



THE HOLY HERALD

Holy Nativity Episcopal School - Spring 2024 Issue 11 - Since 2014

Cynthia Fuller - Head of School Fr. Steve Bates - Chaplain Heather Creel - Dean of Lower School Jan Dykes - Dean of Upper School

“The STREAM is the Dream!” 2023 Kicks Off with Largest Capital Campaign in School History

In September, Holy Nativity Episcopal School kicked off an ambitious capital campaign to raise funds for a STREAM (Science, Technology, Robotics, Engineering, Arts, & Mathematics) Building. The goal is to raise \$2,000,000 to construct a state-of-the-art Science Lab on the historic Cove School campus. The STREAM Building will provide a facility for experiments involving physics and chemistry, access to equipment such as Smart Tables and 3D printers, space for robot building & coding, opportunities for innovation & invention presentations, a platform for design and creation in fine arts and performing arts, and space for problem solving, and in-person mathematics competitions. The Building will be constructed at the south end of the main schoolhouse and is expected to be completed in the 2026-27 school year. (See page 5 for list of donors.)

“Who loves Holy Nativity?” Carolyn Cramer asked at a special chapel service on November 29th, “Well there are two people who love it a whole lot more. **Linda & Tom Weller**. And I want to name the new building for them as a thank you and as a permanent reminder of their love.”

Mrs. Cramer’s \$300,000 contribution moved the HNES campaign total to \$778,000 on that great November day.

Mrs. Cramer’s gift joins generous top donations of \$100,000 from the San Juan Family of Dottie & Ed San Juan and Mary Kathryn, and Edward San Juan, a gift of \$150,000 from the Charles A. Whitehead Foundation and Lynn & Greg Brudnicki, and an ANONYMOUS gift of \$150,000 received at Christmas time.

About the Wellers

Linda & Tom Weller have had an incredible impact on Holy Nativity for the past 80 years, but Mr. Weller’s journey with the school began when he was just a young boy. In 1941, he started 1st grade at Cove



(left to right) Linda & Tom Weller, Members of the Cramer Family: Rosemary, Monica, Christopher, Sawyer, Pam, Carter, Liam, Carolyn Cramer, & Will Cramer

School. From here he went on to attend Bay High School and received his degree from the University of Florida. After joining the United States Navy, he graduated from the University of Michigan, attended seminary, and became a priest in the Episcopal Church. Along the way, he married his hometown sweetheart Linda Peters.

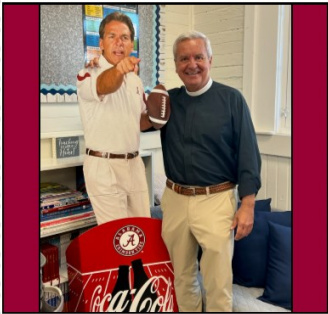
During his time away, Cove School, was eventually closed (1988), in need of substantial repairs, and was scheduled for demolition. However, at this same time, Holy Nativity Episcopal School was thriving in our Cove neighborhood and was in need of more space to house their growing population. In 1998, Father Tom along with Dr. Bill Lloyd, and other members of the Holy Nativity Foundation, worked to restore the historic Cove School and made it possible for Holy Nativity Episcopal School to move into the much larger facility.

Linda, Tom’s wife, was a firm supporter of the work being accomplished, and her mother, Lucile Peters Graham, established the first charitable annuity trust fund in the amount of \$700,000. This money helped

cover the construction and mortgage loans accumulated during the reconstruction of the school building. Father Tom’s time working with HNES wasn’t over just yet. From 2004-2007, he served as the school chaplain and middle school religion teacher. He taught using two main rules, “Love God and love your neighbor.” In 2014, the Board of Trustees decided to honor Linda and Tom by creating the annual “Weller Scholar.” This award recognizes one eighth grader who exemplifies outstanding character, high academic progress, and a strong devotion to the mission of our school. When past, present, and future families of Holy Nativity read the names “Linda and Tom Weller,” which will so proudly be displayed on the entrance of the STREAM Building, they will forever be reminded of the Wellers’ dedication to and love of our school. As Father Tom once said, “*I pray that this holy place will always be filled with joy, fun and competition, love, healthy children, and - in your life and Time, as in my life and Time - happy memories.*”

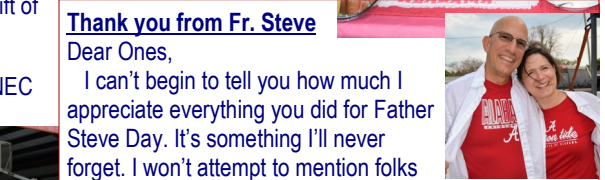
HOLY NATIVITY EPISCOPAL SCHOOL
presents the
2024 Father Steve Bates Retirement Celebration

TAILGATE PARTY
FRIDAY, MARCH 8, 2024
3:30 PM - 6:30 PM
HOLY NATIVITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH



Father Steve Day Agenda March 8, 2024

- 1:55 pm Students and faculty congregate on William's Field adjacent to the Holy Pavilion
- 2:00 pm Welcome by Cynthia Fuller
- 2:05 pm Song *What You Did for Love* by Kindergarten through 5th grades, Directed by Leigh Gladden, Music Teacher
- 2:20 pm Cheers by Bolts Cheerleaders, Directed by Michelle Cool, Shanun White, Bridget Granducci, Cheer Coaches
- 2:30 pm *Party Down with the Priest ~ Dance Party on William's Field*
- 2:45 pm Students & faculty begin return to class - pick up cookie on way back to class
- 3:15 pm Families and friends begin to arrive on Holy Nativity Church campus. Buy your "SERMONATOR" t-shirt - thanks Tricia! Thank you, Wendy Mowat for organizing: volunteer tailgaters set up in parking lot, food & signature Alabama drinks provided, Thank you, Ms. Hope!, music & Alabama football highlights showing on inflatable screen, Thank you, Lyn Morris! Tailgate games arranged on south lawn. Playground open. Photo opportunities available with HNES backdrop, balloons, and cardboard Father Steve + cardboard Nick Saban.
- 4:30 pm SURPRISE! The Bay High "Million Dollar Band!"
- 5:00 pm Claire Drobia (6th grade Mom) presents gift of E.F. San Juan-created pine cross in honor of Father Steve for school campus (see p.7).
- 5:10 pm Tricia Berry (HNES Board of Trustees/HNEC member) gives closing remarks of gratitude.



What You Did For Love
(Lyrical adaptation written by Leigh Gladden)

*Kiss today goodbye
The sweetness and the sorrow
Wish me luck, the same to you
But I won't forget
What you did for love, what you did for love. Look, my eyes are dry
The gift was ours to borrow
It's as if we always knew
And I won't forget what you did for love, what you did for love
Gone - Love is never gone
As we travel on
Love's what we'll remember
Kiss today goodbye
And point me toward tomorrow
We did what we had to do
Won't forget, can't regret
What you did for love
What you did for love
Love is never gone
As we travel on
Love's what we'll remember
Kiss today goodbye
And point me toward tomorrow
We did what we had to do
Won't forget, can't regret
What you did for love
What you did for love
What you did for love*



Lori Bates & Cynthia Fuller



William's Field, HNES



Ben & Heather Creel



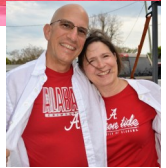
Bay High Band at HNEC

Thank you from Fr. Steve

Dear Ones,

I can't begin to tell you how much I appreciate everything you did for Father Steve Day. It's something I'll never forget. I won't attempt to mention folks by name because the truth is there were far more people involved than I know.

As Tricia Berry mentioned, there was a part of me that was dreading the day because despite what I do for a living, I really am uncomfortable being the center of attention. But also, I realized that the celebration was going to make the fact that I'm leaving even more "real" than it already is. I will miss this place terribly. Besides, you had it all backwards. I should be throwing a celebration for you. Being a part of Holy Nativity for all these years is one of the great joys of my life. Thank you for allowing me to be a part of this special place. Thank you for allowing me to be a part of your children's lives. Thank you for allowing me to be a part of your family life both in good times and bad. Thank you for allowing me to have a job where I actually go to work and get 300 hugs each day. You will never fully know how much that has meant to me over the years. Friday's celebration was absolutely perfect. Thank you seems so inadequate but please know my gratitude comes with much love. God love you all (and Roll Tide!), Steve+



Edward & Mary Kathryn San Juan





community with such strong generational ties is a true blessing, and we are proud of our unique place.

Our school is blessed to have Father Steve Bates as one of its prominent members. He is an esteemed figure in our school who is known for his warm, kind-hearted nature, empathy, and open-mindedness. Father Steve is a person who is always willing to lend an ear or give a helping hand to anyone in need. His unwavering commitment to serving others is a testament to his selflessness and dedication to his calling.

him so special to our community. Father Steve is not only a spiritual guide, but also a friend to many. He is someone who is always available to listen and offer guidance, and he has a way of making everyone feel seen and heard. His presence is a true blessing, and we are grateful for the roots that began growing here just eighteen years ago.

Looking ahead to the future, we understand that our foundation is firmly grounded in the past. We are committed to respecting our past while also welcoming progress and change. Every school must be open to new ideas while still keeping its traditions alive. We owe our existence today to the faith, love, and hope of those who came before us, so failing to recognize this would be a mistake. We are a unique school, and we appreciate our strong bonds with our past and current families. As we move forward, we will continue to look toward the future with hope and faith, guided by our love for one another.

Let us never forget one of our strongest "roots," Father Steve Bates.

