



Divine Wisdom Catholic Academy
State of the Academy Meeting

January 20, 2022

Sparking Minds, Enriching Soul, Inspiring Futures

Opening Prayer

Heavenly Father, we come to you today asking for your guidance, wisdom, and support as we begin the State of the Academy meeting.

Help us to engage in meaningful discussion; allow us to grow closer as a group and nurture the bonds of community.

Fill us with your grace, Lord God, as we discuss matters affecting the students, staff, faculty, alumni and friends of the Academy.

Let our words and actions reflect our commitment to a true spirit of community, celebrating and embracing its rich diversity.

Continue to remind us that all that we do here today, all that we accomplish, is for the pursuit of truth for the greater glory of You, and for the service of humanity.

We ask these things in your name. Amen.

Academy Mission Statement

Divine Wisdom Catholic Academy provides a Christ-centered education that is academically vigorous and empowers students to reach their full potential – spiritually, intellectually, morally, physically, and socially.

Our goal is to nurture each student's ability in developing their gifts to be used in life-long service, following Jesus' example through prayer, service, and love.

Agenda

Who We Are

Academic Update

Meeting the COVID Challenge

The Importance of Enrollment

Fundraising Update

Catholic Schools Week and Academy Tours

Registration – New and Returning Students

Tuition, Fees, Service Hours, and Fundraising Commitment

Other Matters

Q&A – USE CHAT FEATURE!

Who We Are

Academy Governance

Members (Monitor Catholic identity/Ratify Board appointments)

Rev. Msgr. Steven Aguggia, Chancellor - Diocese of Brooklyn and Queens

Rev. Msgr. David Cassato, Vicar for Education – Diocese of Brooklyn and Queens

Fr. David Dettmer, Pastor St. Anastasia Parish, Douglaston

Rev. Fr. Gabriel Lee – Pastor, St. Robert Bellarmine Parish, Bayside

Thomas Chadzutko, Ed D – Superintendent of Schools, Diocese of Brooklyn and Queens

Board of Trustees (Responsible for all aspects of Academy/oversees Leadership Team)

Trustees serve three-year terms and may serve consecutive terms

Parents of current students not eligible

Bob Schirling – Board Chair

Sherise Elmore

Peter Ermish – Vice Chair

Suzanne Karl

Pat Zacccone – Treasurer

Carolyn Meenan

Kathy Furlong – Secretary

Jim Peveraro

Board Committees

Executive & Nominating Committees – Bob Schirling

Risk Management Committee – Jim Peveraro

Finance & Tuition Assistance Committees – Pat Zaccone

Marketing Committee – Suzanne Karl

Facilities Committee – Peter Ermish

Fundraising/Development Committee – Kathy Furlong

Security Committee – Sherise Elmore

Community Outreach Committee – Carolyn Meenan

Parents and guardians may participate in Marketing, Facilities,

Fundraising, Security & Community Outreach Committees.

E-mail rschirling@dwcaonline.org if interested with bio and skill sets.

