



St. Agnes Always

Semi-Annual Magazine Edition 1 - 2019

We walk in the Light of Christ with purpose, passion and perseverance.

At St. Agnes School, our purpose is to form students of virtue in heart, mind and soul. And the mission of this work is grounded by the development of our gifts for the Greater Glory of God. Moreover, it is the unique and rich diversity of our collective gifts which propel our community to strive for excellence in all that we do. Thus, the phrase “WE ARE...ST. AGNES!” provides more than merely a rally cry for unity within our community. Instead, it serves as a declaration of distinction to the importance and value of each person as we are called to be the face of Christ to others. And as you enter our community, our hope is that the identity our Catholic faith is evident through every prayer we offer, each Scripture reading that is reflected upon, and the faith in action Christian service experiences in which our students engage.

As I reflect upon the past six months of the school year, the passion our faculty and staff exhibit each day can be seen through their daily preparation to create a culture of care and challenge for our young people. In support of their continued formation, the partnership we have developed with the Academy of Catholic Educators (A.C.E.S.) through Notre Dame University of Maryland has helped our faculty even more effectively utilize data for curricular planning. And as part of our initiative to use instructionally guided data in

support of academic progress, this year our school has included the administration of IOWA Interims each trimester. This assessment tool has proven to be invaluable for our teachers as they collaborate together to analyze student data in support of greater academic growth.

This school year has also delivered the development of an active vision for the present and future for our educational community. Through the governance of our School Board, along with essential input from our faculty, parents and students; we have forged a propitious course for the next five years of transformative growth for St. Agnes. The Strategic Planning document which guides our future is the result of the commitment and perseverance of our Board. This document charts a forward thinking model for our community and the programs of which we provide to our families.

As we walk in the Light of Christ, the remarkable journey of the 2018-2019 school year is one which is marked by purpose, passion and perseverance. May God continue to bless our school and parish communities with the joyful presence of His Spirit.

Rob Costante



From the Desk of our Pastor

Dear Friends:

Thank you for taking a bit of your time to read this update from St. Agnes School. We are so glad that you are a part of our St. Agnes family!

We treasure the 150 plus years of Catholic education that has gone on at St. Agnes School, but we are not content to rest on our laurels! The School Board has been busy working on a new strategic plan to guide our school community moving into the future. We are focusing on the core areas of Faith Formation, Academic Foundation, and Institutional Development. I encourage you to read this bold plan in its entirety on our website.

I continue to be inspired by the commitment of our faculty, staff, and parents to the mission of St. Agnes School. Seeing our students strive each day to grow in their faith and academics is an inspiration to me. And, I continue to thank God for the privilege to be able to celebrate Mass every Friday with our school community.

Your support of St. Agnes School and our mission is so critical to the success of our school. Thank you to those who support St. Agnes with their financial resources and those who support it in so many other ways including with your prayers!

Yours in the Lord Jesus,



Rev. Michael J. Foppiano

Pastor



Alumni Events

St. Agnes School introduced Spirit Week in November 2017 to kick-off our Enrollment Season by celebrating with our students, parishioners, and alumni. This past November, during our second annual Spirit Week, we added additional Alumni events to make more memories with our fellow SAS Bears! Stay tuned for dates for the 2019 Alumni Events!

Alumni Basketball Game

Team Odd (odd-number graduation years) battled Team Even (even-number graduation years) on the basketball court! Congratulations to Team Odd on their win in our inaugural event!



Alumni Happy Hour

Last Spring, we held an Alumni Giving Challenge in which the class that donated the most won a Happy Hour in their honor! The Amazing Class of 1992 were our guests of honor at the Happy Hour in November at lamps at Jennings Café in Catonsville!



Alumni Spotlight - Francis "Fritz" Gollery

Class of 1951

Education:

I attended St. Charles College (present location of Charlestown retirement community, on Maiden Choice Lane) for high school and two years of college, graduating from that institution in 1957. I completed my college education at St. Mary's Seminary on Paca Street in Baltimore, MD. with a bachelor's degree in Philosophy in 1959. I am now retired after spending years of employment in the service areas .



Marcy and Fritz Gollery

Favorite St. Agnes Memories: The Sisters playing baseball in a field where the Church now stands, being an altar boy at the dedication Mass of the Church in 1950 or 51 (picture hanging in the ACTIVITY ROOM in the gym). Another is attending altar boy outings at Magothy or Alpine Beaches. We, also, had parish picnics at Tolchester Beach, with a boat ride departing from the Inner Harbor. Activities in school that I enjoyed were spelling bees (which I was good at) and art class which I wasn't particularly good at. When I began school at St. Agnes' two classes were in one classroom. We had wide desks which held two or three students and had ink wells in them which were perfect for dipping the girls' long hair into. As I progressed in school, the top floor in the Old Building was finished into more rooms, so that some classes could be separated. Also, when I entered first grade, my older brother and sister were one and two years ahead of me.

