

**NATIVITY BVM HIGH SCHOOL**  
**ONE LAWTONS HILL**  
**POTTSVILLE, PA 17901**  
**PHONE: (570) 622-8110**  
**FAX (570) 622-0454**

## **MAY/JUNE NEWSLETTER 2023**



**Mary, Patroness of our school,  
 Pray for Us!**

### **FROM OUR PRINCIPAL:**

The end of the school year is always a time of mixed emotions as our seniors are winding down their high school careers. We are busy preparing for the close of the 2022-2023 academic year, the preparation for the 2023-2024 school year, and of course Graduation, Baccalaureate and other activities. We are sad to see the seniors graduate but happy that they are moving on to the next part of their lives. For most it involves college, but for all of them it will be a time of change and challenge. They will embark on a new journey, one that leads to their futures. We wish them the best of luck and will keep them in our prayers.

The month of May is devoted to Mary, the Patroness of our school. We thank Mary for giving us our Savior and we implore that she continues to intercede on our behalf. Please remember the following members of the Nativity Community who passed away recently: Alan Felty, Kevin Hoke, Mr. Francis Keating, Elizabeth Lechleitner, and William Reynolds.

The final day of school for our underclassmen is Tuesday, June 6, 2023. Please see the schedule for the end of the year in this newsletter. We hope that the summer brings us closer to the end of this pandemic and we ask God to bless us throughout the summer. I hope that everyone has a great summer!

On a personal note, thank you to the entire Nativity community for your prayers and support for my family during a difficult time with the loss of my mom, Elizabeth Lechleitner. She was very proud of her Alma Mater and a lifelong supporter of Nativity.

*Mrs Lynn A Sabal*

# Welcome

We are pleased to announce that Mr. Michael Grabowski will be our new Dean of Students beginning on June 5, 2023. He is a 1998 graduate of Nativity BVM High School and has a B.S. degree from West Chester University in Mathematics, a M. Ed. From DeSales University and is working on his Principal Certification through Alvernia University.

Mr. Grabowski has spent much of his teaching career at Tamaqua High School and is a veteran of the PA National Guard. Mr. Grabowski is married to Annie Kimber Grabowski, (Class of 1999), and they have three children, Ethan and Ryan at Nativity and Ella at Assumption BVM. He and his family are active members of St. John the Baptist Parish in Pottsville. The Nativity family is excited to welcome Mr. Michael Grabowski to the staff!

**We welcome the Class of 2027! Make sure to read the newsletter for important information!**

## CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE

The month of May is traditionally dedicated to Mary, the Mother of Jesus. Just as our school year begins with the celebration of our school's patronal feast, the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary on September 8, it is appropriate that we end the school year by honoring Mary throughout May. We will have our May procession at our school Mass on May 4. We also celebrate Mass for the Ascension on May 18. Our graduating seniors will celebrate their baccalaureate Mass on May 31, the feast of the Visitation of Mary.

The Blessed Mother watches over our school family and seeks to lead us closer to her Son Jesus. Hopefully this beautiful month reminds us to acknowledge Mary, to talk to her, and foster our relationship with her as our spiritual mother.

Rev. Kevin J. Bobbin

Chaplain, Nativity BVM High School



## Liturgical Calendar

Thursday, May 4<sup>th</sup> -

Thursday, May 18<sup>th</sup> -

Wednesday, May 31<sup>st</sup> -

Thursday, June 1<sup>st</sup> -

**Liturgy and May Procession**

**Liturgy, Feast of the Ascension**

**Baccalaureate Mass @ 7 PM**

**Bishop Schlert will be the Main Celebrant**

**Commencement @ 7 PM**

## SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

Please note that Main Office Summer Hours will be 8:30 AM – 1:30 PM, Monday through Thursday, beginning on Wednesday, June 7<sup>th</sup> until August 17<sup>th</sup>. The office will be closed on Friday's during the summer. The Main Office will be closed Monday, July 3<sup>rd</sup> and Tuesday, July 4<sup>th</sup> for the Independence Day Holiday.

## GOVERNANCE BOARD UPDATE

Our Governance Board has been diligently working on our behalf. We are continuing to look for new sources of scholarship money to help all of our students. Enrollment continues to be the most important part of our efforts. It will ensure Nativity's bright future on the "Hill". We all must spread the good news about Nativity in our communities. **There are many possible students in our parishes and hometowns that just need to hear about Nativity and all it has to offer.** Please help us to "Spread the Good News"!!!



