



# THE BUSY BEAK

**The St. Francis de Sales School**

## **Attention Friends of SFdS School**

**As you already know, testimonials are an extremely important part of the success of anyone's business. I truly feel that testimonials will strengthen the credibility of our school and help guide future prospects to consider SFdS School for the future.**

**If anyone would be willing to send me a testimonial to my email;**

**[spassarell@sfdscs.org](mailto:spassarell@sfdscs.org)**

**or even post it on our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/SFdSCatholicSchoolSalisbury>**

**that would be wonderful! I will also use these testimonials on our website and make a video for marketing purposes.**

**Thanks for your help!**

**Sarah Passarell**

**Advancement Director**

# St. Francis de Sales Catholic School

**Mission**



**Statement**

*St. Francis de Sales Catholic School is an educational community that provides Pre-Kindergarten through Eighth Grade an environment centered in faith formation, rigorous academics, and service to others. We recognize the value and dignity of individuals living out their Catholic values, while fostering their own gifts and talents.*

## **The Busy Beak is a mission of the Development Committee**

The St. Francis de Sales School Development Committee is organized to promote, market, and solicit financial support for St. Francis de Sales School. The funds raised through the efforts of the Development Committee are used to subsidize the operating expenses associated with the school budget in some of the following areas: teacher salaries, improvement of school facilities and the procurement of property. The principal raised is an endowment.

The committee, with the approval of the pastor, shall decide how to raise funds and how to spend investment income. If you would like to help us with these efforts, please send your tax-deductible donation to 500 Camden Avenue, Salisbury, MD 21801. Checks may be made payable to St. Francis de Sales Catholic School with a reference to "Development Fund" included in the memo section.

**Know someone who isn't receiving the Beak?**

**Receiving more than one?**

**Need to change your address?**

**Are you an alumnus with some exciting  
news or updates to share?**

**We want to hear from you!**

**Email us at [busybeak@sfdscs.org](mailto:busybeak@sfdscs.org)**

# State of the School 2018/2019

My second year as principal of St. Francis de Sales Catholic School has been an eventful and positive one. We are very proud of the progress we have made in enrollment which has grown more than 16% since 2017. With the continued support of our partners at the Healey Foundation we have created the momentum we need to ensure the sustainability of the school.

This has been accomplished in part with the successful implementation of a school board of specified jurisdiction. They have approved their first school budget, begun an annual fund campaign, brainstormed marketing goals and surveyed facility needs.

The annual fund kicked off with a special Mass presided over by Bishop Malooly in honor of the feast day of St. Francis de Sales. This celebration was a part of the Diocese of Wilmington sesquicentennial year. A cocktail reception in which the annual fund was introduced followed in the parish center. The school board, Home and School Association board, faculty and staff as well as honored guests were invited to make their pledges that evening. I am so blessed to report that we have reached our goal in pledges of \$45,000. One hundred percent of the faculty and staff of the school and the school board have committed to the fund. We have collected more than \$41,000 to date.

Other fundraising opportunities and grant writing have proven very fruitful this year. Our annual school auction was the best in recent years earning more than \$50,000. We received two STEM grants from the Richard A. Hensen Foundation for a total of \$30,000 and a \$14,000 performing arts grant from the Phillips Charitable Foundation. We were able to secure more than \$30,000 in Aging School Grant money which represents a 3 year total. Our textbook funding from the State of Maryland will amount to about \$12,000 to help offset our orders for the 2019/20 school year.

Parents, faculty, staff, the pastor and school board participated in a survey as part of the principal evaluation process for the diocese. This has been a very useful tool for my professional development and improved leadership for the school. A number of stakeholders would like to know how the school uses its mission statement to guide decision making and vision for the future. A wonderful suggestion has been made to host a technology night for parents. We have this in the works for the fall. Improved lighting to increase safety after dark has also been proposed. These along with other suggestions are so valuable for me as principal moving forward.

A highlight for this year was the first pre-kindergarten class for three year olds lead by Casey Flanagan. A classroom was repurposed which included the addition of a bathroom. We had seventeen students enrolled many of whom will join us next year for our amazing four year old pre-kindergarten which has gained an impressive reputation in the Salisbury thanks to the hard work of Kathleen Hall.

