



DIVINE WISDOM CATHOLIC ACADEMY

Sparkling Minds-Enriching Souls- Inspiring Futures



STATE OF THE ACADEMY

Thursday, January 29, 2025 at 7 PM

AGENDA

- Opening Prayer
- Governance Structure
- Our Mission
- Academic Programs
- Streamlining Operations through Technology
 - ORAH-Visitor Management System
 - FACTS Payment Forms
 - New Website
 - Family Connect
 - Wisdom Weekly-Smores
 - Constant Contact
 - RallyUp
- Financial Strength
- Building School Community
- Student Life
- Catholic Schools Week
- Enrollment 2026/2027
- Congratulation to our 8th Graders
- Safety & Security
- Social Media
- Support our Academy
- Q & A Session



GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

MEMBERS:

Monitors the Academy's Catholic Identity and Ratifies 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

Responsible for the Governance, Oversight and Leadership of the Academy.



- **Robert Schirling** – Chairperson
- **Peter Ermish** – Vice Chairperson
- **Patricia Zacccone** – Treasurer
- **Kathleen Furlong** – Secretary
- **Suzanne Karl** -Trustee
- **Carolyn Meenan** - Trustee
- **Michael Otero** - Trustee
- **James Peveraro** - Trustee



BOARD OF TRUSTEES COMMITTEES

- **Executive & Nominating** - Robert Schirling
- **Facilities & Long Term Planning** - Peter Ermish
- **Finance & Tuition Assistance** - Patricia Zaccone
- **Fundraising & Development**-Kathleen Furlong
- **Security & Grants**- James Peveraro
- **Marketing & Communications** - Suzanne Karl
- **Academy Family Association (AFA) & Outreach**- Carolyn Meenan
- **Academy Family Associations & St. A's Liaison**- Michael Otero



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

LEADERSHIP & ACADEMIC STRUCTURE

Leadership Team:

- **Miriam Bonici, Principal**
- **Sylvia Roccia, Associate Principal & Early Childhood Director**

Academic Divisions:

- **Early Childhood: 3K, PreK, & Kindergarten**
- **Lower School: Grade 1 – Grade 4**
- **Upper School: Grades 5 – 8**

Enrichment Academics Programs:

- **Art Studio Program**
- **Music Program**
- **STEM Program**
- **Spanish Program**
- **Technology Program**
- **Regents - Math 9 & Science Living Environment**



OUR MISSION

To Spark Minds, Enrich Souls, and Inspire Futures through excellence in Catholic education.

Our Vision:

To be a premier leader in Catholic education, providing meaningful opportunities for students to excel academically and grow holistically.

Our Academic Foundation:

- **Aligned with the Common Core Curriculum**
- **Meets and exceeds Next Generation Standards**
- **Enrichment programs fully integrated into the curriculum**
- **Fully accredited by The Cognia Global Commission**



ENRICHMENT ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

Our Enrichment Academics Program is fully staffed and thoughtfully integrated throughout the curriculum, strengthening academic learning while fostering critical thinking, creativity, and student engagement.



ART:
Inspires creativity and cross-curricular learning while exploring diverse artists and techniques.



MUSIC:
Age-appropriate vocal and instrumental instruction, including performances (Christmas Show, Fall & Spring Concerts, Jazz Band) and NYS School Music Association participation.

STEM:
Promotes real-world problem-solving, innovation, and critical thinking through hands-on learning

ENRICHMENT ACADEMIC PROGRAMS cont.

SPANISH:
Builds language and cultural understanding and prepares 8th graders for NYS Checkpoint A Proficiency.



TECHNOLOGY:
Integrated into the K-6 curriculum, teaching device skills, internet safety, and digital citizenship.



- Regents Math 9
- Regents Science – Living Environment

Streamlining Operations Through Technology



Supporting Safety, Communication, and Schoolwide Growth

We are thoughtfully expanding our use of technology to better support our students, families, and staff. These tools help us streamline daily operations, strengthen communication, enhance safety, and position Divine Wisdom for continued growth—while keeping our focus where it belongs: on our students and their learning experience.



Introducing ORAH

We're excited to introduce **ORAH** (Online Registered Access Hub), a new digital system launching in early spring in phases that enhances building safety, attendance tracking, and daily school operations. ORAH helps us know who is in the building, where classes are throughout the day, and keeps families informed—all while streamlining daily routines.