## *Congratulations Seniors Class of 2023*



The following students were named **Schuylkill Scholars**: Ian Andrefski, Zachary Mills, Stanley Gorski, Cameron Strauss, Bella Bartashus, and Caitlin Cappella.

The following students were honored on April 29<sup>th</sup> as **Bishop's Catholic Scholars**: Caitlin Cappella and Cameron Strauss.

Valedictorian: Ian Andrefski

Salutatorian: Zachary Mills

Principal's Honor Roll: Ian Andrefski, Zachary Mills, Stanley Gorski, Cameron Strauss, Bella Bartashus

Female Scholar Athlete: Lola Rymarkiewicz - was honored at a reception on **April** 30<sup>th</sup>.

## **IMPORTANT FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

**A reminder that all Financial obligations, tuition and fundraising must be met in order for students to receive progress reports. SENIORS:** All financial and academic requirements must be met in order to participate in graduation exercises and attend the prom. Please refer to the senior letter which was mailed in April.

### **Important Upcoming Dates:**

- May 4<sup>th</sup> – Liturgy and May Processions
- May 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> – Green & Gold Basket Auction
- May 12<sup>th</sup> – SR/JR Prom – School Closed**
- May 15<sup>th</sup> – Band & Chorus Concert @ 7 PM
- May 18<sup>th</sup> – Liturgy – Feast of the Ascension
- May 19<sup>th</sup> – Field Day & last academic day for Seniors
- May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> - Senior Exams
- May 24<sup>th</sup> – All school Field Trip to Phillies Game

**May 26<sup>th</sup> – School Closed**

**May 29<sup>th</sup> – School Closed Memorial Day**

May 30<sup>th</sup> – Senior Locker Clean-out and Practice for Baccalaureate and Graduation

May 30<sup>th</sup> – Exams all Underclassmen – Early Dismissal @ 12:50 PM

May 31<sup>st</sup> – Exams all Underclassmen – Early Dismissal @ 12:50 PM

June 1<sup>st</sup> – Exams all Underclassmen – Early Dismissal @ Noon

June 2<sup>nd</sup> – Juniors only report – Early Dismissal @ Noon

June 5<sup>th</sup> – Sophomores and Freshmen only Report – Early Dismissal @ Noon

June 6<sup>th</sup> – All underclassmen report for Closing Exercises and Liturgy with dismissal at 11 :00 AM



### Help!

We would like to freshen up the grounds around the building for Baccalaureate and Graduation. **If you are able to help or donate towards the project, please contact Mrs. Sabol.**



### FROM THE STUDIES OFFICE

Deficiency notices for the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter were emailed on April 26<sup>th</sup>. Parents should be aware that these deficiencies will include failures or possible failures for the quarter, semester and for **the year**. You should especially be aware if a student has the possibility of failing for the year as this will affect graduation and/or summer school.

Parents and students are reminded that attendance for examinations is mandatory. No student will be excused from any session. There will be early dismissal for all underclassmen on Tuesday, May 30<sup>th</sup> through Tuesday, June 6<sup>th</sup>. The seniors will also have early dismissals on Monday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>, Tuesday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> and Thursday, May 27<sup>th</sup> for their final exams.

Final examinations will be given Tuesday, May 30<sup>th</sup> through Thursday, June 1<sup>st</sup> for all underclassmen. Seniors will have their final examinations on Monday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>, Tuesday May 23<sup>rd</sup>, and Thursday May 27<sup>th</sup>.

The schedule is as follows:

**Monday, May 22: Periods 1, 3, and 7 – seniors**

**Tuesday, May 23: Periods 2, 4, and 8 – seniors**

**Thursday, May 25: Periods 5 and 6 – seniors**

**Tuesday, May 30: Periods 1, 3, and 8 – underclassmen**

**Wednesday, May 31: Periods 2, 4, and 5 – underclassmen**

**Thursday, June 1: Periods 7 and 8 – underclassmen**

Report cards for underclassmen will be distributed on Tuesday, June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

Senior report cards will be distributed after the graduation ceremony and will be mailed, if they are not ready for distribution after graduation ceremonies.

Students will receive a copy of their tentative schedule for the next school year in July. Please review this carefully and follow the directions with regards to making changes.

Students who fail a course for the year, must attend summer school. Please contact Mrs. Sabol or Mr. Naffin (Studies) at 622-8110.

Students involved in the Dual Credit Program with Alvernia University will receive information on transcript requests in a separate mailing.