Academy Leadership Team

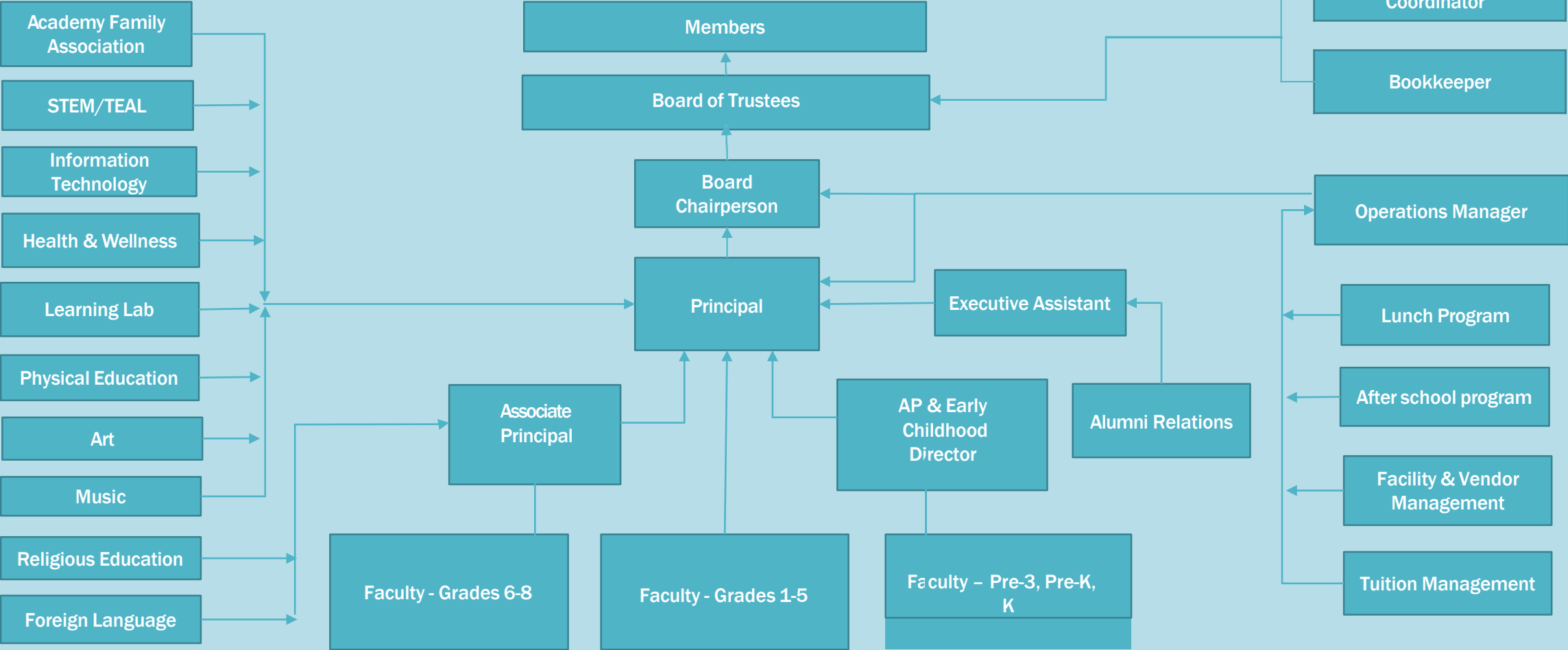
Miriam Bonici – Principal

Linda Keppel – Associate Principal

Sylvia Roccia – Associate Principal and Early Childhood Director

Frank Signorello – STEM Program Director

Divine Wisdom Catholic Academy – Sparking Minds, Enriching Souls, Inspiring Futures



Students, Families, Alumni, Donors, aligned Parish Communities

Organization chart - As of January 1, 2022

Parish Collaboration

We are grateful to St. Anastasia Parish for its generous support of our Mission through their ministry. We also thank them for their collaboration and openness to projects that benefit both the Academy and Parish communities!

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 and fund-raising events

Integrated approach to pandemic risk mitigation

Fr. David Dettmer, Member of Academy Board and St. Anastasia Pastor

Mrs. Rose Ruesing – Faith Formation Director

Mrs. Stephanie Larkin – Music Ministry

Web: www.sta.nyc E-mail: info@sta.nyc FB: www.facebook.com/stanastasiany/

Academic Update

Academic Update

COVID Updates

I-Ready Diagnostic Cycle 2 Assessment

Terra Nova Scores/ Data Day

PDHP Workshop #parents: Social media and Your Child

Coffee and Conversations to be scheduled for February

Meeting the COVID-19 challenge

Our guiding principles and areas of focus

Our Guiding Principles

1. We promote a COVID 19 free environment
2. We minimize risk while entering, travelling, and exiting the building
3. We promote a heightened level of cleanliness and hygiene
4. We adhere to, and supplement where appropriate, government requirements
5. We maintain the quality and diversity of our programs and services to all students

2021-2022 Focus

1. Reacclimating students, parents, faculty and staff to the school building
2. Maintaining confidence the building is safe
3. Adopting effective risk mitigation protocols
4. Providing social & emotional support



Working together we've made it work!



