

# **Can One School Make a Difference?**

## **Discover Divine Wisdom Catholic Academy**

**Annual State of Academy  
January 19, 2023**



# Discover the Difference

## Agenda

- **Opening Prayer**
- **Governance**
- **Academy Family Association - AFA**
- **Catholic Schools Week**
- **Registration or Apply Now**
- **Tuition, Fees, Service Hours**
- **Academics, Enrichment, HS Acceptance**
- **Safety and Security**
- **Student Life**
- **Financial Stability**
- **Infrastructure Investments**
- **Meeting Challenges**
- **Enrollment**
- **Fundraising**
- **Parish Collaboration**
- **Working Together**



# Discover the Difference

## Governance & Structure



# Two Tier Governance Structure

## Members – Monitor Catholic Identity, Ratify Board Appointments

- Rev. Msgr. Steven Aguggia, Chancellor – Diocese Brooklyn & Queens
- Rev. Msgr. David Cassato, Vicar for Education – DBQ
- Rev. Fr. David Dettmer, Pastor St. Anastasia Parish, Douglaston
- Rev. Fr. Gabriel Lee – Pastor St. Robert Bellarmine Parish, Bayside
- Deacon Kevin McCormack – Superintendent of Schools, DBQ

## Board of Trustees – Responsible for all Aspects of Academy Operations , Oversee Leadership Team

- |                                   |                |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|
| • Robert Schirling – Chairperson  | Sherise Elmore |
| • Peter Ermish – Vice Chairperson | Suzanne Karl   |
| • Patricia Zaccone – Treasurer    | Carolyn Meenan |
| • Kathleen Furlong – Secretary    | James Peveraro |

## Board Committees

- |                                  |                  |
|----------------------------------|------------------|
| • Executive and Nominating       | Robert Schirling |
| • Risk Management                | James Peveraro   |
| • Finance and Tuition Assistance | Patricia Zaccone |
| • Marketing                      | Suzanne Karl     |
| • Facilities Committee           | Peter Ermish     |
| • Fundraising/Development        | Kathleen Furlong |
| • Security                       | Sherise Elmore   |
| • Community Outreach             | Carolyn Meenan   |

Parents and Guardians may participate in Board Committees except Executive, Nominating, Finance, and Tuition Assistance

