



Foundation for the Advancement of Catholic Schools

Providing students of all faiths an opportunity to receive an outstanding education.

The Foundation for the Advancement of Catholic Schools (FACS) hosted its **24th Annual St. Patrick's Day Breakfast** on Friday, March 15th at the Hartford Marriott Downtown. The event brought together a vibrant community of nearly 400 people who came together to celebrate and extend their unwavering support for the bright and promising students of our Catholic schools. It's always a pleasure to include our Catholic School students, as student speakers and greeters, including students from St. Paul Catholic, Northwest Catholic and East Catholic High Schools, as well as from Corpus Christi School.



Marissa P.,
Student Speaker

We were honored to have Irene O'Connor, WFSB Reporter and Anchor, grace our event as



master of ceremonies, alongside the distinguished award-winning sports writer, author and journalist, Steve Rushin, who delivered an inspiring and captivating speech. Steve's unique blend of wit and humor left a lasting impression on our guests, as he emphasized the importance of perpetuating a legacy of kindness. Steve was wonderfully entertaining and we were so appreciative to be able to welcome him back. Mayor Arunan Arulampalam came to welcome our guests from the City of Hartford and Rev. Michael Dolan and Rev. Edmund Nadolny completed our morning program with uplifting and comforting words in the opening and closing prayers. FACS is so grateful.



Marissa P., '24 East Catholic High School FACS recipient and student essayist was our student speaker. Here is an excerpt from her moving winning essay: *"From those first days, I've found myself in a better mental space. I go home happy, wake up in the mornings and get ready without dread of school. It's allowed me to be happy again. Now looking back on the past four years, I feel and see the changes I've made for myself. I have worked hard to turn every blockage that I've cleared into my fuel to keep going and be successful."* Visit our website to read the entire essay. Additional FACS recipients and student essayists from each of the three Archdiocesan high schools introduced themselves to our guests and shared a little about their goals and future aspirations. We wish them continued success in their educational journeys.



The Annual St. Patrick's Day Breakfast has provided invaluable four-year renewable scholarships to deserving students who may not otherwise have the means to access Catholic education within the Archdiocese of Hartford. FACS would like to thank all of our attendees and supporters for making this event truly an inspirational morning celebrating our Catholic school students and supporting our mission of continuing to help students attain a Catholic School education. We hope to see you next year! 🍀

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Brian A. Giantonio, Esq.

Greetings to all our FACS Friends,

We are experiencing a very active year in our Archdiocese, a major highlight being the installation of our new Archbishop, The Most Reverend Christopher J. Coyne. Archbishop Coyne has made his commitment to Catholic education and Catholic schools abundantly clear. He has expressed his hope for and intention to increase the number of Catholic schools and Catholic school students.



The Foundation for the Advancement of Catholic Schools stands steadfast in support of our new Archbishop's vision for Catholic Schools in the Archdiocese of Hartford. The FACS Board and Staff remain 100% committed to assisting children attain the extraordinary, spiritual and morality based Catholic education that molds and forms them into strong, moral and faithful children of God prepared to head out into the world as warriors for good.

Recently our Archdiocesan High Schools graduated the class of 2024. Listening to the speeches of the valedictorians made it abundantly clear just how impactful and important Catholic education is. The speakers were eminently grateful for their Catholic education, knowing they have received a solid foundation strengthened by faith upon which they can continue to grow and build their adult lives. They know they are armed with courage from God to rise above the secular temptations and pitfalls of our self-centric society. They have learned how to be selfless and act with morality and genuine concern for others.

The Foundation for the Advancement of Catholic Schools is proud of the part we have played in helping thousands of children to attain this exemplary educational experience. We continue to work diligently to make the dream of Catholic education a reality for as many children as possible. We are abundantly grateful to all of our FACS Friends who have supported our Foundation and made us a success for 41 years. We look forward to being a major participant in the plans Archbishop Coyne has for the growth of our Archdiocese as we continue to help children of all faiths and ethnic backgrounds receive the blessings of Catholic education.



Best regards,



Maybe You Invested in The Stock Market. But Did You Invest In Your Legacy?