1/20/2022

www.dwcaonline.org

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Our Air Purification Systems are Effective

Our investment in Puradigm Air purification Technology gave us great comfort that the risk of exposure, combined with our other risk mitigation processes and protocols, would make the Academy a safe place for all who enter

The technology has been subjected to a number of studies over the past several years. The most recent study was conducted by the University of Florida's Institute of Therapeutic Innovation

The study was completed in December 2021, based on testing performed in November 2021

The study determined that the Puradigm Flow Technology units used in the Academy inactivates 98.7% of infectious SARS-CoV-2 in the air after 10 to 15 minutes

For more information regarding the Puradigm technology, please visit www.ilovepureair.com

The Financial Impact of COVID-19

The Pandemic has significantly impacted revenues (decreased) and expenses (net increase)

Revenues impacted - Tuition & fees, fundraising, afterschool program

Expenses impacted

Hardware, system, and network upgrades

Incremental cleaning and sanitizing services (higher hours, higher hourly rate)

PPE equipment & supplies (air purifiers, thermometers, sanitizers, masks, desk barriers, etc.)

Actions taken to mitigate impacts

Receipt of second loan from Payroll Protection Plan – Loan forgiveness approved January 2021

Application for reimbursement of COVID specific expenses by FEMA (awaiting response)

Establishment of Hardship Fund (donor supported) to help families with unanticipated hardships

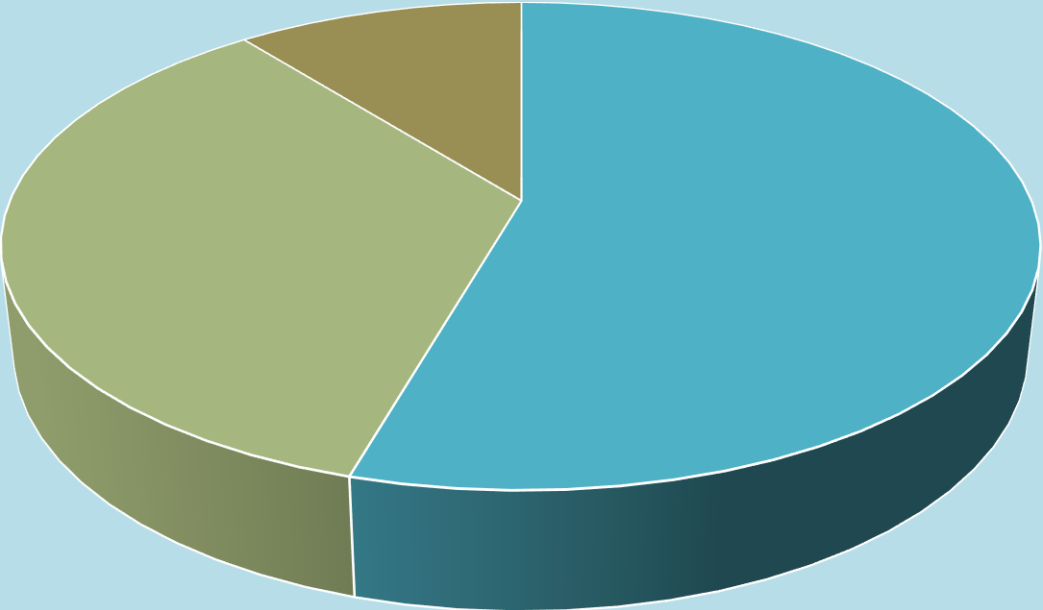
Relentless focus on expense management relating to operations (eliminating manual processes)

Strong enrollment key to meeting our financial obligations and investing for the long-term.