As the school year draws to a close, it's time to take a moment to reflect on the past, present, and future. As an award-winning independent school, Holy Nativity Episcopal School has a unique perspective on the importance of history, tradition, and progress. Our school has deep roots in Bay County, Florida, and has been housed in a building with historical significance, formerly known as Cove Grammar School. Being a part of a

Being raised as a Southern Baptist but now confirmed as an Episcopalian, I recall having a lot of questions. When I first met Father Steve about all sorts of Episcopalian traditions, prayers, and liturgy. He always took the time to answer my questions with patience and understanding, never once making me feel judged or inadequate for not knowing. His willingness to guide each of us on our spiritual journeys with such a compassionate approach is what makes

COVE Schoolhouse *Then & Now*



LEFT ~ 1944 Cove 3rd grade at the south end of the building; 2023 6th grade girls gathered; RIGHT ~ 1966 Cove Cheerleaders on basketball court; 2024 Holy Nativity Bolts Cheerleaders in the Holy Pavilion.



What is the Holy Nativity School Foundation?

In 1998, there were plans to demolish the historic 61-year old Cove Elementary School. The building had closed as a "school" in 1988 and had been used as the "Bay District Schools Media Center." Several community members and friends of Holy Nativity combined forces to ensure that the schoolhouse would not be torn down and that it could be used as a school to increase growth opportunities for Holy Nativity.

It was April 8, 1998, when the Bay District School Board approved the legendary "property swap" that transferred Cove Elementary School into the hands of the Holy Nativity School Foundation.

Measured at 25,158 square feet on 4 acres of land, the property was valued at \$175,000.

The condition of the main building was described by Tom Weller at the time as being in "desperate but promising" condition. Due to limitations on Bay District Schools to sell to a private school, Carolyn Cramer & Mable Smith fortunately owned a piece of property adjacent to Bay High School and suggested a "trade" for the Cove School property.



These Foundation members were gathered in McDaniel Hall on 2023 yearbook presentation day: Carolyn Cramer, John Darrah, Tom Weller, Linda Peters Weller, June Lloyd, Rayford Lloyd, Forrest Whitehurst, Beverly McDaniel, & Brent Faison.

Tom Weller wrote, *"The Foundation then began the restoration of the buildings and grounds. For example: Floors had been covered in glued-down carpet, the original 14-foot ceilings had been concealed by dropped ceiling tiles, there was no A/C, no heat, the windows were boarded up and painted over in many places, all light fixtures had to be rewired and replaced. And that was just the beginning..."* BayCo

Construction Company owned by Mary Sittman, DAILY supervisor Bill Lloyd, "worker" Father Tom Weller, engineer Rayford Lloyd and a tireless construction crew worked on the project every day for two years to restore the campus to a truly beautiful campus."

the annual payment of \$58,000 to pay off the \$500,000 construction loan and mortgage which, at the beginning, was held by the contractor. Our Foundation then wrote an official lease of the school to the Episcopal Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast for 99 years.

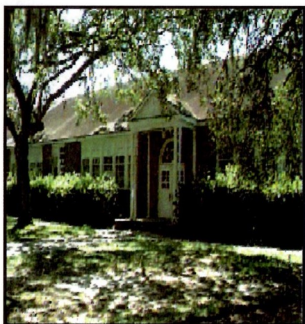
2023 was the 25th anniversary of our foundation. TWENTY FIVE YEARS. We are so grateful for our Foundation team who continues to be the guardians of our school – her growth, her appearance, her stability.

The past, present and future students are forever grateful to these generous people who invested in the vision and value of our schoolhouse: The original 1998 Foundation: Kathy Barr, Brian Barnes, Steve Butler, Carolyn Cramer, John Darrah, Mary Sittman, Elyse & John Fishel, Lucile Peters Graham* (in memory), Bill Lloyd, Sr.* (in memory), Rayford Lloyd, Beverly McDaniel, Scott & Cranston Pope, Ronald Sinicrope, Mabel Fleming Smith* (in memory), Tom Carroll Weller & Linda Peters Weller, & Forrest Whitehurst.

By 2024, the acting Foundation included: Linda & Tom Weller, Rayford Lloyd, June Lloyd, Carolyn Cramer, John Darrah, Mary Sittman, Beverly McDaniel, Cynthia Fuller, Brent Faison, Will Cramer, Edward San Juan, & Amy Moody.

1998

A Community Preservation Project



Cove Elementary
Panama City, Florida

For More Information:

The Holy Nativity School Foundation, Inc. (a tax-exempt, charitable organization) has been established for organizing, planning and completing the preservation of Cove Elementary. For more information, please call or write:

The Holy Nativity School Foundation, Inc.
P.O. Box 12154
Panama City, FL 32401
(850) 747-4000

- Carolyn Cramer \$300,000
- Anonymous \$150,000
- The Charles A. Whitehead Foundation + Lynn & Greg Brudnicki \$150,000
- Mary Kathryn & Edward San Juan \$50,000
- Dottie & Edward San Juan \$50,000
- Amy & Jay Moody \$50,000
- Monica & Will Cramer \$30,000
- Sandra & Ron White + Parker Rowe \$25,374
- Mary Sittman \$25,000
- Rayford Lloyd \$25,000
- W. Henry Jernigan \$20,700
- Kimberly & Alex La Pera \$15,000
- Jennifer & Bill Lloyd \$10,000
- Nancy & Rob Lloyd \$10,000
- Tammy & Jay Trumbull \$10,000
- #belikeJancy Jenna Flint Haligas \$10,000
- Victoria & Kunal Jani \$10,000
- Lori & Brent Faison \$5,000
- Laura & Benny Moore \$5,000
- John Hutt \$5,000
- Pamela Kelly + Panhandle Signal \$5,000
- Lindsey & Don Davis \$5,000
- Pat & Scott Clemons \$5,000
- Gerry Clemons \$5,000
- Mary & John Darrah \$5,000
- Jerri & Steve Spurrier \$5,000
- Michelle & Baker Mitchell \$5,000
- Amy & Davis Helms \$5,000
- Elizabeth Walters \$5,000
- Cynthia & Michael Fuller \$5,000
- Stacy & Troy Shramek \$4,500
- Elyse & John Fishel \$2,500
- Mrs. Cool's 3rd grade \$1,500
- Stephanie & Anthony Fredenberg \$1,500
- Jan & Jim Fensom \$1,500
- Holly & Jason Alves \$1,250
- Caroline & Doug Smith \$1,000
- Jan & Jim Cook \$1,000
- Debbie & Scott Stewart \$1,000
- Kathy & Jimmy Barr \$1,000
- Caryn & Bill Reid \$1,000
- Cynthia Gallardo \$1,000
- Dr. Khurram Nazir \$1,000
- Hina D. Smith \$750
- Leigh Gladden \$750
- Jillian & Sean Preston \$500
- Hope Simmons \$500
- Lynn Ferren \$500
- Cindy & Ajay Mhatre \$500
- Vivian R. Sawyer \$500
- Alice Allen \$500
- Tanya & Dan Casey \$500
- Lisa & Grant Davis \$500
- John B. Morrow \$500
- Natalie Gray \$500
- Jenny Goostree \$500
- Tristan Bennett \$500
- Ann & Gus Harris \$400
- Marsha Southall \$300
- Tina Davis \$300
- Mrs. Moody's 7th grade \$300



SCIENCE + TECHNOLOGY + ROBOTICS + ENGINEERING + ARTS + MATHEMATICS



We've PASSED \$1 million in donations & pledges!

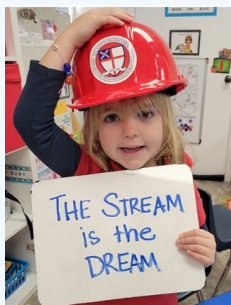


YOU CAN JUMP INTO THE STREAM TOO!

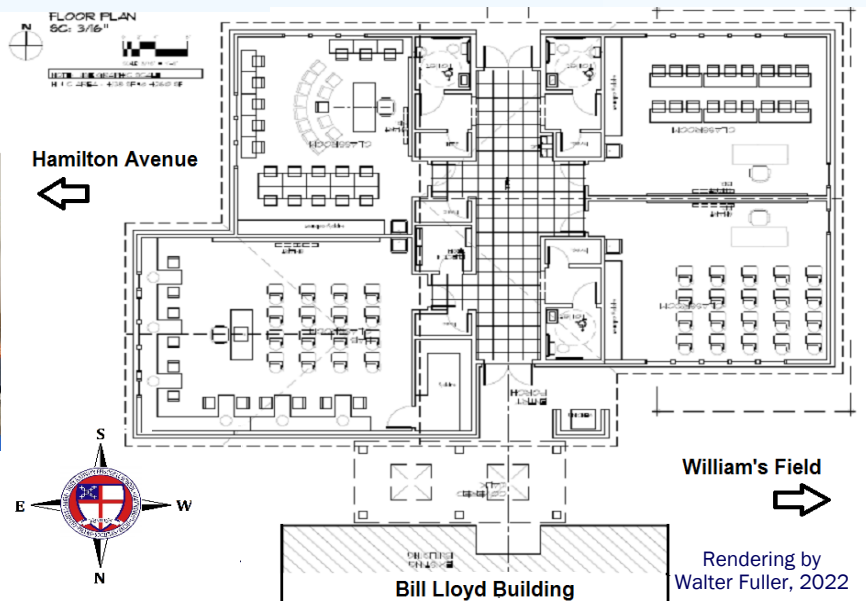
You can make your pledge or donation today. www.STREAMhnes.org or by mailing a check to **HNES ~ 205 Hamilton Avenue, Panama City, FL 32401**

Will Cramer - Capital Campaign Chair, Amy Moody - Director of Development; Cynthia Fuller, Head of School; Drew Jernigan - Board of Trustees President

- | | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Paula & Mike Ertz \$250 | Baylee Stopka \$250 | Zaylee Garcia \$250 |
| Kendyl Covington \$250 | Cookie Shaw \$250 | Linda & Terry Kile \$250 |
| Shani & Ben Lee \$250 | Emalyn Hicks \$250 | Amanda Greggs \$250 |
| Renee & Paul Street \$250 | Walter Cheek \$250 | Alexander Muniz \$250 |
| Jacob Adami \$250 | Lydia Lathrop+Avis Keen \$250 | Jasmine Sauls \$250 |
| Steve & Jade Davis \$250 | Laura & Ronnie Grissett \$250 | Cara Hutt \$250 |
| Luke Jagiello \$250 | Kinley Farris \$250 | Bailee Petitjean \$250 |
| Lauren Hargrove \$250 | Paula & Alan Hart \$250 | Kristen & Eric Brown \$250 |
| Kirsten & Max McCord \$250 | Ella Sweet \$250 | Gaila Scanlan \$250 |
| Marla Denecke \$250 | Nicolle Valle \$250 | Terry & Tom Duke \$250 |
| Janae Syfrett \$250 | Georgette Mantooth \$250 | James Vickers \$100 |
| Michelle Cool \$250 | | |



Reese



Rendering by Walter Fuller, 2022

Remembering Father Steve's 18 years as Leader of Holy Nativity Episcopal Church & School





In October 2023, Holy Nativity Episcopal School was awarded the designation of 2023 "Best Private School in the state of Florida" through the *Guide to Florida* Recognition program. Out of over 2,000 private schools in the state of Florida, 50 of them were nominated for this award, and three were recognized and received ranked awards. Head of School Cynthia Fuller states, "We are deeply humbled as a school family to have received the top award. This opportunity is possible because of the dedication and love of our teachers, support staff, incredible students, beloved families, and fantastic community members. Our teachers love where they are. They love what they do. Our students love being here. We focus on the whole child. We don't see our students as just test scores. We want to make sure that we are giving them the opportunity to be who they are as how God made them. We thank God for always shining a light upon Holy Nativity Episcopal School."



School Administrators **Heather Creel** (Dean of Lower School), **Jan Dykes** (Dean of Upper School), **Father Steve Bates** (Chaplain), **Cynthia Fuller** (Head of School) & **Amy Moody** (Director of Development/MS Math) react to the recognition by *Guide to Florida* as Best Private School in the state. ~ McDaniel Hall. Photo by LFerren

By **Claire Drobia**, 6th grade Mom:

"Today, we gather not only to bid farewell to a devoted shepherd of our school but also to honor him with a timeless symbol of faith and guidance. As we present this wooden cross to Father Steve, let it stand not only as a token of our gratitude but as a lasting memorial within the walls that have witnessed his unwavering commitment. This cross, with its sturdy wood and carefully etched details mirrors the steadfast spirit with which Father Steve has guided our children through the corridors of education and morality. Just as the grains of the wood weave together to form a resilient structure, so too has Father Steve woven the values of compassion, integrity, and love into the Holy Nativity community. Let us remember that, much like the cross itself, Father Steve has been a pillar of strength, providing support and solace during both the sunny days of success and the stormy nights of challenges. His impact is imprinted on the hearts and minds of the students who have walked these halls, a legacy that transcends his years of service. As we entrust this cross to its place of honor within our school, let it serve as a constant reminder of the profound influence of a dedicated spiritual guide. May it inspire future generations to uphold the values imparted by Father Steve and continue the journey of growth and learning he so passionately fostered. Father Steve your footsteps may no longer echo in these hallways daily, but your legacy, like this enduring cross, will forever stand tall in the foundation of our school community. We express our deepest gratitude for your years of selfless service, and we hope this cross will be a symbol of our enduring appreciation and the indelible mark you've left on all of our hearts."

6th grade Presents Pine Cross to Forever Honor Father Steve Bates and his Service to Holy Nativity



Joe Granducci, Doug Phillips, Michael Fuller, and JR Williams carried the cross for the special presentation at HNEC on "Father Steve Day," March 8th.



Three generations of San Juans worked on this cross that was crafted of pressure-treated pine in the E.F. San Juan Workshop, Youngstown, Florida. Mr. Ed San Juan, Mr. Edward San Juan, and Eddie San Juan (HNEC alumnus c/o 2008).



Officer Jay Walker Debuts as Holy Nativity School Resource Officer

By 7th grader Lucia Lama

Our Holy Nativity School Resource Officer, Officer Jay Walker has been with the Panama City Police Department for 22 years. "Officer Jay," as we call him here at school, wanted to be a police officer because, "I wanted to be something bigger than myself." He also said that he always wanted to "drive fast cars and put the bad guys in jail."

In 2023, as Officer Jay applied to be a School Resource Officer in Bay County, he didn't get to choose Holy Nativity, but he says that he is very fortunate to have been placed

here. Officer Jay loves being at HNES. He says that it is the most rewarding job that he's ever had, and he won't forget how lucky he is to be here. His favorite part of working at Holy Nativity is that he gets to interact with the students and be a part of their lives. When he is not driving a police car or being at school, Officer Jay enjoys golfing, playing the drums, and spending time with his wife of 11 years, Deanna. We are lucky to have Officer Jay keeping us safe everyday at Holy Nativity. We hope he will be with us for a long time.



Officer Jay is seen here visiting Mrs. Granducci's 4th graders and helping students study vocabulary.

Renee Jackson Street Has Returned to Holy Nativity Episcopal School!



The Street Family: Vivian, Renee, Paul, and Emma

After 15 years of living in Lexington, South Carolina, Renee Jackson Street and her family have returned to Panama City! Mrs. Street shared, "My husband, Paul (HNES alumnus), and I grew up in Panama City and have always called this place "home." We have two daughters, Emma (14) and Vivian (12). Vivian is in 7th grade this year and is excited to attend middle school at Holy Nativity. My first teaching experience began in 1996 at Holy



(back) Myra, Justin, Tabitha, Micah, Ami, Amy Leigh, (front) Tanner, Matthew, Michael, Sarah Catherine, Claire, Adrianna, Cameron



Mrs. Street's 1st grade class 23/24 = (back row) Jasmine, Carter, James, Banks, Alex, Liam, (front row) Merritt Elyse, Amelia, Isabelle, Maggie, & Baylee

Nativity as a 4th-grade teacher. I remained at HNES until we moved to South Carolina in 2009. I spent most of my 13 years at Holy Nativity as a 4th-grade teacher and taught some 5th and 6th-grade classes. After our move to South Carolina, I put teaching on hold as we raised our two young daughters. In recent years, I have returned to the classroom as a substitute teacher for 2 years, kindergarten assistant for 2 years, and a 4K preschool teacher for 2 years. It has been my dream to one day return to Holy Nativity, and I am thrilled that I have been given the chance to do just that...as both a parent and 1st-grade teacher!"

Who's Here in 2024?

Look who's here this year in order of seniority:
Historian, Safety Coordinator, Purchasing Dir.:

Lynn Ferren (42nd year)

BASE: **Martha Jo Cooper** (36th year)

Director of Maintenance & Facilities: **Gaila Scanlan** (24th year)

Art, MS Musical Dir, Dance: **Hope Simmons** (24th year)

Admin. Assistant: **Wendy Mowat** (23rd total year)

Maintenance & Facilities: **Paul Smith** (23rd year)

MS Math, Dir of Development, Holy Herald Editor, MathCounts

Facebook Admin: **Amy Moody** (20th total year)

School Secretary: **Sheila White** (20th year)

4th grade, Cheer: **Bridget Granducci** (20th total year)

Chaplain, MS Religion: **Father Steve Bates**

(18th year at HNEC/15th year at HNES)

Admissions Specialist/Registrar: **Terry Duke** (18th year)

School Receptionist: **Kelly Muller** (18th year)

MS Language Arts, Media Specialist, Marketing Dir.

Lauren Presser (16th year)

4th grade: **Natalie Godwin** (13th year)

Teaching Assistant: **Tracey Mason** (13th year)

1st grade: **Renee Street** (13th total year)

Adjunct Tennis Coach: **Laura Dobbins** (12th year)

Head of School: **Cynthia Fuller** (11th year/4th year as HOS)

Technology Director: **Lyn Morris** (11th year)

3rd grade: **Lara Provencher** (11th year)

5th grade: **Audra Resler** (10th year)

2nd grade: **Summer Himes** (9th year)

Dean of Upper Students, MS Coordinator, MS Robotics Coach:

Jan Dykes (9th total year)

Dean of Lower Students: **Heather Creel** (8th year/4th as DOS)

3rd grade, Asst Marketing, Cheer: **Michelle Cool** (8th total year)

BASE & TA: **Taylor C. Hall** (8th year)

MS Science, PE: **Coach Darcey Sinicrope** (7th total year)

MS Social Studies: **Tina Fisher** (7th total year)

Volunteer Pianist: **Avis Keen** (6th total year)

Pre-K, Lower S Musical Dir: **Liz Ward** (6th year)

MS Language Arts, Beta Club: **Becca Flohre** (6th year)

Teaching Assistant: **Amanda Greggs** (6th year)

Jr. Pre-K: **Casey Cole** (6th year)

MS Substitute: **Marsha Southall** (6th year)

Music Teacher: **Leigh Gladden** (5th year)

BASE Director: **Stacy Shramek** (5th year)

Spanish: **Heyling Aguilar** (4th year)

5th grade: **Jenny Goostree** (4th year)

Jr. Pre-K: **Debbie Middleton** (4th year)

BASE/Maintenance: **Todd Smith** (4th year)

MS Science: **Jeremy Brannon** (3rd year)

PE Coach, Athletic Dir., YB Publisher: **Laura Grissett** (3rd year)

Student Support Specialist: **Debbie Stewart** (3rd year)

BASE: **Samantha Class** (3rd year)

Jr. Pre-K: **Florencia Pereira** (2nd year)

MS Social Studies, SGA, Cheer: **Shanun White** (2nd year)

Front office Part-time: **Katy Svitenco** (2nd year)

Kindergarten: **Camille Morin** (1st year)

1st grade: **Jade Davis** (1st year)

2nd grade: **Chris Borgman** (1st year)

MS Math: **Tanya Casey** (1st year)

Director of Finance: **Shaila Tandur** (1st year)

BASE: **Allicyn Mullinax** (1st year)

Maintenance & Facilities: **Brandi Scanlan** (1st year)

Kindergarten: **Georgette Mantoath** (1st year)

(Photo by Madge Smith August 1, 2023 ~ HNEC)



It was the night of Christmas Eve; the magical feeling of Christmas cheer danced in the air. Happy little children chased each other through the soft winter snow. The warm glow of Christmas lights illuminated the tiny town. The sweet fragrance of delectable sugar cookies flew through the house. Grandma walked into the living room holding a tray of delicious cookies and brought them to Papa who was sitting by the fire in his cozy armchair sipping on some hot cocoa. A joyful smile appeared on his face when he saw his most favorite sugar cookies! Grandma returned to the kitchen to put away the leftover cookies and turned on the record player that played the most beautiful Christmas carols. She came and sat down beside Papa and continued to work on the red scarf she was knitting for him.

