



LAKWOOD  
CATHOLIC  
ACADEMY

2023-2024 | ANNUAL REPORT



# WE LOVE

## CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS WITH OUR YOUNG SAINTS!

Filled with balloons, cake, ice cream and presents, birthdays have always been special celebrations in the lives of children. Announcing birthdays over the P.A. is a highlight of our school's morning routine. It is a daily reminder that it is an extra-special day for a particular Saint and their family. As one of my favorite spiritual writers, **Henry Nouwen, once commented...**



Birthdays need to be celebrated. On a birthday we do not say: "Thanks for what you did, or said, or accomplished." No, we say: "Thank you for being born and being among us. On birthdays we lift someone up and let everyone say: "We love you."

While this Annual Report highlights our successful 2023-2024 academic year, in many ways it is also a birthday announcement for Lakewood Catholic Academy as we celebrate our beloved school's 20th birthday during this current school year. More than touting our national awards, academic honors, prayerful service, or financial strength, LCA's 20th birthday allows us to take a moment to express our gratitude to God for the gift of our school. It is a precious opportunity for parents, students, teachers, alumni and friends to celebrate our school and say, **We Love LCA!**

Thank you for the many ways you love Lakewood Catholic Academy and for helping us celebrate our 20th birthday! We are grateful for the gifts you share so generously with us — we treasure them just as we do the opportunity to faithfully educate your children and grandchildren by inspiring their minds and forming their hearts.

At the conclusion of the traditional happy birthday song, many people often add the line, "and many more!" It is in that spirit that I wish LCA a very Happy Birthday and pray for many more joy-filled years of award-winning, innovative, Catholic elementary education on the shores of Lake Erie.

With Gratitude,

 **BRIAN SINCHAK** | PRESIDENT

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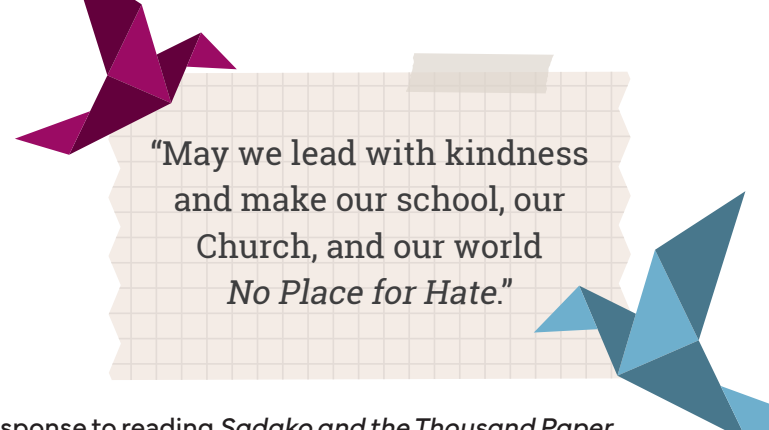
# CELEBRATING INCLUSION:

## LCA'S COMMITMENT TO BEING A NO PLACE FOR HATE SCHOOL

LCA demonstrated our commitment to inclusion through a year-long effort. We were honored when we received the news of our official designation as a No Place for Hate School from the Anti-Defamation League. LCA joins over 1,800 schools nationwide who successfully completed a series of projects to promote dialogue and engage in active learning about bias, bullying, inclusion, and allyship.

"This program was a wonderful opportunity for student leaders in eighth grade to develop and demonstrate leadership skills while also committing to Catholic principles of peace, justice, and equality," commented Paula Fitzgerald, Director of Mission & Ministry. "Middle school student leaders embraced the chance to return to their kindergarten classrooms and read books about kindness and inclusion. Their enthusiasm inspired us to launch a 'Book of the Year' program in which each of the primary classrooms was able to choose a book related to a NPFH theme. LCA invested in classroom and library copies of each book as one way to ensure that our values will continue to be promoted and discussed."

