

NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY HIGH SCHOOL, INC.



Member of the Middle States Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools

One Lawtons Hill

Pottsville, Pennsylvania 17901-2795

Area Code (570) 622-8110

Fax (570) 622-0454

website: www.nativitybvm.net

NEWSLETTER

August/September 2021



WELCOME BACK!!

Values Then... Values Now... Value Forever....

I hope everyone is enjoying their summer break. We are working on preparations for the new school year and look forward to opening school on August 30, 2021. At this point, we continue to follow Diocesan guidelines sent out in a letter regarding masks. We will continue cleaning protocols that were in place last year and we are confident that we can provide a safe and healthy environment for all of our students, faculty and staff. Please know that we will continue to provide separation (3 ft) in the classrooms and limited traffic patterns in the stairwells and hallways. There will be some relaxation on Covid-19 protocols but it is important to note that the situation is fluid and can change rapidly. We will do everything possible to continue the many traditions that are a part of Nativity, including permitting parents into events, but we must follow all protocols as they relate to the safety of our students.

Our Catholic Faith is at the heart of the educational process at Nativity. August 2021 begins the *Year of Real Presence* in the Diocese of Allentown. Many of our religious services will center around this celebration. Nativity High School offers an exceptional educational experience for our students. We receive constant positive feedback from our graduates and we know that we are helping to produce vibrant, energetic, hardworking and successful young adults.

We are hoping for a school year full of positive excitement and renewal of our Catholic faith, great academic achievements, success on the athletic fields, promotion of music and the arts and unprecedented participation in all activities. With the largest enrollment at Nativity in many years, we are excited to open the 2021-2022 school year. With God's help we continue to strive for excellence in everything we do.

The Nativity community working together ensures this success. All of our hard work and the dedication of our parents, alumni and friends have enabled us to move forward. As a family, we treasure our traditions and constantly create new and exciting programs for our students. As we continue throughout this school year let us keep our theme in mind. There is no substitute for a Catholic school where Catholic values are lived every day.

Mrs Lynn A Sabol

Mrs. Lynn Sabol

Vaccinations

We strongly encourage all students to get vaccinated for COVID-19. There are numerous vaccination sites in Schuylkill County. Attached to this newsletter is a press release from IU 29 and the RRR Task Force regarding “Operation Vaccination”. It includes important information about where vaccines are available.

If your child has received the COVID-19 vaccine, please send in a copy of the vaccination record for their file. This is an important part of their health record and will assist us in the event that there is an exposure. Please know that as always, this information is confidential.



IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

Freshmen and New Parent Orientation – Sunday, August 29th @ 6 PM in the cafeteria
Fall Sports Pep-Rally – Sunday, August 29th @ 7 PM in the gym

The following is the schedule for the 1st week of school. Please note that all days are full class days.

Monday, August 30, 2021 –	Freshmen
Tuesday, August 31, 2022 –	Sophomores
Wednesday, September 1, 2021-	Juniors
Thursday, September 2, 2021 -	Seniors
Friday, September 3, 2021 -	All students report

Monday, September 6, 2021 – School Closed – Labor Day

Tuesday, September 7, 2021 – School Re-opens

Wednesday, September 8, 2021 – Opening of School Mass and Back to School Night – 6:30 PM

Monday, September 27, 2021 – Liturgy – Student Council Installation/Opening of Spirit Week

Studies Office

On Friday, July 30th, a letter along with your son/daughter’s schedule will be sent home regarding the 2021-2022 school year. If there are any schedule change requests, they may be submitted starting Tuesday, August 3, 2021. Please contact Mr. Naffin at jnaffin@nativitybvm.net or 570-622-8110, Studies Office #6, to schedule an appointment for any schedule conflicts or requests.

The hours for the Studies Office will be 9AM to 1PM. If you need to come into the school for a schedule change request, it must be by appointment only. There will be no charge for schedule change requests made by August 22, 2021. Any schedule change requests made after August 23, 2021 will have a \$60.00 fee for each and every course change affected by your request. No changes will be made once classes begin.



Welcome New Teachers and Staff

Fr. Kevin Bobbin – Nativity Chaplain

As a Catholic school, Nativity is a family. As the school chaplain, I have the great privilege of serving as the spiritual father of our family. I am new to Nativity this year but I have also served as the chaplain of Bethlehem Catholic High School for four years. I have a love for school ministry and I am very excited to be back in a high school.

I look forward to celebrating Mass with you, providing the Sacrament of Reconciliation, leading our school community in Adoration and other forms of prayer, developing our retreat program, and doing whatever I can to contribute to the life of our school. I hope to get out of my office and spend time in your classrooms to teach and visit. Above all, I look forward to getting to know you and be available to you as much as possible.