Their peace was disrupted when their crazy little grandson practically kicked down the living room door. He bounced off the walls and ran around the living room, jumped off the couch and nearly squashed the cat. "My goodness, Nicolas! What on Earth has gotten into you?!" Grandma asked him. He ignored her and continued to act like a monkey. Papa decided to go into the kitchen for another cookie and all of them were gone! Papa walked back into the living room and showed Grandma the empty cookie jar. "I found the problem," he said. "Nicolas has gotten into the cookies!" Papa chuckled. "Oh Nicolas, come here, I want to tell you a story." Little Nicolas charged toward his grandfather and leaped up into his lap. Papa wrapped him up in a soft blanket to make sure he was nice and warm. Papa began to rock slowly back and forth and gave Nicolas his last cookie. "Don't tell your mama," he said with a wink. "So what's the story?" Nicolas excitedly asked his Papa. "Well, our story begins on a cold winter night, a very long time ago, while a man was sitting at home, getting ready for bed. He looked out the window one last time and, to his surprise, he saw a huge star in the sky. It was a beautiful star, shining down onto the white snow, causing it to gleam. He was dumbfounded by the star's beauty and excellence. It seemed like it was a figment of the man's imagination. The star looked magical," he said. Papa paused the story and looked off into



the distance as his eyes twinkled in a sort of remembrance. Nicolas looked up into his grandfather's eyes with slight confusion but waited and continued to

listen. Papa started again, "The man knew this star was important and decided to set out into the cold winter night in search of someone who could tell him what the star was. So, he grabbed a red sack, threw on his velvet coat and hat, got a torch for light, and confidently went out into the frigid night." "This is going to take a lot of pluck," He stomped through the snow creating footprints behind him. The air was cold, and it slowed the man down, but didn't stop him.

After the man had been traveling on his strenuous trek for a long time, he came across three men who looked like kings riding on donkeys and camels. The three were headed in the same direction as the man. He decided to ask them what the star was and why it was there. One of the wise men told the man that our Savior, The Greatest king, was born and that he needed to hurry and get the special king a gift. This made the man start to worry.

"What sort of gift should I get for the most important king?" he thought. The man was quite poor and he lived by himself. He didn't have much, but he knew that he could find the perfect gift for the king.

The man began to search and search for the absolute best gift for the baby king. "I just don't know what to get him!" The man said after lots of looking for the perfect gift. "I think I might actually know what to do," the man declared. He began to search a nearby forest. It was full of tall trees and tiny bugs as well as small animals. As the man walked deeper into the forest it became darker and darker. But his torch illuminated the pathway. The man continued traveling farther into the woods. CRUNCH! The bushes shook, but nothing happened. A greater fear grew within the man when he noticed that he was lost. His torch's light dwindled and eventually blew out. The man's heart raced, as he stood in complete darkness and silence. He looked to the sky and remembered what he was looking for when he saw the amazing star twinkling above. The man carefully felt his way around and out of the forest. He kept walking looking for the perfect, most amazing gift for the king. In the distance he saw a small fir tree covered in snow. The beautiful, glowing star beamed right above the tree. This was the best gift! The man grabbed his hatchet out of his red sack and chopped down the tree. After the man acquired the fir tree, he dragged it behind him as he continued down the path of the star.

The sun was rising and the sky exploded with amazing color. The man had finally reached the star! It slowly started to fade away as the sun rose into the morning sky. The man looked underneath the star to find what looked like a

small, dilapidated, shack. He was quite confused, "Why would the most amazing king of all time be born in a tiny little stable?" The man asked himself. He pictured this savior to be born in a palace, or a huge mansion. The man decided to knock on the old wooden door, careful to not wake the baby. A young lady opened the door and asked the man to join them and the others. There were a few different people gathered around the precious baby. The little tiny savior was wrapped in swaddling cloth and lying in a manger. The man was in a state of rapture when he saw the newborn king. "He is the perfect gift," the man thought as he looked at the sweet child who was peacefully sleeping with animals keeping watch over him.

The man presented the wonderful family with his gift. He showed them the fir tree that he chopped down and dragged all the way there. "This gift is not quite perfect," the man said, "but I hope it is enough for the new King Of The Jews." All of the sudden, there was a great flash of light and an angel appeared to the people in the stable! The man stood in shock.

"Do not be afraid!" said the angel. "I come from the Lord your God bringing good news of great joy! An amazing newborn king has been born in the city of David who is Christ the Lord. For unto us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. He will be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. This child is the greatest gift of all and his name is Jesus. He is the most magnificent gift to each and every person in this world, and we will serve him permanently." These words really inspired the man. After visiting and worshipping the wonderful Newborn King, he man made the treacherous and toiling journey back home. He had a great idea.

The man got home and went to work on making the best gifts and toys. He then grabbed his best velvet jacket and hat. He made sure to put a jingle bell on his hat so he wouldn't lose it. He got his sack and filled it with the toys he made. Then he set off once again and went to every home he could in one night, delivering amazing presents to everyone he could. He did this so the whole world could know about the most perfect gift, Jesus. He knew his gifts weren't perfect, but his king was and is today. Jesus loves each and every person with all of His heart, especially my little Nicholas. The end!"

Papa ended the story leaving Nicholas astonished by his awesome king, Jesus Christ. "I've got a really big night ahead of me," said Papa, "and you do too." Papa tucked his tiny grandson in for bed and kissed him goodnight. He grabbed his jacket, and his hat and again, the man left and set out for another journey. Jingle, jingle, and off he went.



HNES PRESENTS
**Daddy
 Daughter Dance**
 FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9TH
 6:00PM-8:00PM IN MCDANIEL HALL



PHOTOS by Terry Duke



Tabitha Garcia & Jan Dykes

HNES Mini Golf Classic is a SMASH at Emerald Falls Recreation Center, PCB

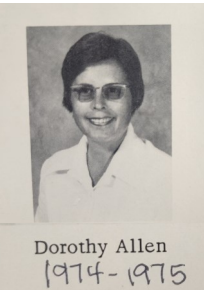
HNES MINI GOLF Classic sponsored by
 Bill Cramer Chevrolet
 Clemons Company
 EF San Juan
 Gulf Coast Heart and Vascular
 Hutt Insurance
 Panhandle Pediatric Dentistry
 Reliant South Construction Group
 Women's Imaging Center at Bay Radiology
 Thank you

Thank you to HNES Board of Trustees members, **Dr. Don Davis, Kim Dodd, and Trey Hutt**, (pictured right) who chaired the first HNES Mini Golf Classic. On a picture-perfect day, over 100 Holy Nativity family and friends were on site to play. Families showed up in matching shirts (see Howell Family on right: Grayson, Rachel, Justin, & Macie), they brought grandparent "caddies," they visited the 850 Grind Food Truck, and they spent time in the Emerald Falls Arcade. A special highlight on the course was the "assistance" of our own Robo-Bolts Robotics team on the 15th hole. (Photo lower left: Liam Cramer, Reese & Levi Fredenberg.) For a contribution to our Robotics Team, golfers could have the Robo-Bolts robot finish out the hole for them! (The STATE competition-bound Robo-Bolts raised \$670 on the day - which included a sponsorship from Cramer Chevrolet) Thank you to the **Wakstein Family** for opening the Emerald Falls Recreation Center to our Holy Nativity community. We appreciate our generous sponsors, our families who registered and played, and to all our volunteers who worked the morning. Almost \$10,000 was raised for HNES scholarship funding. Congratulations to our winners (pictured lower right): **1st place Team (winners of \$400): "Keepin' it Creel,"** (Dan Creel, Nate Creel, + Ben & Ryan) **2nd place Team (winners of \$200): "Team Haliguys,"** (Darren & Allison Haligas, + Woody Drobia) **3rd place Team: "Mulligan Masters."** (6th grade friends: Luke Jagiello, Crew Drobia, Graham Haligas) **Hole in One Champ (winner of \$100): Chris Stamps** (won the title by beating 4th grader Grayson Williams in a 3-hole playoff) The Raffle Draw winner was **Laurie Combs** (lifetime HNES friend & Grandmother to 1st grader Annabelle Schmidt) who took home her 50% of raffle ticket sales which totaled \$280!



Remembering Dorothy Dodd Allen 1936-2024

Lynn Ferren writes, "When I first began teaching at HNES, one of the first people I met was Mrs. Allen. She was a teacher with the reputation of being the person to go to if you had a question about anything having to do with "Episcopal Grade School" as HNES was known back then. Mrs. Allen was a seasoned teacher who was one of the most organized people I have ever known. She made everything connected with teaching and classroom life seem almost effortless. Dorothy was dedicated to HNES and worked endlessly to make the school the excellent educational institution it is today. Mrs. Allen was in charge of many of the day to day operations of the school. If a teacher needed something for her classroom the first person to check with was Mrs. Allen. When I first started, we made our lists for needed classroom supplies for the new school year and we tried to prioritize the list by what was "a need" and what was "a want" item. We knew Mrs. Allen would fill the "needs" first and add some of the "wants" if possible. Mrs. Allen as Lead Teacher was an excellent steward of



Dorothy Allen
1974-1975

school resources. Mrs. Allen taught third grade for most of her years at HNES. She also taught kindergarten and was librarian. Generations of students at HNES were blessed with the extraordinary

experience of being in Mrs. Allen's well-rounded learning atmosphere. She not only helped her students achieve their highest level of academic success, she also instilled many of the spiritual and social values which would help form their life-long values. It was not only the students who learned from Mrs. Allen's vast life experiences, teachers and parents learned many important lessons. I know that as a new teacher at HNES, I learned how to be a better teacher and a better team player just from knowing Dorothy Allen and having her as a mentor."