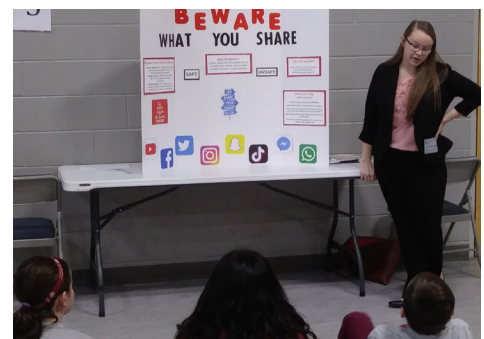
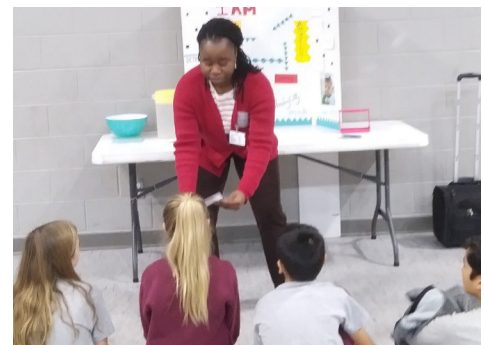
Middle schoolers have begun a wonderful partnership with Salisbury University students. They are combining efforts to create STEM projects, specifically using the 3D printer. Their projects are supporting the local community garden and SUs pollination awareness goal.

The performing arts programs have been rejuvenated at the helm of Mary-Tyler Upshaw. Several students were successful in making All Shore Choir and for the first time ever one of our students earned a prestigious place with the All State Choir. Band has quadrupled in size and marched in the Ocean City St. Patrick's Day parade along with a newly formed pom-pom squad. An inspiring rendition of Godspell was performed by our entire 8th grade class. Later this month we will host an Arts Showcase which will include performances by the choir and band as well as a student talent show.

We will graduate 25 8th graders this year. They venture out to both public and private schools from here. We consistently hear about their successes in high school and college. Many come back or email to thank us for the foundation of faith, academics and leadership that were a part of their elementary and middle school experience. As one alumna recently shared, "Faith, family and friends are what St. Francis is all about."

# Creating a Healthy Happy Student Body

Nursing students at Salisbury University organized and presented a Health Fair for our students in Kindergarten through 8th grade. With the goal of providing health education for our students, we were treated to some very entertaining and interactive booths about exercise, self-worth, social media safety, healthy eating habits, bully prevention, and general grooming habits.





## Students from Class 1998

(L-R: Katie Soul, Eric Horsman, Julia Rommel, Sarah Daly, Tim Kane, Jamil Humes)

We Love seeing our past students. If you have any pictures you would like to share, please send them to Sarah Passarell, Advancemnet Director, at [spassarell@sfdscs.org](mailto:spassarell@sfdscs.org).

Family ~ Faith ~ Friends



# CLASS OF 1998

## 20 YEAR REUNION



## Mrs. Traum - Slimed!

Last year students duck-taped Mrs. Traum to the wall. This year she was slimed! Throughout our re-enrollment campaign, students and parents were advised that if we could reach the 85% goal students would be given the opportunity to make slime and then pour it over Mrs. Traum.

We reached our goal and the kids had a blast! The fun-filled event was cast on FacebookLive so everyone could join in the excitement.

Our new family enrollment is off to a great start. We will again have waiting lists for some classes. Our most powerful marketing tool is the positive word of mouth shared by current families. Did you know that you can earn money toward your tuition for next year by bringing a new family to St. Francis? You can earn \$100 if the family has one child, \$200 if they bring two children, and \$300 if they will be enrolling three children. Spread the word!



# Let Our Voices Be Heard

Each year the American Legion Auxiliary (ALA), department of Maryland Inc., sponsors an Americanism Essay Contest for students in grades 3-8. This year's topic was, "How can we address and prevent veteran homelessness in our communities?" Students are divided into three levels; 3-4, 5-6, 7-8 with first, second, and third place winners for each group.

This year St. Francis de Sales received the following awards.

3-4: Roselyn Smith - 3rd place

Rachel Arvi - 2nd place

5-6: Daniel Gomez - 1st place His essay was sent to the District level.

7-8: Amy Stiegler - 3rd place

Ron Darling - 2nd place

Jordan Moore - 1st place

Jordan also received 2nd place at the South Eastern Shore District Level.

## **Jordan Moore - 1st place county, 2nd place District**

I was unaware that over 37,800 veterans are homeless; that is shocking. When I heard the question for this essay, I immediately thought of my Grandfather, and all of the other people I know whose lives are wonderful. I always thought that veterans came back and have a house, job, and family because of the fact that every veteran I know has this. I just can't imagine people who have served this country and return to nothing.

I didn't know about any organizations that helped with homeless veterans. People may not know how to help either. There is a number you can call, 800-273-8255. Press 1, it is a 24 Hour Veterans Crisis Line. This number is also used for veterans or spouses that are going through an emotional crisis.

Service members, their families, and dependents, in securing benefits earned through military service. This organization helps with Disability Compensation, Pension, Education and Training, Life Insurance, Homeloans, Healthcare, and more.

I can't help, but feel like I should be doing something more. Our Veterans went out and put their lives on the line every day, and then have nothing to come home to. We can definitely make changes so that this stops.

