



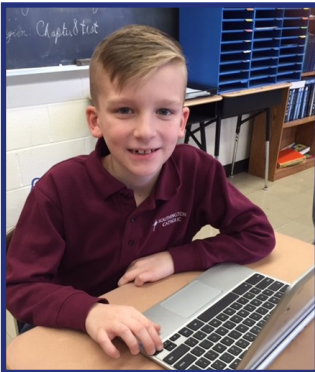
Foundation for the Advancement of Catholic Schools

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

This has been a year of not only transition but of opportunity. For over 39 years, the Foundation for the Advancement of Catholic Schools has been working to support our Catholic school students in the Archdiocese of Hartford and that continues to be our driving force. We want to ensure that all families who are interested in sending their children to Catholic schools have that opportunity. Financial need should not be a barrier to a Catholic education and that is where FACS comes in. Catholic schools change lives. They educate the whole child and provide children with a steadfast foundation to grow and learn, freely and safely.



FACS has been doing the same work in the Archdiocese of Hartford for almost *four decades* and our commitment is stronger than ever. All students deserve an opportunity for educational excellence and we are here to support them. The need is continuously escalating. This academic year, FACS awarded \$644,207.00 in scholarships to 397 students. Over 1,200 students applied for a FACS scholarship this year. Determining who received each scholarship award was a very difficult decision for our Distribution Committee because the need is so great. Our goal is to increase the number of awarded students every year so that we can help more families.



This issue highlights FACS recipients from each Archdiocesan High School. They share the blessings they have received from attending their Catholic high school as well as their future plans. We hope you enjoy reading the interviews of these amazing students who certainly have bright futures.

We are extremely grateful to highlight our loyal donors who give to FACS annually including those who believe in us so strongly that they invested in our non-event fundraiser this year.

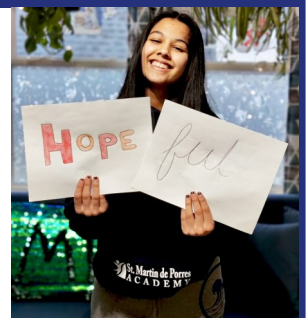
With your help, we can touch more lives. Without you, none of this would be possible. We are ready to meet the challenge and **together we WILL make a difference!** Thank you for your loyal support and trust in FACS.

We invite you to join us at our upcoming events!

The **Annual FORE FACS Golf Classic** will be held on Monday, August 29th at the TPC River Highlands in Cromwell. Sponsorships at all levels are still available. Net proceeds from this fundraiser support FACS as we carry out our mission.



Stay tuned for more information about our **Annual St. Patrick's Day Breakfast**. We couldn't be more excited to celebrate our Catholic school students in-person once again in 2023.



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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Brian A. Giantonio, Esq.

Dear FACS Friends,

Our commitment to the Catholic School children and the families we serve remains our top priority and our goal is to continue with our mission in the most steadfast way. FACS is strong - FACS is resilient - FACS is determined, and we are proud of our successes!

I have said recently that I have worked with and managed teams all across this nation. I am humbled to be associated with such an outstanding Board of Trustees and committed staff at this Foundation. Our Trustees take their fiduciary duties quite seriously and I remain impressed by their commitment to the children we serve.

We could not be more proud of the tremendous work going on in the schools today. You may be interested to know that all of the schools have been accredited by NEASC, the New England Association of Schools and Colleges. Catholic high school students consistently outperform their peers nationally and statewide on all sections of the SAT. Catholic elementary students display steady growth on the IOWA assessment tests and regularly score above grade level- exceeding national scores.

In today's world of uncertainty that we see on the news every day, one thing that is certain is the tremendous work going on in Catholic schools. I invite you to visit a school and see this first- hand. You may contact a school directly, or you can contact our Executive Director and she will arrange a visit.

We hope you are staying strong in this unprecedented time of challenge. You can be assured that an organization like FACS maintains the highest standards and our word to our donors is our bond.

Sincerely,



WE HAVE MOVED

Our new location is:

*Foundation for the Advancement
of Catholic Schools
92 Hopmeadow Street
Weatogue, CT 06089*

Consider a gift that costs nothing in your lifetime.

This is a meaningful decision you should not forget to make!