LCA intentionally chose the Advent Retreat and Catholic Schools Week to implement two of the required projects in order to more directly connect the goals of NPFH with our Catholic identity. Projects were also integrated into the curriculum. As a

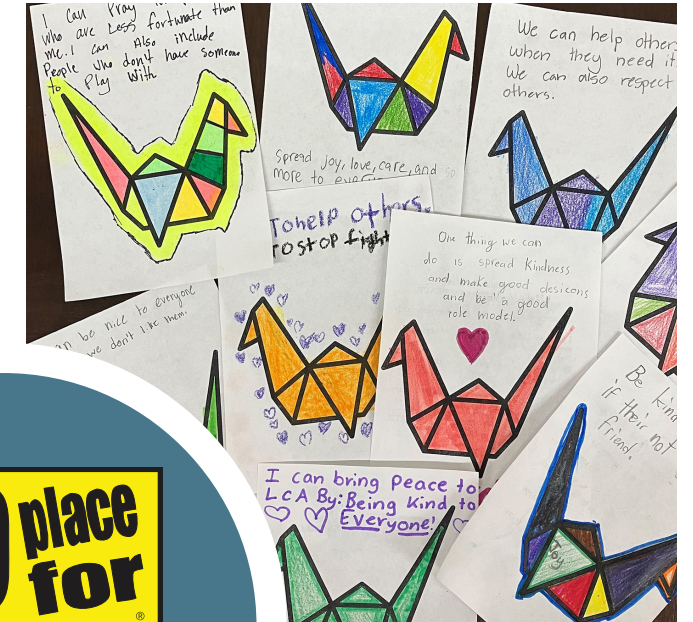


"May we lead with kindness and make our school, our Church, and our world  
*No Place for Hate.*"

response to reading *Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes*, fifth grade students led the effort to create more than 1,000 paper cranes to promote peace, and teachers facilitated discussions about practical ways to make LCA a place for peace.

For the culminating project, middle school students focused on allyship and identified strategies to utilize if they witness bullying behaviors in the community. Students also reflected on allyship through grade level experiences at the Maltz Museum and Prophetic Voices. Finally, LCA introduced a new unit in eighth grade theology focusing on Just Mercy and the life and legacy of Bryan Stevenson, justice advocate and consummate upstander.

LCA is heartened by the recognition from the ADL and is committed to exploring new ways to continue to live our mission to be an inclusive and welcoming community and promote peace and justice for all – at LCA and beyond.





# HONOR ROLL OF DONORS

Lakewood Catholic Academy extends its sincere gratitude to all individuals and organizations that made a gift to LCA between July 1, 2023 and June 30, 2024. This list represents cumulative totals of all gifts received during this time to support LCA.

*Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of information in this report. We hold all our donors in the highest regard and apologize for any errors or omissions. Please contact the Office of Advancement to request a change to your listing.*

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# A REFLECTION ON THE FIRST 20 YEARS OF LCA

No matter when I come to LCA and see the brightly painted walls, the School of Fish in the main hall, and the television monitor that streams the highlights of student activities, I can't help but remember that day: July 1, 2005 when, after months of dreaming and planning, we were handed the keys to 14808 Lake Avenue and the real work of creating our new school began. For seven weeks that sweltering summer, volunteers from St. Luke, St. Clement, and St. James, along with parents, students, faculty, and alums worked around the clock to transform the building from a high school nearly 100 years old into a bright and shiny elementary school that would welcome new Saints at the end of August.

I'll never forget the gym that was piled 10-15 feet high with desks and boxes of books that were waiting to find a new home in the building; the library books from the three parish schools that sat on the floor of the old library as the high school books still had not been removed; the dedicated teachers who sifted through materials, hoping that their classroom treasures had survived the move across town.

Gradually, over those seven weeks, Lakewood Catholic Academy was born and with it, a new community. In the midst of window glazing, painting, heavy lifting, and washing lockers, volunteers discovered that others shared their same passion — to create a strong and vibrant Catholic elementary school in the City of Lakewood where



As Lakewood Catholic Academy celebrates its 20th Anniversary during the 2024-25 school year, we asked **Founding Principal, Maureen Arbezniak**, to provide a reflection on the formation of LCA and its evolution over the past 20 years. You can listen to more of Maureen's reflections in episode 3 of LCA's Saints Speak Podcast by scanning the QR code.



children could flourish. In the words of one of our founding pastors, Father Al Winters, "good enough" would no longer be "good enough."