How ORAH Supports Our Divine Wisdom Community:

Visitor Management & Screening:

- All visitors, volunteers, and guests sign in at a secure kiosk
- First-time visitors present a valid photo ID for verification and background check
- A printed visitor badge is issued and must be worn while on campus
- The school can see exactly who is in the building at all times

Efficient Sign-In for Repeat Visitors:

- Approved repeat visitors may sign in by entering their name
- No need to rescan ID at every visit
- A visitor badge is printed for each visit

Attendance for All Classes:

- Attendance is taken for every class period, including Enrichment classes
- Supports Grades 4–8 departmentalized schedules as students move throughout the building
- Ensures accurate records of student location during the school day

Absences & Lateness:

- Absences and lateness are submitted through ORAH
- Families receive an email confirmation once the information is recorded
- Attendance alerts may be sent to help keep families informed

Emergency Preparedness & Safety

- Real-time attendance supports Fire Drills and Emergency Evacuations
- Staff can quickly confirm student locations and accountability using their cellphone
- Improves coordination and response in emergency situations
- Integrated & Streamlined Systems
- Works in coordination with FACTS for consistent school records
- Centralizes attendance, visitor management, and daily workflows
- Families will receive notifications related to frequent absences or lateness
- Supports open communication between school and families
- Reduces paperwork

Growing with FACTS PAYMENT FORMS

We began using FACTS as a tuition payment plan and admissions and registration process. As our school has grown, the need for more streamlined and efficient systems has become increasingly important.

At the beginning of this school year, we introduced FACTS Payment Forms as part of our expanded use of FACTS. This allows us to streamline forms, automate payments, and manage both financial and non-financial workflows more effectively across the school.

By reducing administrative time and manual processes, we are able to redirect time and resources back where they belong—into our students, teachers, and classrooms.

Financial Efficiency & Controls:

- Automated collection of non-tuition revenue
- Payments are automatically applied to the correct ledger account
- Consolidated deposits aligned with existing financial processes
- Reduced manual posting, reconciliation, and error correction
- Over \$155,000 collected efficiently through FACTS Forms

Support for Teachers & School Activities:

- Manage class trips and activities through FACTS Forms
- Centralized collection of payments, permissions, and participation
- Less paperwork for teachers and office staff
- Clear tracking in one system

Beyond Payments: Non-Financial Forms:

- Used for back-to-school forms, handbooks, and consent forms
- Digital submission replaces paper
- Improved recordkeeping and accessibility

Operational Impact:

- Fewer manual processes
- Improved accuracy and visibility
- Supports growth without increase administrative workload



Introducing Our New Website: Late February

Launching in late February, our new website is designed to better reflect who we are as a school and serve as a stronger marketing and communication tool.

Our new site moves beyond a standard, one-size-fits-all format and allows us to stand out while clearly showcasing what makes Divine Wisdom unique.

What's New:

- Dedicated class pages with a consistent format across all grades
- Each class page includes Enrichment Programs for clear, unified communication
- Improved navigation for both current and prospective families
- Easier access to Wisdom Weekly, events, and fundraisers

Why It Matters:

The website is often the first point of contact for new families and a daily resource for current families. A consistent, organized format ensures information is easy to find while strengthening our marketing and enrollment efforts.

Strengthening Family Communication

Family Connect (Powered by Gmelius)

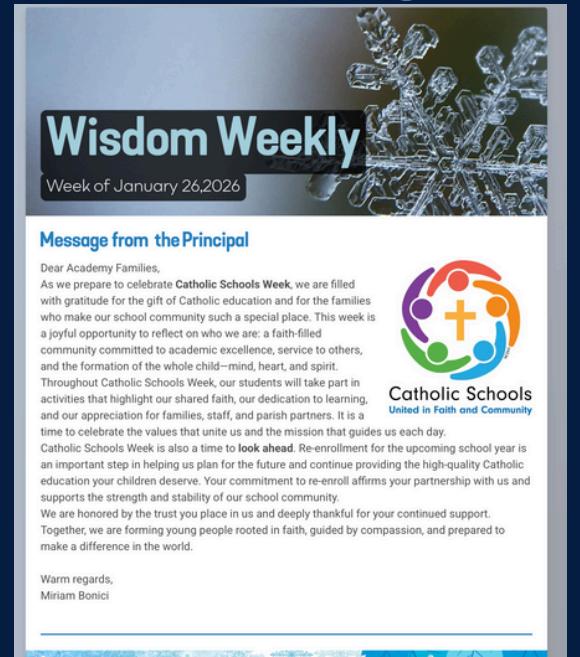
Family Connect provides a clear, organized way for families to contact the school, ensuring messages reach the right department and are answered efficiently.

