

# Discover the Divine Wisdom Difference!

State of Academy Meeting  
Thursday, January 18, 2024



# Discover the Difference

## Agenda



Opening Prayer  
Governance Structure  
Academy Structure  
Academy Family Association  
Join Us for Catholic Schools Week  
Enrollment for 2024 – 2025 School Year  
Exceptional Educational Experience  
Outstanding Enrichment Curriculum  
Student Life  
Investing In Our Academy  
Safety and Security  
Financial Stability  
Enrollment Growth Goal  
Fundraising  
Catholic High School Acceptances/Scholarships  
Alumni Stories  
Working Together  
Q&A

# Discover the Difference

## Governance & Structure



Divine Wisdom Catholic Academy

## Governance Structure

### Members – Monitor Catholic Identity, Ratify Board Appointments

- Rev. Msgr. Steven Aguggia, Chancellor – Diocese Brooklyn & Queens
- Rev. Msgr. David Cassato, Vicar for Catholic Schools, DBQ
- Rev. Fr. David Dettmer, Pastor St. Anastasia Parish, Douglaston
- Rev. Fr. Gabriel Lee – Pastor St. Robert Bellarmine Parish, Bayside
- Rev. Andrew Kim – Pastor of St. Paul Chong Ha-Sang Parish, Flushing
- Deacon Kevin McCormack – Superintendent of Schools, DBQ
- Mrs. Joan McMaster – Deputy Superintendent of Schools, DBQ

### Board of Trustees – Overall Responsibility, Oversees Leadership

- |                                   |                |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|
| • 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                     | Peter Ermish     |
| • Fundraising/Development        | Kathleen Furlong |
| • Security                       | Sherise Elmore   |
| • Community Outreach             | Carolyn Meenan   |

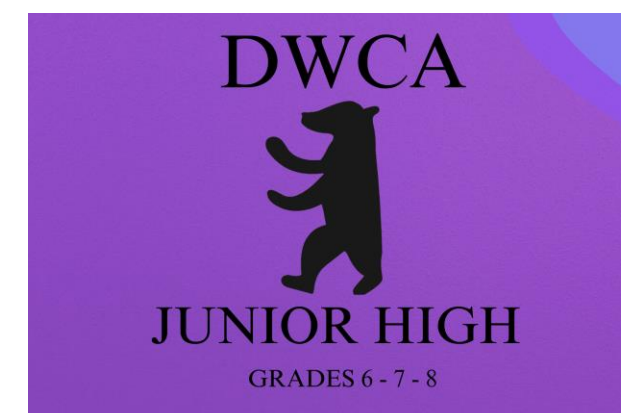
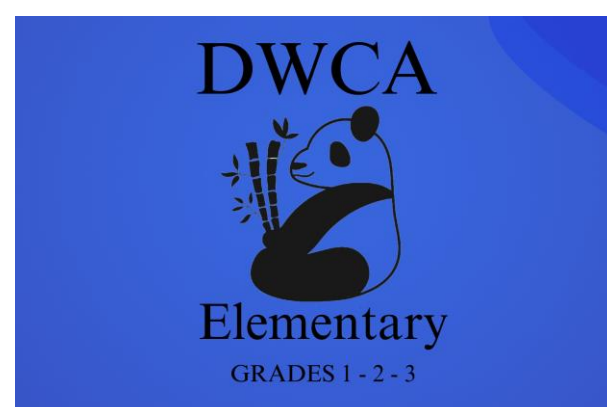
Parents and Guardians may participate in Board Committees except Executive, Nominating, Finance, and Tuition Assistance

Sparking Minds, Enriching Souls, Inspiring Futures

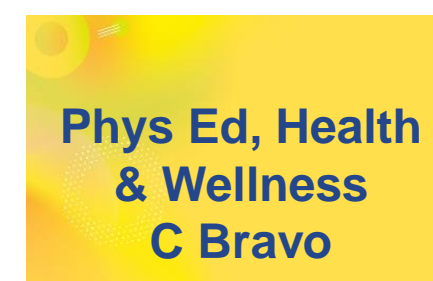
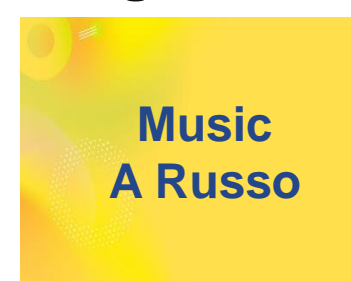
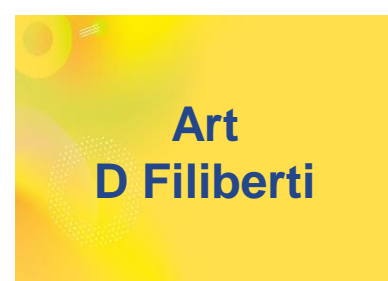


