

**Divine Wisdom Catholic Academy
State of the Academy
January 15, 2019**

Celebrating 10 Years - Sparking Minds, Enriching Souls, Inspiring Futures

Celebrating 10 Years ...

- **Enrollment Growth** – Almost Tripled in 10 Years from 170 to 470
- **Facility Investments** – Over 3 million invested in 10 years – 4,000 sq. ft. Extension, Peaceful Playground, state of the art STEM, Computer Lab, Art Studio, Music Conservatory, new furnishings, lighting, flooring, window shades, and dedicated Early Childhood Wing
- **Multiple Classes per Grade** – 3 Prek and Grade 8; 2 classes K – 7
- **Program Accreditation** – AdvancEd accreditation achieved March 31, 2017
- **Graduate Success** – Approximately 500 alumni accepted at top public and private schools, scholarship awards, honor roll achievements

Sparking Minds ...

- **Celebrating the Arts** – Art and Music integrated with Core Curriculum, Paul Effman Band Program, Jazz and Percussion Ensembles, Christmas Show, Christmas and Spring Concerts, Dance Program, Spring Drama Performance, Gala Art Auction, Music Conservatory and Art Studio
- **Technology Advancements** – Computer Classes integrated with Core Curriculum, SMART Board Technology in all Classes, State of the Art Computer and STEM labs, 5 Chrome Book Carts, iPads
- **Foreign Language Study** – Spanish instruction from PreK to Grade 8
- **Math 9 Integrated Regents Algebra** – After school program for grade 8 students
- **After School Enrichment** – Band, Chess, Dance, Drama, Aquinas, Bricks for Kidz, Tiger Tennis, Mad Science
- **Partnership with St. Francis Preparatory High School** – Middle School electives taught by high school professors in a high school setting

Enriching Souls ...

- **Partners with Sponsoring Parishes** – St. Anastasia, St. Robert Bellarmine, and St. Paul Chong Ha-Sang
- **Daily Prayer and Reflection** – Prayer is an integral part of the school day
- **Monthly Liturgical Celebrations** – First Friday schoolwide liturgies
- **Prayer Services** – Thanksgiving, Advent, Lent, and other special services
- **Sacramental Preparation** – Work with Parish staff to prepare students for Reconciliation, Holy Communion, and Confirmation
- **Retreats** – Faculty and student retreats
- **Pope Francis Society** – Promotes Acceptance, Tolerance, and Respect

Inspiring Futures ...

- **Developing 21st Century Skills** – Leadership, Technology, Critical Thinking
- **Celebrating Diversity of Learners** – Learning Lab and Enrichment Programs
- **Broad Curriculum** – Curriculum that meets or exceeds state standards in Math, English, Science and Social Studies enhanced by enrichment programs in Music, Art, Physical Education, Spanish and the development of religious values through prayer, service, and love
- **Preparing for High School and Beyond** – Strong foundational skills supported by lifelong values

Building Community ...

- **Strong Relationship with St. Anastasia Parish** – Parish staff supports liturgies, prayer services, sacramental preparation, religious instruction, and strong physical presence in Academy
- **Promoting Acceptance, Tolerance, and Respect** – Pope Francis Society, service projects, celebrating National Bullying Awareness Month
- **Following Jesus' Example** – What Would Jesus Do?
- **Academy Family Association and Class Captains** – Support families, faculty and administration
- **Family Social Events** - Gala, 300 Club, Halloween Party, Christmas Fair and Breakfast with Santa
- **Relationships with Local Community** – Garden Club, Memorial Day Parade, Government Officials, NYPD, Parks Dept. Daffodil project, High Schools, St. John's University
- **Communication** – Coffee and Conversation, Newsletters, Website, Emails

Ensuring Stability ...

- **Long Term Lease** – Lease with St. Anastasia Parish extended to 2040
- **Teacher Retention Programs** – Only 2 new teachers hired in 2018; investments in professional development, advancement, and compensation packages
- **Building Enrollment while Maintaining Low Faculty to Student Ratio** – Enrollment 470; faculty to student ratio 11:1; average class size 20
- **Strong Finances** – Healthy cash flows; net assets \$.5 million
- **Balanced Operating Budget** – Total budget \$3.5 million; 67% tuition and fees; 20% gov't funding for PreK, mandated services, and security, 11% fundraising and donations; 2% other
- **Facility Investments** – Over \$3 million in infrastructure investments
- **Safety First** – Crisis Management Plan, school safety officer, extensive security cameras for all doors, hallways, and stairwells,
- **Program Accreditation** – Fully accredited by AdvancEd

Future Changes ...

- **Carnival to be Reimagined as Family Fun Fest** – Earlier hours, more family focused
- **Continued Focus on Affordability** – Minimal tuition increases
- **Academic Innovation** – Google Classroom, Amplify Science, TEAL (Technology Enabled Active Learning)

Questions, Comments, Ideas ...

We welcome your thoughts

Our greatest asset is our families

Thank You for entrusting your children to us