- **Centralized email communication by department**
- **Faster response times and clearer follow-up**
- **Improved consistency across the school**

Wisdom Weekly & Class Captain Newsletter

Smore is a digital newsletter platform that allows us to create clear, visually engaging, and mobile-friendly communications for families. It helps organize information in one place—making school updates, upcoming events, and important reminders easier to read, access, and revisit.

- **Clean, easy-to-read format on any device**
- **Centralizes information in one weekly communication**
- **Reduces email clutter while improving clarity**
- **Easy access for current families and prospective families**



Strengthening Communication & Fundraising

Constant Contact

Constant Contact allows us to expand communication beyond traditional school emails, helping us share news, events, and fundraising efforts with current families, alumni, and the broader community. Our first campaign using this platform was Giving Tuesday.

- **Reaches families, alumni, and community supporters**
- **Promotes school news, events, and fundraising**
- **Strengthens outreach and visibility for DWCA**

Strengthening Communication & Fundraising cont.

RallyUp

RallyUp simplifies fundraising by making it easy for supporters to participate and share campaigns, helping us reach a wider audience and increase overall fundraising impact.

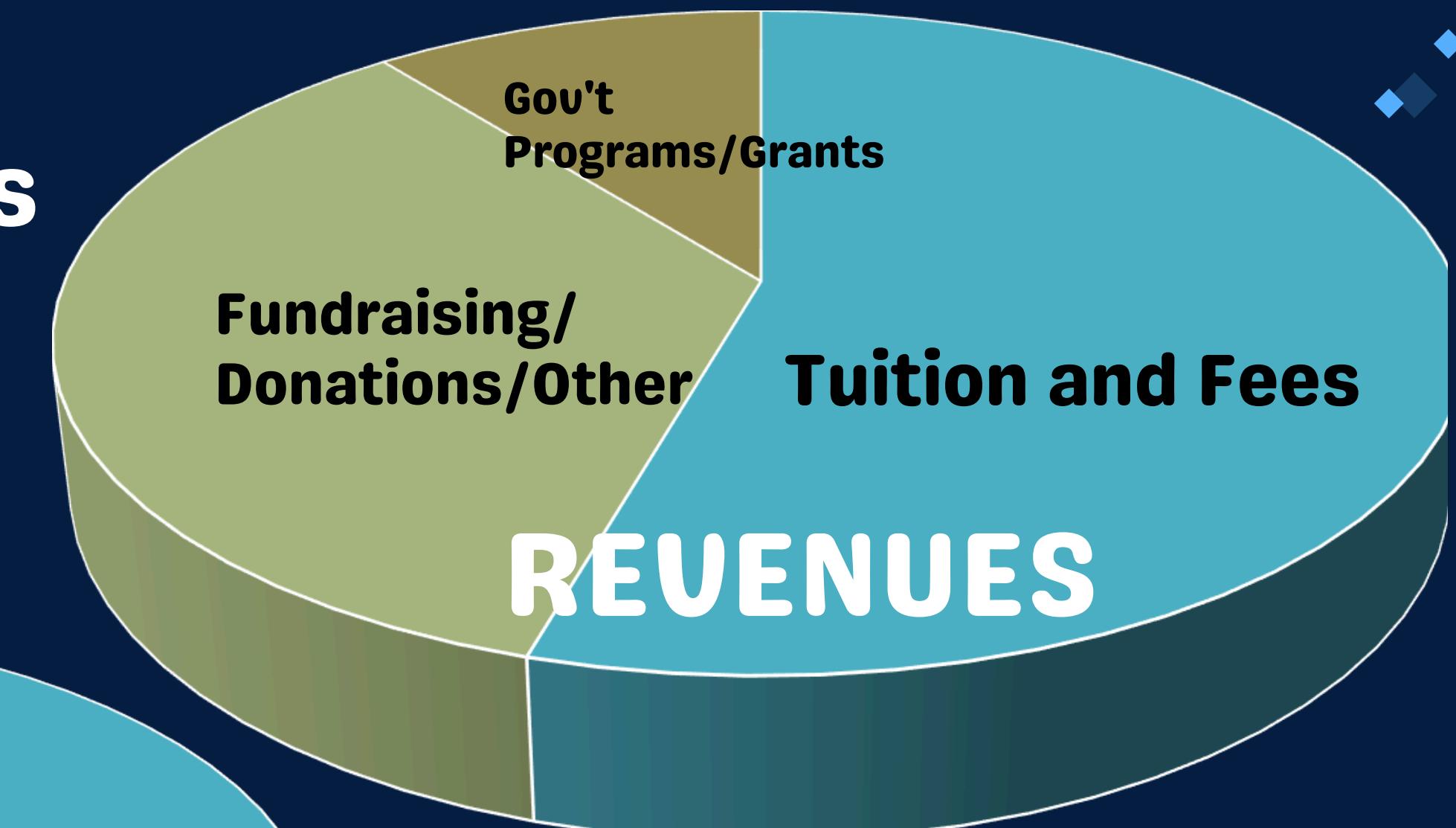
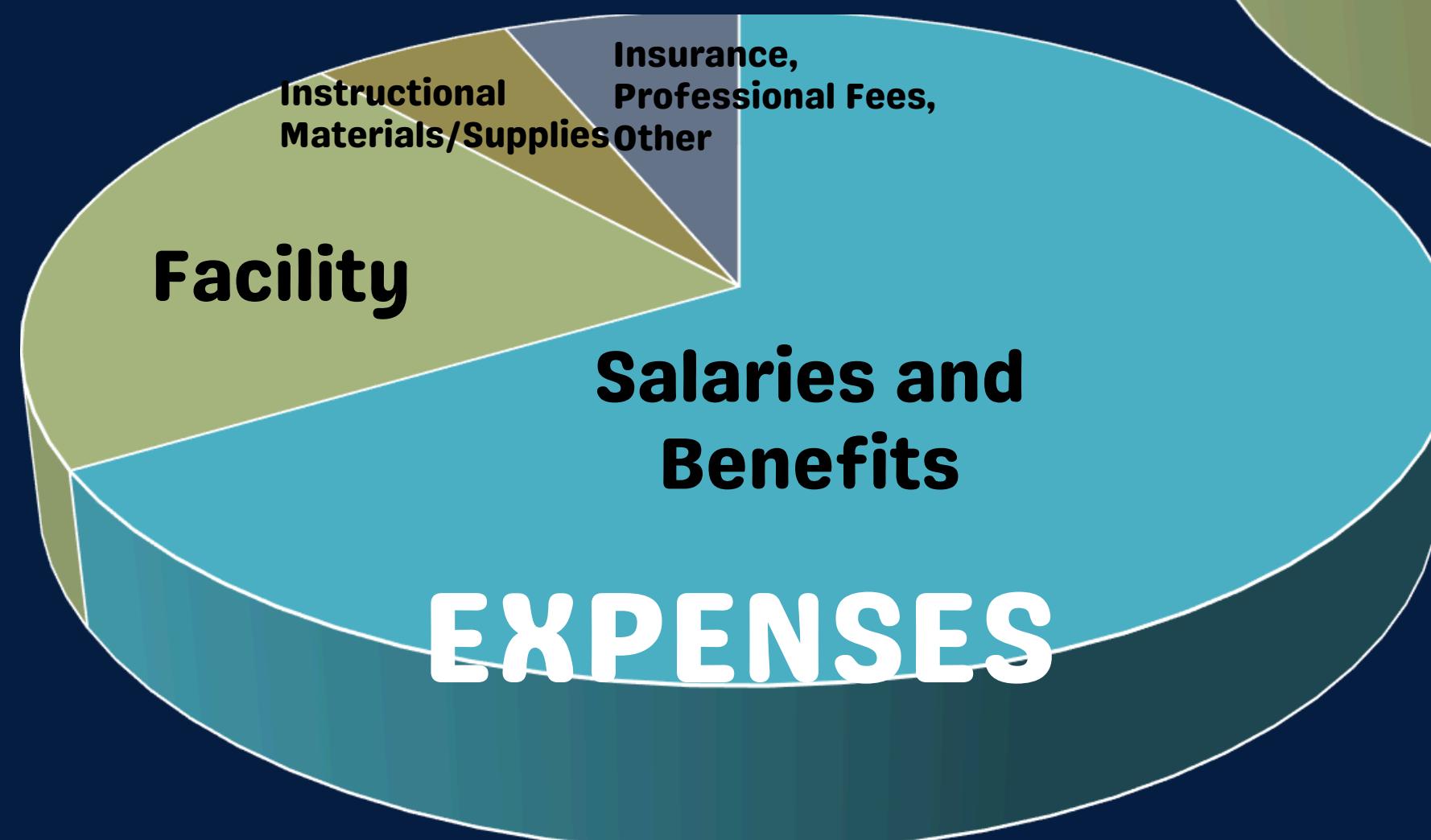
- **RallyUp (Launching September)** No account required to participate
- **Easily shareable campaigns**
- **Expands fundraising beyond our school community**

