

Nativity Academy at St. Boniface is an independent, Catholic middle school that provides a foundation for a life without limits.

## Strategic Plan Promotes Mission and Vision of Nativity Academy



Amy Olson  
Executive Director

Dear Friends of Nativity Academy,

This is an exciting time for Nativity Academy at St. Boniface. On August 1, 2023, the board of directors took part in a one-day retreat as the inception meeting of the strategic planning process. The strategic planning committee comprised of Maria Gurren, Jonathan Hughes, Peter Klein, Tim

Rutledge, Chip Summers, Roni Witherspoon, and I spent the next seven months working with Al Cornish and Jeff Peden, Closing the Gap Consulting, LLC, to create the plan. I am grateful for the stakeholders who made this work possible. The Nativity Academy Board of Directors approved the plan on February 27, 2024. Alongside the strategic plan, new mission and vision statements were crafted.

**Mission statement:** Nativity Academy at St. Boniface is an independent, Catholic middle school that provides a foundation for a life without limits.

**Vision:** Through Catholic education we enrich and empower the mind, body, and spirit of students through middle school, high school, and beyond.

The three-year strategic plan priorities include six areas of focus: **Student Recruitment, Marketing, Financial Plan, Facility Plan, Academic Excellence, and Human Resources.**

**Values:** "SOAR" Strive/Overcome/ Achieve/Respect

*"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."*

—Jeremiah 29:11

Together we SOAR!

With gratitude,

*Amy Olson*

Amy Olson  
Executive Director



## Principal's Letter



Roni Witherspoon

Greetings!

Our students have grown in their faith and academics this school year. Specifically, we have seen substantial growth in students' reading scores. We continuously work as a team to provide an atmosphere conducive to growth and success in the classroom and beyond. I am excited and highly

optimistic about our future as we finish this school year. Our best days are ahead of us, and we are on an excellent trajectory for excellence.

I want to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of our students, staff, and faculty and thank our families for their partnership. Our community and school culture is strong, positive, and thriving.

Our school Improvement Plan for the 2024-2025 school year includes the following: Catholic Identity, Operational Vitality, Governance, and Leadership. The plan will ensure continuous improvement in these core areas and strengthen our Catholic school Identity. Next year's plan emphasizes academic excellence and aims to improve academic performance. It will include goals and measurements to address our most critical needs. We have hired an instructional coach, Andrea Peavler. She and I will support teachers in strengthening and differentiating instruction. We aim to help students exceed their academic goals, thus preparing them for high school and beyond.

As a Catholic school, we have the privilege and blessing of sharing in God's work of advancing our students, helping them see their value, elevating their confidence, building their hope through faith, and building their capacity to see beyond the right now.

Thank you for supporting Nativity Academy St. Boniface; you help us advance our students.

With love, peace, and gratitude!

*Roni Witherspoon*

Roni Witherspoon, Principal

give { **The power and promise of a private faith-based education.**

## Wish List

As we continue to transform the lives of our students and provide a quality education, these items will enhance the learning experiences of our students.

● School Laminator	\$2,500
● New Graduation Caps & Gowns	\$1,000
● Stackable Washer & Dryer	\$1,500
● Commercial Toaster	\$400
● Commercial Food Processor	\$600

If you are interested in donating any of these items, please contact Jeri Johnson, Advancement Coordinator  
502.855.3316



## Nativity Donor Spotlight

**We've supported Nativity Academy for over 20 years.**



*Having served on the Finance Committee and as Board Chair, I can say that the money donated has been carefully and responsibly spent. My wife and I have watched the students mature each year, become academically successful and grow into confident and responsible adults.*

- Dave & Jill Mueller

## What is the Student Sponsorship Program?

Nativity Academy's student sponsorship program is the school's largest source of income. The scholarship program provides financial support from individuals – or groups of individuals. Scholarships fund a significant portion of the direct costs associated with educating Nativity Academy students. This funding assists in meeting the student's annual direct curriculum expenses, the extended enrichment program, summer session activities, and graduate support for Nativity Academy alumni.

## Sponsor a Student!

Nativity Academy is the only non-tuition, Catholic middle school in the Louisville area, serving girls and boys in grades 6-8. The administration, faculty and staff dedicate themselves to transforming the lives of low-income students through strong academics, coupled with a sense of spirituality, morality, and personal responsibility.