For the past 20 years, our community has been blessed with a steady supply of passionate people who have dared greatly to ensure that Lakewood Catholic Academy would never be just "good enough." Posters and banners that now proclaim LCA as an International Baccalaureate World School, a Blue Ribbon School, and a Green Ribbon School, along with other prestigious awards, can be spotted everywhere in the building and on campus.

Our renovated gymnasium today hosts not only PE classes, but also student performances and competitions, as well as diocesan CYO games.







View a commemorative photo gallery by scanning the QR code.



In the words of one of our founding pastors, **Father Al Winters**, "good enough" would no longer be "good enough."



Our digitally catalogued, sunlit library is visited regularly not only by students in kindergarten through eighth grade, but also by our smallest Saints who are part of our Early Childhood Program.

Our faculty members, who were instrumental in LCA being named a Top Work Place, challenge themselves daily to create engaging lessons to ensure that the needs of all of the 700+ children who come to campus every day are met.

Never could I have imagined on that blistering hot summer day in July 2005 that LCA would, in less than 20 years, become the premier Catholic elementary school in Northeast Ohio. Father Winters' instruction to be better than "good enough" has guided us for the past 20 years and will continue to inspire and challenge us, I know, for the next 20 years and beyond.



# CHAMPIONING STUDENT-CENTERED LEARNING

This past November, members of the LCA administrative team proudly accepted the award for being named a U.S. Department of Education National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence. This award was given based on an application that highlighted LCA's high standardized test scores, rigorous curriculum, as well as the professionalism of our dedicated staff. Additionally, LCA's commitment to honoring childhood was essential to receiving the Blue Ribbon status. Student access to extracurriculars such as athletics, theatre, arts, and other clubs, as well as the partnerships we foster with parents and other community members, result in a balanced student experience.

Our principal, Brenna Warrell, said "LCA was honored with this award because we are focused on student-centered learning and innovation. Our talented teaching staff make learning fun by bringing magic to the classroom in small ways every day, or in big ways during our classroom transformation days. I am proud of what our school community accomplishes each and every day and am grateful that it has been recognized on a national level."

This past year, LCA welcomed an international team of educators who served as the International Baccalaureate Organization's re-accreditation team. Their task was to evaluate LCA's IB Middle Years Program that impacts teaching and learning in grades six through eight. The team attended classes, interviewed students, teachers, administrators and community members, and reviewed dozens of documents. LCA received commendations for a variety of practices and policies, including our approach to helping students grow in 21st century skills and execute personal inquiry projects. *—continued on page 21*





# ANGEL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Any Ohio taxpayer with a tax liability can take advantage of a dollar-for-dollar state tax credit of up to \$1,500 with a gift to the Angel Scholarship Fund. By contributing to this fund, you'll help us increase the number and size of tuition assistance packages distributed to LCA families each year!



## ANGEL

### SCHOLARSHIP FUND

*We are grateful to the following donors who designated a gift for Lakewood Catholic Academy Between July 1, 2023 and June 30, 2024 and redirected their state tax dollars to help us grow our fund for tuition assistance.*

*To learn more and make a gift, visit [pages.lcasaints.com/asf](https://pages.lcasaints.com/asf)*

Sean and Erin Arbeznik

Lindsay Arcuri

Chuck and Susan Battiato

Cory Baughman

Craig and Kathryn Brocklehurst

Mary Susan Brown

Brian Burk

Mark Butscha

Anthony Campana

Brian and Kathleen Cappelli

Michael and Mary Clare Carson

Robert and Kathleen Christyson

Allan and Jayne Churchmack

Christopher Connell

Peter and Kathryn Corrigan

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Jack and Jennifer Demmitt

Donald and Mary Ann Dzurec

Frank and Heidi Fanta

Ivan and Lucy Franjic

Bryan Gacka

Nanette Galysh

Justin Gertsma

Gregory and Patricia Gettens

Jason and Sandra Glagola

Patrick and Elizabeth Grace

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Benjamin and Janelle Massaro