We remain committed to take any and all actions necessary to meet or exceed our high standards.

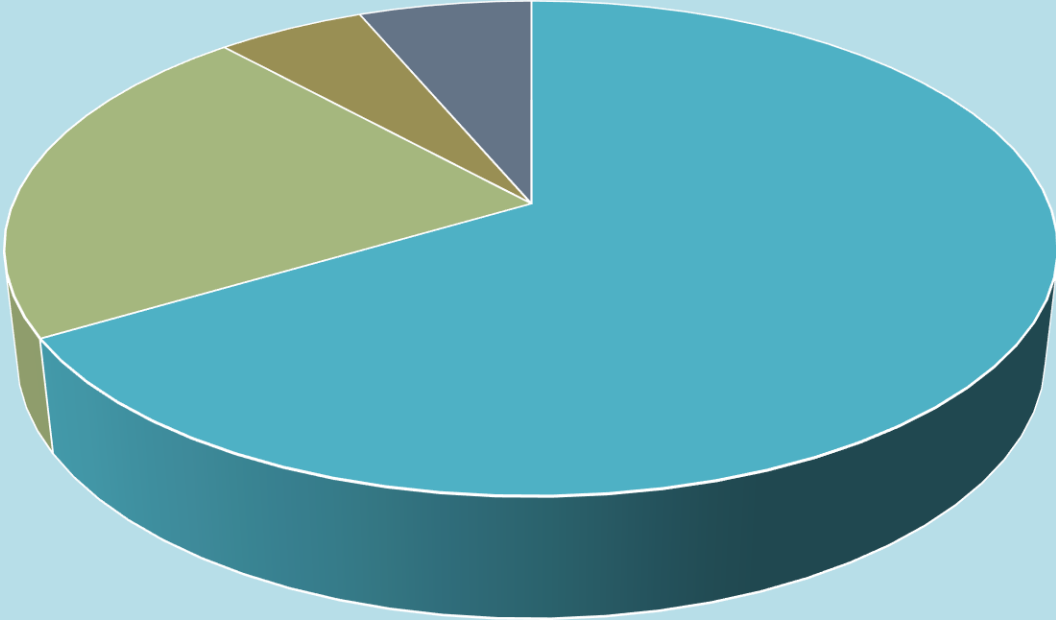
Revenues and Expenses 2021-2022

Revenues



■ Tuition & Fees ■ Fundraising/Donations/Other ■ Gov't Programs/Grants

Expenses



■ Salaries and Benefits ■ Facility ■ Instructional Materials/Supplies ■ Insurance/Professional Fees/Other

The Importance of Enrollment

Academy Enrollment - Jan 18, 2022

Grade	Current enrollment	Total Seats	To Open Seats
Pre - 3	30	30	0
Pre – 4	36	36	0
K	29	50	21
1	37	50	13
2	36	50	14
3	34	50	16
4	35	50	15
5	43	60	17
6	40	60	20
7	40	60	20
8	41	60	19

Fundraising Update

Fundraising Update

Fundraising Budget for 2021-2022 (net of expenses) \$210,000

Thank you for supporting our events so far this year (300 Club, Wreath Sale, Turkey Trot)!

Thanks also to our Giving Tuesday, Angel, and other tuition assistance donors!

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

Lunch program (temporarily suspended)

Candy sale February 2022

Annual Gala at Queens Botanical Garden - May 2022

THE ANNUAL GALA IS OUR LARGEST FUND-RAISER EACH YEAR!

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).

Catholic Schools Week & Academy Tours

Catholic Schools Week Jan 30 – Feb 5, 2022

Celebrates Catholic Education & showcases the Academy to prospective/current families and supporters

Academy students participate in Catholic Schools Week events

Academy families are invited to participate in certain activities as well

Details to follow

Join us for a Catholic Schools Week celebratory Mass Sunday January 30 at 10AM!