I think education is the key! Start with educating High School seniors that have made the decision to join the military about these organizations, so that when they come back from the military, and realize they might need help they know where to go to get the help they need.

Ever since my Grandfather took me to see the Blue Angels and the Raptors, I have wanted to be in the Air Force, and I know I want to come home to my family, and everything I love. I need to start to do my part as the next generation to put a stop to this, so the veterans can live like everyone who has the things they need and so much more. I hope by writing this essay someone will also feel the same, so we can join together to make a bigger difference. I appreciate all those people that work hard to help all of the veterans get back on their feet to live a wonderful and happy life.

## **Ron Darling - 2nd place county**

My thoughts on the American homeless veteran problem are very construed. I feel that those who have served and defended our country and freedom should be granted at least some compensation for their service and work. Possibly a social security check like what is given to some retired employees who have given service to the state could be offered to veterans in dire need of the money.

Everyone should have a safe and happy life after they've fulfilled their service to the country, especially those working in any branch of the military. I feel that with our help, and even possibly a slight portion of tax money that isn't used every year, we can hope to put an end to the epidemic of homeless veterans. I feel this is completely pathetic that we haven't found a way to even help them. Yes, a counter-argument could be that there are places like The Joseph House and The Halo centers that are very efficient in the ways they use to help homeless people and especially veterans.

I truly wish there was more I could do to help with this epidemic. A staggering number of veterans are homeless in the US with 58,000 in California alone. People who have put their lives on the line for our freedom deserve compensation in my opinion. I understand that our current government needs that money to continue to protect us, but what about those who have protected us so many times in the past?

Homeless veterans are currently being offered housing with the establishments I mentioned previously, though they are not specifically for veterans and in these, they can be given food, and shelter, but there is only a finite amount of people places like that can hold, and a finite food supply they can have at a time. Which is the reason why administrations like the Joseph House need every donation of food and/or money that they can get to continue the support of homeless veterans and those less fortunate in general.

In conclusion, the epidemic of homeless veterans has swept across America in every state. Our support is needed now more than it's ever been needed for an event like this in the past, and we want to help prevent this epidemic of homelessness the best we possibly can.

## **Amy Claire Stiegler - 3rd place county**

The Point-in-Time (PIT) Count is an annual effort led by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to estimate the number of Americans, including Veterans, without safe, stable housing. (U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, January 2017) This is a good way to estimate the number of homeless veterans because it gives many foundations the chance to provide help. These foundations need help to provide for so many veterans. Many people don't even know how many homeless veterans are out there! The amount of homeless veterans is shocking, but what can we do to help?

I, as a 7th grader, see lots of homeless people in cities as well as near my own mall. Veterans become homeless in their own different ways. Veteran homelessness is as similar as the regular homeless. While the homeless need help as well as to get on their feet, the veterans served for our country. They helped protect us when we were busy getting coffee at a local Starbucks. I'm not saying that we should donate every dollar we have, we could just be aware that these people went through tragic experiences for their country and for their safety. Whenever I see a veteran at the grocery store or in church my



dad always breaks away to try and chat with them. I believe that this touches their soul and makes them feel appreciated.

A way to prevent veteran homelessness is to ask several jobs to accept veterans or people in need of jobs to work there. This might not work for some, but for others, it would be a great way for veterans to receive money to buy a house and food. To address veteran homelessness is already helping, the veterans become known and we are aware. In January 2018 there were over 37,800 veterans experiencing homelessness and between 2017 and 2018, there was a 5.4 percent decrease in homelessness. (U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs, January 2017) With more help though, the process could become faster. Many people in areas where there are programs to help homeless veterans could just call to get an agent to help the veteran. This seems effective. I want to help veterans even while I'm still learning how to help them. I am not an expert, but what I do know is better than some. Let's help the ones who helped us.

### **Daniel Aguirre-Gomez - 1st place county, essay sent to District**

Each year there are many veterans that have worked for years and come back to have no home. We can help veterans by building homes for them or letting them into homes. At last count, Maryland had 570 homeless veterans. There are programs to end homelessness veterans such as The American Legion, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Housing Help For Veterans and much more. These programs specialize in Veteran homelessness; they give them homes, food, clothing, and the supplies that they will need. It is projected that 380,000 veterans will call Maryland home in 2018 (2018 Maryland Veteran Population Map - Maryland Veterans Affairs). VA.gov is another program that helps in placing homeless veterans. Va.gov has an event called "Operation Reveille." This event aims to home as many veterans as possible every day. Operation Reveille events bring together government agencies, faith-based organizations, housing providers, nonprofit agencies, and local businesses to connect homeless Veterans with permanent supportive housing.