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Dorothy McGuire

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*continued*

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Jeffrey and Mary Ann Neuman

Patrick and Tricia Nieser

Christopher and Emma Peck

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John Pinter

Stephen Pinter

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Marie Rudolph

David and Julie Ruiz

Thomas Schock

Patrice Silvestrini

Sante and Lina Simms

Brian Sinchak

James and Margaret Staviscak

Arthur and Sherri Stehlik

Brent and Molly Stehlik

George and Natalie Stevens

Nathaniel and Devon Szep

Doug and Roberta Vesperman

Domagoj Vokic

Wayne and Kristen Wallace

Joseph and Tina Waters

Neil and Katherine Wensink

Robert and Karen West

Edwin and Mary Westmeyer

Jeffrey and Erica Williams

Christopher Wirth

Joseph and Cynthia Wiseman

Edward Wisneski

Thomas and Meredith Wojtkun

## STUDENT-CENTERED LEARNING

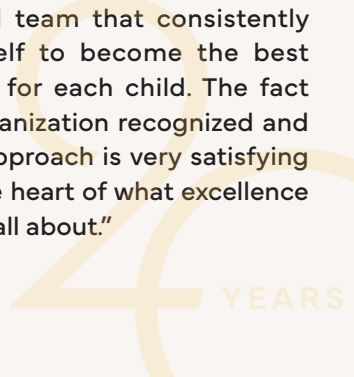
*continued*

The visiting team prepared an extensive, overwhelmingly positive final report that affirmed the good work of the past and will serve as an energizing catalyst for our future growth. **LCA IB Coordinator, Eileen McGuire, notes that her favorite part of the report is the following statement referencing LCA's learning environment:**



"Learning has been intentionally designed to make the student the protagonist and there is an ongoing commitment to bringing joy back to education."

Mrs. McGuire is pleased that the student-centered atmosphere was highlighted. "The child should always be at the forefront of our minds as we design learning experiences, environments, and special events. We are proud to be an educational team that consistently challenges itself to become the best 'second home' for each child. The fact that the IB Organization recognized and affirmed this approach is very satisfying as it gets to the heart of what excellence in education is all about."





# GRANDPARENTS' SOCIETY

Grandparents and grandfriends play an important role in the lives of our student Saints. Not only do they support the education they receive at LCA, but they also bring joy, love and wisdom like no one else can. We are blessed and honored to spend each day caring for their most precious gifts — their grandchildren!



LAKWOOD CATHOLIC ACADEMY  
GRANDPARENTS' SOCIETY

*We are grateful to the following individuals who financially supported the Grandparents' Society during the 2023-24 school year. We are especially grateful to our GRANDfriends, marked with an asterisk (\*), for their gifts of \$1,000 or more last year.*

- Anonymous (3)
- Linda Alessandro
- Barb and Jack Altenburger
- Maureen and Gary Arbezniak\*
- Susan and Charles Battiato\*
- Susan and Matthew Beverstock
- Laurie and Robert Bove\*
- Kathleen and Robert Christyson
- Allan and Jayne Churchmack
- Mary Alice Maruna and Jack Clifford
- Brent Collins