From Mrs. Allen's obituary (*Kent Forest Lawn Tributes*) Dorothy Dodd Allen passed away on January 1, 2024. She was a resident of Lynn Haven, Florida. Dorothy was born on March 25, 1936 in Worcester, Mass. and raised in West Palm Beach, Florida. She was the daughter of Barbara and Harriman Dodd (predeceased) of West Palm Beach, Florida. Dorothy was preceded in death by her husband Gary Allen on May 12, 1968 while serving in the Vietnam War. She is survived by her brothers, David Dodd of Dupont, Washington and Richard Dodd (Ronnie Crofoot) of New York City, New York. Dorothy was the mother of Barbara Allen Ridge who passed away on December 31, 2022 in Texas. She is survived by her son-in-law, Steve Ridge; her grandchildren, CPT Brittany Ridge, CPT Logan Ridge (Lauren), and Andrew Ridge (Caroline); her great grandchildren, Daniel and James Ridge; her nephew, Joe Dodd (Donna Miles), and nieces, Rebecca Buescher (Brad) and Suzanne Farley (Robbie). Dorothy graduated from Palm Beach High school in 1954 and went on to attend Florida State University, graduating



in 1958 with a dual degree in early childhood development and Elementary education. She later earned her Master's degree in Education from the University of West Florida in Pensacola.

For the majority of her career, Dorothy was a teacher of the lower grades at Holy Nativity Episcopal School. Her career also included teaching for 18 months in Japan. After retiring, Dorothy faithfully spent 15 years as a volunteer and member of Pet Partners visiting schools, hospitals, libraries, retirement homes, the Council on Aging, and Covenant Hospice with her precious puppy, Sandy. Dorothy was also a published author and an avid swimmer, quilter, photographer, and poet. Funeral services were held on Saturday, January 27, 2024 at 2:00 p.m. in the chapel of Kent Forest Lawn Funeral Home with Chaplain Sun Kim officiating. Dorothy was laid to rest at Evergreen Memorial Gardens.

How Are You Inspired by America? ~ By Sydney Fuller, 6th grade, Patriot's Pen Essay Contest Winner

There are many reasons that I find America to be inspirational such as freedom, equal rights, and job opportunities. Our forefathers came to this country in search of freedom of choice. As a strong female I believe in equal rights and equal access to job opportunities for all people. America is always changing just like every other county, but what is different about our country is our heart. We help other countries find their freedom and are a shining light of hope for all the world to see.



First, freedom is the right to have your own beliefs and opinions about life. Freedom is versatile; it comes in many ways. Our very own Declaration of

Independence highlights America's freedoms. Nowadays If you look for freedom you will find it everywhere in America. From the flags that people pledge allegiance to and fireworks on the Fourth of July. America is the best country in the world and we are all lucky to live here. Let us extend our hand to others to allow them to experience the freedom that is America. Secondly, equal rights means that everyone is entitled to the same rights regardless of their race, gender, and religion. Many people immigrate to our country in search of freedom and equal rights. It's important that as our country propels into the future that we maintain equal rights for all. We never want to repeat the days of segregation which have no place in a country that stands for equality. Additionally, America is full of many

incredible and appealing opportunities. In the past, women could not have careers. All women did was work in the house but now women can attain the same jobs as men. Women can do anything they put their minds to. Women are great contributors to America's economy and make great leaders because they lead with heart. In conclusion, I find America to be inspirational due to freedom, equal rights, and job opportunities for all people! The flag stands for freedom and should always be an honored symbol in our county. Equality is a requirement to be a free country. No person should ever not be allowed to pursue their lifelong dreams!



Pivotal Gifts > \$25,000

Kim & Richard Dodd
Ron & Sandra White

Inspirational Gifts \$10,000-\$15,000

Pat Fuller Kiernan
Monica & Will Cramer

Foundational Gifts \$5,000-\$9,999

June Lloyd
Nancy & Vince Warrick
Kimberly Keeton
Mary & John Darrah
Ty Piercefield



Head of School Circle \$2,500-\$4,999

Yamile Florez-Millsap + Alpine Optics, NC
Laura & Benny Moore

Cove Founders \$1,000- \$2,499

St. Joe Community Foundation
Marshall Brothers
Rebecca Hall-Cary
Dottie & Ed San Juan
E.F. San Juan, Inc.
Mary Kathryn & Edward San Juan
Patricia Kelly
Stacy & Troy Shramek
Rachel Warrell
Kim & Tony Houser
Lisa Walters
Amy & Jay Moody



Day School Legacies \$500 - \$999

Jeremy Brannon
Elizabeth & Johnny Moore
Ann Kruse Percival
Chris Borgman (*in memory of my Dad Lou Brown*)

Carrie & Carl Beasley
Casey Cole
Pamela & Drew McAllister
Tricia & Eric Berry
Lynn Ferren
Cynthia Fuller



William's Friends \$200 - \$499

Heather & Nate Creel
Heyling Aguilar & Felix Malespin
Kimberlee Petitjean
Kirsten & Max McCord
Don & Lindsey Davis
Cindy & Ajay Mhatre
Buchanan & Harper
Holy Nativity Episcopal Church
Anne & Paul Dick
Middle School Faculty (*in memory of Linda Scott*)

Trey Hutt
Charles Hutt
Innovations Federal Credit Union
Tracy Jagiello
Shani & Ben Lee
Kelly Muller
Gaila Scanlan
Tyndall Federal Credit Union
Todd Tindell
Jillian Preston
Jenny Goostree
Laura Grissett
Debbie Stewart
Jan Dykes
Pam & Chris Cramer
Tanya & Dan Casey
Marla Denecke
Michelle & Baker Mitchell
Anne Collins
Ashley & Max McCord, Sr.
Caroline & Doug Smith
Brittany & Jay Trumbull
Holly & Will Melzer



Bricks & Psalms \$100 - \$199:

Michelle Cool
Summer Himes
Carley Rohan
Debbie Middleton
Audra Resler
Hope Simmons (*in honor of my granddaughter Olivia Grace Kirkland*)
Liz Ward
Cortney Carter
Stephanie Fredenberg
Natalie Gray
Tiffany Harris
Jennifer Hawkins
Emalyn Hicks
Craig Karch
Roland & Sandra Palmer
Carol Southerland
Bradley Strickland
Christopher Conley
Shana Duncan
Sarah McKinney
Ashley Steiner
Hillary & Robin Brannon
Laurie Combs
Diamond Title Agency
Jeannette Dittman
Terry Duke
Natalie Godwin (*in memory of my beautiful parents Tina & JT Guida*)
Bridget Granducci
Paula & Alan Hart
Avis Keen
Jacalyn Kolk
David Lynch
Karen McElhenny
Connie & James Melzer
Carolyn Parel
Jennifer Posey
Gloria & Floyd Skinner
Jani Smith

many hands
can make
a big
difference



Vickie & James Tichenor
Sheila White
Monica Banton
Judy Hughes
Will Lark
Madge Smith
Kristina Brown
Tina Fisher
Leigh Gladden
Tracey Mason
Wendy Mowat
Lauren Presser
John Ramsey
Kristen Brown
Amy Ferrell
Kathy & Walter Fuller
Deborah Long
Jennifer Saada
Woody Drobia
Yelena Cushing
Lynn Morris (*in memory Linda Scott*)
Martha Jo Cooper
Anna Eberhard
Becca Flohre
Caylee Rogers

Thank you so very much to all of our friends here who have made a gift to HNES this past school year –whether as a memorial donation, a Grandfriends Day offering, a Christmas Faculty gift, or a contribution to our Robotics Team, Cheer squad, or musical performances!

We appreciate you!
Donate online at
www.HolyNativitySchool.com
Or mail a donation to
**205 Hamilton Avenue
Panama City, FL 32401**

Memorial Gifts 2023-2024

We are always honored to receive gifts at Holy Nativity in memory of someone special to our family & friends. In addition to these loved ones pictured, we received donations in memory of: Rebecca Arnold (1979-2023), David M. Daugherty (1948-2023), Burrell C. Elliott (1953-2024) Nola Gray (1937-2023), Tommy Hagan (1951-2023), Imogene Hand (1924-2023), James D. Harris (1951-2023), Miriam Khoury (1938-2014), Nancy Kuhnel (1935-2023), Frank R. Marvin (1941-2024) Reba Kelley McIntosh (1932-2023) John Oswald (1949-2023), Lisa A. Reed-Martinez (1963-2024) Pam Forehand Richards (1955-2023) Mayon C. Sewell (1940-2023), Mark E. Shelley (1966-2023), Bobby N. Sullivan, Sr. (1941-2023) Marcus Wilhite (1972-2023) J.R. Zimmerman (1945-2023)



Dorothy Dodd Allen
1936-2024



Mae Carroll Bennett
1938-2023



Dr. Richard "Dick" Bruhn
1934-2023



Lina Castellano
1966-2004



Tony A. Cox
1932-2023



Joseph F. Dodd
1932-2023



James "J.T." Guida
1946-2024



Gloria Boggs Holly
1925-2023



W.G. "Jerry" Harrison
1933-2024



Beverly Brown Howell
1936-2023



Linda Mandeville Scott
1948-2023



Donna L.M. Johnson Smith
1938-2024

HNES Board of Trustees 2023-2024



Drew Jernigan (BOT President), Kim Dodd (BOT Vice President), Mary Kathryn San Juan (BOT Treasurer), Coy Pilson (BOT Secretary), Carolyn Cramer (Foundation Rep), Tricia Berry, Greg Brudnicki, Scott Clemons, Amy Cotton, Will Cramer (Past President), Ian Crelling, Don Davis, Trey Hutt, Cynthia Fuller (Head of School), Father Steve Bates (Chaplain), Doug Smith (School Chancellor), Terry Duke (Board Clerk), and Amy Moody (Director of Development)

