

NATIVITY BVM HIGH SCHOOL
ONE LAWTONS HILL
POTTSVILLE, PA 17901
Phone: 570-622-8110
Fax: 570-622-0454
AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2025
NEWSLETTER



WELCOME BACK!!

I hope everyone had a relaxing and productive summer break! We look forward to opening school on August 25, 2025. We will continue to provide a safe and healthy environment for all of our students, faculty and staff. Our Catholic Faith is at the heart of the educational process at Nativity. We will continue to offer students choices on retreats which allow them to experience their Catholic Faith in many ways. 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 exceptional participation in all activities. 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. Throughout this school year let us keep in mind our theme:

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

There is no substitute for a Catholic school where Catholic values are lived every day.

Michael Grabowski

Mr. Michael Grabowski

Chaplain's Message

Welcome to our new students and welcome back to all of our returning students! I look forward to a new year of leading our school family in prayer and liturgy, retreats and Theology classes, and many other activities that help us keep Jesus Christ at the center of our school. As chaplain, one of the most important things I do is simply be present and available if I can be of help in any way to our students, families, and faculty. Please know that my office door is always open.

We normally celebrate our first school Mass on our patronal feast day, the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary on September 8. Because September 8 is a Sunday, we will celebrate our opening Mass on September 5, the memorial of St. Teresa of Calcutta, who is a wonderful example of a life lived completely for Christ in service to His people. We pray that this new school year will bring each member of our school family closer to Jesus and continue to form us as His disciples.

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

Summer Hours: The Main Office will be open from 8:30 AM – 1:30 PM through August 14th. The office will be closed on August 18th for teacher/staff training. The office will return to regular hours on August 19th from 7:30 AM – 3:45 PM.

WELCOME

We are excited to start the 2025-2026 school year with some new Faculty and Staff members. Mr. Travis Rogers will be teaching Theology and serving as the school's Campus Minister. Mr. Anthony Van de Hey is also joining our Theology department.

IT'S NEW AT NATIVITY!!!

As of August 20th, there will be an ATM machine located in the concession stand area for your financial needs!!



IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

Freshmen and New Parent Orientation – Sunday, August 24, 2025 @ 6:00 PM in the cafeteria.

****** Please note this is primarily for parents of incoming freshmen and new students, however all parents are welcome to come and hear about new updates!***

Fall Sports Pep-Rally – Sunday, August 24, 2025 @ 7 PM in the gym – All are invited!

The following is the schedule for the 1st week of school. Please note that all days are full class days. Students must report by 8:15AM.

Monday, August 25, 2025 –	Freshmen
Tuesday, August 26, 2025 –	Sophomores
Wednesday, August 27, 2025-	Juniors
Thursday, August 28, 2025 -	Seniors
Friday, August 29, 2025 -	All students report

Looking ahead...

Open House	September 3
School Pictures	September 24
Picture Make up/Senior Headshots for Yearbook	October 8

Check the school website for other important dates!



A reminder from the handbook

We are all looking forward to the new school year; we cannot wait to see some fresh new faces as well as our returning students. A copy of the student handbook can be found on the school's webpage. Please review the dress code, attendance, and cell phone policies prior to the first day of school.

If you have any questions, please contact the school office.

Attention parents/guardians of rising seniors:

The Lawtonian Yearbook will be approaching senior portraits differently this year. The school partnered with First Class Imaging and all senior headshots will be taken on October 8th during the school day. There will be no cost to families. This system will allow the portraits to be streamlined and uniform in size and style. It will also alleviate the strain of parents having to send in their personal photographs. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to the yearbook advisor, Jessica Reynolds, at jreynolds@nativitybvm.net.

Thank you for your time and, as always, thank you for supporting the yearbook!



Parking Permits

Students must have their new parking permits purchased by the end of the day on Friday, September 5th. Cost of the permit is \$20. Students must complete paperwork with the license and registration for the car they are registering. Beginning on Monday, September 8th, detentions will be issued to any student who does not have a new parking permit and parks on school grounds.

Vaccinations

If your child has had any vaccinations since last school year please send a copy of the card into the office for our files. If you have any questions about it please call the office.

As per the Pennsylvania Department of Health immunization requirements: All students who will be in grade 12 for the school term 2025-26 must provide proof that they have received the second dose of meningococcal vaccine (serogroup A, C, Y, W-135). Your child's vaccine record may be submitted to the Nativity BVM High School Office or faxed to Angela Holobetz, School Nurse, at 570-621-2036. Please provide proof by September 1, 2025.