Now may be a good time to review your estate plans, a key component to realizing your legacy.

Experts recommend a review at least every three years—sooner if you’ve experienced a life event such as becoming grandparents, retiring, or even changing jobs. Your estate plan can help protect loved ones, provide ongoing management of your affairs, minimize wealth transfer taxes, maintain your privacy, and ensure your philanthropic goals and values will live on for future generations.

If you make a gift through your estate plan to FACS, it is a simple, powerful way to provide long-lasting support and help us continue our mission of helping students for years to come.

Please contact us today to find out how we can help you invest in your legacy—and how you can help us invest in a brighter future for children.

Want to learn more? Contact us or visit our website at facshartford.plannedgiving.org



Cynthia Basil Howard

Executive Director

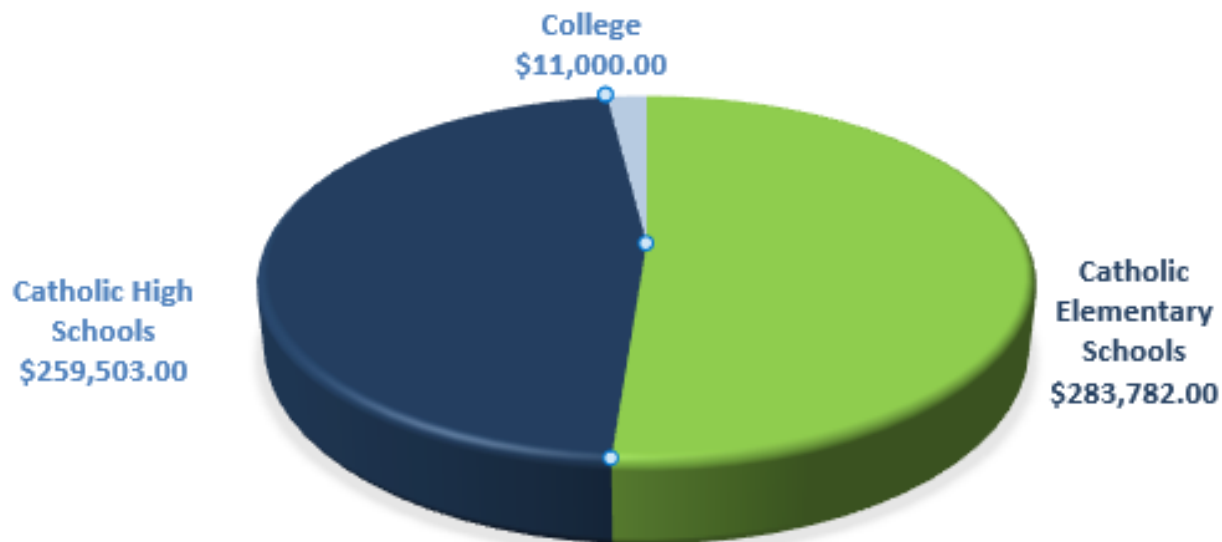
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2024-2025

FACS SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS



FACS Scholarships and Grants were awarded from the following funds:

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FACS General Fund in memory of Andrew Sullivan	Knights of Columbus Building Association of Hartford, Inc. Fund	Salvatore Robert Verrillo Fund
FACS Grant for Educators/Staff		Waterbury Fund
		Roberta and Bruce Wilson Fund

Scholarships awarded to Catholic Elementary School Students - 299

Scholarships awarded to High School Students - 69

Scholarships awarded to College - Bound Seniors—2

Scholarships - 370 Grants - on-going, to be finalized

Grand Total of Scholarship and Grant Awards: \$554,285.00



We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the generous sponsors of our **Annual St. Patrick's Day Breakfast**. The Foundation for the Advancement of Catholic Schools, Board of Trustees and staff sincerely appreciate the support towards the success of the 24th Annual event. The dedication to our Foundation is truly commendable, as it is through the kindness and generosity of individuals like you that help us make a positive impact on the lives of so many. We hope you can join us next year. Thank you again to all of our SPONSORS!