You may attend in person or virtually via the Academy Facebook Page or the St. Anastasia web site www.sta.nyc

Spread the Word! Our families are our greatest ambassadors!

Academy Tours

Due to Covid-19 risk mitigation protocols, only Remote Tours and On-demand Video Tours are available until further notice.

Remote Tours can be scheduled NOW via the Academy website (Click on the “Inquiries and Virtual Tours” Tab).

Remote Tours outside available times may also be requested. On-demand Video Tours (Grade Level & Academy overall) are being updated and will be ready for Catholic Schools Week.

Spread the Word! Our families are our greatest ambassadors!

Registration – New and Returning Students

Registration for 2022-2023

Current Families

Re-registration for current families is NOW OPEN

Returning families without a family account
must first create an account on FACTS

Please go to the FACTS website at
www.factsmgt.com – then go to Parent Log-in

New Families

Applications for new families can be initiated NOW through FACTS from the In-Person/
Zoom Tour Request tab on our homepage. www.dwcaonline.org

NYC PreK 3 and PreK 4 Programs

Registration for NYC residents will be communicated at a later date

Tuition, Fees, Service Hours and Fundraising Commitment

Tuition and Fees in Context

Increase in tuition solely to cover operating cost increases

Funding of pension costs for employees have risen significantly

Rising inflation has also caused cost increases across the expense base

Tuition and fees only cover about 70% of total operating costs!

The remainder of revenues needed to cover operating expenses comes from Fundraising and contributions
Reimbursement of NYS Mandated Services, and other grants
Diocesan support through Elizabeth Ann Seton Fund

Tuition and fees do not cover infrastructure investments!

Pandemic related costs to date have NOT been charged to families!

Infrastructure Investments

Our Strategic Plan recognizes Infrastructure investment is a key Plan pillar. Since 2009, the Academy has invested ***OVER \$2.5 million*** in facilities and technology infrastructure ***THESE PROJECTS ARE FUNDED EXCLUSIVELY THROUGH GRANTS and DONATIONS***

Projects recently completed

Prek - 3 preparation, including new bathrooms
Building wide repainting, flooring, lighting and office upgrades

Projects currently in process:

Final phase of conversion to FACTS (registration/re-registration)
Final phase of efficient lighting installation
Peaceful Playground refresh
Fire alarm system replacement
Upgrades to security recording devices and external security cameras

Projects currently In planning:

Additional Security upgrades (both perimeter and building access)
Creation of multipurpose outdoor space behind church building

Tuition 2022-2023

Kindergarten through 8th Grade

Catholic Affiliated Rate:

One Child	\$5,960
Two Children	\$9,150
Three Children	\$11,935
Four or more Children	\$14,320 (plus \$2,600/child above 4)

Non-Catholic Rate:

One Child	\$6,615
Two Children	\$10,295
Three or more Children	\$13,440
Four or more Children	\$16,120 (plus \$2,905/child above 4)

Fees, Service Hours, Fundraising Commitment 2022-2023

Non-Refundable Registration Fee - families with students currently in K-8:

\$200 per student - \$400 family cap (\$125 per student \$250 family cap if registered by January 28, 2022)

Non-Refundable Application Fee - families with no current students in K-8:

\$200 per student \$400 family cap

Non-Refundable Kindergarten Security Deposit - families with no current students in K-8:

\$300 per student (to be applied to first month's tuition)

Non-Refundable Academic, Art, and Class Activity Fee in K-8: \$150 per child

15 service hours per family with students in K-8 towards approved school fundraising activities

Families will be charged \$50 for each hour not served

Mandatory commitment to raise at least \$50 per student relating to Walkathon (Turkey Trot)

Tuition Assistance – Futures in Education

2022-2023 Tuition Assistance is available for eligible students in grade K-8, who attend a Brooklyn or Queens Catholic School or Academy

Partial scholarships from up to \$3,400 per student, not to exceed 75% of tuition

Scholarship awards are assessed on a needs basis considering household size and total annual income using the guidelines of the National School Lunch Program

(for example, household of 2 maximum 2021 household income is \$69,628 to be eligible)

Families must meet financial eligibility requirements AND be registered for 2022-2023 to be considered.