They also have another event called "Stand Downs." "Stand Downs are typically one to three day events providing supplies and services to homeless Veterans, such as food, shelter, clothing, health screenings, and VA Social Security benefits counseling." (Va.gov) Also, the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans is another program that works in homing veterans; this is one of the many things they said: "Roughly 45% of all homeless veterans are African American or Hispanic, despite only accounting for 10.4% and 3.4% of the U.S. veteran population, respectively."

The central goal is to reduce homelessness among veterans by conducting outreach to those who are the most vulnerable and are not currently receiving services and engaging them in treatment and rehabilitative programs. This was so we can give homes to homeless veterans and end it.

### **Rachel Arvi - 2nd place county**

A problem we have in our country is not having enough shelters for homeless veterans. One solution is that all over the U.S., people in each state could build tiny houses in big parks for the veterans. It

might be expensive, but they need shelters to protect them from weather, heat, and cold. People could donate money for them to build these houses. These homeless veterans should not have to pay for the houses because they already served our country. Another problem we have is homeless veterans not having jobs. A solution for that is that interviewers could set up tents in the parks and the homeless veterans could go to the tents and find the job that is best for their ability. I think some people would really like a veteran to work for them because they did so much for us. They could learn skills they never knew how to do before. I hope business owners are willing to let homeless veterans work for them. Lastly, a problem we need to solve is clean clothes for homeless veterans. One solution is that after they come back from war there could be a special place for them to receive new clothes before they leave the military. They could give them clothes, food, and water to get them started. People could donate money to the military, so they can buy clothes, food, and water. These are my ideas to solve the problems of our homeless veterans.

### **Roselyn Smith - 3rd place county**

One problem we have in the USA is homeless veterans. After veterans come back from war, some have injuries, and some have seen some scary things. At times, these factors make veterans lose their jobs and their homes. There are some ways I think we could help the situation. To prevent homeless veterans, before they leave the military, we could make a plan to be sure that they have everything they need when they come back. Some veterans have seen some scary things that might make them jumpy, or act differently. We can't always prevent what they see, or have seen, but maybe when veterans get back, they should talk to some of their family members about their problems or what happened to them in war. If they have no family, we could provide a counselor and the counselor could give them advice. This way they might feel better and be able to handle a job successfully.

Injuries are another problem. When some veterans come back, they may have injuries. I think we need to make sure they have the best medical treatment and if they need it, give them a clean place to live. We could raise money for that cause with donations or fundraisers. These are my thoughts on how to prevent homelessness in our veterans





Before Care &  
After Care Available



# St. Francis de Sales Catholic School

Elementary & Middle School

Founded in 1949 • 70 years strong

500 Camden Avenue • Salisbury, MD 21801 • 410-749-9907 • [stfrancisdesales.net](http://stfrancisdesales.net)

Pre-K3 & 4 are MSDE  
Licensed Childcare

210 STUDENTS



Pre-K 3 to 8th grade  
Average Class Size: 19

## Classes



12:1

Average Teaching Experience of Faculty: 17 Years



K-8th is fully accredited by the Middle States Association of  
Colleges and Schools Commission on Elementary Schools

Full Day Teachers: 15



Full Day Aides:



3

Upper Math  
Instructors:



2

Title One Instructor: 1



Resource Instructor: 1



## Student/Chrome Book Tech Platform Ratio

KG-2nd Grade

3:1

3th-4th Grade

2:1

5th-8th Grade

1:1

## Student Life

SFds Students consistently score above the national  
average during standardized testing:

### Percentage Above National Average

Reading:

31%

Math:

33%

English:

34%

Volunteer Hours: Minimum of 42 hours  
per students by graduation

#### Athletic Teams

Basketball • Field Hockey  
Golf • Lacrosse • Soccer

#### Middle School Electives

Busy Beak (Newspaper) • Guitar Lessons • Latin  
Nutrition/Health • STEM • Stock Market  
Theater • Yearbook • Teacher Practicum

#### Clubs

Chess • Lego • National Junior • Honor Society • Scouts • Student Council

#### STREAMS:

- S Science
- T Technology
- R Reading
- E Engineering
- A Arts
- M Math
- S Spanish

#### Music Programs/Performing Arts:

All-Shore Choir • All-State Choir  
Choir • Christmas Pageant  
Concert Band  
Live Stations of The Cross  
Marching Band & Pom Poms  
Nutcracker • Spring Concert  
Theater Production

