

**NATIVITY BVM HIGH SCHOOL
ONE LAWTONS HILL, POTTSVILLE, PA 17901
PHONE NO: (570) 622-8110
FAX NO: (570) 622-0454**

MARCH 2023 NEWSLETTER



News from the Principal:

The season of Lent provides all of us with many opportunities to seek God through the sacrament of Reconciliation. This sacrament brings us closer to Christ and invigorates us to a renewed practice of our faith. Please join us for our many spiritual activities during the Lenten season. We welcome Spring this month and look forward to warmer weather, spring flowers and outdoor activities.

As we look toward planning for next school year, I encourage you to discuss course offerings with your son or daughter. Please encourage them to challenge themselves and select courses that will prepare them for college and their adult life. Nativity constantly updates its curriculum based on student needs while following all Diocesan and state-mandated guidelines.

We continue to strive for excellence in all academic areas. Please spread the “Good News” about Nativity to your family, friends and neighbors. We are working on enrollment strategies to increase our enrollment and we need your help. Nativity High School, as part of its mission, always strives to educate the whole person. Through small class size and individual attention, we strive to ensure that every child is provided with a quality, faith-based education.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Mrs. Lynn A. Sabol in cursive script.

Mrs. Lynn A. Sabol

Spiritual Calendar

March 2nd - Padre Pio Retreat
March 3rd - 1st Friday Adoration
March 10th - Liturgy with Bishop Schlert
March 23rd - Living Stations of the Cross
March 28th - Liturgy
March 30th - Lenten Penance Service

Chaplain's Message

Just as March takes us from winter to spring and we see signs of new life, March is also a very “grace-filled” month at Nativity. A group of juniors and seniors will experience our first Encounter retreat, titled “I See Grace”, a student-led overnight retreat at St. Francis Retreat House in Easton, March 7-8. Prior to this we also have our second pilgrimage to the National Center for Padre Pio in Barto, PA, on March 2.

The season of Lent continues throughout March. As we build up to the high point of the Church year, Easter, we have our daily prayers and school Masses (including Mass on March 10 celebrated by Bishop Schlert) to help us stay focused on the season. On March 23, we will pray the Stations of the Cross as a school community. We hope to do a version of Living Stations in which the Stations of the Cross are acted out.

Lent is a special time for people who are preparing to enter the Catholic Church at Easter. Our school family is very proud to pray for and support three of our students: Chanyu Jung, Mackenzie Miller, and Luke Scheifley, as they journey to Easter. Chanyu and Luke are preparing for Baptism. Mackenzie, a baptized Christian, is preparing to enter full communion with the Church. All three students will receive the sacraments of Confirmation and Holy Communion.

Rev. Kevin J. Bobbin
Chaplain, Nativity BVM High School
Pastor, St. John the Baptist Church

Bishop's Catholic Scholars

Cameron Strauss & Caitlin Capella have been selected as Nativity's Bishop's Catholic Scholars for the 2022-2023 school year. Congratulations to both of these students!

Staffing

As you are aware from my letter dated February 9, 2023, we have several staffing changes. Mr. Costa, Mrs. Masinick and Ms. Reynolds will be leaving us in March and April to teach at other districts. Mr. Muldowney has already left Nativity for other employment. We are grateful for all of their service to Nativity over the years. This situation, like that at many other schools, has been fueled by a teacher shortage and the high cost of living. Please know that we are actively looking for teachers and have several already hired or in the process of being hired. Additionally, the Athletic Director duties are being handled by Mr. David Sabol, a part-time teacher at Nativity and former Athletic Director. Thank you for your support. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at lsabol@nativitybvm.net or 570-622-8110.

Snow Days

Any days missed for weather or other interruptions will be announced as either a Flexible Instruction Day or a Snow Day. As always, we will contact the school community through the One Call System and post information on the school Facebook page.

Governance Board

The Governance Board continues to work on behalf of Nativity BVM High School. The meetings are held the first Tuesday of every other month. If you have questions or concerns and would like to communicate with the board their email address is: governanceboard@nativitybvm.net.

Important Financial Information

All students have received their Financial Aid Packets. Please make sure that you meet all the deadlines in order to fully utilize the aid that is available. In these difficult economic times it is important for all of us to look for every available resource. Please know that we are doing everything possible to keep the cost of attending Nativity as reasonable as possible. It is also extremely important that all financial obligations are being met in a timely fashion. Students whose tuition and fundraising are not up to date will not be able to take exams, receive report cards and transcripts, attend school trips or attend the prom.

Students who are behind in their tuition payments may not be able to participate in sports and other activities. Please see the Tuition Collection Policy or call Mrs. Margaret Young if you have any questions. The policy is on the Nativity website.



Dress Code and Dress Attire Information

Parents are asked to make sure that their children are properly dressed according to the dress code. Skirt lengths, types of pants, length of shirts and types of shoes are examples of issues that are being addressed. If your son or daughter is not dressed according to the code, he or she may be sent home. We make every effort to work with our families and it is essential that all of our students follow the rules and regulations listed in the handbook. This is first and foremost a Catholic High School and we expect that our students will dress modestly.