# ACADEMY STRUCTURE

## Divisions



## Enrichment Programs



## Leadership Team

**MIRIAM BONICI**  
PRINCIPAL

**LINDA KEPPEL**  
ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL

**SYLVIA ROCCIA**  
ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL  
EARLY CHILDHOOD



Divine Wisdom Catholic Academy

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# Discover the Difference

**Divine Wisdom  
Catholic Academy**

**Academy  
Family  
Association**



Divine Wisdom Catholic Academy

## Mission of the AFA

To further the Academy's mission by celebrating our rich diversity, welcoming new members of our academy family, and growing academy spirit and enrollment.

### **Spirit Committee**

- Designs and Sells Branded Clothing & other items
- Operates Pre-Owned Uniform Exchange

### **Welcoming Committee**

- Arranges Tours, Open Houses & Community Outreach
- Assists new families in acclimation to the Academy

### **Cultural Diversity Committee**

- Recognizes we are all made in Christ's image
- Assists in recognizing and celebrating our rich diversity
- Promotes practices that develop and sustain inclusivity

### **Class Captains**

- Help Communicate Academy Expectations to Families
- Assist in Coordination of AFA and Academy activities

**See our  
Brochure on  
the DWCA  
website for  
more  
information**

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# Discover the Difference



**Catholic Schools**  
United in Faith and Community



Divine Wisdom Catholic Academy

## Join us for Catholic Schools Week!

### Come to our Celebratory Mass & Breakfast

- Sunday, January 28 - 10:00 am
- St. Anastasia Church
- Breakfast in Father Smith Hall following Mass

### Come to one of our Open Houses

- Sunday, January 28 - 10:00 am to 2:00 pm
- Tuesday, January 30 - 8:30 to 10:30 am & 1:30 to 2:30 pm
- Wednesday January 31 - 8:30 to 10:30 am & 1:30 to 2:30 pm
- Thursday February 1 - 8:30 to 10:30 am & 1:30 to 2:30 pm
- Friday February 2 - 8:30 to 10:30 am & 1:30 to 2:30 pm

### Take a Tour – Available Tuesdays and Thursdays

### To Schedule a Private Tour

- Visit [dwcaonline.org](http://dwcaonline.org), navigate to the "Take a Tour" tab, or
- Call: 718-631-3153 ext. 303

### Discover and Explore

*Bring a Friend   Visit Classrooms   Meet the Teachers*

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# Discover the Difference

**Enroll for  
2024 –  
2025  
School  
Year**



Divine Wisdom Catholic Academy

## Current Families (Kindergarten thru Grade 8)

- Registration for 2024-2025 is NOW OPEN in FACTS!
- Go to [www.factsmgt.com](http://www.factsmgt.com) and use your FACTS username and password to begin
- **Early Registration Discount** available through February 2

## New Families

- Applications system opens Sunday, January 28, 2024
- Visit [dwcaonline.org](http://dwcaonline.org) and navigate to the Apply Tab to begin
- Families going from prek-4 to K are priority registrants

## NYC 3-K for All and Pre-K for All Programs

- Application Process through NYC DOE opened on Jan 10
- Acceptances communicated by NYC DOE at a later date
- For More Information, visit [myschools.nyc](http://myschools.nyc)

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# Discover the Difference

## Exceptional Educational Experience!



Divine Wisdom Catholic Academy

### Our Priorities

- Academic Excellence
- Holistic student development, including spiritual, academic, intellectual, moral, physical, and social
- Recognition and celebration of our rich diversity
- Actions supportive of the broader community

### Our Recognitions and Accreditations

- Fully accredited by The Cognia Global Commission
- A+ rating from Niche - outstanding Private School (2024)

### Our Student Organizations

- Pope Francis Society – Anything Good is Possible
- Student Government – Developing Leaders



### Our Partnerships

- The Loukoumi Make a Difference Foundation  
(Member of the Foundation's International Good Deeds Council)



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# Discover the Difference

## Outstanding Enrichment Curriculum

### 1. STEM

- Complements K-8 Core Curriculum
- Exceeds Next Generation Standards
- Emphasizes interdisciplinary and applied learning
- Fosters innovation and critical thinking through real-world scenarios

### 2. Music

- Engaging and age-appropriate activities
- Nurtures a deep appreciation for music
- Vocal and instrumental experiences
- Performances include Christmas Show, Fall & Spring Concerts, Middle School Jazz Band Concerts
- Proud members of the NYS School Music Association

### 3. Art Program

- Ignites a passion for art
- Complements core curriculum
- Cross-curricular engagement
- Explores works of various artists
- Students create artwork using different styles & techniques