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Stellar Student Spotlight

Meet some of our current FACS high school scholars and discover their stories



Aubrey D. —East Catholic High School

What do you plan to do once you graduate from East Catholic High School?

Upon graduating from East Catholic High School, I plan on going to college and enrolling at the University of Rochester.

If attending college, what do you plan to study in college and what is your dream career after college?

At U of R, my intention is to pursue studies in either psychology or biology with a pre-med focus. Entering the medical field has long been an aspiration of mine, with my ultimate aim being to specialize in mental health and recovery as either a forensic psychiatrist or a practitioner in the field colloquially known as "shrinks."

What blessings have you received from your Catholic school education and how have those blessings helped you? Having attended Catholic school since second grade, I've been immensely fortunate to nurture both my faith and intellect. Choosing an educational institution where academics are highly esteemed was crucial to me, but the chance to cultivate my character by embracing genuine values and morals has been an invaluable experience that I deeply treasure. Every day, I'm filled with gratitude for the opportunity to attend East, as well as my previous schools, as I genuinely believe they have played a pivotal role in shaping the person I am today. These blessings are truly priceless to me.

Is there a teacher that has inspired you or helped you with your academic career? How? One educator who has been a source of inspiration throughout my academic journey is Ms. Lisa Kirsche, my English teacher. Over the years, Ms. Kirsche has not only equipped me with the necessary skills for AP exams and college applications but has also provided invaluable support both mentally and academically. Her presence radiates positivity, creating an atmosphere that is irreplaceable. Ms. Kirsche has stood by me during both joyful and challenging times, lifting me up when I was down and sharing in the excitement of achievements. Her ability to bring a smile to anyone's face is truly endearing, and I am profoundly thankful for the privilege of being her student not just once, but twice.

What will you miss most about your school? To be frank, what I'll miss most about East Catholic High School is the genuine sense of community it fosters. From the moment I stepped into freshman year, it was evident that East is a place where everyone is embraced, regardless of their differences or limitations. Now, as a senior, I can attest that this sentiment still rings true, with individuals on campus consistently supporting one another and demonstrating genuine concern toward the wellbeing of others. East stands apart from any other institution I've had the privilege of attending, and the thought of leaving evokes a sense of reluctance that's hard to shake.



Emma T. —St. Paul Catholic High School

What do you plan to do once you graduate from St. Paul Catholic High School? I am a current junior/rising senior from Saint Paul Catholic High School. Once I graduate next year I plan to attend college and receive at least a bachelor's degree and possibly master's afterwards. I plan to study within the realms of either English or art, which reflect my dream careers; ideally, I would become an author, but I am also interested in screenwriting or character design for film. Film, writing, and art have always been huge in my life, and it would be amazing to build a career in one of these fields.

What blessings have you received from your Catholic school education and how have those blessings helped you? When I chose to come to St. Paul rather than my local high school I was blessed with a loving, welcoming, close-knit community, supportive teachers, and an amazing group of friends. With these I was able to grow as a student and a person overall. My education here has also provided me with knowledge I wouldn't have otherwise through college-level courses, accelerated academics, and excellent teachers.

Is there a teacher that has inspired you or helped you with your academic career? How? There are several teachers that have inspired me here at St. Paul, including my art teacher and director of the Drama Club Mr. Mazzarella, my geometry teacher Mr. Longmore, my English teacher Mrs. Greger, and so many more. In their own individual ways, each teacher has aided me in my academic career, whether it's by providing me with countless opportunities, challenging me, or encouraging me.

What will you miss most about your school? The thing I will miss most about my time at St. Paul's is definitely the community. Because of my classes and my personal experience in the Drama Club I've created positive relationships with my teachers, fellow students, and I have been able to build an amazing group of best friends. My friends at school are an enormously important part of my life and I will forever miss them when I graduate next year. I will always remember the loving family I have found at St. Paul's, and forever identify as a Falcon flying high because of them.



Nikita A.—Northwest Catholic High School

What do you plan to do once you graduate from Northwest Catholic High School? I plan on working a lot at my summer job (I started a landscaping business) to make enough money to help pay for my college tuition as well as save for college expenses such as books and other supplies. I will be attending Bryant University this fall.