- Karen and Stephen Crandall
- Stan Czerwien
- Sandi and Ken Domanski
- Mary Catherine Dubber
- Trish and Phil Dubiel
- Geri and Michael Evans\*
- Mary Ferrato
- Corrine Fitzpatrick
- William and Marcia Fromknecht
- Nancy George
- James Gesler
- Karen and Mark Giaco\*
- Terry and David Gilberstadt
- Kathleen Grady
- Loretta and Al Gudenas
- Pat and Larry Guzowski
- Elizabeth Heil
- Arlene Inks
- Ronnie Kertesz\*
- Jane Knoblauch
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- MaryLouise and Christopher Mather\*
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- Patrick McMahon
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- John W. Pinter
- Marilyn Pottmeyer
- Carol and John Pustulka\*
- Sarah Sessions-Reid\*
- Julie Smerdel
- Sherri and Arthur Stehlik\*
- Monica and Ashok Suri
- Mary and Michael Sybert
- Ann Traverse
- Roberta and Douglas Vesperman
- Mary Warren
- Joanne and Bob Wiseman
- Francis Witt
- Jane and Ollie Zahorodnij

# MATCHING GIFTS

In addition to the generosity of our closest friends, Lakewood Catholic Academy was blessed to secure significant fundraising dollars thanks to corporate matching gift programs and the individuals who took the extra step to request a match.



*Find out if your employer will match your gift to LCA by visiting [lakewoodcatholicacademy.com/GiftMatch](http://lakewoodcatholicacademy.com/GiftMatch).*

**AbbVie Foundation**  
*to match gifts made by Amy and Tom Gurbach*

**Baird Foundation Inc.**  
*to match gifts made by Kristina M. King and Gilbert A. Bachna*

**Bank of America Charitable Foundation**  
*to match gifts made by Kathleen and Karl Kniely Yaminah and Omid Sattarian*

**GBX Group LLC**  
*to match gifts made by Anonymous*

**KeyBank Foundation**  
*to match gifts made by Megan and Charles Bark Joanne and Daniel Becker*

**Lincoln Financial Group**  
*to match gifts made by Kelly and Nick Pederzolli*

**Moen Incorporated**  
*to match gifts made by Alana and Conor Coakley*

**The Parker Hannifin Foundation**  
*to match gifts made by Molly and Christopher Connell*

**PNC Foundation**  
*to match gifts made by Amy and Tom Gurbach*

**Progressive Insurance Foundation**  
*to match gifts made by Mandy and Robert Ferrato Lauren and Nicholas DiPietro*

**Salesforce**  
*to match gifts made by Tiffany Yuhasz Doll Kelly and Patrick Mazur*

**Scaled Agile Inc.**  
*to match gifts made by Emma and Christopher Peck*

**The Sherwin-Williams Foundation**  
*to match gifts made by Peggy and Marty Jones Michelle and Peter Zawadski*

**STERIS**  
*to match gifts made by Lauren and Nicholas DiPietro*

**UBS Financial Services**  
*to match gifts made by Mary and Tom Holland*





LAKWOOD CATHOLIC ACADEMY PRESENTS

# MOULIN ROUGE!

THE SPRING GALA!

As guests arrived on campus, they toasted to LCA and browsed beautifully presented auction packages and baskets. They enjoyed delicious food from Lago East Bank, cocktails, and decorations that made it seem like they had been transported to the real Moulin Rouge in France.

Later in the evening, guests enjoyed world-class live entertainment performed by Broadway actors and local dancers. It truly was a spectacular evening that left all in attendance anxiously awaiting what will be in store for the 20th Anniversary Gala on March 15, 2025! Most importantly, the greater LCA community joined together to raise important funds that will allow us to continue our innovative programs that make LCA the leader in Catholic elementary education.

By the time the show ended and we said goodnight to our guests, over \$410,000 was raised to benefit the students and staff of Lakewood Catholic Academy.

We extend our deepest gratitude to our Gala volunteers and guests, as well as the following Sponsors and Fund the Mission Donors who all helped make our *Moulin Rouge!* Gala the most successful in LCA's history!