### Sponsor a Student ...

An individual sponsor donates \$10,000 to provide a scholarship for one student at Nativity Academy.

### Join a Sponsorship Group...

Groups comprised of friends, associates or extended family members contribute toward a co-sponsorship of \$5,000 or full sponsorship of \$10,000.

**Nativity Academy is currently accepting Scholarship Donations for the 2025-26 school year.**

**For more information please contact:**

**Jeri Johnson | Advancement Coordinator**

**502-855-3316**

**[jjohnson@nativityacademy.org](mailto:jjohnson@nativityacademy.org)**





## Congratulations Nativity Class of 2024



### The Nativity Eagle Award Presented to: Angelique Redd

Angelique encompasses the values of Nativity Academy – determination, community, vision, inspiration, judgement, and commitment. She models respect for adults and fellow students; shows compassion to others and graciously accepts requests to do something and gets it done.

She shows commitment to academic success.



**Congratulations,  
Angelique  
on receiving  
the 2024 Eagle Award.**

*Those who trust in the Lord will renew their strength.  
They will soar high on wings like eagles.  
They will run and not grow weary.  
They will walk and not faint.*

*- Isaiah 40:31*

## 2024 Scholarship Awards

### Lisa Brents Memorial Scholarship



Devin Whitlow

### Sr. Paula Kleine-Kracht Scholarship



Angelique Redd



Stella Seay



Jermel Sutton

### Graduate Support Program Scholarship (\$500 not renewable at this time)



Legacy Silver

### Walsh Skelly Scholarship



Jermaine Prince

### Erin Faulkner Memorial Scholarship



Na'Riahe Cunningham

### Mitchell Klausung Scholarship



Aryana Barlow

### Father Bill Fichteman Scholarship



Nicole Muzomwe



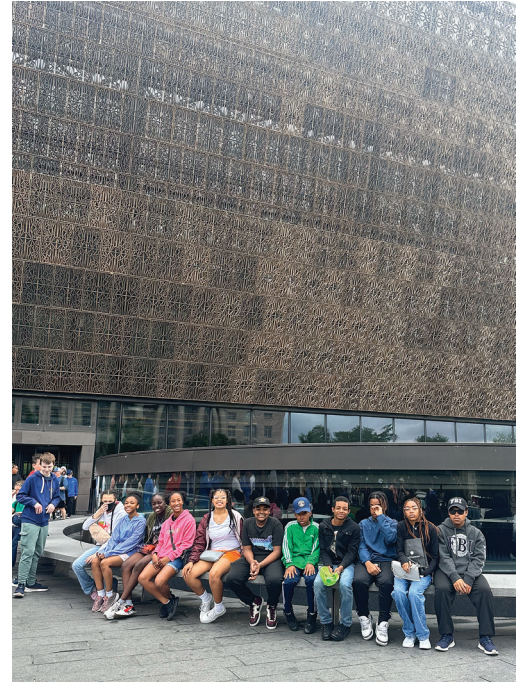
## Annual 8th-Grade Trip to Washington DC



Nativity students enjoying a ride on the Washington Metro



Eighth-grade students gather at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial



Students seated outside the National Museum of African American History.

In mid-May, Nativity Academy eighth-grade students and their faculty chaperones travelled to Washington DC. They visited the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial *Stone of Hope* statue and toured the National Museum of African American History and Culture, a Smithsonian Institution museum on the National Mall. Students also toured the Lincoln Memorial, the US Capitol Building and viewed the White House.

## STEM Education Program Empowers and Inspires



STEM education has flourished at Nativity. Maker technology education expanded particularly in the realm of 3D printing skills.

During the fall semester, all students engaged in projects that blended creativity with technical expertise. First, they mastered the fundamentals of 3D modeling software using the TinkerCAD design platform. Then they submitted projects to Mr. Lindsey and gained hands-on experience fully operating the 3D printer.

Participants moved from basic design principles to mastering intricate designs applying mathematical concepts to create their printed models. They developed improved problem-solving abilities and enthusiasm for professional STEM fields like engineering, architecture, construction, medicine (3D printed organs), and confectionary arts (candy making).