AP tests will be administered May 2<sup>nd</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup>. Students taking an AP class must take the exam for their course and should be sure to be present on the day of the exam. All AP payments were due by April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

AP Schedule is:

- Tuesday, May 2 – Psychology (12pm)
- Wednesday, May 3 – Literature and Composition (8am)
- Thursday, May 4 – Statistics (12pm)
- Friday, May 5 – US History (8am)
- Monday, May 8 – Calculus AB (8am)
- Tuesday, May 9 – Language and Composition (8am)
- Wednesday, May 10 – Biology (12pm)
- Wednesday, May 17 – Literature and Composition – late (12pm)



#### **FROM THE DEVELOPMENT OFFICE:**

**2023 JUNE SWEEPSTAKES TICKETS** are now available at Nativity.

Donation: \$10 each

Tickets are good for all 30 drawings in June

\$100 prize Monday to Friday

\$150 prize for Saturday & Sunday

\$300 prize on Father's Day

\$300 prize on First Day of Summer

#### **ATTENTION FAMILIES:**

Tuition assistance determinations will be made in late June 2023. Tuition Assistance will be posted to STS accounts by the middle of July. Please contact Mrs. Daubert with any questions. There is still time to apply for tuition assistance for the 2023-2024 school year.

#### **POT OF GOLD WINNERS – APRIL 5, 2023**

\$250 – Rick Kenton – Seller: Kyle Kenton

\$150 – April Rushannon – Seller: Macie Rushannon

\$50 – Wojciechowsky – Seller: Matt Wojciechowsky

\$50 – Diane Kripas – Seller: Callie Palerino

## **News from the Guidance Department**

### **An Important Message from Mrs. Brensinger**



I announced in April that my husband and I are expecting our second child September 30<sup>th</sup>! Thank you for all your well wishes thus far. I am working my hardest to help ensure next Fall is organized and stress free, especially for our Seniors applying to college. See my Summer notes below for more information. As always, feel free to contact me at any time via email at [guidance@nativitybvm.net](mailto: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. These were due on April 27<sup>th</sup>, if you have not done so already, please turn them in!

The graduation survey was sent out in April regarding plans for after graduation. This information will be used during commencement when your student is announced on stage. Please be sure to complete the survey and email me with any questions. Please be sure they have completed this survey

<https://forms.gle/fh2p9zrm9poaVQbr6>

### **Postsecondary Prep for Juniors**

All Juniors met with Mrs. Brensinger to discuss thoughts for after graduation, they shared if they hoped to attend post-secondary education or planned to move in a different direction. In the coming months, students should start thinking of schools they will want to apply to and determine if those schools require SAT/ ACT scores. Juniors are encouraged to visit schools over the summer break, each Senior will only receive 2 excused college visits, utilizing summer break is imperative!

Parents and Guardians of Junior students, if you would like to do a phone conference, in May or June, please contact me at (570) 622-8110 ext. 308 or via email at [guidance@nativitybvm.net](mailto:guidance@nativitybvm.net)

### **Summer Hours in Guidance**

In preparation for the arrival of the baby, I will be offering Summer Hours for Seniors to get a jump start on college and career planning. Any student or parent/guardian interested in meeting with me should complete this form to join my summer meeting list. Schedule a meeting here:

<https://forms.gle/XrKwnzb7KCH7yFiR7>. Any Junior, Sophomore or Freshman looking to meet during this time may complete the form as well.

### **Important Notes for the 2023-2024 school year**

The PSAT will be completely digital starting Fall 2023 and will take place in October, all students in grades 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> will be required to take the test.

PSAT and SAT Accommodations through College Board are available Please contact Mrs. Brensinger in Guidance if you have a Classroom Plan in place and are looking for accommodations for the PSAT or SAT. This is a 7-week process at minimum, so parents are encouraged to reach out immediately. Parents will need to fill out the Consent form located on the College Board website and give it to the office for

Mrs. Brensinger : <https://accommodations.collegeboard.org/request-accommodations/request/through-the-school>.

The ASVAB- all Seniors will complete the ASVAB test when underclassmen complete the PSAT

The Fall College Fair-is schedule for September 12<sup>th</sup> for all Sophomores, Juniors and Seniors, if you want a specific school to come, please see Mrs. Brensinger

### **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](mailto:guidance@nativitybvm.net) if you wish to be added to the classroom of your student.

## **Greetings from Student Council!**

As we wind down the school year, we look back at all the fantastic events that we had and give a special thank you to all those who helped us along the way! The final Student Council event this year will be the council elections. They will take place the first week of May. Central office will occur first followed by the class elections. Please make sure you have your paperwork signed and returned no later than Friday, April 28<sup>th</sup> as has been announced this month.