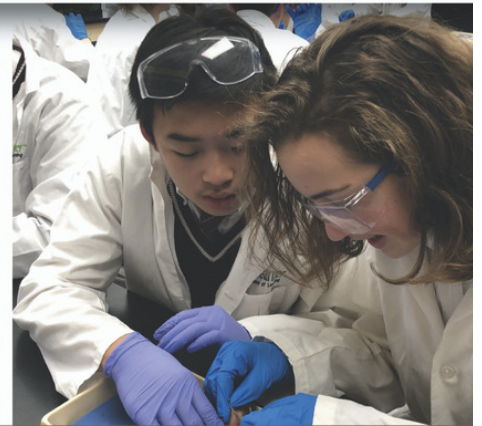




# SFDS SCHOOL

**OPEN ENROLLMENT  
ALL ARE WELCOME  
PRE-K 3 TO 8TH GRADE**

*Have you ever thought about a Catholic Education?*

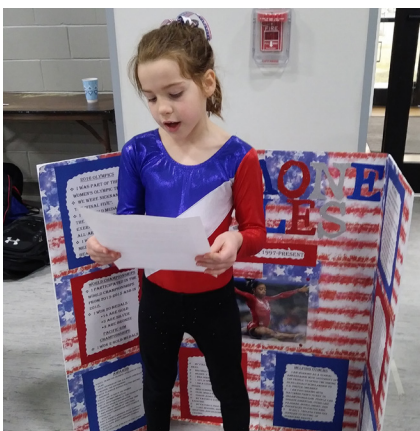
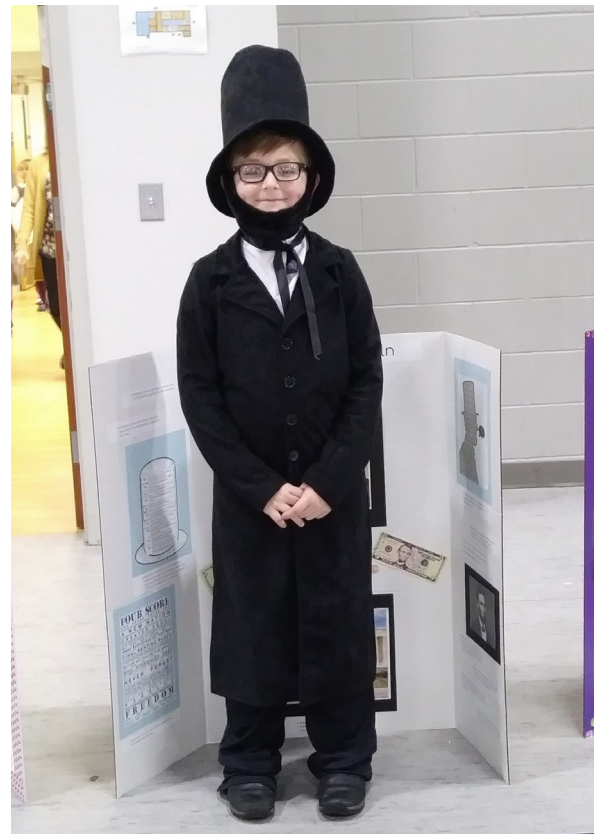
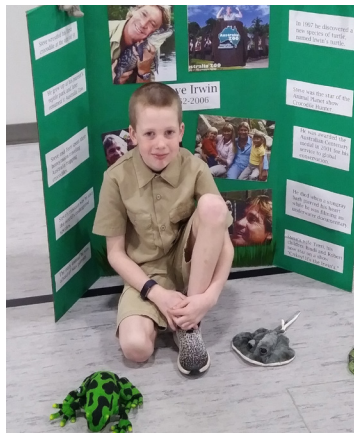
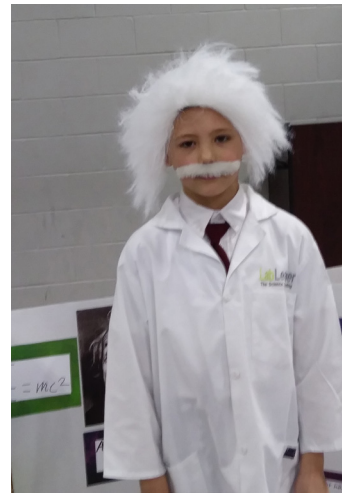