2023 Walk-A-Thon and Carnival

Gold Star Sponsors

Bill Cramer Chevrolet Cadillac Buick GMC
 Seaside Monument Company/
 Wilson Funeral Home
 The Adessi Family

Silver Star Sponsors

Hicks Bros. Heating & Cooling, LLC
 Moore Bros. Construction
 Lachlan Melvin/Olivia Rempé
 Bay Radiology Women's
 Imaging Center
 Gulf Coast Heart &
 Vascular
 The McAllister Family
 Panhandle Pediatric
 Dentistry



Bronze Star Sponsors

1-800-GOT-JUNK?
 Allstate-McKinney Insurance &
 Investments
 Bay Smile Docs
 Be Slim Wellness/Aesthetics by
 Jordan Wester, APRN
 Bonavic Construction
 Century 21 Commander Realty
 Cookie Shaw
 Elite Equipment
 La Pera's General Contracting
 Layla Thompson
 Majestic Beach Towers
 Panhandle Patio
 Panhandle Signal, Inc
 Rish Real Estate Group
 ServPro of Bay County
 The Mhatre Family
 The Syfrett Family
 Warner Law Firm
 Warren Averett CPAs &
 Advisors



Thank you, CARNIVAL CHAIRS:
 Pam Cramer & Chandra Place





My HNES Story - “Peppermints, Paper Airplanes, & the Golden Rule” by alumna Cara Parell Hutt

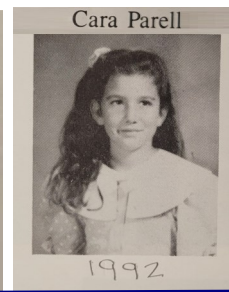
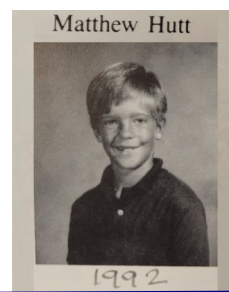


“be nice to everyone,” and I am certain that’s a holdover from our Holy Nativity days. When we decided to move back to Panama City in 2022, we knew our kids had to go to our alma mater, and from our first steps back on campus, we knew nothing had changed. It’s not the same building we learned in, but the frequent hugs, love and joyful outlook remain.

As parents, we worried about moving our kids from a big Atlanta school with all their friends to a smaller school with all new people. But, somehow I knew they’d be okay. Thanks to their incredible teachers and the kindness of their fellow students, they came home from their first day bouncing around and raving about how much they loved it. We will forever be grateful to the school and the foundation it provided for us when eventually we were thrust into the big wide world outside the HNES cocoon. And, I’m so thankful my kids will have the same incredible start to whatever the world has in store, someday beyond the big white doors of Holy Nativity.

For my husband Matt and I, we can say without a doubt that our time as students at Holy Nativity shaped us, and even how we parent our three kids – Coleman, Heath and Sammy. We weren’t perfect in our youth – we both recall going to former Principal Mrs. McDaniel’s office for a “bad choice” or two only to be sent back with a peppermint and a reminder to be kind to others. To this day we send our kids off to school every morning by saying,

There is also an air of fun at HNES – not of slacking off – but of learning and growing through play. Matt and I often talk about our shared second-grade class with Mr. Carter. He was an incredible teacher, and he had a rule that if we finished all our work, we could fly paper airplanes in the classroom and listen to silly music. While I haven’t seen a paper airplane sail through the halls of the school lately, there’s still an emphasis on taking the work seriously but not yourself.





Thank you from the 26th Annual Holy Nativity Fishing Tournament
Chairs: William & Monica Cramer and Pam & Chris Cramer

2023 Title Sponsors:
Bill Cramer Chevrolet
Cramer Marine & Outdoor

Titanium Sponsor:
The Charles A. Whitehead Foundation

2023 Event Wear Sponsor:
St. Joe Community Foundation

2023 Dinner Sponsor:
Tarpon Dock - Collins Abrams

2023 Awards Sponsor:
Howell Tackle—
Ricky Snellgrove

2023 Platinum Sponsors:
Barron & Redding
Bay Oral & Facial Surgery: Dr. Heitzmann
Bay Smile Docs: The Melzer Family
Burg Wynn Law P.A.
Bush Air Conditioning: Jay Trumbull
Denise Hallmon Rowan & Associates /
Florida Coastal Closing & Escrow
Glass Ventures: Stacie Galbreath
Hallmark Flower Shoppe:
Harrison McElheney
Holy Nativity Episcopal Church
Jay & Jessica Rish -
Rish Real Estate Group,
LLC/Gulf Coast Real Estate Group
Orthopaedic Associates: Dr. Ryan Cotton
Panhandle Engineering, Inc.:
Angel & Chris Forehand
Panhandle Patio: The Beasley Family
Panhandle Pediatric Dentistry:
The Berry Family
Peoples First Insurance
Rayford Lloyd
Rob, Nancy, & Jon Lloyd
ServPro of Bay County: The Carter Family
Target Builders
Trustmark Bank
Walborsky, Bradley, & Fleming

2023 Gold Sponsors:
E.F. San Juan, Inc.
GOLO Charters: The Ferrell Family
Hand Arendall Sale
NAI Talcor: Brent Faison
The Clemons Company
The Harbison Family
Amy & Jay Moody
Denise & Warren Phillips
The Presser Family
Water Street Rentals: Nathan Azar

Charles A. Whitehead Foundation



2023 Entertainment Sponsor:
Corcoran Reverie ~
The Sostheim Group

2023 Tent Sponsor:
Hancock Bank



**YOU COULD BE A SPONSOR
IN 2024 - July 12-13**



UNFORGETTABLE Holy Nativity 2024 Fun Run

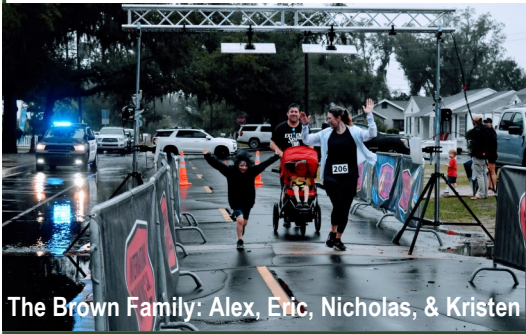
The 22nd Annual "RUN AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD" Holy Nativity 5K Run and 1-mile Fun Run was held on March 9, 2024 and experienced a FIRST in



its 22 year history. Heavy rains caused a delay in starting which led to a cancellation of the 5K. By 9:20 a.m., the thunder and lightning had let up and the rain had subsided. So the entire remaining runners took off on the 1-mile course - Hamilton Avenue to 2nd Street to Beach Drive to 2nd Avenue and back through the timing chute on Hamilton Avenue! And then the "bottom fell out" as runners turned the corner and got drenched!

Thank you to the numerous volunteers who got up early to make the day a success and to all of our

families who chose to participate in this great annual tradition. Our 2024 race was timed by *International Running Company* of Destin for the fifth consecutive year. Many thanks to **Mrs. Ferren** who braved the weather to make sure that photos were taken for our



The Brown Family: Alex, Eric, Nicholas, & Kristen



Brian McClain
HNES c/o 2017

Congratulations to our overall 1-mile winner:
alumnus (Navy Seaman) Brian McClain 6:25
Top finishers: alumnus Austin Haligas, scholar-athletes:
Ellie Terrell, Chris Cramer, Chris Godwin

Thank you to our generous sponsors: Bill Bradford + The Grocery Outlet; Wes Morgan + Coca-Cola
PLATINUM \$1,000: Jennifer & Bill Lloyd (RACE FOUNDER), Nancy & Rob Lloyd, ENCOMPASS Health

GOLD \$500: Blackwell Insurance, Southern Belle Construction, The McAllister Family: Pam, Drew, Lauren, Katherine, & Alexandra;

SILVER \$250: Burke & Blue, PA—The Doug Smith Family; Panhandle Signal—Harper Collier; Tyson Elmore, CPA; The Preston Family: Sean, Jillian, Ella, & Finn; The Maggie & Bud Shuler Family; *Gladden the Hearts* - In Memory of Kurt Grabner;

BRONZE: \$100: Nan (RACE FOUNDER), Abby, & Jillian Dingus, Lynn Ferren, The Brown Family: Kristen, Eric, Alex, & Nicholas; The Panama City Racquet Club, *In Memory of Tina & JT Guida*. (parents of 4th grade teacher Natalie Godwin)

Robo-Bolts Repeat Winning Ways in 2024



Our Robo-Bolts are in the midst of a record-breaking year. Following the Doolittle Institute's October 14th FIRST Lego League Challenge Season Practice Event – Walton County held at Freeport High School, the Robo-Bolts have come away victorious at each of their competitions. December 2nd, they received the "Champion's Award" as the TOP finisher at the FIRST Lego League Challenge Season Qualifying Event – Freeport High School, Walton County and received a bid to Regional Competition at Freeport High. February 10th, they received the "Champion's Award" as the TOP finisher of 32 teams at the NWFL FIRST Lego League Regional Competition – Freeport High School, Walton County and received a bid to State Competition in West Palm Beach. *The Champion's Award recognizes a team for excellence in four scored categories: Robot Design, Robot Run, the Innovation Project, and Core Values.* March 9th, they received 2nd place in Core Values out of 56 teams at the FIRST Lego League Florida State Championship at the Cox Science Center, West Palm Beach and received a bid to the International Competition - "the Florida Sunshine Invitational" in Daytona Beach June 19-22. (*Core Values* is Coach Jan Dykes' FAVORITE category of recognition! Core Values are "the six fundamental elements of the friendly competition that is the cornerstone of FIRST Lego League. They are: Discovery, Innovation, Impact, Inclusion, Teamwork, and Fun.")