# SPRING GALA SPONSORS

## THE SPRING GALA!

### LOVE

SPONSORS | \$10,000

The Finucane-Castro Family  
Kevin and Michelle Stefanski  
& Brent and Molly Stehlik  
Kris King and Gilbert Bachna

The Rogozinski Family  
The Salerno Family and Lago East Bank  
Tiffany Yuhasz and Salesforce

### TRUTH

SPONSORS | \$5,000

Andy Lukcso of Wells Fargo Advisors  
David and Shelly Coury  
Eric and Jacke Wiedemer  
Hughie's Event Production Services  
Jim and Margie McGowan  
JLL Commercial Real Estate  
John G. Johnson Construction  
Physicians Ambulance and EZ2Insure

Regency Construction Services, Inc.  
Rockway Mortgage Co., LLC.  
Sean and Erin Arbeznik  
Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine  
St. Edward High School  
St. Ignatius High School  
Tim Simmerly: The Planet Group  
The Trainor Family

### BEAUTY

SPONSORS | \$3,000

Cleveland Home Title  
CRESCO, Coakley and Moen  
The DeAloia Family  
Frantz Ward LLP  
Inn the Doghouse  
JTL Construction  
Kosta and Kelli Almiroudis  
Liberty Development Company  
Magnificat High School

Marketing AI Institute  
Matthew and Jessica Geiger  
The Mazur Family and Salesforce  
The Petti Family  
and The Sherwin-Williams Co.  
The Ramella Families  
Saint Joseph Academy  
Warwick Products  
and The Beverstock Family

# SPRING GALA SPONSORS

## FREEDOM

SPONSORS | \$1,500

### SAVE THE DATE

20th Anniversary  
Spring Gala  
Saturday,  
March 15, 2025

The Barnett and Das Families  
Bob and Lori Campana  
The Caruso and Litten Families  
Chuck and Sue Battiato  
DEX Imaging  
Emad and Alejandra Estemalik  
First American Title Insurance  
National Commercial Services  
GETCO Environmental  
Huntington National Bank  
Jim and Megan Fox

Johnson Investment Counsel  
KPM, Ltd.  
The Leivo and Loomer Families  
Sean and Amy McDermott  
The McKean Family  
Mike and Geri Evans  
Norman Criminal Defense Law  
Payto Architects  
The Peters and Altier Families  
St. Luke the Evangelist  
Tracy and Christine Jemison

## FUND THE MISSION DONORS

Anonymous  
Maureen and Gary Arbeznik  
Kristina M. King and Gilbert A. Bachna  
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DEX Imaging  
Carla and Bryan Gall  
Karen and Mark Giaco

Rita and Ted Grabowski  
Melissa and David Gugliotti  
Mary Ellen and James Hubach  
Kelly McFeaters-Hudson  
and Kevin Hudson  
Huntington Bank  
Amber and Christopher Igielinski  
Jennifer and Alex Kocin  
Marge and Dave Lanzola  
Julie and Thomas Madigan  
Kimberly and Daniel McGowan  
Margie and James McGowan  
Mary and Anis Nakhel  
Kim Pustulka

Tari and John Rivera  
Cheryl and Paul Roetzer  
Natalie and Chris Ronayne  
Nicole and Fabio Salerno  
Michelle and Kevin Stefanski  
Molly and Brent Stehlik  
Katie and Bill Trainor  
Mary and Patrick Valletta  
Scott Wagner  
Julia and Lawrence Wallace  
Kristen and Wayne Wallace  
Brenna Warrell

# GUARDIANS VOLUNTEERS

THANK YOU TO OUR BASEBALL VOLUNTEERS!

Lakewood Catholic Academy has partnered with the Cleveland Guardians to provide volunteer help at the stadium gates, passing out giveaways during home games. For our efforts, the Cleveland Guardians Baseball Company contributes to our Annual Fund, which supports all aspects of our school's operating budget, including student scholarships. We are grateful for the leadership of our Technology and Design teacher, Mrs. Laura Crabb, for coordinating this remarkable partnership where moms and dads, aunts and uncles, grandparents, friends, parishioners, LCA teachers...Saints of all ages come together to not only support LCA, but to also cheer on the team! Thank you to the following individuals who volunteered at one or more games between July 1, 2023 and June 30, 2024.