If you've ever opened a bank account, set up a retirement plan, or taken out an insurance policy, you may have completed a form to say who will inherit the money in those accounts someday. Then again, the customer service representative may have forgotten to mention it. However this opportunity is too good to miss! It's a simple process, completed right on the spot, and it keeps your money out of probate; no hassle for your heirs, no extra expenses tacked onto your estate. There's no limit to the amount you can leave someday. *And in addition to individuals, you can name a charity like FACS!*

As you decide who will inherit your estate, will you please consider including FACS along with your loved ones? It's a very simple, yet powerful way to provide long-lasting future support of our mission. Additionally, you may save your heirs up to 65% tax on your retirement assets!

All it takes is a simple signature.

It's your money, and you deserve the right to say what happens to it.

Here are more simple ways to leave your mark on the future:

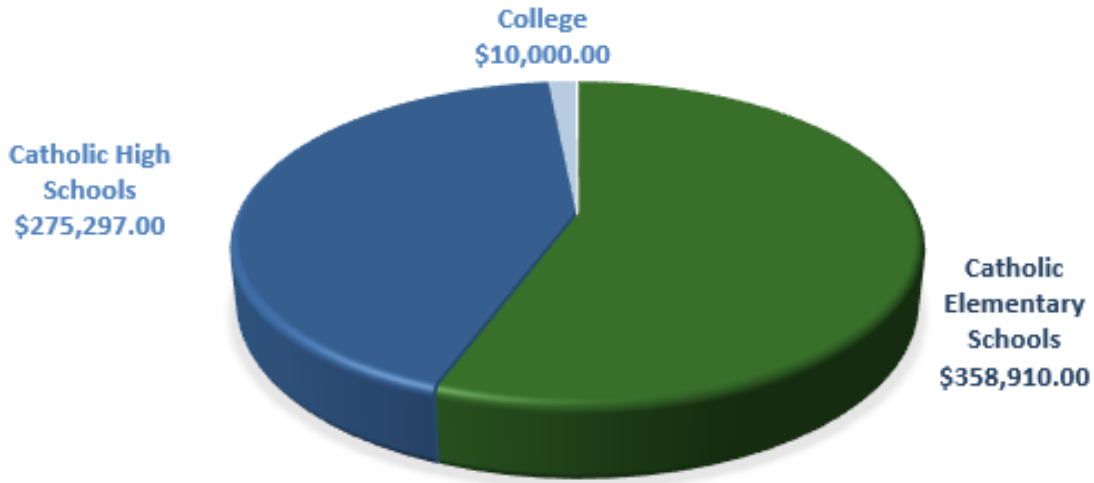
- ⇒ Make a gift through your will or trust
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Interested? For more information about this and other planned giving opportunities, visit: www.facshartford.plannedgiving.org or contact Cynthia Basil Howard at 860-325-5096.

2022-2023

FACS SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS
\$644,207.00



FACS Scholarships and Grants were awarded from the following funds:

Archbishop's Fund Elementary and High School	Hartford Endowed Fund	Pope John Paul II Fund
Bank of America Fund	Hartford Hope Fund	Albert Prill, Jr. and Mary R. Prill Fund
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Greater Hartford Elementary Schools Fund	Leslie Jayne Meoni Fund	Roberta and Bruce Wilson Fund

Scholarships awarded to Catholic Elementary School Students - 313

Scholarships awarded to High School Students - 82

Scholarships awarded to College - Bound Seniors - 2

Scholarships - 397 Grants - on-going, to be finalized

Grand Total of Scholarship and Grant Awards: \$644,207.00

FACS HOSTS ANNUAL ST. PATRICK'S DAY BREAKFAST NON EVENT FUNDRAISER

Even though we weren't able to gather together and celebrate our Catholic school students in-person on St. Patrick's Day due to Covid concerns, we are now able to celebrate the many students that will benefit greatly from your generosity. Thank you to our dear friends for your support. Thank you for showing your commitment to children and thank you for your belief in and trust in us. We continue to work hard for the Catholic school children in the Archdiocese of Hartford everyday. We are looking forward to gathering and connecting in-person next year for St. Patrick's Day! Watch for updates regarding this festive event. It will surely be a special morning celebrating our Catholic school students.



A big thank you to the following Sponsors!

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Stellar Student Spotlight

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



Teresa S. Class of 2023– St. Paul Catholic High School

What do you plan to do once you graduate from St. Paul Catholic High School? After High School I plan on attending college to further my education in a more specific field.