St. Francis de Sales School  
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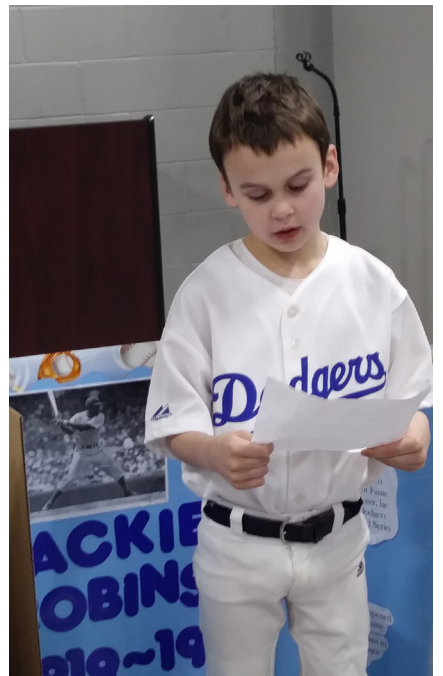
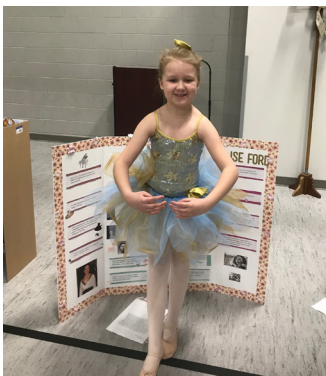
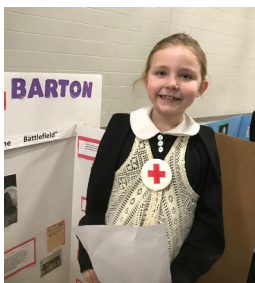
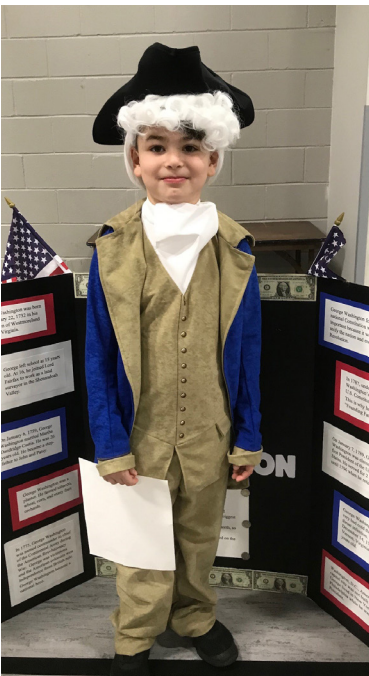
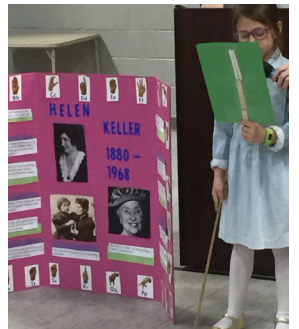
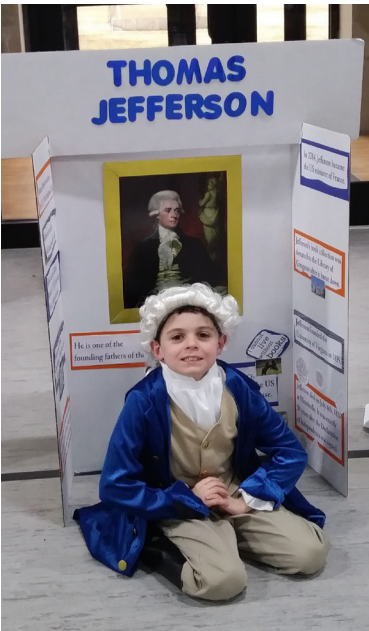
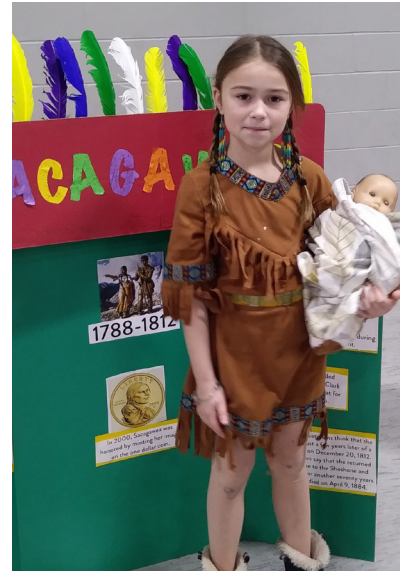
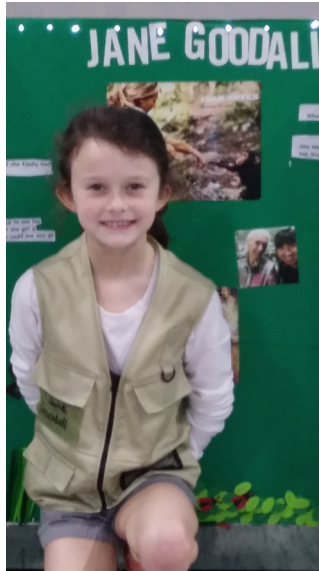
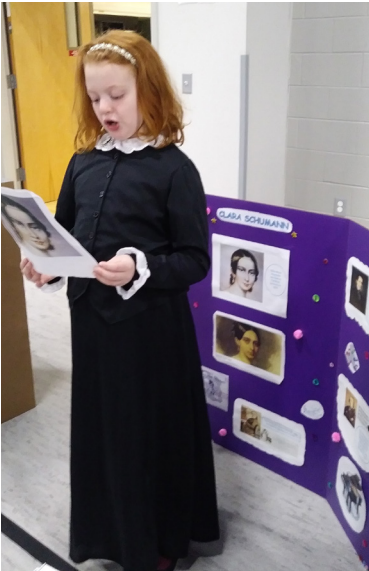
Tuition Transfer  
Grants Available!

