

An independent Catholic middle school that transforms the lives of students who have a commitment to achievement and whose families demonstrate financial need.

## Celebrating Our Graduates and Welcoming New Students

### Principal's Letter



On May 25, we celebrated the accomplishments of the Class of 2017, with a student-parent breakfast, morning awards ceremony and evening graduation. The common refrain of our 8th graders at the end of the academic year: where did the last three years go? As our graduates prepare to begin their high school careers in August, we are preparing to welcome our 5th grade, the Class of 2021, to our summer program and welcome new and continuing 6th and 7th grade students to summer classes in preparation for acceptance for the 2017-2018 school year.

We welcome Ms. Amy Fears to our staff for this coming year. Ms. Fears brings strong IT skills to maintain our network and to assist our faculty and staff at becoming more effective with new and standard classroom technology. Special thanks to

Ms. Lauren Reynolds, a teacher we were honored to have as a part of our faculty this year. Ms. Reynolds has chosen another opportunity and will not return to Nativity. We are blessed to maintain the remainder of our teachers, all of whom have a continuing commitment to our mission and the Academy.

Our community is growing, and every day we strive to meet the academic, physical and spiritual needs of our students. We are replenished by your gifts. What we do would be impossible without you – our friends, student sponsors, donors, board members and volunteers. I cannot say thank you enough for your investments in our students and their families, and in our faculty and staff. Thank you for your commitment. We appreciate you.

Peace.

*Tom Kallay*  
Principal



### KUNA! Learning International Diplomacy

#### NA Students Bring Home "Conference Life Award"

Nativity Academy students participated in the annual Kentucky United Nations Assembly (KUNA). This 3-day experiential learning conference allowed students to participate directly in simulated international diplomacy.

KUNA offered students the opportunity to experience the richness of cultures from around the world, develop empathy, and improve their critical thinking skills, while engaging with a wide variety of perspectives and global issues.

Each delegation of 15 students selected the country or countries they chose to represent. This year Nativity students chose the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Angola.

As ambassadors emulating the culture and diverse interests of UN member countries from around the world, our students were immersed in the culture of another nation and were encouraged to re-examine the world from a new perspective. They developed solutions for international issues by writing, presenting, debating, and voting on UN Resolutions.

Students also celebrated cultural diversity by representing aspects of their country's culture and traditions with a booth in the Global Village, country signs & flags during the Parade of Nations, cultural attire from their respective nations, and cultural performances on the International Stage.

#### "Conference Life Award"

The Nativity delegation was presented the "Conference Life Award" for creating a positive environment and embodying the spirit of the Conference.

#### Program Areas

In addition to representing the cultural aspects of their countries, students also participated in one of four Program Areas: the General Assembly (Most Delegates), the Security Council (One Delegate per Country), the International Court of Justice (Limited Availability), or the Media Corps.

#### Leadership

Presiding Officers were elected and appointed by students to serve as Assembly leadership, and work with Supporting Officers to ensure that their respective Program Areas were running smoothly. All Officers were supported by YMCA professionals, advisors, alumni, and parent volunteers.

# Volunteer Highlight

## Swimming...It Does a Body Good! Making Waves!



Executive volunteer, Hank Wall, Financial Advisor at Louisville Capital Advisors of Raymond James is leading one of Nativity's first swimming classes each Monday.

Each of his sessions has two or three components of instruction. Each Nativity student is of different abilities, but for the most part, we have worked as a group.

### Lessons:

- Floating on your back
- Exhaling out your nose when underwater
- Being more efficient in the water and getting more comfortable treading water
- Streamlining and pushing off the wall underwater
- Freestyle
- Backstroke introduction

*"The last 5-10 minutes of each session is more of a free swim and the students can do whatever they would like in the water while I supervise. The guys usually play basketball, and the girls usually have handstand competitions," said Hank.*

Hank is a certified lifeguard and seasoned swim coach, Hank can't wait to return for the 2017-2018 school year.