Spring dress code begins on April 11, 2023. Both boys and girls may wear school uniform shorts from Flynn and O'Hara beginning April 11th.



New Technology

Nativity High School applied for the EANS II grant through the Federal Government. After a long process, we are happy to announce not only that the funding has been approved but the equipment will be onsite in the next week. As soon as the computers are set up we will provide every student with their own laptop computer to be used for educational purposes. A letter will be sent with information regarding the laptops and an acceptable use policy that must be signed. We are excited for this educational opportunity for all of our students.

JR/SR Prom

As we move closer to May, we are planning to celebrate with our students at the Prom. We will need some parental assistance with the prom. Mrs. Paskel will be reaching out to all of the parents once we have plans in place. With that in mind, please read the following regarding Prom Attire:

*As a Catholic High School, we require that all students dress appropriately. Specifically, we need to address the young ladies and their prom dresses. **Please note that no dresses may expose any midriff, nor may the dresses be exceedingly short or revealing.** A letter specifically addressing these issues will be sent home to all members of the Junior and Senior class. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Sabol or Mrs. Masinick.*



FROM THE STUDIES OFFICE

Students have received the course catalogue and their request papers from their course selection meetings. These papers are also available on the school's website. Students are encouraged to look into requirements for their future plans and select the best courses to meet these requirements. Parents are encouraged to discuss with their child all courses they will be taking to help them make their decisions. Course selection sheets must be returned by **Friday, March 10, 2023**. If any parents have questions regarding course selection, please contact Mr. Naffin in the Studies Office at jnaffin@nativitybvm.net.

Deficiency Notices were emailed home to students on February 15th. Parents please make sure that you have seen the notice and discuss this with your son/daughter. The 3rd Quarter ends on Wednesday, March 22, 2023. Report Cards will be distributed on Friday, March 31st.

FROM THE DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

PLEASE NOTE: All Nativity tuition assistance applications must be completed online through STS. There is no longer a paper application.

FINANCIAL AID information for the 2023-2024 school year has been sent home with students. You may now begin applying for financial aid for this coming school year via STS. You may access all information regarding financial aid via Nativity's website, www.nativitybvm.net. Please contact Mrs. Daubert at the school with any questions.



CENTURY BENEFIT

Date: Saturday, April 15, 2023

Cocktail Hour: 6:00PM

Dinner: 7:00 PM (choice of Entrée)

Music by DJ Chris Polm

Witness the Induction of the New Golden Cross Society recipients:

Martin C. “Marty” Brennan ‘60

Judy Kostura

Charles Sophy ‘90

Cathy Winter

Rev. Christopher Zelonis ‘94

Place: Mountain Valley Golf Course, Barnesville

Cost: 125.00

Silent Auction

For more information or to purchase tickets, please contact Jenn Daubert at 570-622-8110.

Academic Team

Nativity BVM finished third in the Schuylkill Academic League during the regular season, which qualifies for a bronze medal. The league tournament will be on March 13th, and the snow date will be March 20th. Great job team!

A NOTE TO PARENTS

Parents are reminded to call the main office, if possible, before 8:45 AM, when your child is absent. Also, please handwrite a note if your student is to be dismissed earlier than the end of the school day. Additionally, please make sure that you communicate with your child’s teachers directly regarding academic concerns. If you need more information please contact Mr. Naffin regarding Academics. It is important that we make sure that all information is accurate and that we speak to the teacher before making judgments. Communication is key to the smooth operation of the school!

ATTENTION PARENTS/GUARDIANS OF SOPHOMORES:

Ring Mass will be held next year during the fall semester. Brochures for ring styles will be distributed to students soon. In order to ensure that rings and/or crosses are delivered on time, the last day to have orders into Herff-Jones is Tuesday, April, 18, 2023. A web address to place your order will go out in a one-call. Rings do not need to be ordered from Herff-Jones if you would prefer to order from a local jeweler. If you have any questions or concerns, please call the school at (570) 622-8110.



ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

Induction ceremonies for Nativity's Athletic Hall of Fame will take place on Sunday, March 12, 2023 at the school. A lunch reception for inductees and their families will take place at the school beginning at 1:00pm. The formal induction ceremony will be held in the gymnasium at approximately 2:30pm.



ATHLETIC NEWS

All spring sports are starting preseason practice. The first official practice date for spring sports is Monday, March 6, 2023. All physical papers must be handed into our trainer, Christian Ormiston, before you can practice.

Congratulations to the following students:

Kyle Kenton on being selected Nativity's Football Scholar Athlete.
Lola Rymarkiewicz on being named the Soccer Female Scholar Athlete.
Lola Rymarkiewicz on being named Nativity's Female Scholar Athlete.



Ella Frantz, who will be singing the National Anthem at the Wrestling Championships on March 11, 2023 at the Giant Center in Hershey. She will be singing at 9AM and again at 7 PM!