DON'T WAIT TO APPLY!

Starting Monday, January 17, 2022 – go to www.futuresineducation.org

From the main menu, click SCHOLARSHIPS and then APPLY

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION DEADLINE

March 31, 2022 for Families who rec'd award for 2021-2022 year

April 30, 2022 for New Families

(\$35 non-refundable application fee – payable by credit card)

For help or any questions, call or e-mail Futures

718.965.7340 or scholarships@futuresineducation.org



Academy Tuition Assistance Committee

Families anticipating difficulty paying tuition may apply to the TAC for assistance

TAC assesses submissions and makes assistance recommendations to the Trustees

Absent extraordinary circumstances, application for tuition assistance **MUST FIRST BE MADE** to Futures in Education, and results known, prior to TAC considering requests for assistance

Families seeking consideration by the TAC **MUST** make such requests in writing, and must include specifics regarding the nature of the financial difficulty

Any Approved TAC assistance is for one year only (application required each year)

TAC will consider applications for support from the Hardship Fund due to unexpected financial hardship as they arise.

Other Matters



High School Acceptances



Our 8th graders are once again being accepted into outstanding Catholic Schools!

As of January 20, 2022 – \$109,000 of scholarships awarded!

St. Francis Preparatory High School Holy

Cross High School

Chaminade High School

St. Anthony's High School

Bishop Loughlin Memorial High School

Holy Trinity High School

Archbishop Molloy High School

The Mary Louis Academy

Kellenberg Memorial High School

St. Mary's High School

Sacred Heart Academy

Thank Governor Hochul

Governor Kathy Hochul released her first state budget proposal this week

She recommends increasing support for public schools by some 7 percent,

She also recommends increases in funding to support Catholic and other religious and independent schools by some 18 percent.

Specifically, Governor Hochul proposes tripling funding for health, safety, and security projects in our schools (from \$15 million to \$45 million) and allowing nonpublic schools, for the first time, to use the funds to support critical maintenance and repairs of school facilities.

Governor Hochul also proposed increases in support for Science, Technology, Engineering & Math (STEM) instruction in our schools from \$40 million to \$55 million.

Please consider messaging Governor Hochul to thank her for her support by [clicking here!](#)

Senior Women's Homeless Shelter

In December 2020, NYC Department of Homeless Services announced plans to open a shelter at 243-02 Northern Boulevard.

Construction at the site has been suspended – we have not received any updates as to when the shelter construction will resume or a timetable for opening.

We will provide updates as needed. Bob Schirling and Miriam Bonici are members of the Community Advisory Board formed by DHS to keep community informed.

Working together as a community

Continue to follow the Academy's Health and Safety Efforts

Support your Class Captains

Make our May 2022 Gala a success

Participate in Catholic Schools Week Events

Participate in Coffee and Conversations

Consider participation in the Board of Trustees or its committees

Refer new families to the Academy

Stay Informed

Follow and like us on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/Divine-Wisdom-Catholic-Academy-154653568771513/>