# Divine Wisdom Catholic Academy Organization Structure

**EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM**  
3K - PRE-K - K

**ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**  
GRADES 1 - 2 - 3

**MIDDLE SCHOOL**  
GRADES 4 - 5 - 6

**JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL**  
GRADES 7-8

## Enrichment Programs

**Spanish**  
M Lago

**STEM**  
F Signorello

**Art**  
D Filiberti

**Music**  
A Russo

**Phys Ed, Health & Wellness**  
M Russo

**Technology**  
M Kurzyna

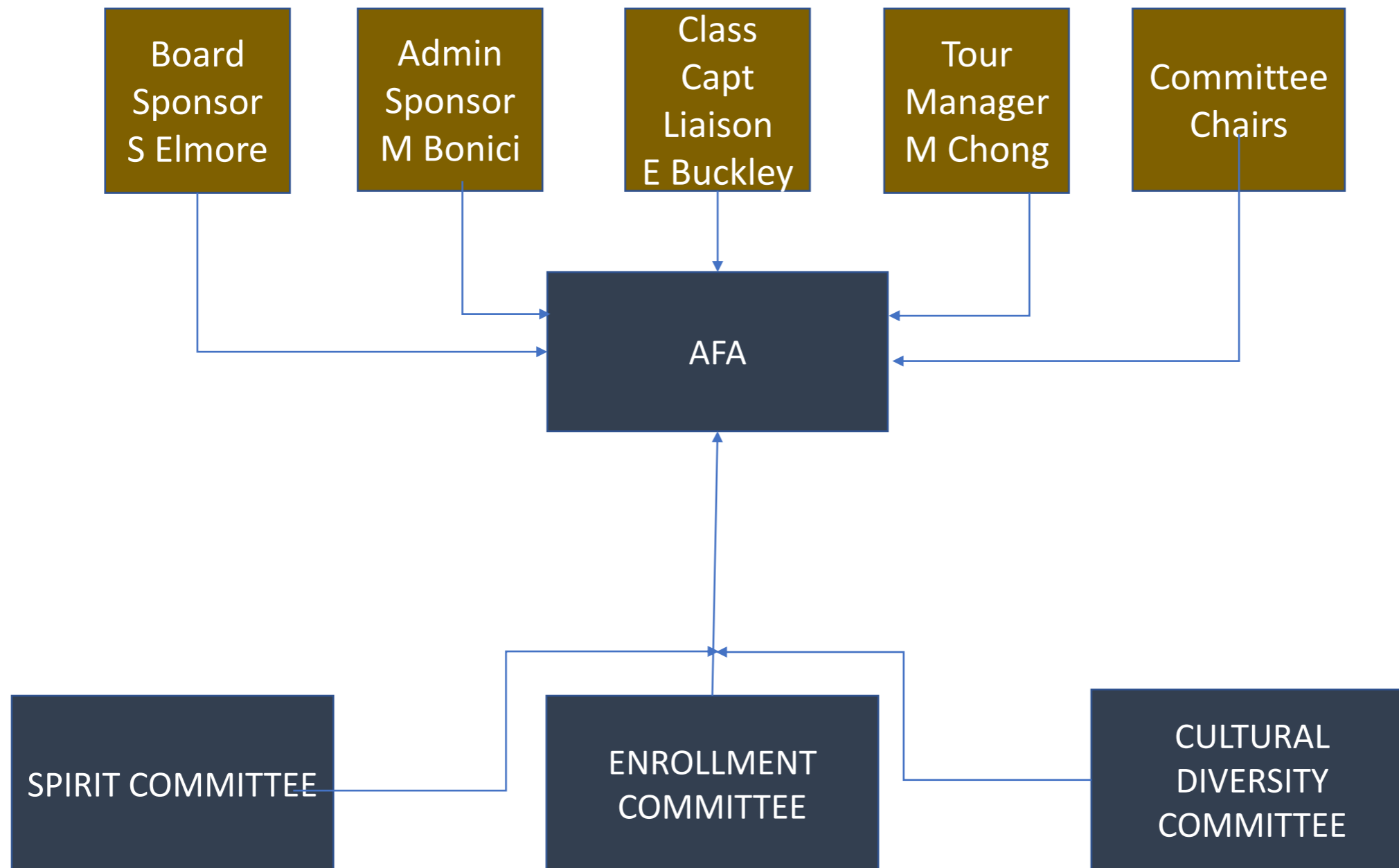
## Leadership Team

**MIRIAM BONICI**  
PRINCIPAL

**LINDA KEPPEL**  
ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL

**SYLVIA ROCCIA**  
ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL

# Academy Family Association - AFA



# Discover the Difference

## Academy Family Association Committees



## AFA Committee Structure

### Spirit Committee

- Pre-owned Uniform Exchange
- Sales of Spirit Wear
- Develop Branded Items

### Enrollment Committee

- Arrange and Manage Tours and Open Houses
- Plan and Manage Catholic Schools Week and Other Outreach

### Cultural Diversity Committee

- Embraces and Celebrates the Cultural Uniqueness of All Stakeholders and Promotes Inclusivity
- Promotes best practices in developing and Sustaining an Inclusive Environment
- Recognizes We are Made in the Likeness and Image of Jesus Christ and Each of our Children is a Precious Child of God.
- Supports Academy Leadership to Proactively Address Issues Related to Diversity, Culture, and Social Justice

**Discover  
the  
Difference**

**Catholic  
Schools  
Week**

**Celebrate Catholic Education**

**You are Invited**

**Mass and Breakfast January 29<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am  
Bring a Friend or Relative and Meet the  
Teachers**

***Open House***

***Sunday January 29 from 10:00am to 2:00pm  
Tuesday – Thursday Jan 31 – Feb 2 9:00am to 11:00 am***

**Schedule a Tour**

**Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays**

[dwcaonline.org](http://dwcaonline.org) and Click Register For a Tour Tab

or Visit:

[signupgenius.com/go.10c094cada82babf49-discover#/](http://signupgenius.com/go.10c094cada82babf49-discover#/)

Or Call:

718-631-3153 ext 303



Divine Wisdom Catholic Academy

**Sparkling Minds, Enriching Souls, Inspiring Futures**

**Discover  
the  
Difference**

**Register  
or Apply  
Now**

## **Reserve Your Seat Now**

### **Current Families**

- Registration for the 2023-2024 is OPEN NOW
- Visit FACTS Website Parent Log-In at [factsmgt.com](https://factsmgt.com)
- Register by February 3 to Receive Early Registration Discount

### **New Families**

- Applications can be Initiated NOW through FACTS from the In-Person/Zoom Tour Request Tab on our Homepage: [dwcaonline.org](https://dwcaonline.org)

### **NYC Prek3 and Prek4 Programs**

- Registration for NYC Residents will be Communicated when Information becomes available from NYC