If attending college, what do you plan to study in college and what is your dream career after college? I plan on attending college and studying Food Science. I would like to minor in sustainability and work for finding more sustainable food practices.

What blessings have you received from your Catholic school education and how have those blessings helped you? From my Catholic education, I have had a chance to work with many inspiring teachers for which I am very grateful .

Is there a teacher that has inspired you or helped you with your academic career? How? One of my favorite teachers, from middle school, was able to teach me the value of persisting through a problem no matter how daunting. I've been able to apply this lesson both in and outside the classroom.

What will you miss most about your school? I will miss the close bonds that I have formed with my friends the most.

St. Paul Catholic High School has provided so much! What a great school.

Ann T. Class of 2022 -Northwest Catholic High School



What do you plan to do once you graduate from Northwest Catholic High School? Once I've graduated from high school, I plan to move from Hartford to Boston for my school, Massachusetts College of Art and Design (MassArt). I'm pursuing a bachelor's degree in Fine Arts, and possibly following up with a Master's degree.

If attending college, what do you plan to study in college and what is your dream career after college? I am majoring in Painting, studying fine arts in general, hoping to explore different media and try new things. Though I'm not sure what I want to do just yet, I want to go into the art side of show production; whether that be live theater scenic painting and design or creatively designing films, I love being behind the scenes and working the with the details of entertainment.

What blessings have you received from your Catholic school education and how have those blessings helped you? Catholic school has granted me the opportunity to discover my love for the arts and show production in the first place. With skilled and attentive arts and academic teachers as my guide, I realized how much I loved art and English and the two subjects combined: theater. My school, Northwest Catholic provided materials and staff to help hone my hobby into a more developed skill, to the extent that I was the Set Designer and Painting Director for the school musical in my senior year.

Is there a teacher that has inspired you or helped you with your academic career? How? I owe my artistic and academic skills to my art teacher Mrs. Marquis-Kelly, my English teacher Ms. Keating-McKeon, and my theater director, Mr. Marchitto. Mrs. Marquis-Kelly gave thoughtful critique for each work I made throughout my high school career, teaching me to see art in a different light. Ms. Keating-McKeon taught me to be detail-oriented and developed my writing skills, which I now use to write about my art analytically and expressively. Lastly, Mr. Marchitto gave me the opportunity to be the Set Designer and guided me through a new kind of art that I was unfamiliar with before.

What will you miss most about your school? Classrooms, art studios, and theaters are replaceable parts about school, but what cannot be replaced are the people I experienced high school with. Inspiring teachers and peers with similar interests made my school time worthwhile, and unforgettable. It is with these people that I have learned valuable life lessons and found what I love doing most, which I decided to base my career on.



Lindsey and Luke W. Class of 2022—East Catholic High School

Lindsey

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

After I graduate, I plan to work as much as possible. I also plan to take the summer to relax and recuperate to get ready for college.

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

In the fall I will be attending the Hartt School at the University of Hartford. I am double majoring in flute performance and music education. My dream career is to perform as a musician in the pit

orchestras for famous musicals as well as playing in the soundtracks for films. I also would love to teach music to people who desire to learn.

What blessings have you received from your Catholic school education and how have those blessings helped you? I have received many blessings during my time at East. The financial aid that I have been awarded has helped me to be able to receive a high-quality education that inspired me to pursue music as a career. The encouragement from the special teachers at East has also been such a blessing and I can honestly say that I would not be where I am today without them.

Is there a teacher that has inspired you or helped you with your academic career? How? I have had so many teachers that made an impact on my life, but just to name a few, Mr. Brudz and Mrs. Grzybowski have especially inspired and helped me. Mr. Brudz, being the head of the music department at East, has known me all throughout my high school career. He has helped me to grow into the musician I am today and with his mentorship he has taught me so much about the subject. We have had many deep conversations about the meaning of music and how important it is to appreciate music in all its glory, and with those conversations I feel that I have learned to truly appreciate music. Not to mention the unwavering encouragement and support I have received from him. From the times when I have tried and failed, to other times when I have succeeded, Mr. Brudz believed in and supported me through it all. Mrs. Grzybowski, my history teacher and advisor, has also been a very important part of my high school life. I firmly believe that personal connections made with teachers significantly improves one's learning experience. For me with Mrs. Grzybowski, I was able to talk to her when things weren't working out and she was always willing to help me through anything. I learned a lot of valuable life lessons with Mrs. Grzybowski and she will always be someone who I fondly remember as a mentor.