With prayers for every member of our Nativity family,
Fr. Kevin Bobbin

Mrs. Natalie Masinick – Dean of Students

Dear Nativity BVM Families,

It is with great pride and excitement that I write to you to introduce myself as the new Dean of Students. This school year will no doubt bring many opportunities to establish new relationships. I feel blessed to be a part of this school to work with a talented staff, wonderful families, and hardworking students. I can tell Nativity BVM is a special place.

I come to you from Schuylkill Haven Area High School where I was an 11th grade English teacher and yearbook advisor. I have a Bachelor's degree in Secondary Education, English from York College of Pennsylvania in 2008, a Master's degree in Special Education from Wilkes University in 2016, and this August I earned a Principal Certification from Penn State University.

Personally, I am also a wife and mother. My husband and I have two children John (5) and Madison (3), and we are members of Saint Ambrose Church in Schuylkill Haven.

It is my hope to spend my time learning the processes and procedures of the school, and most importantly, getting to know each and every student and family. I look forward to meeting you and helping your child succeed. If you have any questions, concerns, or ideas, please reach out and let me know. My email is nmasinick@nativitybvm.net.

Looking forward to Day 1!

Natalie Masinick

Dress Code

Dress code information was sent home last month. Please make sure that your students are dressed appropriately.

Reminders:

For all students: At this time masks are optional. However, if students wish to wear a mask, it must be either a Nativity mask or a medical mask.

For the Boys: Crew socks are part of the boy's school uniform, NOT ankle socks. Also, please remind your son or the student you are hosting to be clean shaven and to have his hair cut to the appropriate length. Neither piercings nor tattoos are permitted.

For the Girls: Please make sure that your daughter's skirt is covering the front and back of the top of the knee. Additionally, a reminder that only 1 pair of earrings may be worn in the ears. No nose rings or other piercings or tattoos are permitted.

All hairstyles and colors must be conservative and natural.

Please see the handbook for more information.

If there are any questions, please contact Mrs. Natalie Masinick, Dean of Students.

Parking Permits

Students must have their new parking permits purchased by the end of the day on Friday, September 10th. Cost of the permit is \$15. Students must complete paperwork with the license and registration for the car they are registering. Beginning on Monday, September 13th, detentions will be issued to any student who does not have a new parking permit and parks on school grounds.

Volunteers Needed!

We still have a great need for help during the school day. Volunteers are always needed at the school store. If you are able to help in any capacity, please email Mrs. Diane Yaneck at dyaneck@nativitybvm.net. Volunteers must complete paperwork. Please contact Mrs. Margie Young for information at myoung@nativitybvm.net.

From the Development Office

Attention Families: All tuition assistance has been posted onto accounts unless your application has not been verified. Please contact Jenn Daubert at 570-622-8110 with any questions.

Please Note: A policy has become effective for families who receive the Eastern Pennsylvania Scholarship Foundation Scholarship (EPSF). Please read the following:

The Eastern PA Scholarship advisory Board has endorsed the following: If a family has not paid their past tuition bill (2020-2021), they will not be eligible to receive an EITC/OSTC scholarship from the Eastern Pennsylvania Scholarship Foundation.

It is the responsibility of each family to make sure that their tuition is paid in full each year. Failure to do so will make the family ineligible to receive an EPSF Scholarship.

ALUMNI TAILGATE



As a result of the Covid-19 Pandemic, we have made the decision to modify this year's Homecoming Alumni Tailgate Party which is scheduled for Friday, October 1, 2021. The tailgate party will be held inside the stadium beginning at 6 PM on a smaller scale than in the past. We are excited to be able to continue this yearly tradition, even with modifications, and are committed to moving forward with the best interest for the safety and well-being of the Nativity Community in mind. Our Homecoming 50/50 Drawing is a huge fundraiser for the school, therefore, we will also continue with this yearly tradition as our Homecoming Football game versus Shenandoah Valley is scheduled to be held on time. Your support of Nativity and our 50/50 drawing is greatly appreciated. Thank you for your consideration and understanding. Go Nativity!



Welcome Back!

From the Nativity Student Council, we hope that your summer break has been safe and relaxing. As we look forward to the coming school year, we take this opportunity to thank all the faculty and staff for their dedication to Catholic education in such a hectic and unpredictable year. We hope that moving forward, things will continue to improve as we return to normal. We are happy to announce the following students on their election for the upcoming year:

Central Officers

President – Lauren Ferhat

Vice-President – Helena Fredericks

Secretary – Brayden Feisel

Treasurer – Hayden Daubert

Senior Class

President – Dawson Seiders

Vice-President – Fletcher Eades

Representative – Catrina Carlson

Representative – Grant Lapachinsky

Representative – Helena Polinsky

Junior Class

President – Ian Andrefski

Vice-President – Emma Bolich

Representative – Maura Heckman

Representative – Cameron Strauss

Sophomore Class

President – Jack Messina

Vice-President – Ethan Grabowski

Representative – Emma Lieberman

Representative – Luke Sterns

We will have freshman and international student elections in September. Take care and we look forward to seeing all of you soon.