# Discover the Difference

## Tuition Rates, Fees, Service Hours

- **Tuition Only Covers 60% of Operating Costs (no Pandemic costs Charged)**
- **Remaining 40%, as well as Infrastructure Investments Covered by Fundraising, Donations, Mandated Services Reimbursements, and Grants (incl. Seton Fund)**
- **Tuition Assistance Available – Apply at [futuresineducation.org](https://futuresineducation.org)**

### Tuition Rates for 2023-2024 Academic Year

Kindergarten through 8th Grade

Catholic Affiliated Rate:

One Child	\$6,320 - \$632 per month
Two Children	\$9,700 - \$970 per month
Three Children	\$12,650 - \$1,265 per month
Four or more Children	\$15,200 - \$1,520 per month

Non-Catholic Rate:

One Child	\$7,015 - \$701.50 per month
Two Children	\$10,915 - \$1,091.50 per month
Three or more Children	\$14,250 - \$1,425 per month
Four or more Children	\$17,085 - \$1,708.50 per month

NON-REFUNDABLE costs (due at time of Registration):

Registration Fees:

Students currently in grades K-8:

- \$125 per student capped at \$250 per family if registered by February 3, 2023.
- \$200 per student capped at \$400 per family.

Families with no current students in grades K-8:

- \$200 per student capped at \$400 per family.

Academic, Art, and Class Activity Fee - \$150 per student in grades K-8.

Kindergarten Security Deposit (applied to first month's Kindergarten tuition)

Families with students currently in grades K-8 – NOT APPLICABLE.

Families with no students currently in grades K-8 - \$300.

Fundraising requirements for families with students in grades K-8:

Turkey Trot – Minimum fund-raise of \$50 per student in grades K-8.

Service Hours - 15 hours per family towards approved activities. Families not fulfilling the minimum 15 service hour requirement will be charged \$50 per hour not served.



# Discover the Difference

## Academics & Enrichment

### Integrated Academic, Enrichment and Professional Development A Powerful Combination

- **Fully Accredited** by the Cognia Global Commission that Exceeds Next Generation standards in ELA, Math, Science, and Social Studies
- **Integrated STEM Program** Promotes Problem Solving, Creativity, & Critical Thinking building on lessons learned in classrooms.
- **Art and Music Curricula** Foster a Love and Appreciation for the Arts and Enhance Academics and Self-Confidence through Cross-Curricula Activities
- **Technology Curriculum** Promotes Student Engagement and Develops Necessary technology skills
- **Spanish Curriculum** covers PreK-Grade 8 Develops an Appreciation for Spanish Language, Culture, and History, and Prepares Students for the NY Checkpoint A Proficiency Exam
- **Physical Education and Wellness Program** Advances Gross Motor Skills, Promotes Health and Wellness, and Encourages Team Play, Cooperative Learning, and Sportsmanship
- **Investment in Professional Development** Including Generation Ready Coaches in ELA and Math, Use of iReady Data to Drive Instruction, and Professional Learning Ensures Effective Teaching Methods



# Discover the Difference

## Academics High School Acceptances



**Our 8<sup>th</sup> graders are accepted into  
outstanding Catholic Schools!**

***As of January 19, 2023, \$271,000 of  
scholarships awarded!***

Archbishop Molloy High School

Chaminade High School

Dominican Academy

Holy Cross High School

Kellenberg Memorial High School

McClancy High School

Sacred Heart Academy

St. Francis Preparatory High School

St. Mary's High School

The Mary Louis Academy

Xavier High School

**Discover  
the  
Difference**

# **Safety and Security**



Divine Wisdom Catholic Academy

## **Safety and Security A Top Priority**

- Full Time Security Guard
- Full Time Registered Nurse
- 50+ Cameras Monitor and Record all Hallways, External Doorways, and School Grounds
- Panic and Fire Alarms Connected to the Local Police and Fire Departments
- Mandated Active Shooter Training for Staff
- Go Guardian Software Monitors Student Online Activity, Classroom Engagement, and Student Wellness
- Actively Applied for and Obtained Security Grants of \$200,000 to Enhance Security