PA Football News.com All-Academic Team:

Gold (GPA of 4.0 and up)

Jack Messina, Brandon Schwartz, Nolan Daynorowicz, Sam Spolski, Ryan Grabowski

Silver (GPA of 3.5 to 3.9)

Kyle Kenton, Nolan Ferhat, Jacob Rosenberger, Andrew Verchick, Lukas McNamara, Mike Stank, Nikolas Steele, Noah Dolbin, Sam Walborn, Colt Mason

Bronze: (GPA of 3.0 to 3.4)

Dominic Rowlands, Drew Seaman, Gavin Frie, Jasir Jones, Mark Kimmel, Nick Wagner, Aiden Becker

Wrestling:

Blake Bender for placing 4th at District XI Wrestling.

Dalton Monger for placing 5th at District XI Wrestling

Luke Sterns who qualified for the consolation of four, and Lukas McNamara, Drew Seaman, Cole Wagner who qualified for the 2nd day at the District XI wrestling tournament.

GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT NEWS

A Message from the Director of Guidance, Mrs. Brensinger

Students in need of letters of recommendation, transcripts or any other documents must let Mrs. Brensinger know 2 weeks before the deadline to guarantee your deadline is met.

Please note all Nativity BVM financial obligations must be up to date, no documents will be sent if you have a “hold” on your account. Please feel free to contact me at any time via email at guidance@nativitybvm.net

Senior Graduation Information

This is a reminder all college acceptance letters, and any financial aid offers must be turned in to Mrs. Brensinger together at one time. Please compile a folder and bring them to the Counseling office no later than April 1st.

College Financial Aid

Every senior and their parent should fill out the FAFSA at fafsa.gov, even if they are financially sound. Government loans are offered to each student via the FAFSA submission at lower interest rates. Additionally, aid offered by your college is often dependent on the FAFSA.

STC Information

STC Spring Open House is scheduled for Wednesday, March 1, from 6-8pm at both the North and South Campuses. Anyone in the class of 2024 or 2025 who may be interested in attending STC their Junior Year or Senior Year is encouraged to go visit and should talk to Mrs.

Brensinger immediately to start your application, Applications must be completed with Mrs Brensinger by March 21st.

Scholarships

Attention Junior and Senior Families, I wanted to remind you that the Guidance Page on the Nativity website has a full packet of scholarships that is updated in real time. [View the full packet here](#)

Additional opportunities through Schuylkill Area Community Foundation.

[-https://www.sacfoundation.com/other_funding_sources.htm](https://www.sacfoundation.com/other_funding_sources.htm)

[-https://www.sacfoundation.com/scholarships.htm](https://www.sacfoundation.com/scholarships.htm)

College and Career Fair

The Spring College and Career Fair will take place on April 18th in the Gym for all Freshman, Sophomores and Juniors.

Schools and Organizations planning to attend are;

Air Force Reserve, Alvernia University, Cedar Crest College, Commonwealth University - Bloomsburg, Lock Haven, Mansfield, Delaware Valley University, DeSales University, Duquesne University, Elizabethtown College, Florida Institute of Technology, Goldey-Beacom College, HACC, Harcum College, Harrisburg University of Science and Technology, Kutztown University Lebanon Valley College, Lehigh Carbon Community College, Lycoming College, Manor College, Marywood University, Misericordia University, Neumann University, Penn State Schuylkill, Pennsylvania Army National Guard, Rosemont College, Saint Joseph's University, Saint Vincent College, Susquehanna University, Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology, The University of Scranton, United States Air Force, Ursinus College, US Army, Villanova University, Virginia Commonwealth University, Widener University, Wilkes University, York College of Pennsylvania

Reminder about Google Classroom

A Google classroom has been created for each graduating class and announcements will be made periodically. All students have been invited to their respective class. Please email guidance@nativitybvm.net if you wish to be added to the classroom of your student.



POT OF GOLD WINNERS

FEBRUARY 15, 2023

1st) T. Borden

Seller- Borden's

2nd) John Powers Jr.

Seller- Carly Brunn

3rd) Rick Wagner

Seller- Cole Wagner

4th) Bryan Denion

Seller- Rylie Denion

GREEN AND GOLD BOOSTER CLUB

Basket Auction

Letters will be going out very soon for the upcoming Basket Auction. This year the auction will be Saturday May 6th and Sunday May 7th. This is a major fundraiser for the Green and Gold and requires a great deal of help. Please keep an eye out for the letters. In the meantime, if you are willing to help solicit for prizes, please contact Diane Yaneck at 570-622-8110. Also, your donations for the Chinese auction can be taken to the office at any time.

School Store

Flannel Pajama Pants (\$22) and Pajama shorts (\$20) are the latest addition to the store. Everyone is always welcome to visit during the lunch periods, 11:30-1:00 or by appointment.

Certificate program:

Families accounts will be credited the week of March 6th for all your purchases from December through February.

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.

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.