Family Connect Email Access

- **Afterschool:** afterschool@dwcaonline.org
- **Attendance:** attendance@dwcaonline.org
- **Dismissal:** dismissal@dwcaonline.org
- **Enrollment:** enroll@dwcaonline.org
- **Office:** office@dwcaonline.org
- **Principal:** principal@dwcaonline.org
- **Associate Principal:** ap@dwcaonline.org
- **Tours:** tours@dwcaonline.org
- **Tuition:** tuition@dwcaonline.org
- **IT Support:** it@dwcaonline.org
- **Board:** board@dwcaonline.org

FINANCIAL STABILITY

Revenues and Expenses
2025-2026



Will Governor Hochul Opt-in to Support Kids & Schools?

CALL TO ACTION: We Need You!

Starting in 2027, the new **Federal Scholarship Tax Credit** will let taxpayers redirect up to \$1,700 of their federal income taxes to nonprofit scholarship organizations that provide tuition assistance for students in Catholic schools.

For example, a taxpayer owing \$10,000 could direct \$1,700 to scholarships instead of sending it to the federal government—directly helping families afford a Catholic education, and even additional services at public schools.

But New York families will miss out unless the governor opts in. Governor Hochul's participation would bring new scholarship dollars to Catholic schools, easing financial pressure on families and expanding access to faith-based education.

Tell Governor Hochul to opt in and support Catholic school families.

Please click the link below to email the Governor: Urge Governor Hochul to Opt-In

<https://www.votervoice.net/NYSCATHOLIC/campaigns/133190/respond>

ONGOING INVESTMENTS TO ACHIEVE EXCELLENCE

Technology

- **Infrastructure:** Fiber optic cabling, high-capacity Wi-Fi, secure web filtering, virus/malware protection
- **User Devices:** Chromebooks, tablets, desktops, HD cameras, 3D printers, drones, SMART Boards
- **Student Monitoring/Assessment:** GoGuardian, I-Ready

Professional Development

- **Coaching in ELA and Math**
- **Effective use of iReady data to drive instruction**
- **Communication and conflict resolution training**

Facilities

- **Safety and security enhancements:** New fire alarm & public address systems



FUNDRAISING DOLLARS HELP REDUCE TUITION COST

Join Us
for an Evening of Live
Flamenco, Food, and Fun!

DIVINE WISDOM'S ANNUAL
Spring Fling
Fri | Mar 20th | 6-11 PM

Raffles & silent auctions
benefiting DWCA
enrichment programs

Marbella Restaurant
220-33 Northern Blvd.
Bayside, NY 11361

Evening casual attire
Adults only \$75 by 3/06

Fundraising Goal
(Net of Expenses): \$200,000

Thank You for Supporting
Our Fundraisers

- Walkathon: \$22,500
- 300 Club: \$16,500

Ongoing & Upcoming Fundraisers

- Giving Tuesday: Ongoing
Goal \$30,000
- Candy Sale: Happening Now
Goal: \$9,000
- Spring Fling: March 20
Goal: \$45,000

Family Service Reminder

- K-8 families: 15 family service hours required
- \$50 per unserved hour (maximum \$750)

GIVINGTUESDAY
at Divine Wisdom Catholic Academy



January 27, 2026
Celebrating Catholic Schools Week
Through Giving



Start the year by supporting Giving Tuesday at Divine Wisdom Catholic Academy with a tax-deductible donation.