Our STEM education partner BrainSTEM University served us in the classroom and the makerspace. BrainSTEM works with numerous nonprofits and schools across Louisville, helping youth in underserved areas access quality STEM



education designed to improve their grades, submit homework assignments on time, and inspire them through STEAM projects.

In the spring semester, 6th graders and selected 7th graders took a 4-week Entrepreneurship and Technology course. The course is designed for middle and high school students teaching them the technical skills necessary to monetize their talents. Students learned Canva, a graphic design software package, creating professional-looking logos marketing imaginary businesses. Logos were added to a virtual mall in the metaverse, and students

used virtual goggles to visit one another's stores. The course empowered students to think creatively, take risks, and develop the skills necessary to succeed in the tech-driven economy. They gained valuable skills that can be used to start their own businesses or to pursue a career in a related field.

The 2023-24 school year demonstrated the profound impact of makerspace education fostering future-ready skills. We look forward to expanding the program with more courses and technologies.



# PwC Relmagine Grant Allows Nativity Graduates to Make College Visits and Imagine Their Futures



Through the Relmagine Grant from PricewaterhouseCoopers, Nativity's Graduate Support Program orchestrated two days of college tours and enriching activities for rising high school juniors and seniors.

Down the road in Bowling Green, KY, students explored Western Kentucky University followed by visits to Vanderbilt University and Fisk University in Nashville, TN.

***"Exploring colleges gives them the opportunity to explore the college's life and culture, meet new people, make connections and gain insight on the steps towards their career goals and success,"*** explained Chareka Johnson, mother of rising junior Carter Smith. "I am so grateful to be a part of Nativity! You all stay involved with the graduates and support them so much. I can't thank you all enough for being a part of my village and the opportunities you all present."

Rising junior Touréa Jones also expressed her appreciation. ***"The college trip was a great way for me to branch out and see options that are near to me. I'm very thankful for the opportunity!"***



rekindled friendships and expanded horizons. Imagine that!

The Nativity Academy family of staff, mentors, and volunteers support our graduates throughout both high school, into post-secondary education and beyond... building competencies inside the academic arena and within their communities.



***Visiting different colleges and different cities gives teens an opportunity to explore something new in a different environment and a way to explore opportunities in a different living setting.***

- GSP Student



## Nativity Academy congratulates our 2024 high school graduates

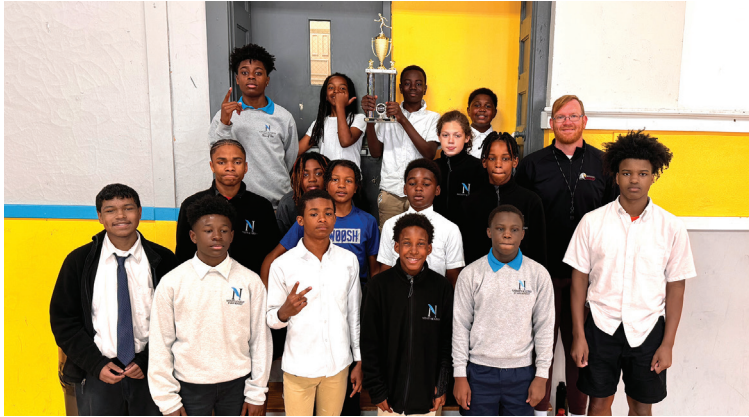
Nativity high school graduates are planning to attend...

Campbellsville University  
Centre College  
Clark Atlanta University  
JCTC  
St. Thomas Moore University  
University of Kentucky  
University of Louisville  
Western Kentucky University



## Nativity Track Team - Successful Second Season

The Nativity Academy Track team was back for their second season and *off to the races* from the start. Our 27 members this season had various levels of experience. We were able to compete in five different team meets this year with many athletes recording personal bests leading up to the CSAA championships. At the City Championship Meet our 7th/8th grade boys team placed 3rd Place, our 7th/8th girls placed 4th place, our 5th/6th boys placed 5th place – with only 4 boys competing in that division.



In addition to team success, many of our athletes placed within the top eight of their events earning individual awards.