Biggest Accomplishment: My major accomplishment was being in a relationship with Jesus Christ all these years through thick and thin, getting married and staying married and getting my Masters Degree in Pastoral Counseling. St. Agnes' teachers and priests were instrumental in my developing a love for Jesus Christ and His church and in my dedication to pursuing my intellectual life and using the brains that God had given me and training me in a certain amount of discipline in my life. I wish this same thing for the present students at St. Agnes' School, even though they do not realize it now.

Favorite St. Agnes Teacher: As to my memories of teachers and life while attending St. Agnes': I do not remember having any favorite teacher, maybe some less favorable ones, but there was a closeness there and a sense of being loved. I can still remember most of their names. The principal was Mother Marie Angela and I did keep in touch with her over the years through letters and with a visit with her at their retirement home in Scranton, PA.

What did you want to be when you grew up? While at St. Agnes' I aspired to be a Catholic priest or an interior decorator.





ST. AGNES
SCHOOL

What's the Buzz at S.A.S.?



Partnership with Notre Dame of Maryland's Academy of Catholic Educators - The Academy of Catholic Educators (ACES) supports academic excellence for all students through quality, research-based professional development for teachers and administrators. St. Agnes is pleased to share we have partnered with Michelle Jones to provide individual and small-group Professional Development sessions with our teachers. Michelle Jones is the Assistant Director of the Academy of Catholic Educators. She has been devoted to the mission of Catholic education for her entire career and her special focus is using assessments to design, differentiate and implement instruction.

When asked about her career and experience, Michelle commented, "I have worked as a teacher, assistant principal and principal in the Archdiocese of Washington. I was the principal of Holy Redeemer School in College Park, Maryland. I then went to Baltimore and was the principal of St. Jane Francis School in Pasadena. I worked at the AOB Central Office as the Director of Program Planning and Evaluation. For Notre Dame of Maryland University (my job now), I am the Assistant Director of the ACES Program (www.ndm.edu/ACES). I work as an instructional coach for schools in the Archdiocese of Baltimore and the Archdiocese of Washington. At NDMU, I also worked as a University Supervisor- for student teaching interns, a teacher for the university students, and a Professional Development School Coordinator. I am also working for the Archdiocese of Washington as a principal coach."

Michelle shared why this program is beneficial to St. Agnes: "I tailor professional development to the individual needs of St. Agnes and each faculty member. We are working in small groups, assessing test scores and developing strategies to improve each child's test results. It is a rewarding, fun job filled with enthusiasm, learning, and growth, while always focusing on what is best for the children."



Middle School Cub Club - Middle School years are often difficult for children. Managing higher expectations and responsibilities, while dealing with social and physical changes is not easy. At St. Agnes we look to develop the whole person, academically, spiritually and socially. This year, St. Agnes school started the Middle School Cub Club in which once a month our teachers host clubs that are of special interest to them, such as: Crochet, Sign Language, Art, Creative Writing, Book, Board Game, Exercise and WWE clubs. Each trimester, students select the club of their choice and spend the afternoon with other middle school students in a social setting.



St. Agnes on WMAR Midday Maryland! - We were so excited to be featured on WMAR's Midday Maryland in January. This LOCAL lifestyle show showcases everything that Maryland has to offer. From Maryland hotspots, to tips and tricks from local experts. Elsa, the Host of Midday Maryland, interviewed our Principal, Rob Costante, our 2nd Grade Teacher, Mrs. Elaine Liberto, and Parent and HSA Board Member, Jen Doyle, asking them to share why St. Agnes is so special. You can check out our feature by visiting the home page on our website. www.stagnesschool.net!



The strategic plan is a living document and is intentionally designed to allow for modifications and changes as deemed appropriate by the School Board. The Board will use the strategic plan as a guide and filter for establishing, approving and achieving annual goals that are aligned with the strategic priorities and objectives. When appropriate, committees within the Board will set long term goals beyond one year. Listed below are the three areas of priority for our developed plan: **Faith Formation, Academic Foundations, and Institutional Development**. With these three priorities in mind, our strategic objectives have an assigned annual goal that has been agreed upon as a means to realize the full potential of our growth in that area. It is the intention of the School Board to begin each school year with a presentation of the progress of our Strategic Plan. Through consistent monitoring, our strategically agreed-upon values and goals will serve as a continued source of reflection, evaluation and revision in order to improve our overall school program.