What better way to celebrate Catholic Schools Week than by investing in our students and enrichment academic programs.

[**GIVING TUESDAY AT DIVINE WISDOM - DONATE NOW**](#)

Exciting News!

Every dollar donated will be matched 2-for-1, up to \$10,000, tripling the impact of your gift.

Last year, \$10,000 in donations,—combined with a \$20,000 matching gift—created a \$30,000 impact for our students. Your support truly makes a difference.

At Divine Wisdom, enrichment is vital to who we are. Our Enrichment Academic programs—STEM, Art, Music, Spanish and Technology, are fully staffed and thoughtfully integrated into the curriculum across all grade levels.

Together, these programs provide well-rounded, enriched academics rooted in faith and excellence.

As we celebrate Catholic Schools Week, we invite families, alumni, parishioners, and friends to support the future of Catholic education. Every gift makes a meaningful difference.

Thank you for supporting Divine Wisdom Catholic Academy.

DWCA Presents

Sip & Paint

Galentine's Night

ADULTS ONLY!

BRING YOUR OWN BEVERAGE OF CHOICE!
FATHER SMITH HALL

THURSDAY
FEBRUARY 5, 2026

6:00 PM - 9:00 PM
LIMITED SPOTS AVAILABLE

\$25 per person



Light snacks will be served.

A Fun Night of Art, Laughter & Community Connection

Invite a friend and enjoy a relaxing paint night together

Sip Responsibly, Paint Creatively!

Ladies Night & Game Day

DIVINE WISDOM CATHOLIC ACADEMY

Pope Francis Society

GAME DAY



Friday, January 30, 2026
Grades K-8

A Tech-Free Zone

Surprise Snack Provided!

This is a great opportunity for students,
to connect, play, and unwind—no
screens, just fun!



GAME
NIGHT

BUILDING SCHOOL COMMUNITY

Class Captains & Academy Family Association (AFA)

The Class Captains and Academy Family Association (AFA) play an important role in strengthening our school community and supporting students, teachers, and schoolwide initiatives.

Class Captains:

- Serve as liaisons between teachers and families
- Examples of support include:
- Helping coordinate class trips and parties
- Sharing classroom updates and reminders with families
- Assisting with schoolwide events such as Spring Fling and 300 Club



Academy Family Association (AFA):

- Committees include:
- Event Planning | Cultural Celebration | Welcoming & Buddy | Spirit Wear



Thank you to all our families—your involvement is what makes our Academy community thrive.

DIVINE WISDOM STUDENT LIFE

Student Life at Divine Wisdom reflects a dynamic balance of academic excellence, creative expression, spiritual growth, and leadership development. In partnership with St. Anastasia Parish, students receive religious instruction and participate in sacramental preparation as part of a well-rounded Catholic education.

Student Leadership & Community Engagement

- Pope Francis Society
 - Motto: “Anything Good Is Possible”
 - Promoting faith, service, and kindness
- Student Government
 - Building leadership, responsibility, and collaboration
- The Loukoumi Make a Difference Foundation
 - Engaging with the International Good Deeds Council to inspire compassion



AFTERSCHOOL ENRICHMENT CLUBS

- Anime
- Art Club
- Creative Art Gallery Club
- Crochet Class
- Dance Club
- Drama Club
- Finance Club
- Math Club
- STEAM Club
- Tiger Tennis
- Paul Effman Band & Strings





CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

Tuesday, January 27 - Friday, January 30

Catholic Schools
United in Faith and Community

Wednesday, February 4
Bishop DiMarzio Visit



ACADEMY TOURS:

Tuesday, January 27- Friday,
January 30: 8:30 -10:30 AM & 1-2 PM



ENROLLMENT OPEN 2026/2027

Registration | 2026-2027 Academic Year

Early Registration Discount: Deadline: Friday, February 1, 2026 (PreK-Grade 8)

How to Register:

Current Families (K-Grade 7)

- Re-register through the FACTS Parent Portal

New Families & Current PreK Families:

- Apply online at dwcaonline.org/application-process
- Priority given to PreK families moving to Kindergarten



Financial Assistance:

Futures in Education (Brooklyn & Queens)

- Application Window: January 15 – April 30, 2026
- For families demonstrating financial need
- Apply at dwcaonline.org/tuition-assistance



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 8TH GRADERS!