## 2nd Grade Wax Museum 2019

One of Mrs. Rosenfelder's favorite classroom projects has to be the Wax Museum showcased by the second grade. After choosing an inspiring person, students researched and planned their demonstrations. Each display was filled with pictures and information to show the great accomplishments of that Hero's time. In addition, students wrote and recited a report to share with parents and students of all ages. The students did a wonderful job personifying their topic by dressing and acting as their subject would as they shared all about their lives.









# Penguin Pride Lives Here!

We are the Saint Francis Penguins! So it is only fitting that we learn as much about these mesmerizing birds as we can. The first graders found books, stories, and websites to gather as much information as they could find to write a Penguin Report. They had to answer questions about different types of penguins, what they eat, where they live, and in general, what makes them so fascinating! But wait - there's more to explore. First graders also completed a Penguin Project. Students had a choice to create a 3-D diorama including the penguin's habitat, a 3 -D penguin model showing physical characteristics, a poster displaying habitat and parts of the penguin body, or a poster illustrating the life-cycle of a penguin.

Our first graders are quite the penguin experts. As I'm sure Fr. Aigner might agree, penguins are cool!





# St. Francis Song Birds

We had many students audition for the All-Shore Choir and are so proud to announce that several students earned a coveted spot. Congrats to these talented young people most of whom were able to perform with the choir in April.

Ricky Gutierrez also performed with the All-State Choir. Only two students from the shore earned this honor. Way to go!

## All Shore Choir

8th Grade - Harrison Duncan, Brigid Ogburn

7th Grade - Ricky Gutierrez, Brigid Reilly, Sarah Miller

6th Grade - Cypress Hansen, Saoirse Hansen,

Mason Green, Darcy Manes,

Kayleigh Simpson

## Reflections of All Shore Choir

Brigid Ogburn tells about her experience.

Before this exciting experience, I didn't know that I could sing. This was the first time I had ever tried something like this. When I made it in I learned that I actually have a good voice. It really boosted my confidence because I didn't think I could do it. I could barely get out of the car to go inside the building for the audition. I quickly learned that it was easier to sing with the group, so that made me more comfortable when it was time for the concert. Overall it was a super fun experience and I would definitely do it again.

Sarah Miller shares how she prepared for the audition and concert. To prepare for the audition Mrs. Upshaw helped us with rhythmic and melodic sight reading. We also worked on the acapella song and the accompanied song. On the day of the concert, we practiced our songs over and over again, then had lunch, sang some more, had dinner, got changed, and then we were ready to sing in the concert.

Kayleigh Simpson talks about her favorite part of the day. My favorite part of the day was when we were waiting in the hall about to go on the stage. We wanted to go over a piece so we went over Durme Durme, instead of singing we hummed it so the audience couldn't hear us. I think it sounded better than singing the words. The vibration from humming sounded so cool.

Darcy gives some advice for next year's auditioners. If you really want it, work hard for it. Practice over and over and over to prepare yourself. It's a great experience. Follow your dream of music. It may seem really scary and stressful. You may feel like you don't have enough time, but trust me, a couple of minutes of practice every day is just enough for you to get it down. Good luck!

Brigid Reilly shares what it was like singing in the All-Shore Choir final performance. It is really fun to sing with people who know what they're doing and who have amazing voices. They share in your same interests and it's a great way to make new friends! One thing I recommend doing is working really hard on your sight reading because that is one thing I have trouble with. I recommend trying out because it is a great opportunity and a lot of fun! I loved it and it sounded amazing in the end, so I encourage you to audition next year!



## **“Why Do We Go To Church?”**

In an effort to answer the most important question, “Why do we go to Church?” our Religion Coordinator, Kathleen Hall, asked St Francis students to take part in an essay contest. Contestants diligently worked on this project through class discussions and peer editing putting thoughts on paper (and online) to share their inspiring thoughts with others.

### **First Place**

An Essay You Need to Read About Mass  
By Morgan Neall

Our school participates in the Mass because we believe it is important for our Catholic education. We go to Church to listen to the teachings and amazing miracles Jesus performed. Not only do we learn about Jesus but we receive the Eucharist. The Eucharist is the consecrated body of Jesus. The Eucharist is very important in the Mass because it helps us celebrate what Jesus did at the Last Supper. The Last Supper is a very special meal that Jesus gave to his disciples. At the Last Supper, the bread and wine became the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ. This helps us remember that Jesus died on the cross and rose again for us. We celebrate that Jesus died to save us from sin.

In Mass, we also listen to the Gospel and readings. The Gospel and readings come from the Old and New Testament. These readings teach us about what Jesus did for us. Jesus made amazing miracles to save people and help them.