## Presidential Award

Four Nativity Academy graduates now in high school were honored with the Ronald Reagan Student Leader Award.



Our graduates are exhibiting leadership, drive, integrity, and citizenship skills that are emblematic of our nation's 40th President.

Congratulations to our Nativity graduates:

Alainna Grant  
JaiLynn Rhodes  
Naima Martin  
Kiara Brewer-Carroll



## School Choice – Expanding Educational Options

Nativity students and faculty travelled to Frankfort in late January to show their support for School Choice. The gathering was an unprecedented demonstration of support for increasing opportunity in education throughout Kentucky.

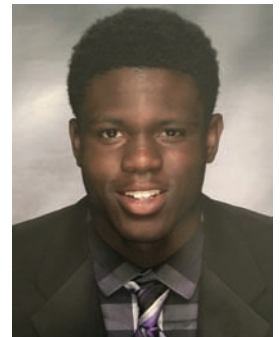
More than 500 supporters gathered on the state capitol steps for a celebration including student performances, parent and school leader testimonials, and remarks from state leaders, including Senator Ralph Alvarado and Representative John "Bam" Carney.



The goal of the event was to show broad demand for expanding school choice in Kentucky and to celebrate the great schools that already exist. The celebration coincided with National School Choice Week (January 22-28, 2017), which featured more than 21,000 events across the country. National School Choice Week brought together every type of student, parent, and educator to celebrate the opportunity that makes each way of learning possible.

## Jamil Hardaway

Nativity's own Jamil Hardaway, a sophomore at Trinity High School, has been selected to serve as part of Y-Corps, a service-learning program of the Kentucky YMCA.



As a member of Y-Corps he will be performing 50-hours of service in the community and raising money to create (4) scholarships for the YMCA's Scholarship Fund. This Fund financially supports other students who otherwise could not afford to attend YMCA Youth and Government/Leadership Development Programs.

At the end of the program, Jamil will travel with other Y-Corps Service Members throughout Kentucky performing service projects, staying at local YMCA's and learning about the communities they will be serving.

As an 8th grader at Nativity, Jamil was our first student to be elected to lead the middle-school conference as a freshmen.

Congratulations and thank-you Jamil for helping others in so many ways, taking the initiative to learn more about our great Commonwealth and becoming a leader for the future.



## "The Champ" Foundation



Students from Nativty Academy were invited by Phil Gahm to attend a University of Louisville basketball game at the YUM Center. At halftime, Jay Saling, Chairman, Senior Executive at Saling Wealth Advisors and Nativty Board member was presented a \$10,000 check on behalf of "The Champ" Foundation. But there is much more to the story.

Around 2000, Phil Gahm, co-owner of Kitchen Kompact and part of the family that founded Valhalla Golf Club, started playing basketball every Monday afternoon with kids in the after-school program at St. Boniface Church gym, now Nativty Academy's "Eagles Nest."

After awhile, looking for something more, he became a volunteer for Meals on Wheels. On his first day delivering food, he met Robert Blincoe. "I got in, I got out. I was delivering food, making myself think, 'I'm doing something good,' but I was always in a hurry," Gahm says.

One day, Blincoe told him to stop rushing and sit down. Reluctantly, Gahm complied. They started talking sports, but soon moved on to politics, church and other things. Gahm stopped rushing through his deliveries to Blincoe and instead sat in his living room – the same spot every time – talking about life.

Blincoe was a Vietnam veteran and former boxer who had trained in the same gym as Muhammed Ali. By the time Gahm met him, he was a housebound senior suffering from Agent Orange. But he never complained. Even in the last three years of his life, when Gahm visited him in the hospital, Blincoe was upbeat and positive. It's that attitude that inspired Gahm's foundation, and it's the message he gives visitors to his UofL suite at half-time:

"All you can do is handle adversity in the best manner that you can. It's called 'The Champ' Foundation because Mr. Blincoe handled adversity like a champ," Gahm says. "I tell them, here you are, in your glory in a suite watching a UofL basketball game, and then you may go back home and have something happen to you the very next day. How are you going to handle that? Because that's when you find out who you are. I didn't find that out until later in life. I'm talking to people who are getting hit early with huge problems. I feel almost like it's not me talking. It's Mr. Blincoe talking. I'm just the messenger here."