	Strategic Objective	2018-19 Goal
Faith Formation	Expand Christian Service Program beyond middle school classes	Integrate service program into 5th grade curriculum
	Engage parents in spiritual life of school through service and retreat opportunities	Invite parents to share in the service experience on the student project activities ✓
	Engage staff in the spiritual life of the school through faculty service opportunities	Organize a faculty and staff service day ✓
Academic Foundations	Support professional development for teachers in developing skills and strategies for integrating	Project-based Learning into curriculum Design and facilitate workshops on design thinking using the book "Launch" ✓
	Provide appropriate technology for each student in K-8 classrooms	Establish a campus technology plan which will include an annual budget timeline for the refresh cycle of current technology and future digital learning tools ✓
	Develop Innovative Science Lab to support an interactive science program for K-8	Explore student-centered lab models and available campus facility structure
	Evaluate best options for St. Agnes Create a leadership development program for 8th grade students	Plan a fall experiential leadership retreat for 8th grade
Institutional Development	Establish a financial model to ensure a balanced operating budget	Recruit a skilled professional to lead the Finance Committee. Employ a part-time on campus bookkeeper to manage the week to week financial operations of the school ✓
	Achieve 95% retention rate annually	Develop an outreach strategy to target families for the entry point and transitional grade level years
	Develop a Capital Improvement Plan for major facility needs and repairs	Address campus safety measures by relocating main office area, increasing security camera monitoring, and implementing a visitor management system ✓
	Establish outreach program with local parishes to promote St. Agnes as a school option for Catholic families	Target additional parish communities for potential outreach and recruitment



ST. AGNES
SCHOOL

Life in BEAR Nation





2018 Race For Education

48 Families met their fundraising goal and raised over **\$200**. Each family's name was placed in a drawing to win 5 additional volunteer hours! Congratulations to **Ryan Johnson** and her family for winning the Volunteer Hour Raffle!



49 Students won a Donut Breakfast for turning in **ALL 15** Envelopes with Stamps!



21 Students participated in our Jump for George Prize event. Students jumped and were awarded \$1 bills for the distance they jumped. They jumped for a total of **\$150**!



Many heartfelt thanks to everyone who participated in our first Race for Education! **While we did not hit our \$30,000 goal, we raised over \$23,000.** This is over twice

what we grossed last year with World's Finest Chocolate, and we know we will surpass our **\$30,000** goal when we do this again next school year. On October 18, 2018, the whole school ran (and walked and skipped and danced) around the parking lot, and the student from each grade that completed the most circuits won a \$5 Five Below gift card! We had a *Bubble Wrap Smack Down* for students whose family raised \$300 or more by our prize deadline and a *Jump-for-George* event for students whose family raised \$500 or more. Everyone got a snack afterward, and Aggie the

Bear, our mascot, showed up on the roof to unfurl a banner with our donations to date. We had several parent volunteers that helped our very first RFE day go smoothly, and we want to give them and our wonderful teachers a giant shout out for keeping the organized chaos under control. We've already brainstorming how to make next year better, but we welcome any comments or concerns that any of you may have.

Should you have any suggestions, please email our Co-chair, Allison Joyce (mallison99@aol.com). We look forward to a successful Race for Education in the Fall of 2019!



Joyce - \$1,055

Rowe - \$785

Wilder - \$685

COMING SOON

- Summer Steam Program Returns to St. Agnes visit www.stagnesschool.net/summersteam!
- Spirit Week and Alumni Weekend November 2019. Email Katie Wilder (kwilder@stagnesschool.net) to be added to the email list.

What's Inside

- From Our Pastor
- Alumni Events
- Alumni Spotlight
- What's the Buzz at SAS?
- Strategic Plan Update
- Bear Nation Pictures
- Race for Education

Stay Connected



[@St.AgnesCatholicSchoolBaltimore](https://www.facebook.com/StAgnesCatholicSchoolBaltimore)



[@stagnesschool](https://www.instagram.com/stagnesschool)



[@StAgnesSchoolMD](https://twitter.com/StAgnesSchoolMD)



[@StAgnesAlumnaeCatonsvilleMd](https://www.facebook.com/StAgnesAlumnaeCatonsvilleMd)



<https://www.stagnesschool.net/blog>



WWW.STAGNESSCHOOL.NET

Forming Students of Virtue in Heart, Soul and Mind



ST. AGNES
SCHOOL

603 St. Agnes Lane
Baltimore, MD 21229