As per the Pennsylvania Department of School Health. All students who will be in grade 11 for the school term 2025-26 must submit proof of having had a physical within the last year. Sport physicals do meet this requirement. Please submit a copy of your child's physical by January 1, 2026.

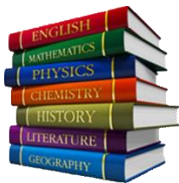


ATHLETIC NEWS

All Athletic physicals should be completed and turned in prior to beginning official practice on 8/11. The Physical Form is accessible on the school website under Athletics. All athletes and parents are required to be sure this Physical Form the Code of Conduct Form and Emergency Forms 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.

SPORTS PASSES

A reminder that Sports Passes are available: Adults \$75, Students (non-Nativity) \$25 – all Nativity students will receive a free pass the first week of school.



Studies Office

A letter along with your son/daughter's schedule was sent home regarding the 2025-2026 school year. 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 14, 2025. Any schedule change requests made after this date will have a \$60.00 fee for each and every course change affected by your request. No changes will be made once classes begin.

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 (2024-2025), 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.

HOMECOMING FOOTBALL GAME 50/50

Our Homecoming drawing is a huge fundraiser for the year, therefore, we will continue with this yearly tradition as our Homecoming Football game versus Mahanoy Area is scheduled to be held at St Clair on Friday, October 3rd at 7:00 pm. Your support of Nativity and our 50//50 drawing is greatly appreciated. Thank you for your consideration and understanding. Go Nativity!!!



TICKETS

FROM THE FINANCIAL OFFICE

GET YOUR TICKETS IN! The first Pot of Gold drawing will be held on SEPTEMBER 18th. 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.

News from the Guidance Department

A Message from the Director of Guidance, Mrs. Brensinger

Happy Back to School Month! I am very excited to meet all our new students, as well as welcome back our returning students.

Guardians, please stay connected with me via your students Google Classroom so everything is If you wish to be added, please email me.

This month, and all year long, please don't be afraid to reach out if needed
guidance@nativitybvm.net



PSAT and SAT Accommodations

The PSAT will take place in October, all students in grades 9th-11th will be required to take the test. PSAT and SAT Accommodations through CollegeBoard 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 this consent form located on the CollegeBoard 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 There are no accommodations available for this test.

Postsecondary Prep for Class of 2025

A reminder that Seniors are encouraged to visit schools over the summer break, each Senior will only receive **three (3) excused absences for college visits/ interviews**, utilizing summer break is imperative! Guardians of Senior students, if you would like to do your Senior meeting in August, you may schedule one here. <https://forms.gle/fAJ6hgu1oiPctVwr8>

College Financial Aid Night for Seniors –

Talk with a PHEAA Representative about financial aid options and the FAFSA.

There is a **Zoom on September 30th at 6:30pm with the PHEAA representative for Schuylkill County**, stay tuned for further information on a potential in person option as well. Complete this form to be added to the list to have the meeting information emailed to you. <https://forms.gle/9QjkEU9BZXXCPSYFA>

Scholarships

Attention Junior and Senior Families now is a great time to search for scholarships. Remember, scholarships are free money! We have a full packet available, please know that many deadlines have not yet been released and I update them as they come in. [Nativity Scholarship Packet Link](#)



SCHOOL STORE NEWS

School Store will continue its summer hours, Tuesdays and Thursdays 11:30 – 1:00. Beginning Monday, August 18, we will reopen Monday – Friday 11:30 – 1:00.

Any students who still need to get their uniform clothing are reminded to get orders in since the store will not be carrying a lot of extra clothing, This includes Dri-Fit golf shirts, uniform golf shirts and ¼ zip uniform pullovers.

Swap shop clothing (slightly worn) is still available but items are going quickly.

Our shelves are beginning to fill up with new Nativity apparel, (Sweatpants, shorts, hoodies and t-shirts to name a few). **We will be opened for parent orientation on August 24th by 5:30.**

Any questions about our store, please contact Sue Eckley @ 570-640-0930.

Our certificate program will now be available Monday through Friday, 8:30am – 3:00pm in the school office. Any questions, please contact Diane Yaneck in the main office.

GREEN and GOLD Happenings!

We will again have the gift card calendar fundraiser in November. 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. If you would like to donate a \$25.00 gift card for the calendar, please send it into the office in an envelope with your name on it. Thank You.

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.

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 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.