Visit our website

www.dwcaonline.org

Read Weekly Academy
Happenings

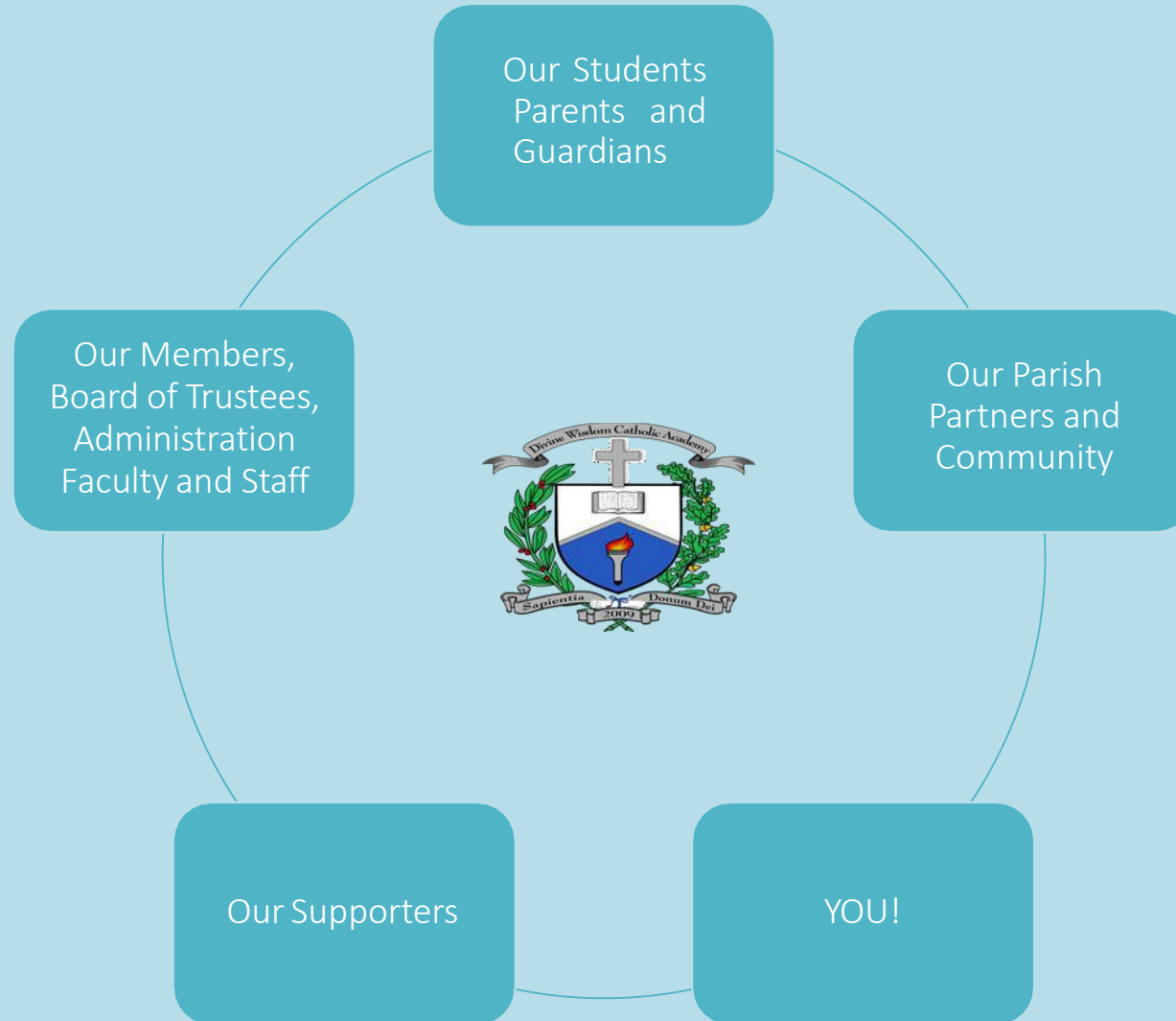
Attend Coffee and Conversations

Next meetings will take place in February – dates
and Zoom links forthcoming

Q&A

Use chat feature!

Thanks to our entire community!



1/20/2022

www.dwcaonline.org

Thank you for attending!

*Let us build the City of God, may our tears be turned into dancing, for the Lord our
Light and our Love, has turned the night into day!*