

# SAINT AUGUSTINE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

## 2024-2025 ANNUAL REPORT



**Give**

*Thanks*

**with a**

*Grateful*

**Heart.**

Saint Augustine Catholic School  
5990 Old Washington Road, Elkridge MD 21075  
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[www.staug-md.org](http://www.staug-md.org)



Dear Saint Augustine Catholic School Parents,

Thank you for choosing Saint Augustine Catholic School! We are so excited to partner with you to help your children learn and grow both academically and in their relationship with Jesus Christ. We are proud to be the oldest PreK3-8 Catholic School in the Archdiocese of Baltimore. Saint Augustine has been providing a strong Catholic education since 1857. Our faculty and staff, in partnership with our parish, work hard to create a Christ-centered learning environment that is safe and welcoming for all families.

Our school theme for the 2024-25 school year is “Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart” – 1 Thessalonians 5:18. With joy-filled hearts, we encourage you to join us in prayer as we lift up this student body for a wonderful and blessed school year.

May the 2024-25 school year be filled with learning, laughter, and much joy.

With gratitude,

Joseph Miller  
Principal

Laura Kaplan  
Assistant Principal

Reverend Dale Picarella  
Pastor

# Teacher of the Year



## Mrs. Ashley Krause

Mrs. Ashley Krause is the epitome of a team member. She is a huge support to the Intermediate Team and beautifully manages all the other roles she has taken on this year - Instructional Team Leader, Broadway Kids Assistant, Christmas Pageant Director, to name a few. She pushes her students to perform their best and to think outside the box. Mrs. Krause is data-driven and ensures that students are receiving the best possible instruction targeted to their individual needs.

Ashley is also a team member to all. She is there to listen to her fellow teachers and lend advice or even collaborate on a project. She makes it a point to get to know all of the students in the school regardless of their grade level. Her peers note that they have felt welcomed and appreciated by Ashley, always with a smile on her face and checking in on others.

Mrs. Krause is a dedicated, passionate, and thoughtful teacher. She gets to know her students as individuals and empowers them to take responsibility for their own learning. She is encouraging and kind and finds ways to engage her students day after day. Students know they can depend on her and go to her with any concerns they might have. She consistently gives her all in everything she does and is always right there to lend a hand to anyone in need.

We are blessed to have Mrs. Ashley Krause here at Saint Augustine Catholic School.

# Support Staff Member of the Year



## Mrs. Kristin Tsamoutalis

Mrs. Kristin Tsamoutalis is a dedicated and compassionate professional who consistently goes above and beyond to support our entire school community. Whether it's offering individualized counseling to students, guiding them through difficult decisions, or helping them build resilience, she is always present with a kind heart and a listening ear.

What truly sets her apart is her ability to support and collaborate with our teachers as well.

She works tirelessly with staff to develop strategies for supporting students' social-emotional needs, fosters open communication, and provides ongoing professional development. Her insights and guidance are invaluable in creating a positive, nurturing environment that allows both students and teachers to thrive.

By offering resources, conducting workshops, and being a calming presence during stressful times, she has built strong relationships with her colleagues that enhance collaboration and collective success. Her influence is felt across our school from the students who feel supported and valued, to the teachers who benefit from her wisdom and care.

Kristin makes a profound difference every day in our students' lives, as well as in the lives of our staff. Her commitment to the well-being and growth of our entire community is something we hold in the highest regard, and we are so grateful for everything she does.

We are blessed to have Mrs. Kristin Tsamoutalis here at Saint Augustine Catholic School.

# Exciting News

Exciting News for SAS! In December we were nominated and awarded Top Workplace for 2024 by The Baltimore Sun. Mr. Miller was in attendance for the ceremony. This is our 4th consecutive year receiving this award and it is a testament to the dedication and collaboration of our amazing teachers and staff!