Trish Avellone	Daniel Hughes	Robin Mervine	Rich Semega
Tiana Banks	Jackson Hughes	David Messino	Janet Shields
Michelle Behar	Nate Hughes	Eric Morgan	Michael Shields
Bev Boey	Tamara Hughes	Jessica Morgan	Matt Shroyer
Tyler Brown	Annie Janos	Raquel Morgan	Brian Sinchak
Christina Butterfield	Ian Janos	Emily Myers	George Sutton
Laura Crabb	Brian Jecker	Gregory Novikov	Gina Sutton
Robert Faile	Kimberly Johnson	Arturo Olivera	George Szeltner
Lauren Fiorucci	Don Kingsland	Monica Olivera	Julie Wagner
Ross Franks	Mary Kate Kocsan	Maria Petronzio	Christopher Ward
Angela Giaco	Carolyn Kraus	Michael Prinic	Jody Wessler
Dave Hamman	Dan Kraus	Rosemary Prinic	Christina Westlake
John Henderson	Elizabeth Kraus	Maureen Puckett	David Westlake
Mary Henderson	Lizzie Kraus	Tera Rolf	Regina Westlake
Christine Higgins	Mary Ellen Kraus	Liam Roth	Rebecca Williams
Jenny Himmelman	Lindy McCartney	Maria Schwenk	Eun Suk Yun

# GOLF OUTING FOR THE SAINTS

THANK YOU SPONSORS AND GOLFERS!

In September 2023, friends of LCA participated in the 14th Annual LCA Golf Classic. The outing raises important funds to support our athletic program for uniforms, participation in tournaments, equipment, and coach development. Thank you to our sponsors and all those who hit the links with us last year!



## 2023 GOLF OUTING SPONSORSHIPS

**DOUBLE EAGLE** | \$1,100

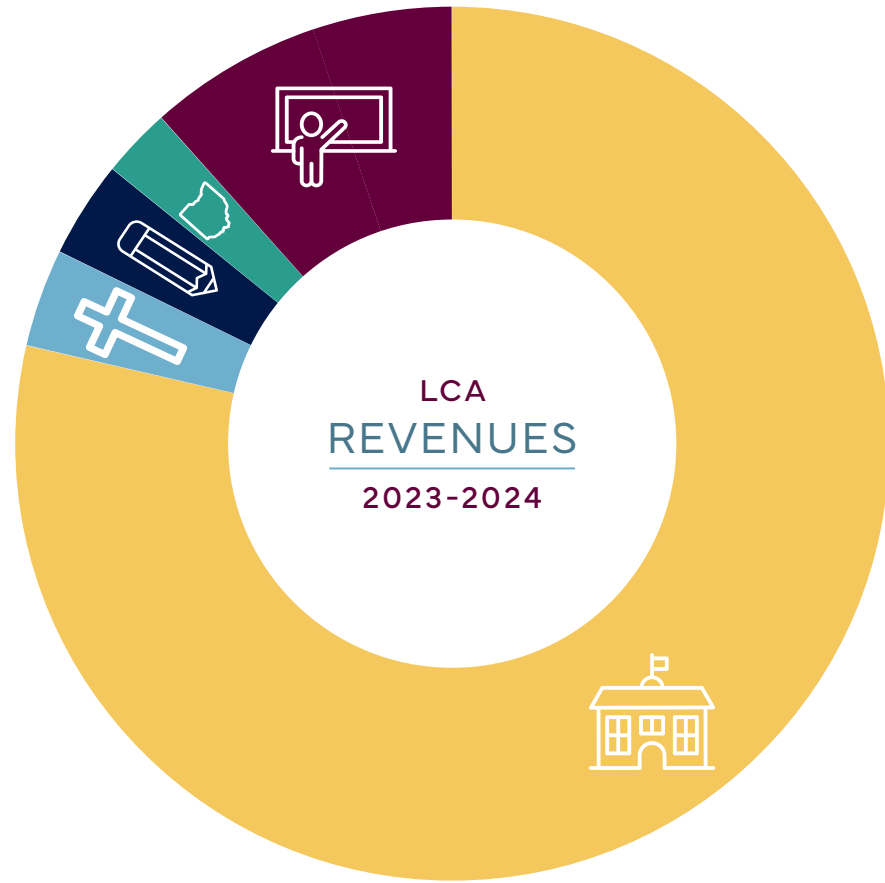
St. Ignatius High School  
Marketing AI Institute  
Brent Zimmerman + Saucy Brew Works  
Rockway Mortgage






