students, our teachers, and staff safe. We are constantly adjusting to the CDC, PA Department of Health, the City of Philadelphia Health Department, and the Archdiocese of Philadelphia guidelines. As they shift and change, we pivot. The Collaboration with *Education Plus Health* and our Board has guided our decision-making all along the way. We have:

- Temperature checks each morning
- A Text-based Smart Track Health Check-in for students and staff
- Family meetings and agreements for open and honest communication
- Testing in a secure area for students or staff who were, or might have been, in contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19 or who might be experiencing symptoms
- 5-6 masks per student, plastic desk shields, and consistent cleaning and disinfecting
- Air Purifiers for classrooms and high traffic areas
- Starting on February 24th, we will begin weekly Assurance Testing on students, faculty, and staff.

We are helping our students learn and our families cope with the uncertainty during this global pandemic. We are making sure that our students are fed, that utility bills are paid, and that some impediments to learning are overcome. Each donation makes this possible, but even more importantly, your support makes this a reality.

La Salle Academy students and teachers are shining examples of the real meaning of resilience. After more than 350 days of COVID-19 restrictions and of families working through job loss, anxiety, loss of a loved one, and food insecurity, our school continues to be a place of renewal and refuge. I am grateful for your support to ensure the continuation of our La Salle Academy mission.

With prayerful gratitude,

Sister Jeanne McGowan, SSJ

Sister Jeanne McGowan, SSJ
President



Thank you for your continued generosity.



4th Grade Students Anthony, Nevaeh, and Samuel enjoying their recess on the roof.



3rd Grade Teacher Ms. Schwartz ready to get her COVID-19 Assurance Test from Nurse Practitioner Dayeon.

Letter From the Principal

Dear Friends,

The great Catholic writer G. K. Chesterton once wrote that the more hopeless things became, the more hopeful men and women must be. "As long as matters are really hopeful, Chesterton wrote, hope is mere flattery or platitude; it is only when everything is hopeless that hope begins to be a strength, a virtue, at all." La Salle Academy is blessed to have many virtuous men and woman whom we call Board of Trustee members, benefactors, teachers, staff, parents, and guardians who are choosing to hope instead of despair during this challenging time of the pandemic which has tragically taken the lives of so many people. Their hope is rooted in their genuine, collective belief that our students matter, and that the quality education offered at La Salle Academy, paraphrasing from our Mission Statement, enables our students to grow into a strong awareness of Christ in themselves and in others, confident and hopeful of their self-worth prepared and willing to be responsive to the communities in which they live. One of the 4th grade students expressed it best in this Catholic Schools Week Thank You note where she compares the LSA Family as a rainbow, a symbol of hope. Thank you for all your support. You help LSA every day. I am grateful and very thankful that you take your time for us. You are especially important to LSA. You are part of the LSA community and family!! You are the reason every child at LSA can have a bright future. You are especially important to everyone...

YOU ARE THE LSA RAINBOW!!

With gratitude,



Teresa Diamond
Principal



3rd Grader Madison painting flowers in the Art Room.

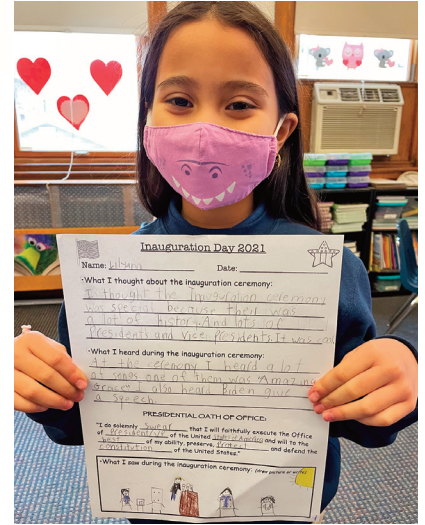


5th Graders Gabriel, Victoria, and Joseph talk on the SSJ Center Porch.

Third Grade

The 3rd graders have had an exciting couple of months at La Salle Academy! We had the opportunity to witness history together on January 20th as we watched the 2021 Presidential Inauguration. We reflected on what we witnessed and practiced taking Friendship Oaths. This, in conjunction with our research on Martin Luther King, Jr., inspired us to think about our dreams for our futures in the world we live in.

In math, we are working toward our goal of memorizing our multiplication facts. We are excited to be using this knowledge and applying it to finding the area and perimeter of shapes. We even created drawings using unit squares and areas!



3rd Grader Lilyana learning about Inauguration Day.



4th Grader Stardasia trying to convince her teacher to take a field trip to Hersheypark.

Fourth Grade

"Virtue, Liberty and Independence!" The 4th grade curriculum takes a deep dive into learning about Pennsylvania. Our students are learning about the many natural resources and the history of Pennsylvania. In Science class, they have been examining nutrition, such as understanding food labels, identifying healthy eating, and differentiating the different food groups. We took time to focus on PA farms and products. Pennsylvania has a rich history and a strong farming industry; it is fun working Math, Writing and Reading into the learning about Pennsylvania.

Fifth Grade

The 5th grade class is studying the indigenous peoples of Central and South America. They researched the many variations of the Aztec sun and created their version to enhance their cultural appreciation of the subject. Students used Math and Technology to finalize their Aztec Suns.