#SASStrong

# SCHOOL YEAR HIGHLIGHTS

- Collaborating with Father Dale to institute a faith-connection series tied to our PBIS monthly themes each month with our students
- Had the entire HVAC and air duct system cleaned
- Preschool playground dug out, leveled, and mulched
- Painted the 2nd floor of the school building the summer leading into the 24-25 school year
- Added a full-time maintenance position for the school
- Teachers have keyless entry on their phones for 3 main entry doors
- 8th grade student, Elise Kaplan, received a Knott Scholarship to Mount De Sales Academy
- 8th grade graduating class of 29 students accrued over \$647,000 in total scholarship money
- Held our second annual Spanish Mass to kick off National Hispanic Heritage Month with Bishop Bruce Lewandowski
- Archbishop Lori joined for a service project and Bishop Parker celebrated Mass with our school community during Catholic Schools Week
- Held Welcome Wednesdays each month to welcome families to school for prayer, announcements, and videos from our AV club
- Top Workplace 4 years running
- PBIS badges awarded to the school
- Maintained MD Excels Level 5 for preschool program and completed annual update for MSDE Accreditation
- Collaborated with BGE on energy savings training and program to reduce energy costs
- Continued playground upgrades to include: new basketball hoops, new soccer goals, playground equipment, pickle ball sets, repainted four square courts
- Installation of parking bollards outside of preschool area (summer 2025)
- Replace/repair of brick lintels in grotto area (summer 2025)
- Brought back our school-wide book fair for students and families
- Created MAP Growth awards for each testing session to celebrate growth achievements within and between grades
- Our Aftercare Students participated in “Monster Artwork” featured in The Young Artists Monster Madness publication



# GUIDANCE & RESOURCE

- PBIS Monthly Traits and Lessons (PreK-8th)
  - Angels in Action Slips to reward positive behaviors
- Small groups to assist social-emotional learning
- Individual student meetings to foster growth and understanding
- Implementation of the Friendly program in grades 3 to 5
- Collaboration with parents and faculty/staff
- Student Council meetings and fundraisers
- National Junior Honor Society meetings and fundraisers
- Set up a webinar for school families on “Raising Thriving Kids in a Tech-savvy World”.
- Academic support for individual students and small groups in Grades PK3-6th in the areas of ELA
- Student Advocacy Team 1x/month
- Collaborates w/teachers across grade levels to provide resources and supports to be used in the classroom during whole group instruction and independent work
- Coordinates with Howard County Title 1 tutoring program
- Provide parents assessment updates and resources/strategies for at home practice/review throughout the year
- Supports teachers and families in Child Find and outside evaluation processes



# MATH DEPARTMENT

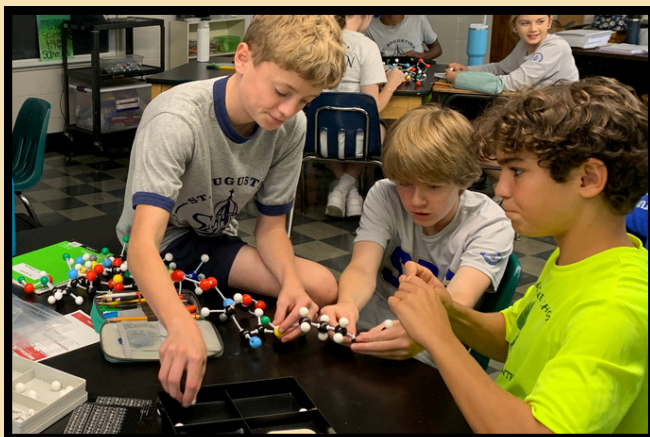
- St. Augustine School offers a rigorous mathematics curriculum that aligns with the Common Core State Standards for Mathematics. Students develop a deep conceptual understanding by using mathematics manipulatives to foster learning, then using the knowledge gained to progress to more abstract concepts. Skills build from one grade level to the next so that students can acquire mastery. Multiple strategies are modeled to promote conceptual understanding, procedural fluency, and problem-solving skills.
- Kindergarten-5th grade uses the McGraw Hill Reveal Mathematics program. This program focuses on metacognition, problem solving, engagement, flexibility, and productive interactions. STEM and SEL are integrated throughout each unit.
- Middle school students utilize the Big Ideas Math (Common Core 2014) program. Each grade level has a traditional and accelerated class, providing support and enrichment for all students in classrooms with a 14:1 student/teacher ratio.
- NWEA MAP Mathematics Assessments are administered to students in grades 2-8 in the Fall, Winter, and Spring. Teachers use the results to monitor growth and guide instruction to meet the needs of all students.
- 7th-8th grade girls had the opportunity to participate in the Math Olympiad at The Catholic High School. Our 8th grade boys had the opportunity to participate in a MathCounts competition in February at Clarksville Middle School
- After School student-led Math tutoring program implemented to support students in grades 3 to 5