The partnership has been an overwhelming success. Over the past six years, "The Champ" Foundation has hosted more than 50 organizations at more than 100 games. For the participants, the experience is one they'll remember forever. The people who attend the games are, for the most part, not in a position to afford tickets to any sporting event, let alone a suite at one of the country's premier college basketball programs.

THANK YOU MR. GAHM!

## Trip to Washington, D.C.



Nativty Academy 8th-grade students enjoyed the annual field trip on May 16-18, to Washington, D.C. with tours of the Capitol Building, the Smithsonian Museum of African American History, and the National Mall.

Executive Director Carol Nord, mathematics teacher Casey Newcombe, and Dr. Tami Harbolt, Director of the Extended Enrichment Program, accompanied students on this exciting and educational experience of the nation's Capitol. Congressman Yarmuth met with the Nativty students to welcome them and acquaint them with the work of the federal government.

## We thank our Nativty Auction Sponsors



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## Graduate Support Program (GSP) Update – After Nativity...

### Educational Performance!

Nativity Academy supports our students for 12-years during their educational journey. We provide tutoring, homework support, financial application assistance, high school and college on-site tours...and the results are staggering!

**98% High School Graduation Rate**

**83% Post-Secondary Advancement**

### Orion Rushin - UofL Porter Scholar

Orion Rushin is a freshman attending the University of Louisville on a Porter Scholarship (<http://louisville.edu/admissions/aid/scholarships/porter>) and is majoring in Public Health.

As a pre-med student, with the goal of becoming a pediatrician, Orion participates in the Black Student Union, is a student tutor, and is instructing a Game Design class during the Extended Enrichment Program at Nativity. Her commitment to giving back to the community is of special interest to her.

Orion is a graduate that our students see as a success on a clear post-secondary educational journey. She plans on studying abroad in the future.

### Deonte Clyburn 2009 Nativity Academy Graduate



#### *Clyburn Returns to Colorado State Football*

Following a year of recovery from a blood-clot condition, Deonte returns to lead Colorado State football to finish out his senior year. Deonte was a stand-out linebacker at St. X.

After sitting out 2016 with the rare condition, this pivotal leader for the Rams remains a key component on and off the field. "The thing about Deonte is his faith and determination throughout this past year. He never left the program, even in his darkest times. He stayed emotionally connected in the locker room. He was told he may never play football again, yet he continued to stay involved and a leader," CSU head coach Mike Bobo said.

"I could not be more grateful. I would say to God, you're making me appreciate some things in my life more than I did," said Deonte. "I'm going to keep a promise I made to myself and give it my all every day," he added.

**Keep track of Deonte and his senior year by going to:**

[http://www.espn.com/college-football/team/schedule/\\_/id/36/colorado-state-rams](http://www.espn.com/college-football/team/schedule/_/id/36/colorado-state-rams)

### Nativity Says Good Luck... Never Goodbye!

***Congratulations to this year's college graduates:***

#### **Colby Goodrich**

Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education,  
University of Louisville

#### **Arian Franklin**

Bachelor's degree in Science, Technology,  
Engineering, & Mathematics (STEM),  
Benedict College

#### **Nakayla Little**

Bachelor's degree in Communications,  
University of Louisville

#### **Reality Alexander**

Bachelor's degree in Biology,  
University of Louisville

#### **Bryan Valtierra**

Bachelor's degree in Architecture,  
University of Kentucky

#### **Kiara Jones**

Bachelor's degree in Journalism & Broadcasting,  
Western Kentucky University

#### **Gustavo Alcantara**

Double Major in Criminal Justice from Eastern  
Kentucky University

Bachelor's degree in Spanish from Eastern  
Kentucky University

Gustavo is now preparing to enter the  
Master's Program for a degree in Counseling  
Psychology.