These athletes are as follows:

### Boys

- 7th Grader **Derez Grider** placed 4th in the 100m dash, 6th in the 200m dash, 4th in the High Jump and 2nd in the 4x100 relay
- 7th Grader **Justin Mohammed** placed 8th in the 100m dash, and 2nd in the 4x100 relay
- 7th Grader **Calvin Guy** placed 7th in both the 200m dash, 7th in the 400m, and 2nd in the 4x100 relay
- 8th Grader **Alex Stafford** placed 2nd in the 4x100 relay
- 8th Grader **Devin Whitlow** placed 7th in the 800m run
- 8th Grader **Jermel Sutton** placed 5th in the 55m hurdles
- 6th Grader **Antonio Simms** placed 3rd in the 100m dash, 2nd in the 55m hurdles and 2nd in the High Jump
- 6th Grader **Antwan Lovelace** placed 2nd in the 400m and 4th in the 800m runs
- 6th Grader **Guy Elliot** placed 5th in the Shot Put



### Girls

- 8th Grader **Angelique Redd** placed 1st in the 100m dash, 2nd in the 400m, and 2nd in the 4x100 relay
- 8th Grader **Nicole Muzomwe** placed 4th in the 55m hurdles, 8th in the Long Jump and 2nd in the 4x100 relay
- 8th Grader **Aryana Barlow** placed 3rd in the High Jump and 2nd in the 4x100 relay
- 8th Grader **Na'Riahe Cunningham** placed 2nd in the 4x100 relay
- 6th Grader **Sasha Newby** placed 8th in the 55m hurdles.



Following up on the success of the CSAA City championships, we noticed **Angelique Redd's** time was very close to the qualifying line of the Kentucky Middle School State Championships for the 100m dash. She needed to run a 13.60 to qualify her time in the City Championships was 14.15. She had a month after the City to record that time at the meet. She continued to improve her time at every event leading up to our last meet of the season in which she recorded a 13.51 making her **our FIRST Track athlete to qualify for the State Championships!** Out of only 42 qualifiers Angelique placed 27th continuing to improve her time with a 13.48. **Look to catch her running for Sacred Heart High School next year!** We as coaches are super proud of her as well as everyone on the team who made this a very successful and fun second year of Nativity Track and Field.



### Nativity Graduate and Student in Queen's Daughters Fashion Show



(l-r) Leeala Beeler with Isabella Guadarrama Escobar modeling

Nativity Academy is grateful for the long-standing support of the Queen's Daughters. This spring, a Nativity graduate and an eighth-grade student participated as models in the Derby fashion show at the 2024 Queen's Daughters fundraiser luncheon.

Models included Nativity graduate, Leeala Beeler, a 2024 graduate of Sacred Heart Academy who will attend the University of Louisville, and eighth-grader, Isabella Guadarrama Escobar, who plans to attend SHA in the fall.





## Frank Klein MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT



Nativity Academy hosted the 1st Annual Memorial Charity Golf Tournament at Audubon Country Club on April 15, 2024, in memory of Frank Klein.

Frank was one of Nativity's original Board Members and was committed to the educational opportunities that Nativity afforded students from Louisville's urban core. Frank was involved in forming the first boys' basketball team at Nativity. He chaired the Golf Event each year. After his death in 2015,

Nativity restored their basketball floor and named and dedicated to Frank Klein.

Frank was a devoted and beloved member of the Nativity Academy community. His work continues today because of the commitment and dedication to Nativity Academy and our students.



Mark Klein, Donna Klein, Board chair Peter Klein

**On a beautiful, sunny day -  
29 teams participated.**

1st Place Winners: Mark Klein, Matt Willinger, Paul Brooks and Reiss Bright.

2nd Place Team: Troy Hanke, Jeff Clark, Timmy Clark, and Ed Burke

Shootout Winner - Bryan Sperry  
will enjoy a 1-week stay at Marco Island.



**Donate to the Frank Klein Memorial Scholarship**  
**All donated proceeds will pay for a full yearly sponsorship.**



Ack and Cissie Willets

Friends of Nativity



Horan Hiking Solutions







Nativity Academy  
at St. Boniface  
529 E. Liberty Street  
Louisville, KY 40202

...a reason for hope

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Louisville, KY  
Permit No. 513

# NATIVITY ACADEMY AUCTION

— Together We Soar —

*Save the Date:*

Friday, October 4, 2024  
The Olmsted  
3701 Frankfort Avenue

For information call Jeri Johnson: 502-855-3316

## NATIVITY ACADEMY AT ST. BONIFACE

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