- Cathedral
- Chaminade
- Fordham Prep
- Holy Cross
- Holy Trinity
- Kellenberg
- Molloy



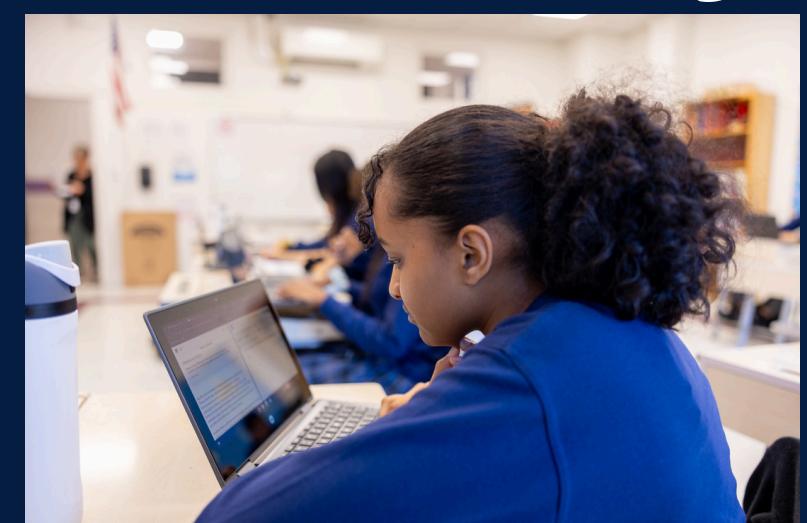
- Notre Dame
- Regis
- Sacred Heart
- St. Francis Prep
- St. John's Prep
- St. Mary's
- Xavier

The Mary Louis 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 NYPD & FDNY**
- **Mandated Active Shooter Training for Staff**
- **Go Guardian Software Monitors Student Online Activity, Classroom Engagement, and Student Wellness**
- **Perimeter fencing**
- **ORAH -Visitor Management System**



Stay connected with us on Social Media!



SOCIAL MEDIA PRESENCE

Engagement Across Key Groups:

- Close to 500 followers on social media
- Daily posts
- Attracts & excites students
- Fosters school spirit & community pride
- Engages with alumni

Excitement and Enthusiasm:

- Generates excitement about school events, achievements, and initiatives, keeping the community involved and invested



CELEBRATORY ANNOUNCEMENT

★ ★ ★

We are proud to share that we were
RATED A+ by Niche as one of the
BEST PRIVATE ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS
for two years in a row!

We're thrilled to celebrate our recognition
by Niche for our outstanding:



- ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE
- STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT
- ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES
- COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



Thank you to our incredible students,
dedicated teachers, & supportive families
for making this achievement possible!

Scan QR Code
to view our Niche Profile



Thank you to our wonderful families, teachers, and students.

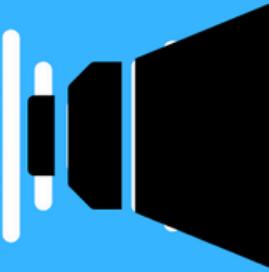
This achievement happened because of you.

Scan the bar code



and leave a review!



DIVINE WISDOM CHATS:
 **ON AIR**

VOICES
OF
DIVINE WISDOM



PODCAST

Coming Soon!
Podcast recording resumes
February 2026



Email us topics you are interested in
Podcast@dwcaonline.org

SUPPORT OUR ACADEMY

Together, we build a community where students grow, families connect, and faith and learning flourish. Your involvement—big or small—helps shape the experience of every child at Divine Wisdom.

STAY ENGAGED

- Refer new families (\$500 tuition credit per successful referral)
- Participate in school events and fundraisers
- Support Class Captains, committees, and school initiatives



STAY CONNECTED

- Wisdom Weekly & DW Alerts
- School podcast
- Follow us on social media
- Visit dwcaonline.org
- Thank you for being part of our Academy family
- Together, we Spark Minds, Enrich Souls, and Inspire Futures