What will you miss most about your school? I am definitely going to miss the sense of community that East Catholic is made up of, and I am also going to miss the teachers caring so deeply about the well-being of their students.



Luke and Lindsey W. pictured with their siblings, who are ECHS alumni and FACS recipients

Luke

What do you plan to do once you graduate from East Catholic High School? I will be attending Southern Maine Community College in the fall of 2022

If attending college, what do you plan to study in college and what is your dream career after college? I plan to major in Architectural and Engineering Design, and I would like to excel in the world of engineering after college, whatever the focus of engineering it may be.

What blessings have you received from your Catholic school education and how have those blessings helped you? There have been many blessings that I have received during my time at East, but one of the biggest ones I believe was always having a great teacher, no matter the subject and no matter what year I had them. They were always super helpful with any troubles I may have had and supportive through all my ups and downs. The blessing of the small environment of a catholic school helped to form relationships with my peers, and every one of my teachers that I had during my 4 years.

Is there a teacher that has inspired you or helped you with your academic career? How? As I previously said, all of the teachers were great over the course of my high school years. That being said, the teacher that inspired me most was definitely Mr. Urbanski or as people better know him, Urbj. Not only was he a great teacher from whose religion classes I learned lots from, but he was always so kind to everyone. He was incredibly supportive for anyone at all that needed him, even if he had no idea who you were and just happened to overhear something and wanted to help out. I believe I can actually say I never, ever, saw him in a bad mood. He always would ask about your day and would take time to have a conversation with you, ask you about certain things you mentioned days before that, or as for myself he would always ask the outcomes of my sports games. It was just the little things that he did that inspired me to be more like him: kind, caring, and always finding the best in everything and everyone.

What will you miss most about your school? I will definitely miss the small and friendly environment that East Catholic held. After all, there aren't many opportunities to have a small environment like that after high school, whether it be the college one goes to or the job one gets later in life, it's hard to get something like that again. It was great because everyone knew everyone- teachers, peers, even administrators. To sum it up, I will miss East Catholic's welcoming environment the most.

Below is an excerpt from an e-mail we received from an Elementary School Principal. It was sent to the staff at FACS, but without you, we wouldn't be able to have an impact on so many lives. You truly make a difference.



We are so grateful for ALL that you and the entire FACS Board and Team have done for our students. In these tumultuous times, FACS Scholarships are a beacon of hope for our families. So many are still trying to recover from the impact of the pandemic and they face tremendous struggles every day. They are doing their best to give their children the gift of Catholic education, knowing how transformative that can be. We value our partnership with you and truly can't thank you enough.



FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, Cynthia Basil Howard

Good Day,

Our Foundation has an incredible mission. It is simply to help children grow to be the best they can be through fostering an education intermingled with respect, leadership, citizenship, curiosity, and social justice, all with a tradition of excellence.

I want to congratulate our amazing leadership and our dedicated, competent staff. I would like to personally thank all of our FACS friends who have reached out to us over the past year with encouraging words of inspiration. I have been incredibly moved by the broad and enthusiastic support we have received from our loyal donor base and FACS advocates.

It is important to know that FACS works closely with the schools – we have a true collaboration for the good of the children. I want to recognize the administration, the educators and all staff at Catholic schools who truly make a difference in these students lives; how fortunate and proud we are to raise funds to help children attend these outstanding spiritual schools.

A major component in FACS’ success is YOU, our donors. **WE NEED YOU TO CONTINUE TO WALK THIS ROAD WITH US.** When you support FACS, you are helping to give a gift which will open a door to a child’s future and you are leaving a lasting legacy. There is no better investment. The impact is significant.

We recently received another poignant thank you letter from a parent. It moved me once again with its heartfelt, genuine words of gratitude. The father thanked us for giving his son a scholarship because without that scholarship, he would not be able to afford his son’s tuition. He desperately wanted his son to have this education and the Dad’s emotion was evident in his words to us. Each time we receive a sincere note like this, and when we read the applications that are submitted to FACS, we get a peek into the lives of families who are struggling and pleading for help. And the students we hear from are amazing human beings. As I mentioned, the mission is *simple* - we are in the business of helping human beings grow successfully and experience a fulfillment of life. I remain honored to do this work with our FACS team.