Mr. Kustan

Attention Seniors and Senior Parents

Senior portraits are due by November 24, 2021 and baby ads are due by October 29, 2021. Please see your one-call email for specifications and more information. Please send portraits and/or baby ads and any questions you have to Miss Reynolds at jreynolds@nativitybvm.net. Enjoy the rest of your summer and thank you for supporting the yearbook



TICKETS FROM THE FINANCIAL OFFICE

GET YOUR TICKETS IN! The first Pot of Gold drawing will be held on SEPTEMBER 22nd. Please email Mrs. Young if you need additional tickets to fulfill your \$700.00 fundraising obligation or if you have not received them.

REMINDER TO FAMILIES OF SENIORS: Tuition must be up-to-date for transcripts to be released for any purpose. If you have any questions, contact Mrs. Young in the Finance Office.

Congratulations!

Riley McDonald has been accepted into the Carnegie Mellon University Pre-College Program. This program offers professional theater training for talented high school students. Riley's six-week program will be in the musical theater track. We are very proud of Riley!



ATHLETIC NEWS

All Athletic physicals should be completed and turned in by August 9th for football and August 16th for all other sports. The Physical Form is accessible on the school website under Athletics. All athletes and parents are required to be sure this Physical Form as well as the Code of Conduct Form, Emergency Forms and an additional Covid-19 Waiver Form are completed. The code of conduct form must be completed for each sport that the student athlete is participating in. Also, all sports schedules are available on the school's website.

Green and Gold Happenings!

The Green and Gold will be having a yard/food sale September 25th. We will need help with the set-up on Friday and also help on Saturday with the sale. If you have any donations for the yard sale, please call Mrs. Yaneck in the office to make arrangements to drop off your items. We will also be selling food so if you would like to donate something, please let Mrs. Yaneck know.

We will again have the gift card calendar fundraiser in October. Anyone who would like to donate a gift card to this fundraiser please send it into the office as soon as possible or call the office. This was a great fundraiser last year and hope it will be again this year.

Boyer's Keycards

Boyer's keycards are available in the office for anyone who would like one. When you shop at Boyer's and use the card, a percentage of your store order will be donated to Nativity.



SCHOOL STORE NEWS

Summer hours continue with the School Store open on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM. Beginning August 23rd, the school store will re-open to its usual hours of Monday through Friday 11:30 – 1:00 PM or by appointment if needed.

Students who need uniform clothing for the start of the school year, please come in sooner rather than later as I have extra items but may not necessarily have what you are looking for and would have to order.

The shelves are beginning to fill up with new Nativity Apparel: Hoodies, Nativity T-Shirts, Football Apparel and much more. Feel free to come in and shop or just to say hello. Cash or checks made payable to Nativity are accepted. Check us out on Facebook (Nativity BVM School Store).

Sport Passes are available in the school store, \$50 for adults and \$25 for students.

Now is the time to get involved in our **Certificate program** to help with your tuition cost. Reach out to your grandparents, aunts, uncles, friends and neighbors. Our certificate list is always available in the school store. If unsure how the program works, contact Sue Eckley (570-640-0930).

Any parent interested in working in the school store, please contact Sue Eckley @ 570-640-0930.

See you soon,

Sue Eckley (school store coordinator)

DIOCESAN VICTIM ASSISTANCE COORDINATOR

Ms. Wendy S. Krisak, M.A., NCC, LPC
Direct Telephone: (800) 791-9209

The Diocese of Allentown provides assistance to anyone who, as a minor, was sexually abused by a priest, deacon or employee/volunteer of the Diocese/Parish. Parents, guardians, children and survivors of sexual abuse are invited and encouraged to contact the Diocese of Allentown for more information about this program.

OFFICE OF SAFE ENVIRONMENT

Pamela J. Russo, M.S.W, M.S.
Secretary, Youth Protection and Catholic Human Services
P.O. Box F, Allentown, PA 18105-1538
610-871-5200 ext. 2204
prusso@allentowndiocese.org

Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service

If you have an allegation of abuse against a bishop, please contact the Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service at www.ReportBishopAbuse.org or by calling 800-276-1562.

Servicio de Denuncia de Abusos de Obispos Católicos

Si tiene una denuncia de abuso contra un obispo, comuníquese con el Servicio de Denuncias de Abuso de Obispos Católicos en www.ReportBishopAbuse.org o llamando al 800-276-1562.

AHERA

In compliance with the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response (AHERA) an inspection for asbestos was performed at each of our schools within the Diocese of Allentown. A copy of the inspection reports are on file in the school's Administrative Office for your review any time during normal school hours. In the event you have any questions or concerns, please contact the school's principal or the Diocesan Asbestos Coordinator.