If attending college, what do you plan to study in college and what is your dream career after college? I plan on studying finance as a business major during my time at Bryant. My goal is to someday work in the corporate world after I earn my bachelor's degree.

What blessings have you received from your Catholic school education and how have those blessings helped you? Some of the blessings include the strong bonds made with many of my teachers as well as the lifelong friendships formed with some of my peers during my time at Northwest Catholic. I had the opportunity to play varsity hockey while a student here and was a captain during my senior year.

Is there a teacher that has inspired you or helped you with your academic career? How? Yes our school's Dean of Students, Mr. Fitzpatrick helped and supported both me and many other students at Northwest by always being available to listen to and support us no matter how busy he might have been or what day it was. He is a great role model.

What will you miss most about your school? I will miss my friends as well as the friendly and supportive environment. Everyone here was focused on helping me to realize my dreams and goals.

WE WISH ALL OF OUR OUTSTANDING FACS RECIPIENTS THE BEST!

FACS named CHARITY OF CHOICE by the American Italian Women of Greater New Haven



Executive Director, Cynthia Howard attended the American Italian Women of Greater New Haven luncheon on October 29, 2023 at Anthony's Ocean View where FACS was honored to be chosen as the Charity of Choice and receive this designation and generous donation. Thank you to President Calzetta and all of the members of the American Italian Women of Greater New Haven. Supporters like this allow FACS to continue its mission of helping children attend Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Hartford.

Fran Calzetta and Cynthia Basil Howard pictured.

The 12th Annual FORE FACS Golf Classic was a huge success!

The day was both enjoyable and exciting. It was inspiring to be able to bring together a community of golfers of all ages, enjoy some wonderful camaraderie and raise vital funds for our foundation. Thank you to our fantastic Golf Chair Mathew Carey, Emcee Dennis House and all of our wonderful volunteers. We were also thrilled to welcome student golfers from our Archdiocesan High Schools for the second year given the generous support from some loyal donors. The students are wonderful, respectful and polite young men and women who again proved to be exceptional golfers!

Reserve your spot today to play on Monday, August 26, 2024 for our next Annual FORE FACS Golf Classic at the TPC River Highlands.





FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, Cynthia Basil Howard

Dear Friends,

A new day has dawned! With steadfast determination and enthusiasm, it is the opportune time to celebrate as FACS moves forward with great hope, with the goal of growing our impact and amplifying children's voices for a brighter future.

We aim to support educators too. What is new this year? FACS has created an **Educator Award** in order to provide scholarship assistance to a Catholic school educator and/or staff member who has children attending a Catholic school. Both educators and ancillary staff provide enormous support to children with sincere illustrations of kindness and selflessness, so the children are not only being taught by traditional methods, but by example as well. It is the first time in our history that we have awarded this scholarship. Why? We began to think of the hundreds of educators who work as their vocation, rather than having just a "job." Daily, they help to make a better life for another's child. Yet in many cases, school personnel can use the assistance too. FACS stood up and announced this new award for the upcoming 2024-2025 academic year and we have received many applications. I am proud of the proactive and caring ways FACS continues to help those in our community.

I am often asked if I know that our scholarships truly make a difference. The proof is evident to me every day.

Since the doors of FACS opened, our students have gained great insight into their lives due to the power of knowledge. I recently heard from one of our recipients who has graduated from High School. She said:

"I am so excited to attend Boston College in the fall to pursue a major in mathematics and a minor in music... I am so excited to spend my college career at such an excellent school! Thank you for your constant support and I look forward to keeping in touch with you and your team!...Thank you again for this amazing award!"

Our FACS team is always working hard to acquire new scholarship funds to help children because we know that the future is in the hands of the next generation. An investment in children's education does more than provide skills, it empowers youth, won't you join us? Even a small gift makes a huge difference. I look forward to speaking with you soon. Thank you.

Best regards, *Cynthia Basil Howard*



CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2024!