(back) Coach Jan Dykes, Alexandra McAllister, Liam Cramer, Ella Preston, Annabelle Cushing, Isaac Ward, Abram Jeffery, (front) Tom Moore, Roger Coulther, Maddie Mitchell, Yash Shivakiran

The "LYNN FERREN LIBRARY" plaque is installed



2023 "Shield" Dedications

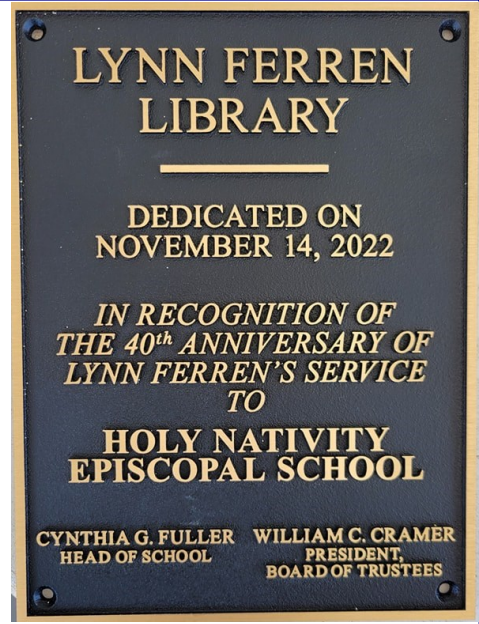


The 2022-2023 Yearbook *The Shield* was dedicated to two great Holy Nativity friends. Retiring Math teacher **Nancy Lloyd** (pictured here above with husband Rob, HNES alumnus son Jon, former HNES faculty member/sister-in-law "Coach" Jennifer Lloyd, and brother-in-law Bill Lloyd) received her yearbook dedication following her ten years of teaching math at HNES and supporting our school through love, gifts and service; and to Foundation member **Brent Faison** (pictured left with



Head of School Cynthia Fuller, wife Lori and HNES alumnus, son Boyd) in gratitude for his extensive service to our Board of Trustees and for his acceptance of a new appointment to our Holy Nativity Foundation.

It took 12 months due to "supply chain shortages" and miscommunication with the engraver, but in November of 2023, the LYNN FERREN LIBRARY plaque was installed on the entrance to our Library in House 1 at 214 Hamilton Avenue. Now in her 42nd year at Holy Nativity, Mrs. Ferren has tried to slow down but her roles are still extensive at the school: purchasing clerk for curriculum & classroom supplies, safety drill coordinator, lead event photographer, goodwill ambassador for the annual Thanksgiving food drive, the Salvation Army "Empty Stocking Fund," and the annual Christmas Toy Drive, and Mrs. Ferren still teaches "Introduction to Technology" to our Jr. Pre-K scholars! Thank you, Mrs. Ferren, for all that you mean to us at Holy Nativity. As Will Cramer (Board of Trustees President) said on November 14, 2022, "*Holy Nativity is forever grateful for the 40 years that Mrs. Ferren has dedicated to HNES. We hope she spends another 40 years with us! Wherever our Library may be on our campus in the future, it will forever be known as the "LYNN FERREN LIBRARY."*"



BASE Faculty Member



Taylor Hall and her husband Travis welcomed a baby girl! Ryatt Alyvia arrived on

February 23, 2024 and is the first child for the family. Taylor has been a part of HNES for 9 years.

It's a GIRL for music teacher, **Leigh Gladden** and her family on the birth of new baby Ellie Jaye in 2023. Ellie joins Dad Gregory and big sister Presley, and big brother Everett in the Gladden Family.



The 2023-24 School Picture Day on October 3rd was advertised on our social media with a "Guess Who?" school-aged photo of a faculty member. BASE Director **Mrs. Stacy Shramek** could not deny her kindergarten photo to the many viewers who quickly guessed her identity.

What a year for the HNES class of 2024! These students are planning to attend the following high schools this fall: Bay, Bozeman, Mosley, Rutherford, the Collegiate School for the next step in their educational careers.



This year's class includes five "lifers" (students who have only attended HNES) *designated by **.

Standing (L to R):

Ella Preston, JJ Brown, Charlotte Eberhard, Abram Jeffery*, Olivia Rempe, Annabelle Cushing, Maddie Mitchell, Liv Bennett, Liam Cramer* (SGA President), Elizabeth Arn, Isaac Ward, Roger Coulther (Beta Club Pres.),

Seated bench:

Beatrice Provencher*, Andrew Nowak*, Stella O'Brien*, Seated front:

Yash Shivakiran, Finn Oenbrink, Eaden Saavedra, Tanner Campbell, Cade Denecke, Parker Rowe, Brody Adams, & Thomas Karch.

The annual graduation ceremony is scheduled to take place on Friday, May 24th at Holy Nativity Episcopal Church at 5:30 p.m. All friends are welcome to attend!

8th Annual Weller Scholar Award recipient is Class of 2023 honoree Anna McCord



Anna is pictured with Language Arts Teacher Lauren Presser at the 2023 8th grade graduation at Holy Nativity Episcopal Church.

I remember in 4th grade we had a writing assignment where we had to write about our "dream school." I wrote about a place with no bullies, with kind teachers, and with hardly any homework. The last line of my paper was the statement that Holy Nativity IS my dream school, and I still feel that way today.

My experience at HNES has been a whirlwind. I can still remember my first day of 4K. I cried all the way to school and when we got there the gentle hands of my teacher wiped my tear-stained cheeks and brought me to class. That day, like many others, I came home with sand in my shoes. As the years went by, I advanced farther and farther down the school hallway.

Entering my fourth grade year, I was ecstatic to join the middle schoolers in the final stretch of the hallway. That year, in October, Hurricane Michael devastated our little school. I also lost my house in

the storm. I moved to Washington County for a number of months. During these turbulent times, going to the church campus and seeing all my teachers and friends was the only constant in my life and I am forever grateful that the school's teachers and administrators kept us all together. When we made it back to 205 Hamilton Avenue from the church campus portables, I felt a sense of *home*. The historic walls held so many cherished memories and like so many students before me, I felt overcome with gratitude that this wonderful place was still there for me. I thank God for my time here, for the teachers who guided me, for the friendships I've made and the things I've learned. HNES has helped build me into the person I am today. Holy Nativity IS my dream school.



2023-2024 Student Recognitions

Congratulations to our HNES Winners pictured with Science Teacher, **Jeremy Brannon** at the Bay District Entrepreneurial Fair & Invention Convention at Gulf Coast State College. Left to right: **Alexandra McAllister**, 1st place in Tech/Wearables + Special Award - the Ginger Littleton STEM Award for invention "Safelet,;" **Aliya Rost**, 1st place in Household Tools for invention "Rapid Dry 360," **Zaylee Garcia, Kinley Farris, & Lilly Adams** 1st place in Consumer Goods for invention "The Degunkulater," **Kinlee Carter & Lucia Lama** 1st place in Public Safety+ Special Award - the Ginger Littleton STEM Award for invention, "ABoat Time," **Vivian Street (Marshall McKinney & Max Rish not pictured)** 1st place in Transportation for invention, "Rain, Rain, Go Away," (FRONT row) **Bonnie Brown**, 1st place in Education for invention "The Bookworm's Bestie," **Lydia Casey**, 1st place in Home Organization for invention, "Backseat Ball," **Chris Godwin**, 1st place in Sports, Games, & Entertainment+ Special Award - the Sporting Innovation Award for invention, "The Handles Helper," **Tom Moore, Mason McShurley (& Alex Moore not pictured)** 2nd place in Sports, Games, & Entertainment for invention, "The Cage Catcher." #alwaysbolts



MATHCOUNTS®

Congratulations to our 2023-24 MathCounts winners.

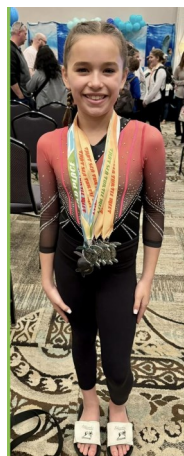


At the Bay District Schools competition in December, the team of **Tom Moore, Aliya Rost, Ellie Terrell, & Mason McShurley** captured 1st place in the 7th grade competition. Additionally, **Ellie** finished 1st in 7th grade, **Mason** finished 3rd in 7th grade, **Aliya** finished 7th in 7th grade. (This 1st place trophy marked the first time since 2003 for a Holy Nativity team to finish in 1st place.) **Luke Jagiello** finished 8th in the 6th grade competition.



4th grade scholar-athlete receives a score in the 2024 America's Top 100.

Ashton McKinney's score of 9.850 on the bars this season for Edgewater Gymnastics has earned her a spot on the Top 100 list!



At the Regional competition in February, the team of **Bonnie Brown, Max Rish, Alex Moore, & Ellie Terrell** finished in 3rd place overall out of eight competing Bay County schools. Additionally, **Ellie** finished in 7th place overall out of 96 students in grades 6,7, and 8! Team is pictured with coaches Sara Lively & Amy Moody. Congratulations to Mrs. Moody who scored the highest on the MathCounts Teachers Competition Test for the second year in a row.