St. Theresa’s Prayer has been framed in my office since my early days at FACS nearly 15 years ago, I look at it often and I leave you with these words today as we embark on the road ahead.

Thank you dear friends.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Basil Howard



St. Theresa’s Prayer

May today there be peace within. May you trust that you are exactly where you are meant to be. May you not forget the infinite possibilities that are born of faith in yourself and others. May you use the gifts that you have received, and pass on the love that has been given to you. May you be content with yourself just the way you are. Let this knowledge settle into your bones, and allow your soul the freedom to sing, dance, praise and love. It is there for each and every one of us.

CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2022!





See where the Archdiocesan high school graduates are headed!

The University of Alabama	High Point University	Ohio University
Albertus Magnus College	Hillsdale College	The Ohio State University
American International College	Hofstra University	University of Oklahoma
University of Arizona	College of the Holy Cross	Palm Beach Atlantic University
Assumption University	Howard University	Pennsylvania State University
Boston College	Hudson Valley Comm. College	Plymouth State University
Boston University	Indiana University—Bloomington	Porter and Chester Institute
Bridgton Academy	International Institute of Cosmetology	Post University
Brown University	Iona College	Providence College
Bryant University	Ithaca College	Purdue University
Bucknell University	Johnson & Wales University	Quinnipiac University
University of California	Keene State College	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Central CT State University	Lafayette College	University of Rhode Island
Citadel Military College of SC	Lake Forest College	University of Richmond
Clark University	Liberty University	Rider University
Clemson University	Lipscomb University	Rochester Institute of Technology
Colby-Sawyer College	Loyola University Maryland	Roger Williams University
Colgate University	University of Maine	Rutgers University
University of Connecticut	University of Maryland	Sacred Heart University
Curry College	Manchester Community College	Saint Anselm College
Dean College	Manhattan College	University of Saint Joseph
DePaul University	Marist College	Salve Regina University
East Stroudsburg Univ. of PA	Massachusetts College of Art & Design	Skidmore College
Eastern Connecticut State Univ.	Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Services	Southern CT State University
Eastern Nazarene College	Massachusetts Institute of Technology	Southern Maine Community College
Eckerd College	Marist College	Stevenson University
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This list includes donations and in-kind support made between 7-1-2021 and 6-30-2022. 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 2022!**



We have received many letters from FACS scholarship recipients and we are so incredibly moved by their dreams, aspirations and willingness to pay it forward. Here are a few of their stories that we are so happy to share with you. Their futures are certainly very bright!

Words can not express how thankful I am for the gratitude shown to me by the actions you have taken to cover a large extent of my high school tuition despite not knowing who I am or what my family has gone through. Your actions have allowed me to finish my senior year at the same school I started my high school education. Giving me the opportunity to work with the same guidance counselor and hopefully be the fourth person in my family to continue my education onto a college level. My intentions for the future are to go to college and major in aeronautical engineering while minoring in business and psychology. For in the future, I would love to work for a big corporation but eventually make enough money where I could start my own business that focuses on inventions that will change peoples daily lives. For I believe my Catholic education has taught me that our failures as humanity stem from us only looking to benefit ourselves and not each other. The education has taught me to just sit and open my ears. I hope you will know that your generosity has done more than just pay for someone's tuition but also helped fund a future, a future that hopes to benefit not just you but the whole world.

Forever Grateful, T.

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to be named a FACS scholarship recipient this year. I am excited to tell you that I plan on attending Vassar College in New York in the fall. I intend on majoring in neuroscience and continuing my squash career on their team. I want to thank you again for helping pave my path to college.

Best, A.

Thank you very much for choosing me to receive your scholarship. I am beyond grateful to have this opportunity to better my education. One day, I hope to pay it forward to students in need in the future. Thank you once again!

Sincerely, L.

**With much gratitude, we thank you.
Please consider FACS in your charitable giving.**

Mail a check to: FACS
92 Hopmeadow Street
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Visit us online at: www.facshartford.org

Call our office: 860-325-5096



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Donors who are at least 70.5 years old can make a qualified charitable distribution to FACS from a qualified IRA. The gift can be counted towards a minimum distribution, though it is not tax-deductible and cannot be counted as income.

Reach out to Cynthia Basil Howard, Executive Director, at 860-325-5096 for more information. Consult your tax advisor for advice.

Congratulations FACS scholarship recipients!



So grateful for our Partnership!



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