Your achievements at East Catholic High School, St. Paul Catholic High School and Northwest Catholic High School have paved the way for a bright future ahead.





See where the Archdiocesan high school graduates are headed!

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Binghamton University
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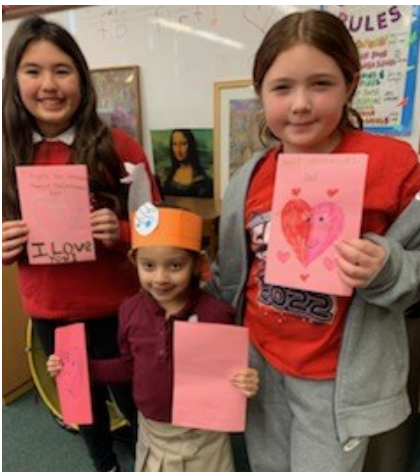


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Ms. Annalisa Jean Zinn



This list includes donations and in-kind support made between 7-1-2023 and 6-30-2024. We hope to be able to add YOUR name to next year's HONOR ROLL list. Look for our Annual Fund letter which will be sent in late fall: **Investing in Futures - FACS Fund 2024!**

The following are excerpts from essays written by high school student scholarship recipients to FACS.

"Attending my Catholic high school has been a great experience and influence for me. It introduced me to positive teachers and new learning experiences. What makes these experiences unique is the faith everyone shares; it brings the community together. The education provided here also academically challenges me and pushes me to greater heights" *Marco*

"This scholarship has given me the opportunity to attend my Catholic high school. My school has given me the opportunity to thrive and succeed thanks to my wonderful teachers, classmates and classes. I have made amazing friends who truly care about me and have established great relationships with my wonderful teachers. My school has such a welcoming atmosphere, due to our core values of faith, character, community, excellence and service." *Makayla*

I grew up with my brother and mom. My dad passed away suddenly when I was six which changed my life. I don't have family in Connecticut, so I don't have a male role figure in my life. So, Jesus Christ has been my role model. Teaching me how to act and how to treat others and navigate a world where being Christian is often ridiculed. I love my family and my mom works a lot, but without FACS, I probably would not be able to go to my Catholic high school. I love my school and my experience has been amazing." *Jordan*

"As a student always striving to achieve greater than what I had done in the past, being able to attend my school with the help of this scholarship has truly enhanced my high school experience. Catholic education can not only provide me with accelerated academics, but also a community that I can base my faith from. The family I have built for myself at my school could only be possible with the FACS program and their scholarships, and for that I am forever grateful." *Emma*



Please consider FACS in your charitable giving.

Mail a check to: FACS
92 Hopmeadow Street
Weatogue, CT 06089

Visit us online at: www.facshartford.org

Call our office: 860-325-5096



Make a gift from an IRA

As of 2024, donors who are at least 73 years old can consider making a qualified charitable distribution to FACS from a qualified IRA. The gift can be counted toward an RMD/required minimum distribution, though it is not tax-deductible and it will not be counted as income.

Talk to us and talk to your accountant.

Provide on-going help for our students! Make it possible for a child to attend a Catholic elementary or high school by providing support through a reliable, steady stream of income.

Become a FACS friend today and join our MONTHLY DONORS at www.facshartford.org.

A note from grateful parents...

We thank you very much from our hearts for your great financial support, which will help our daughters to continue their education at their Catholic elementary school without uncertainty. This aid is helping our daughters to grow better cognitively and emotionally in a healthy Catholic faith based school environment. Our older daughter wants to be a bio-chemical engineer and our younger daughter wants to be a doctor. We hope both will get the foundation from this school for their future goal. Your support will help us as parents to let them continue in the path of their dreams. We appreciate your kind support so much, and thank you on behalf of our children.

Working together and making a difference.



**Foundation for the Advancement
of Catholic Schools**

92 Hopmeadow Street
Weatogue, CT 06089



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13th Annual FORE FACS Golf Classic and Dinner
is a premier event that promises a day filled with
excitement and camaraderie. Get ready to tee off and
enjoy a day of golfing in a beautiful setting, surrounded by
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