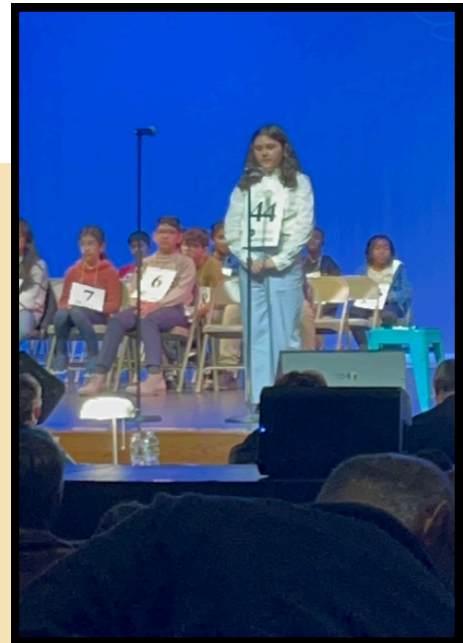
# STEM DEPARTMENT

- Utilizes the Archdiocese of Baltimore's Science Curriculum as well as Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS)
- Mystery Science used in grades 3 - 5
- PreK - Middle School incorporate individual STEM challenges and innovative learning opportunities
- Rigorous Science Learning
- Application of learning to the world around them
- Collecting and Interpreting data to draw conclusions
- Technology Incorporation
- PreK - Middle School database maintained for in class and virtual learning resources
- Equitable learning opportunities for all
- Identified how science can support growth on MAP in the areas of ELA and Math
- Middle School science articles to learn about new science research and discoveries
- Two teams participated in the NDP Egg Drop Competition, one taking 3rd place overall!



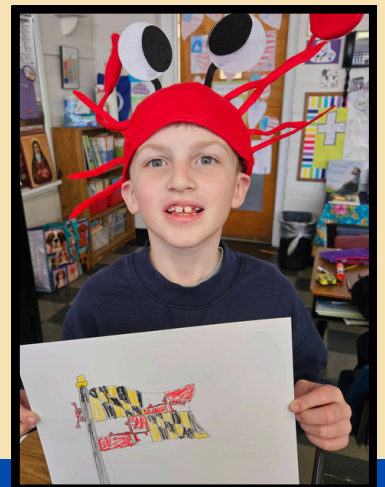
# ELA DEPARTMENT

- St. Augustine School utilizes the Archdiocese of Baltimore Curriculum as well as the *SuperKids* Reading Series in grades K-5 and *CommonLit* in grades 6-8.
- Besides our core curriculum, grades 3-8 read and analyze novels, such as *Number the Stars*, *The Lion*, *The Witch*, and *the Wardrobe*, *Fever 1793*, *Romeo & Juliet*, and *Macbeth*.
- Student progress is monitored through both formative and summative classroom assessments as well as using data gathered from the NWEA MAP Assessment.
- Students in need of extra support meet with the Reading Specialist.
- Extras
  - *Scripps National Spelling Bee* - All students from K to 8 can participate in the SAS Spelling Bee and the winner goes on to the Howard County Spelling Bee
  - *2nd to 4th Grade Book Club* - Students read a book assigned by the team and meet once a month. At the meeting, the students discuss the book and respond orally to guided questions provided by the moderator.
  - SAS Times Newspaper Club



# SOCIAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT

- St. Augustine School follows the Archdiocese of Baltimore's curriculum and standards for Social Studies.
- Simulations and role plays in the classroom bring the content to life:
  - Fifth grade completed a colonial simulation where students take on roles, create a town, and discuss the different aspects of life that would make the town successful (food, jobs, religion, culture, etc.).
  - 4th and 5th grades visited Historic St. Mary's City
  - 3rd and 4th graders completed a Market Project during their economics unit, creating a marketing strategy to sell their goods (bracelets, pictures, t-shirts, etc.)
- Celebrating national holidays and discussing their importance
- Researching current events and presenting them to the class in the format of a newscast
- National History Day - 7th and 8th graders presented projects related to this year's theme "Rights and Responsibilities"



# RELIGION DEPARTMENT

- Our faith plays an integral role in everything we do here at St. Augustine Catholic School.
- All students utilize the Sadlier Religion Series during daily religion classes. Intermediate grades incorporate bible study and scripture reading, while Middle School focuses on the Saints of the Catholic Church and engage in a weekly Lectio Divina.
- Students attend and actively participate in weekly Mass, and seasonal observances including Advent prayer services, Stations of the Cross, and recitation of the Rosary in October and May.
- Students also have the opportunity to receive the sacrament of Reconciliation during the Advent and Lenten seasons.
- The second grade class leads a May procession with a May Crowning by our Student Council Religious Coordinator.
- Our students truly shine a light for all to see as they actively model being disciples of Christ.



# EARLY CHILDHOOD DEPARTMENT

Our early childhood department is both MSDE Accredited and continues to meet the MSDE Maryland Excels Level 5 rating.

This is the highest rating possible through Maryland Excels and MSDE for preschool and before/after care programs. We are so proud of our PK program.



# SERVICE

***"Life's most persistent and urgent question is: What are you doing for others?"  
- Martin Luther King, Jr.***

## *Dress Down Days of Giving*

\$1600+ to Mount St. Joseph High School  
in honor of Charlie Borsh

\$460+ to Red Cross Hurricane Relief

\$430+ Johns Hopkins Children's Center

\$380+ to Leukemia Society

\$490+ to Howard County Animal Shelter



- Collected over 100 pairs of Pajamas for Casey Cares
- Prepared and delivered 300 sandwiches along with over 200 homeless care packages to Our Brothers Keeper in Baltimore
- Prepared cards for the sick members of the Parish
- Worked with CCASTA Motel Ministry to provide 40 boxes of food and Christmas gifts to over 120 children in the community
- Faculty and Staff provided support for the Senior Luncheon
- The Faculty and Staff weeded and mulched the school grounds

# EXTRACURRICULAR



Lego Club (Preschool and Kindergarten)

BLAZE Program (8th Grade Girls)

Student Ambassadors (Middle School)

Student Council (Middle School)

HSPT Prep Class (8th grade)

National Junior Honor Society (7-8th Grade)

Tutoring program (Middle School helps the 3rd - 5th Grade)

5th Grade Flag Leaders

Girls on the Run (3rd - 5th Grade)

Broadway Kids (5th - 8th Grade)

AV Club (Middle School)

SAS Times (Middle School)

Book Club (2nd - 4th Grade)

Egg Drop (4th & 5th Grade Girls)

Math Olympiad (7th & 8th Grade Girls)

Math Counts (8th Grade Boys)

Cross Country (5th - 8th Grade)

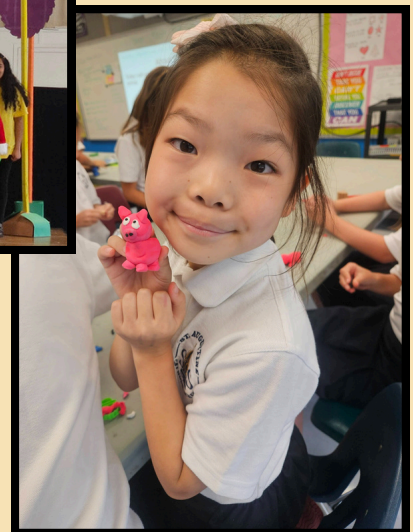
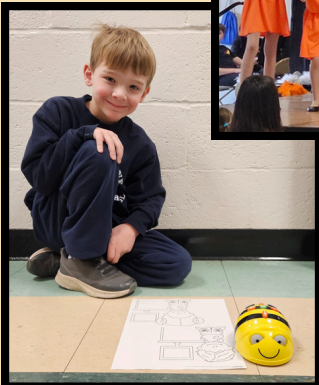
Basketball & Basketball Clinic (K-8th grade)