# Discover the Difference

## Outstanding Enrichment Curriculum

### 4. Spanish

- Comprehensive understanding of Spanish language, culture, and history
- Prepares students for NYS Checkpoint A Proficiency exam in 8th Grade

### 5. Physical Education Health and Wellness

- Enhances motor skills
- Fosters teamwork
- Promotes overall health and wellness
- Instills values of sportsmanship and physical well-being

### 6. Technology

- Compliments K-6 Curriculum
  - Supports basic proficiency in use of technology
- Subjects covered in curriculum include Mouse/Trackpad Skills, Understanding the different parts of computers and their function, device navigation, effective student use of Math & ELA digital activities, Internet safety and Digital Citizenship



# Discover the Difference

## Student Life



# Developing The Whole Student

Preparation for Sacraments & Deepening of our Catholic Faith  
Supported by St. Anastasia Parish (website [www.sta.nyc](http://www.sta.nyc) - email: [info@sta.nyc](mailto:info@sta.nyc) - Facebook: facebook.com/stanastasiany)

- Fr. David Dettmer – Pastor
- Mrs. Rose Ruesing – Director of Faith Formation
- Mrs. Stephanie Larkin – Director of Music Ministry

Extended Day for PreK-Grade 8 available from 7am to 6pm

Algebra 1 Regents Course

### Clubs

All That Jazz - Learning through dance

Paul Effman Band - Musical expression and collaboration

Brix4Kids - Creative building with bricks

Chess Nuts - Strategic thinking through chess

Crochet Class - Artistic and hands-on crafting

Drama Club - Theatrical expression and teamwork

Financial Literacy - Developing financial understanding

Math Olympiads - Math challenges and competitions

Tiger Tennis Academy - Tennis skill development

Anime Club – Understanding the history of anime and its impact



# Discover the Difference

## Investing in our Academy



# Ongoing investments to achieve excellence today and tomorrow

## Technology

Investment in Technology is critical to delivering effective learning

- Infrastructure investments include fiber optic cabling, high-capacity Wi-Fi, secure web filtering, virus and malware protection
- User devices Investments include Chromebooks, tablets, desktops, high-definition cameras, 3D printers, drones, SMART Boards
- Student monitoring and assessment includes GoGuardian, I-Ready

## Professional Development

- Investment in teachers and staff is vital to classroom success
- Includes Coaching in ELA and Math, Effective use of Use of iReady Data to Drive Instruction, Effective communication, and addressing difficult conversations and situations

## Facilities

- Recent investments focused on safety, security and upgrades
- Investments include new fire alarm system, enhanced perimeter fencing, fully renovated gym space, and new lighting and flooring in upper grade classrooms

**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 (new system expected online in next 90 days)
- Mandated Active Shooter Training for Staff
- Go Guardian Software Monitors Student Online Activity, Classroom Engagement, and Student Wellness
- Perimeter fencing enhancements completed Summer 2023