**Sparking Minds, Enriching Souls, Inspiring Futures**

# Discover the Difference

## Student Life Home of the Bears!



## Student Life - Developing The Whole Student

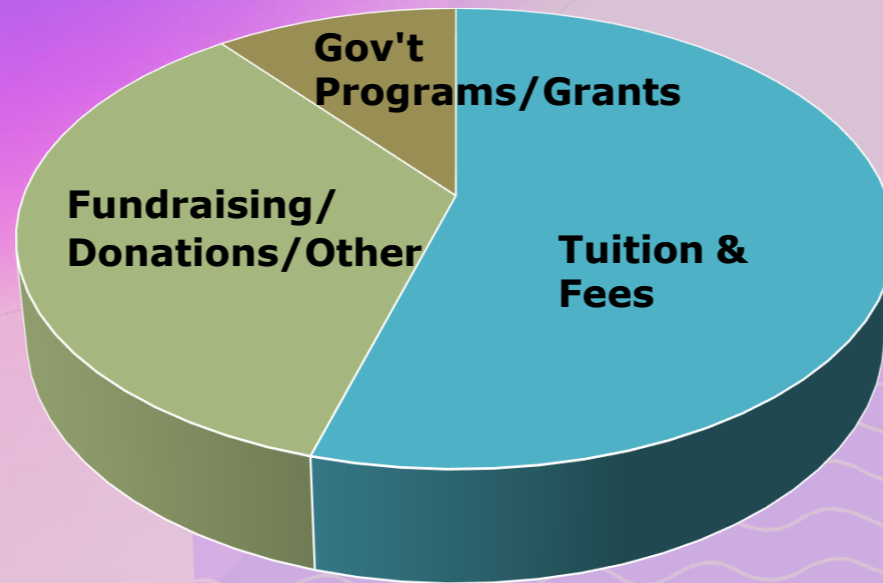
- Faith Based Education Encourages a Global World View, Compassion, and Empathy
- Sacrament Preparation supported by St. Anastasia Parish
- Extended Day for PreK-Grade 8 available from 7am to 6pm
- After School Enrichment Programs: All That Jazz, Band, String Instruments, Brix4Kids, Chess Nuts, Crochet Class, Drama Club, CYO Sports, Financial Literacy, Math Olympiads, Math Puzzle and Board Games, TACHS Prep, and Tiger Tennis Academy
- Academy Clubs and Courses: Pope Francis Society, Student Government, Health & Wellness Course, Public Forum Debate Programs, Algebra 1 Regents Course
- Students Show Their School Spirit! Each Division Has its Own Mascot!

# Discover the Difference

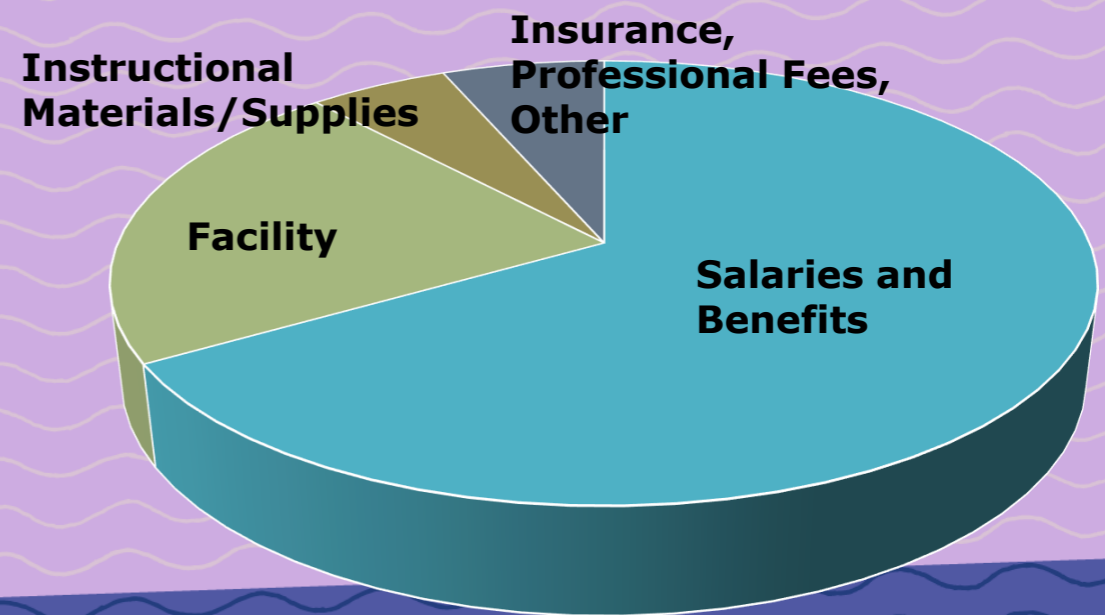
## Financial Stability

# Revenues and Expenses 2022-2023

## Revenues



## Expenses



# Discover the Difference

## Infrastructure Investments



Infrastructure Investment is a Board Priority  
Since 2009, the Academy has invested **OVER \$4.0 million** in  
Facilities and Technology Infrastructure  
***THESE PROJECTS ARE FUNDED EXCLUSIVELY THROUGH  
GRANTS and DONATIONS***