The students are excited to begin a new chapter book, *Crenshaw* by Katherine Applegate. *Crenshaw* is a cat. He's large, outspoken, and imaginary. It is a wonderful story about a ten year old whose family is struggling for money for rent and food. The 5th grade will launch their service-learning project after reading the story.



5th Grader Jose making some finishing touches on his Aztec Sun drawing.

Sixth Grade

LSA 6th grade students began the 2021 New Year with reflections and expectations of new beginnings!

As a group in ELA Class, we did historic research to learn the names, terms, and fun facts about all the previous Presidents of the USA! From our homes on Inauguration Day, as a class we watched the Inauguration of the 46th President of the USA, Joseph Biden.

6th Grade is lucky to have a teacher who loves everything about Arithmetic. Since the beginning of the New Year in Math Class, 6th grade students are becoming aware of how to calculate different types of numbers. Not only are students reviewing how to (+), (-), (X), and (÷) whole numbers, decimals, and fractions, but also venturing into calculating integers. They are using concrete and abstract manipulatives such as the algebra mat, number lines, videos, songs, and charts to solve equations.

6th grade students will even work math skills into their Service-Learning Projects supporting those who are homeless and facing hunger. They are working to be a part of the solution.



6th Graders Mai, William, and Ah'Mia reading in the library.



7th Grade student Justice enjoying learning about the moon with cookies!

Seventh Grade

Experiments and learning in the Science lab are a big part of the La Salle Academy Science curriculum. This year teaching and learning through labs has been a big challenge. There have been days where learning is from home and there are limitations to the space we can use in school. Mr. Shack is bringing a new phrase to our students; instead of “thinking outside of the box,” they are “thinking about Science inside the home, outside the box and in the world.” Students created a phases of the moon experiment using Oreo cookies, paper and glue instead of flashlights. We know that the time will come soon when we can return to experiments inside the LSA Science Lab, and until then we will learn on a uniquely 2021 journey.

Eighth Grade

The Class of 2021 is enjoying their final year at La Salle Academy. The 8th graders are using all the skills they have learned in their English Language Arts class and applying those skills in their Social Studies and History classes. The 8th graders are currently trying to determine the reasons why World War I began. As we continue to move forward in class, the 8th graders will be able to find all the important places on a map and globe, identify the causes and effects of the war, and learn about interesting heroes in the American effort.



8th Graders Allison & Alaysha mapping out different places in the world.

Graduate Support

8th graders have been busy working with Sister Margaret as they apply to their chosen high schools. Financial aid applications are a follow-up to this as most of the students plan to attend an Archdiocesan high school. Tuition and fees at these schools continue to rise and our students can attend only with the help of financial aid from the schools as well as our funds from board members and donors. Applications for private scholarships and grants all take place during these months. We are happy to announce that several students have already received their acceptance to the high school of their choice. Students will attend Little Flower, Roman Catholic, Mercy Career and Technical High School, while some still wait for acceptances from other schools. High school students continue to work virtually in many cases, and because of the pandemic restrictions communication with Sister Margaret has been limited to emails, texts, and individual meetings. Many of our high school seniors have already received college acceptances to such schools as La Salle University, Temple University, Drexel University, Cabrini University, Penn State University, and Thomas Jefferson University. Most are still waiting for financial aid information before deciding.

We Remember: JEREMY PEREZ

2005-2020

Early on Christmas morning, our La Salle Academy community lost one of our young alumni to gun violence. Jeremy was a student at Mercy Career and Technical High School, loved playing basketball and was quick to share his big smile. Please continue to keep Jeremy, his family, and his classmates in your prayers.



Technology Department



5th Graders Eternity and Zahir logging onto their technology lab computers.

Every week, technology class starts with typing practice and the learning of the home-row keys to increase our words per minute. Students have been learning the Google apps, what each does, and how to use them in their classrooms. They have created "All About Me" Google Slides, pixel art using Google Sheets, and used Google Forms for exit slips and surveys. Coding is also a fun topic we have explored in each class. Some grades have even choreographed dances for coded robots. Technology is everywhere and LSA Students are learning to harness its greatness.

Fine Arts



Haefel Flanagan Thanksgiving Art Contest winners, 6th Graders Sabri & Annalisa with Art Teacher Mrs. Adler.



8th Grader Alaysha's Observational Drawing of a mug.

Mrs. Adler has been working with the students every week during art class and their hard work is quite evident. Multiple students from the 6th grade were nominated and later awarded prizes in the Haefel Flanagan Thanksgiving Art Contest. Other classes have been learning to draw Aztec suns and their fine details, winter landscapes, self-portraits, and some students have even been learning paper weaving. Some of the students' artwork may even be won at our upcoming virtual auction.

New Faces at LSA

La Salle Academy welcomes **Tamisha Edwards**, our new 4th Grade Teacher! Tamisha graduated from William W. Bodine High School in Philadelphia. She studied Early Childhood Education at Indiana University of Pennsylvania, where she earned her bachelor's degree. Tamisha returned to Philadelphia and began her teaching career at La Salle Academy in January 2021.





La Salle Academy

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