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# Discover the Difference

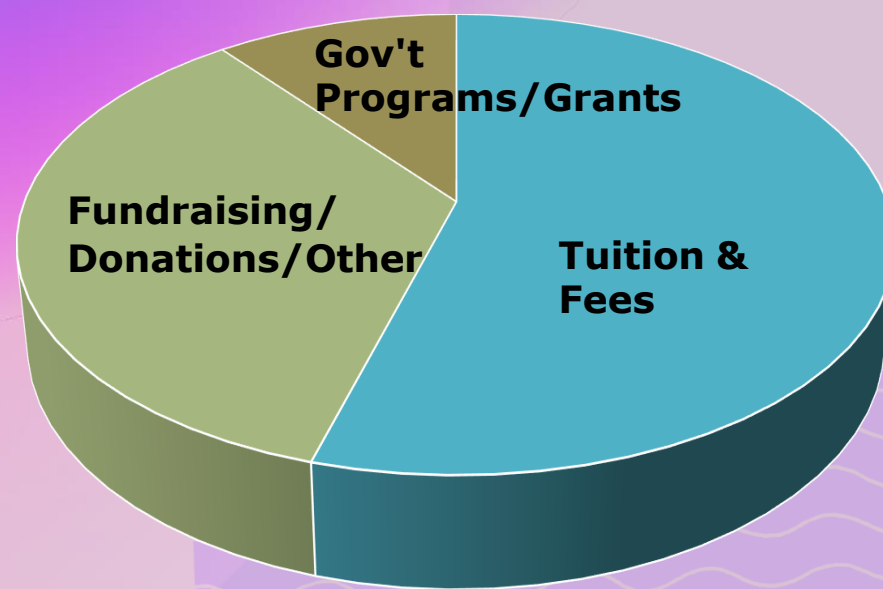
## Financial Stability



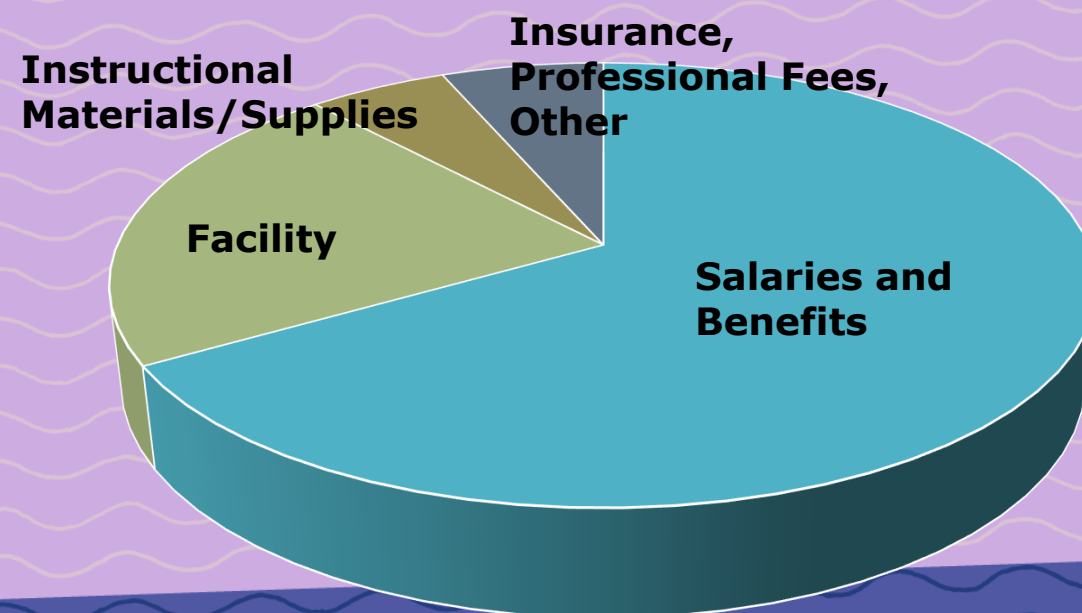
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## Revenues and Expenses 2023-2024

### Revenues



### Expenses



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# Discover the Difference

## Enrollment Growth Goal



## 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 2023-2024 (Net of Expenses) \$210,000

*Thanks for Supporting the Walkathon, the 300 Club, and Christmas fair!*

*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

2024 Spring Gala – April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024

*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

## High School Acceptances



Divine Wisdom Catholic Academy

**Our 8<sup>th</sup> graders are accepted into  
outstanding Catholic Schools!**  
***As of January 18, 2024, \$360,000 of  
scholarships have been awarded!***

Archbishop Molloy High School  
Chaminade High School  
Fordham Prep  
Holy Cross High School  
Kellenberg Memorial High School  
Sacred Heart Academy  
St. Francis Preparatory High School  
St. Mary's High School  
The Mary Louis Academy  
Xavier High School

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# Discover the Difference

## Alumni Stories



Divine Wisdom Catholic Academy

**Our Alumni are thriving!  
See more at**

**<https://dwcaonline.org/alumni-stories>**

### DIVINE WISDOM CATHOLIC ACADEMY **ALUMNI NEWS**



#### LAWRENCE CHONG

Congratulations to Lawrence Chong, Graduate of Divine Wisdom Catholic Academy Class of 2018, Cadet Chong has received the St. John's University ROTC Scholarship.



### DIVINE WISDOM CATHOLIC ACADEMY **ALUMNI NEWS**



#### KATE ESTEVEZ '19

Congratulations to Kate Estevez, senior at Townsend Harris High School in Queens and a graduate of the Divine Wisdom Catholic Academy class of 2019. Kate a lover of science, will be attending Yale University in the Fall where she will concentrate her studies on the pre-med track, with a focus on medical research.



### DIVINE WISDOM CATHOLIC ACADEMY **ALUMNI NEWS**



#### ICEMA CASTLE '19

Congratulations to Icema Castle, senior at the Marymount School in Manhattan and a graduate of the Divine Wisdom Catholic Academy class of 2019. At the Marymount School, she was a recipient of the highly competitive Butler Scholarship. In the fall, Icema will be attending Cornell University, School of Industrial and Labor Relation where she will be pursuing her focus on the pre-law track.



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# Discover the Difference

## Working Together



Divine Wisdom Catholic Academy

## Support Your Academy

- Refer New Families – Receive a \$500 tuition discount for each successful referral!
- Review us on Niche.com (scan code)
- 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)
- Q&A



**Thanks for Attending!**

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