Lastly, I have had the privilege of serving as Council Advisor since August of 2016. It is with great enthusiasm and excitement that I relinquish this position to Mrs. Bridget Quick for the 2023-2024 school year. Mrs. Quick has been assisting Student Council this year and learning all of the ins and outs of running the programs. I wish her the best of luck as she starts this new role!

Thank you and God bless you.

*Mr. Kustan*



**Nativity BVM High School Drama** club presents “Momma Mia”, a smash hit musical based on the music of “Abba” with music and lyrics by Benny Anderson and Bjorn Ulvaeus. Book by Catherine Johnson. Showtimes are at 7 PM on Thursday, Friday and Saturday and at 2 PM on Sunday at Nativity High School. Tickets can be purchased online or at the door \$15 for adults and \$10 for students. A weekend pass can also be purchased for \$40. Online information can be located on the Nativity Facebook page.



## ATHLETIC NEWS

### **Congratulations to the following athletes:**

Pottsville Republican/Herald  
All Area Wrestling Team:

#### **First Team**

Blake Bender and Dalton Monger

#### **Second Team**

Luke Sterns

Boys Basketball Team:

#### **Second Team**

Trey Keating

#### **Honorable Mention**

Bailey Ziolkowski

Girls Basketball Team:

#### **Honorable Mention**

Madison Kramer



## JR/SR PROM

### *Nativity Prom and Promenade : Friday, May 12, 2023*

**3:15 -3:45 PM - Registration / Sign in** at Nativity BVM High School

**3:45 PM - Line up** for Grand March backstage

**4:00-5:00 PM - Promenade** - Nativity High School Gym

**5:30- 5:45 PM - Sign in at Mountain Valley**, 1021 Brockton Mountain Drive, Barnesville, PA 18214

**5:30 - 6:00 PM - Photographer** - Ruby Laine Photography will be available at Mountain Valley Golf Course for formal pictures. Forms are available in the office.

**6:00 PM - Dinner begins PROMPTLY** - the meal will be family style.

**7:00- 10:00 PM - Dessert and Dancing**

**\*Students and Parents, Please Note:** Nativity BVM is committed to preserving a safe, drug and alcohol-free environment for our students. In accordance with this commitment, Nativity BVM reserves the right to administer random sobriety tests to students at all school functions. Please be advised that we take the safety of our students very seriously. Policy details are listed in the student handbook. If you have further questions, please call the school at 570-622-8110.



## **ART DEPARTMENT**

Nativity art students volunteered their time and talents at this year's 15<sup>th</sup> annual Block of Art in downtown Pottsville on Saturday April 29<sup>th</sup>. Free face painting and craft lessons were available for children.

The art classes put their creative talents to work and either worked alone or with a partner painting boxes in accordance with this year's theme "Building A Community Through Art". The boxes were on display at the Majestic Theater. Julienne Michael, a senior, was featured at the Block of Art as a "rising artist" in a special display at the Majestic Theater. On display were three graphite sketches – Childhood Home, Disheveled Shed, and Holy Ground.

## ***GREEN & GOLD***

The basket auction will be held May 6th and 7th. Saturday May 6th the doors open for shop and drop at 4:00pm. Sunday the doors open at 10:00 AM with the auction starting at 2:00pm. Please come out and support us as we raise funds for the school to assist with all activities at the school.

If you bring a food or baked good please remember to sign up for your student to receive a service hour!

We would also like to thank you for all of your help and support throughout the school year. We would not be able to accomplish our goals without your help.

## **SCHOOL STORE**

A reminder that you will see a slight increase in uniform prices for next school year. **Please note** that you can take advantage of In-stock uniform sale going on for the month of May before prices increase.

Uniform order forms will be available in June in the school store. If you order by June 30, you will receive an additional 10% off your total order. The second due date to order clothing is August 2. The School Store will not be carrying a large amount of extra uniform clothes so you need to get your orders in and not wait till a week before school to expect to find your clothing needs.

### **Swap Shop:**

We could use a few items. Any uniforms, which no longer fit or students who are graduating, please consider dropping them off at the school office.

### **Pretzel sales**

The school store was able to give Nativity High School \$1700. From our famous pretzel sales.

A special thank-you to my co-worker- Amanda Rymarkiewicz and students Jasir Jones, Mackenzie Miller and Caleb Whalen who came in every day to wrap candy or work the front counter.

### **Certificate Program News:**

We will be crediting your accounts again in the beginning of May from earnings in March and April.

Any questions,  
Sue Eckley (School Store Coordinator) 570-640-0930

**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](mailto: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](http://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 is 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.