# Extended Enrichment Explores History, Nature and Healthy Fun!

## Visit to Farmington



The 8th graders visit Farmington every year to learn about Abraham Lincoln's visit there and his friendship with Joshua Speed. They learn that Lincoln's first exposure to enslaved peoples came about when he stayed for three weeks in Kentucky, and how

this convinced him that slavery was inhumane and morally reprehensible, despite the fact that the Speed family were not considered "cruel" plantation owners. Students also learn about the importance of hemp to Kentucky agriculture.

## Louisville Nature Center



Nativity 6th and 7th graders took field trips to the Louisville Nature Center. On April 9, the 7th graders learned about animal adaptations. Then on April 19, the 6th graders learned about soil. These events were wonderful learning experiences for all participants.

## Kentucky Museum Of Arts & Crafts



During Women's History Month, Nativity students attended a workshop at the Kentucky Museum of Arts and Crafts. They worked on art projects that related to African American and Latina women.

## Swimming Program at UofL



A swimming program was offered to Nativity by the University of Louisville. Students were invited to a Drowning Prevention workshop and got to swim with Olympic swimmers. Sixty swimmers from UofL participated and showed our students how to swim and stay afloat.

# Nativity Students Pay Tribute to Fallen Officer



In April, Nativity students decided to pay special tribute to Officer Nick Rodman who was killed in the line of duty. The students considered Officer Rodman a hero and offered condolences to his family and friends.

During the day of Officer Rodman's service, Lisa Brents, Nativity Counselor, hosted students during a tribute held at the police station and were met by Major Andrea Brown. They told Major Brown they considered Officer Rodman a hero.

Nativity student, Shanya, told Major Brown, "As Officers you put your lives on the line every day to make us safe. We don't want you to feel underappreciated."

## Wish List

### Visit our Amazon Wish List

([smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com)) for

- Robotics kits for MakerSpace
- Lego kits for MakersSpace
- Student books for Library

In addition:

- Student Sponsorship (\$5,000 - \$10,000)
- Document Cameras for Classroom use (\$125)
- Cafeteria Chairs (up to 120 @ \$50 each)
- Send a Student to KYA Mock State Government Assembly for 3 days (\$225)
- Outdoor Sign/Message Board (\$1,200)
- Cafeteria Dishwasher (\$9600)
- Convection Oven for Cafeteria (\$6800)



NATIVITY ACADEMY  
AT ST. BONIFACE  
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*...a reason for hope*



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## NATIVITY ACADEMY GOLF SCRAMBLE — 2017 —

Quail Chase Golf Club  
7000 Cooper Chapel Road

**Plan Now To Attend  
Wednesday, September 20, 2017!**

- shoot-out and prizes for the 1st- and 2nd-place teams.
- mid-day box lunch
- evening buffet with Chicken & Ribs.

[www.nativitylouisville.org/golf-scramble/](http://www.nativitylouisville.org/golf-scramble/)

### **Golf scramble sponsorship!**

A wonderful way to promote your company and help us break the cycle of poverty for Nativity Academy students.

**For sponsorship opportunities call:  
Jeri Johnson at 502-855-3300**

*An independent Catholic middle school that transforms the lives of students who have a commitment to achievement and whose families demonstrate financial need.*

### NATIVITY ACADEMY AT ST. BONIFACE

Executive Director: Carol Nord  
Phone: 855-3333

Principal: Thomas Kallay  
Phone: 855-3300

Advancement Director: Chip Keeling  
Phone: 664-0320

Extended Enrichment  
Tami Harbolt, Ph.D., Director  
Phone: 855-3302

Graduate Support:  
Brandy Jones: Director  
Phone: 727-8544  
Lisa Brents: Counselor  
Phone: 855-3311

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