# SPECIALS DEPARTMENT

St. Augustine offers a wide array of special content area classes including art, music, physical education, technology, and Spanish.

- Our art and music classes allow our students to demonstrate their creativity while incorporating standards from multiple core content areas. Religion is continuously integrated into each curriculum.
- Physical education has provided our students with the opportunity to engage in physical activity while promoting good sportsmanship and kind interactions with classmates.
- Students learn to navigate technology with the use of Chromebooks, gaining essential experience that will prepare them for future discoveries and advancements.
- We are blessed to have our partnership with 'The Language Project' as our students are exposed to the Spanish language beginning in Kindergarten. K to 5th grade receive Spanish instruction once per week, while the middle school has Spanish classes twice per week in preparation for high school.
- After school, we offer our Broadway Kids Theater Program to students in grades 5-8. The students performed Seussical, Jr. in March!





# ADMISSIONS

We welcomed over 50 new students for the 2024-2025 school year and are currently preparing for the 2025-2026 school year.

This November, our Veterans Day open house hosted over 30 prospective families throughout the school day. Our Catholic Schools Week open house was a success as we welcomed over 35 families. A true testament to our wonderful school! Mr. Miller and Mrs. Kaplan welcomed families and Student Ambassadors along with HSA Members were able to give tours. We also had our band members perform at the open house. Parent volunteers were also on hand to help with set up, tours, and clean up. Our community is amazing!

The Admissions season is in full swing! Preschool, 1st Grade, 2nd Grade, and middle school classes all have waiting lists for the 2025-2026 school year. We are so thankful we are able to #ShareTheGood with our new families. It is truly a blessing to work with new families and see our existing families and students welcome them with open arms.



Director of Admissions  
Mrs. Jennifer Ross '94

Look for our Advertisement's within the Catholic Review, Local Golf Clubs, and Facebook Ads. This year our Advancement Director, Mrs. Joy Emery worked hand-in-hand with Mr. Doug Pearson to create our very own first television commercial on WMAR.

# Facility Upgrades

- Repainting of entire school building over the past two summers
- Air duct system cleaned Summer 2024
- Playground Upgrades:
  - PreK area resurfaced and mulched

## **Upgrades in the spring/summer:**

- Completed our 5-year Facilities Condition Assessment audit.
- Continued recess facelift upgrades to include: new basketball hoops, new soccer goals, playground equipment, pickle ball sets, repainted four square courts, fence netting
- Installation of parking bollards outside of preschool area
- Replace/repair of brick lintels in grotto area
- Awarded \$25,000 for the Howard County Faith-based Grant for Parking bollards/video surveillance cameras
- Awarded \$25,000 for NASP for brick/lintel repair.

## **ANNUAL ASBESTOS STATEMENT**

This note is to inform you that St. Augustine Catholic School contains friable and non-friable asbestos containing building materials. Inspections and sampling have been performed by Aerosol Monitoring and Analysis, Inc. of Maryland. An Operations and Maintenance Program has been implemented to maintain these materials in good condition, as well as prevent disturbance or damage. The AHERA Management Plan for Saint Augustine Catholic School is available in the school office for review.

# Playground Expansion Project



Our goal is to expand the playground to include a structure similar to the picture above. In order to do so, current structures may need to be removed, relocated, or even the playground itself needs to be expanded. We have been working with our playground representative to provide insight into structures that would fit our budget and timeframe. We will be using the funds set aside from the Race for Education to cover part of the cost, but will ultimately need to supplement these costs with money raised during our 2025 Annual Fund. Estimated total cost for this project is \$40,000+.