Another thing I love about when we go to Mass is when we pray. It is important to pray because it is talking to God. We can talk to God when we do not feel we can talk to someone else.

If you ever go to Mass on Sunday, then you are going to Mass on a holy day. At the end of Mass, the priest tells us to evangelize. Evangelize means to spread the good news by words or action, We should try to accomplish this goal every day.

### **Second Place**

Why is it Important We Go to Church?  
By Elise Garde

I believe that it is important to go to church every Sunday or Saturday night. My first reason to go to church is Jesus died on the cross for us and the least we can do is spend an hour every week praising Him. Also, when you're there, you can receive the Eucharist. When I receive the Eucharist I get a nice warm feeling inside. Thirdly, when you go to church you come with others to praise God and make new friends at church like my mom did. Another reason we go to church is you can ask God to forgive you if you did something bad. God will forgive you always, and when you know you are forgiven you can get a good feeling inside. These are all reasons why we go to church.

### **Third Place Tie**

Why is it Important to go to Mass?  
By Saoirse Han sen

First of all, Mass helps the spiritual wellness of all people. Going to Mass is not only calming, and a peaceful place, it also enriches our minds and hearts with biblical scripture and the love that Jesus has for us. Mass supplies us with more understanding of our religion and why it is so important that we follow and use its teachings in our everyday lives. When we go to Mass and receive Eucharist, it is like saving yourself from starvation. You need to be a home for the Blessed Trinity. The Blessed Trinity is what keeps our souls fed. It is the one

thing (besides going to Reconciliation) that keeps your spirit happy and healthy.

Mass is a place where you can meet your religious community. It brings us closer to God and enhances our trust in Him. At the beginning of Mass, the priest asks God to forgive the people of their sins, so during Mass, you are forgiven. Which means your spirit can be wiped fully clean again and can be strengthened through Mass.

We Catholics have to also keep the seventh day holy, the day God rested on and the day we are instructed to go to Mass. We can be better Catholics through the act of going to Mass every Sunday and Holy day of Obligation. Do you agree?

### **Third Place Tie**

Why We Go to Church  
By Cypress Hansen

Church is a place where we gather with others and worship God. We go to church because God is the creator everything, so we should keep our relationship close to Him. Also going to Mass keeps our soul pure. Jesus is our Saviour and he sacrificed himself because of our sin so when we go to church we are giving back to Him.

We also go to church to receive the Body and Blood of Christ. As a Catholic, it is our responsibility to go to Mass. In the third commandment, it states “Remember to keep the Lord’s Day.” That means we should go to Mass on Sunday. When we go to church we are practicing our beliefs and hearing stories about Jesus’s life in the Bible.

You may think why do we go to church when we can pray by ourselves? Well, when we go to church we are honoring God with other Catholics.

Also, we are showing our faith in the community. We don’t just go to church to worship Jesus but we also are honoring Mary and Joseph and all the other saints. Remember God loves you and would want you to go to Mass every Sunday!

### **Honorable Mention**

Why Do We Go to Mass?  
By Tyler DeVito

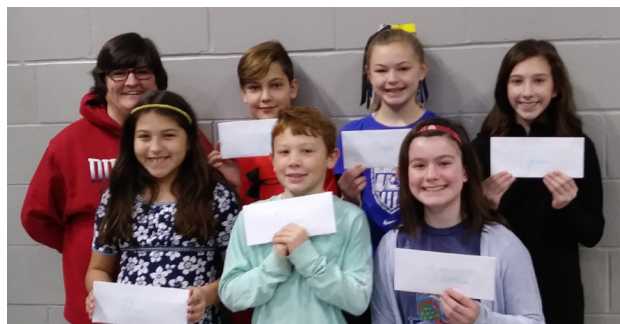
I believe we go to Mass because we learn about the one true God. God died for us so we should spend at least one hour to learn about Him. We go to Mass to pray for others. We go to Mass to receive the Body and Blood of Christ.

That is why we go to Mass.

### **Honorable Mention**

Why Do We Go to Church?  
By Sam Wilhite

We go to Mass to praise the Lord because He died on the cross. Next, the least we can do is spend an hour praising Him. Also, we go to listen and learn about Jesus. Finally, we go to celebrate with his Body and Blood and it fills us with His Spirit.





# American Mathematics Contest for Middle School



On November 13, 2018, 24 students from SFdS competed in the American Mathematics Contest for middle school students at Salisbury University. Students from grades seven and eight spent an hour working on twenty-four challenging word problems with other students from all over Delmarva. Afterward, they were treated to lunch and listened to a guest speaker. Students from SFdS were ranked based on their test scores as follows:

**1st: Ricky Gutierrez, 2nd: Bobby Simpson, 3rd: Heather Sanchez, Sara Noojin, Daniela Carrasco-Gonzalez**





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