### ***Projects recently completed:***

New HVAC & Air Purification Systems  
Upgrades to Security Recording Devices and Security Cameras  
Extension of Fencing on Northern Blvd – Closing of Gaps  
New Fencing Securing North Entrance  
Peaceful Playground Refresh

### ***Projects currently in process:***

Final Phase of Efficient Lighting Installation  
Fire alarm System Replacement

### ***Projects currently In planning:***

Extension of Peaceful Playground  
Additional Security Upgrades (perimeter and building access)  
Creation of Multipurpose Outdoor Space behind Church

# Discover the Difference

## Meeting Challenges

### Academy Meets Challenges Head - On

- Maintained & Expanded Programs despite Pandemic
- Increased Staff Salaries to Create Stability with the help of Donations
- Obtained fully forgiven PPP Funding of over \$1 Million
- Applied for FEMA Reimbursement of \$300K COVID Costs
- Awarded Security Grants Totaling \$200K for Security Infrastructure Enhancements
- Obtained Contracts for Fully Funded PreK 3 and PreK 4 programs at \$1 Million Per Year so Families Receive Quality Education at No Cost
- Established Hardship Fund to Assist Families Experiencing Unexpected Financial Hardships
- Awarded Grant for Costs of Full Day Security Guard
- Maintained Full Time Registered Nurse & Part Time Counselor through Government Programs at No Cost to Families
- Continued to Make Infrastructure Improvements through Generous Donations





# Discover the Difference

## Enrollment

### Increasing Enrollment Maintains Programs and Affordability

**Board of Trustees seeks 30% Enrollment increase by 2027**

Academy currently has Capacity and Resources to Absorb such  
Increases and Maintain our High Standards

#### Actions taken to achieve goal

- Created Full Time Website, Social Media, and Tour Director Position
- Formalized Enrollment Committee of the AFA
- Significantly Increased Outreach in Local Communities
- Launched Improved Website and Instagram Account
- Significantly Increased Internet Presence by Partnering with Niche.com

***WE NEED YOUR HELP – WRITE A REVIEW ON NICHE.COM, REFER  
OTHERS***

***(Each successful referral provides referring families a \$500  
tuition discount)***



# Discover the Difference

## Fundraising

### Fundraising Dollars Reduce Tuition Costs

Fundraising Budget for 2022-2023 (Net of Expenses) \$210,000

*Thanks for Supporting the Turkey Trot and Celebrating Christmas*

*Thanks to our Giving Tuesday, Angel, and Tuition Assistance Donors*

*WE NEED YOUR SERVICE AND SUPPORT FOR THE SUCCESS OF OUR REMAINING EVENTS*

*Candy Sale – Underway*

*300 Club – Details Forthcoming*

*2023 Spring Event – Details Forthcoming*

*Reminder - Families of Students in K-8 must Provide 15 Hours of Service to Approved Academy Fundraising Activities or Pay \$50 Per Hour for each Hour not Served (Maximum \$750)*



# Discover the Difference

## Parish Collaboration

## St. Anastasia Parish Supports Catholic Identity

- Preparation For and Celebration of Sacraments
- Offering of First Friday and Other Masses Throughout the School Year
- Community Outreach through Parish Bulletin, Website, & Social Media
- Support of Academy Activities & Fund-Raising Events
- Support of Joint Infrastructure Projects

Fr. David Dettmer – Pastor, Academy Board Member  
Mrs. Rose Ruesing – Faith Formation Director  
Mrs. Stephanie Larkin – Music Ministry

Web: [sta.nyc](http://sta.nyc) E-mail: [info@sta.nyc](mailto:info@sta.nyc)  
FB: [facebook.com/stanastasiany/](https://facebook.com/stanastasiany/)



# Discover the Difference

## Working Together



## Support Your Academy

- Refer New Families – Receive a \$500 tuition discount for each successful referral!
- Write a Review on Niche.com
- Support Your Class Captains
- Make our Fund-Raisers Successful
- Participate in Catholic Schools Week Events
- Participate in Board or AFA Committees
- Stay Connected
  - Read Academy Happenings and DW Alerts
  - Attend Coffee and Conversation Meetings
  - Follow and Like Us on
    - Facebook [facebook.com/Divine-Wisdom-Catholic-Academy-154653568771513](https://www.facebook.com/Divine-Wisdom-Catholic-Academy-154653568771513)
    - Instagram [Instagram.com/discoverdivinewisdom](https://www.instagram.com/discoverdivinewisdom)
  - Visit our Website: [dwcaonline.org](https://www.dwcaonline.org)

**Thanks for Attending!**