**EAGLE** | \$850

Shamrock Cos.  
The Rogozinski Family  
Lann Financial  
Charles Peters  
The Peura Family  
Patricia McGinty



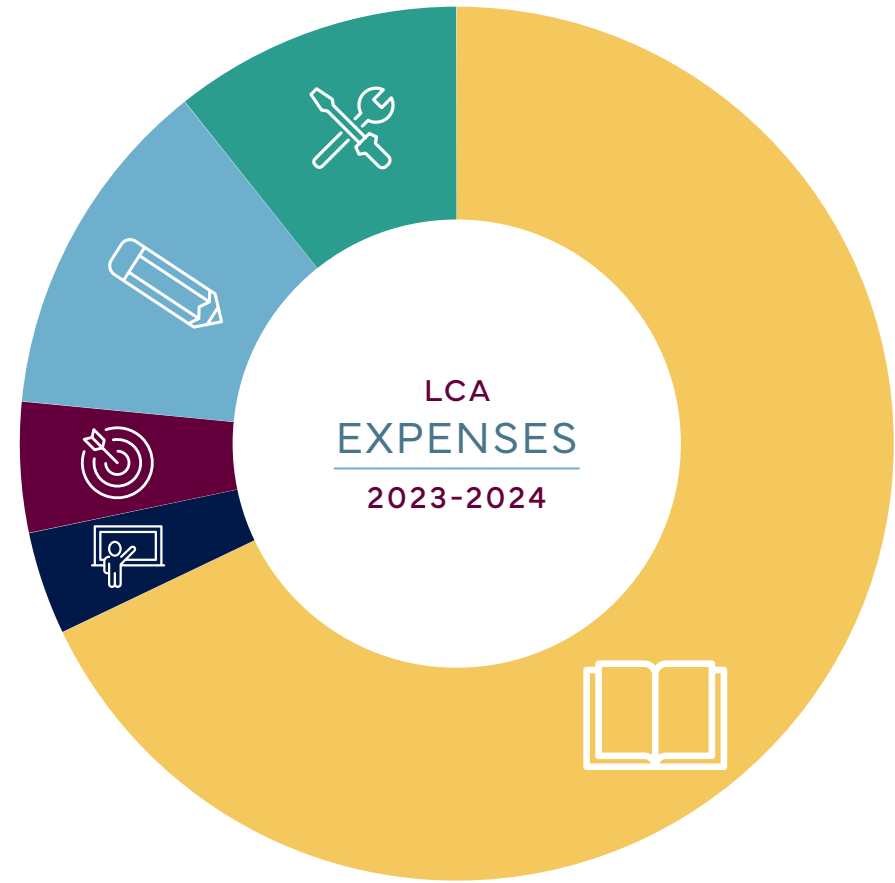









	NET TUITION & FEES:	\$6,043,575
	PARISH SUBSIDIES:	\$279,000
	STUDENT SERVICES:	\$275,342
	STATE FUNDING:	\$197,837
	DEVELOPMENT:	\$891,224

**REVENUES**  
**\$7,686,978**

*Audited by Maloney + Novotny*



	INSTRUCTIONAL:	\$5,113,167
	STUDENT SERVICES:	\$287,967
	DEVELOPMENT:	\$362,468
	ADMINISTRATIVE:	\$961,155
	FACILITY OPERATIONS:	\$805,179

**EXPENSES**  
**\$7,529,936**

*Audited by Maloney + Novotny*



## JOIN OUR HONOR ROLL OF DONORS

Make your gift to the 2024-2025 Annual Fund today!



MAKE A DONATION

Thanks for  
being a SAINT!



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