HISTORY * FAIR



Congratulations to our winners from the 2024 Bay District Schools Tom Barefield Three Rivers History Fair! **Ella Preston's** Historical Paper entitled: "Development of Democracy in Ancient Athens" received 2nd place honors and advanced to the STATE

History Fair in Tallahassee in March. **Brody Adams, Roger Coulther, & Liam Cramer's** Performance entitled: "The Consequences of the Salem Witch Trials." received 3rd place recognition. The project of **Beatrice Provencher & Charlotte Eberhard** (not pictured) entitled "Turning Point in History - the Creation of Disney World" received one of the SPECIAL AWARDS and was recognized for its focus on Florida History. Thank you, Social Studies teacher **Shanun White** (photo top with Ella), for coordinating and supervising our scholars through this process!

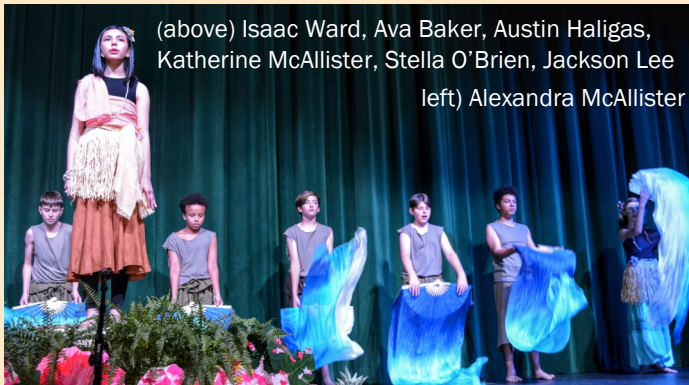


Moana Jr. Receives Standing Ovation at Gretchen Nelson Scott Fine Arts Center

Thank you, Musical Director - Ms. Hope Simmons & Assistant - Ms. Darcey Sinicrope



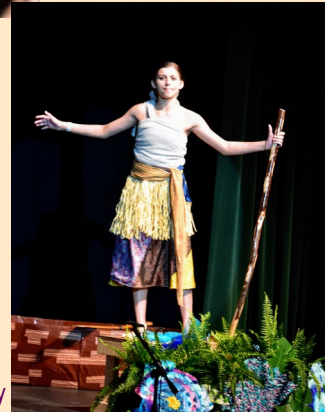
Jordan Santiago, Lydia Trawick, Bonnie Brown



(above) Isaac Ward, Ava Baker, Austin Haligas, Katherine McAllister, Stella O'Brien, Jackson Lee
left) Alexandra McAllister



Drew White, Anna McCord, Mason McShurley



(above) Camille Mhatre

Chris Godwin, Charlie Kyle, Mason McShurley, Brody Adams, Jordan Ambrose, Libby Boggs

HNES Middle School Students Enjoy Sports at Local Bay District Schools



#alwaysbolts



Andrew Nowak 8th grade, Soccer Mowat Middle	Cade Denecke, 8th grade, Basketball Mowat Middle	JJ Brown, 8th grade, Basketball, Football, Soccer Jinks Middle	Chris Godwin 7th grade, Basketball Mowat Middle	Ellie Terrell, 7th grade, Soccer N. Bay Haven	Kinlee Carter 7th grade, Softball 850Athletics Middle SchoolTeam	Vivian Street 7th grade, Volleyball Jinks Middle	Zaylee Garcia 7th grade, Softball 850Athletics Middle SchoolTeam	Graham Haligas 6th grade, Soccer Mowat Middle	Kami Brown, 6th grade, Cheer Jinks Middle	Kennedy Anliker 6th grade, Basketball Bay Haven	Mia Lama, 6th grade, Soccer Surfside Middle School	Stella Reed 6th grade, Volleyball Jinks Middle	Will Melzer 6th grade, Soccer Mowat Middle
--	---	---	--	--	--	---	--	--	--	--	--	---	---

Panama City Racquet Club Tennis Team. THANK YOU to Coach Laura Dobbins for competitive Middle School Tennis in Bay County!



(back) Kelechi Uzoanya, Olivia Rempe, Beatrice Provencher, Mason McShurley, Charlotte Eberhard, Elizabeth Arn, Lucia Lama,
(front) Kennedy Anliker, Thomas Rish (5th grade), Max Rish, Luke Jagiello, Crew Drobia, Celia Stamps, Mia Lama, (not pictured Kinley Farris)

Sara Rodriguez (5th grade), Anna Wibberley (5th grade), Abigail Arn, Stella Reed, Isaac Ward, Ryan Creel, Graham Haligas, Chris Cramer, Carson Berry





The Annual Senior Recognition Day at HNES is scheduled for Sunday, May 5th on the school grounds. Students who attended Holy Nativity Episcopal School *at any time*, and are current high school seniors, are invited back for a special reunion. If you are a part of this special "2020 COVID School Class," please call a fellow alumni and bring him and your family to join us to catch up with old friends and former teachers at Holy Nativity before the next chapter of your life begins. We would also like to take an OFFICIAL FRONT STEPS Class Portrait since we did not get to take one in 2020. Any questions may be directed to Amy Moody amood@hnes.us or call (850)747-0060 See you soon.

(Back row) LilyBelle Dalton, Zamiyah Hill, Channing Abernathy, Allie Wibberley, Olivia Hammack, Reagan Miller, Kaya Sunseri, Flint Haligas, Slade Flint, Cuyler Spence, Sam FitzSimons, Reece Casady, Mario San Juan; (Front row) Lauren McAllister, Arianna Czubaj, Kirstin Arnold, Carmen Shuler, Lacie Fiser, Kate Smith, Tyler Yanchis, Daniel Himes, Quin Hoyt, Isaac Grabner.

(Not pictured: Brandyn Miller & Tripp Syfrett) Good Luck to our graduates in the high school class of 2024. We are proud of you!

Our American Heritage and Our Responsibility for Preserving it ~ Isaac Grabner, HNES c/o 2020

"What are the civic responsibilities of a good citizen and why are these duties, activities, and behaviors important to the shaping of the America you hope to experience?"

American citizens have an important responsibility to their country. Not to dedicate their time and effort in the direct pursuit of aiding the American government or political structure, but in aiding one another to achieve the highest satisfaction in one's own life and character, for it is through unity and camaraderie that the American people have always persevered. A good citizen is not one with a misplaced sense of patriotism, only taking the time to love and understand people that subscribe to similar ideologies, but someone who can recognize and appreciate the melting pot of widely diverse perspectives and ideas that is America's populous. America was not forged into the powerful country we see today through blind leadership and silencing opposing views; it's thanks to the individuals, the hard-working men and women courageous enough to help their fellow citizens despite gender, race, or creed, that this country has accomplished such great lengths. Historically, some of our greatest moments

as a Nation spawned through the desire to help others. Slavery once infected our great nation like a vile plague, tearing families apart and causing indescribable anguish for its many victims. Had we not culminated the compassion to reflect and improve for the sake of our fellow man's freedom, the disease may have rotted us to the breaking-point of our societal integrity. However, thanks to the accumulated efforts of truly good American citizens, we broke free from the cycle of our own arrogance, taking a monumental leap in improving the country as a whole.

Yet, creating a nation-wide progressive movement is far from a prerequisite to becoming a good citizen. One doesn't need to drastically improve the lives of millions to be virtuous, but rather it is those who choose to act virtuously in their day-to-day lives that truly make good citizens. A good citizen recognizes small actions that benefit individuals can have a much larger positive impact, as showing kindness to a stranger can never harm, but can potentially encourage that person to be kinder themselves, creating a ripple effect of spreading neighborly deeds. Something as simple as paying for a stranger's coffee, or

being a listening ear in a time of need is a gesture powerful enough to help someone make a change for the better, as being a good influence to the people around you opens their eyes to the idea that kindness attracts happiness, and consequently, an ultimate sense of fulfillment.

In summary, it is not that Americans have a duty to America itself, but a civic responsibility to each other: their friends, family, neighbors, and strangers, to be understanding and encouraging regardless of the societal categories that divide us. Through unity and the resilient spirit of the American people, our Nation stands proudly in a never-ending state of self-improvement, because the good citizens of America are brave enough to embrace change in the face of adversity, counting on each other and our country's sense of shared brotherhood to empower them through their toughest obstacles.



Isaac Grabner, 2018





Carmen Shuler (c/o 2020) has been named the 2024 Rutherford High School International Baccalaureate (IB) Valedictorian for having the highest Grade Point Average in her class.



Flint Haligas (c/o 2020) is headed to Mercer University, Macon, Georgia as an NCAA Division 1 scholarship athlete for the Bears' Men's Soccer Team. Flint was also named to the All-County Soccer Team and the 2024 Bay High School HALL OF FAME.

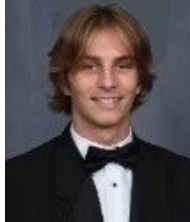


Zamiyah Hill (c/o 2020) is headed to the University of Florida as an NCAA Division 1 scholarship athlete for the Lady Gators' Soccer team. Zamiyah's senior honors include: Bay County Girls Soccer Player of the Year, Bay County Career Goal Scorer (123), & the 2024 Mosley High School HALL OF FAME.



Reece Casady (c/o 2020) was named the 2024 Bay High School Prom King. This student-elected honor celebrates a classmate who best represents his peers and is well-liked.

Isaac Grabner (c/o 2020) received the 2024 "Good Citizen Award" by the Bay County Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) for his display of integrity, good citizenship and patriotism at home, at school, and in the community. Read Isaac's essay "Civic Responsibilities" on page 22, left.



John McLoughlin (c/o 2021) was selected as the 2024 Bay District Schools Sunshine State Scholar. Each of Florida's school districts selects their top 11th grade students in the areas of Science, Technology,

Engineering or Mathematics (STEM) to "convene with state universities that hope to enroll them, and employers who would be very pleased to have them on their team."



Treysen Villegas (c/o 2022), Jackson Lee (c/o 2023), & Sachin DeSilva (c/o 2022) have organized the inaugural Bay High School Sailing Team. The three, along with a fourth member, have created a Facebook page "Bay High Sailing Team," participated in fundraising by selling sponsorships and holding a dinner at Ferrucci's Ristorante, and successfully competed in multiple regattas this school year.

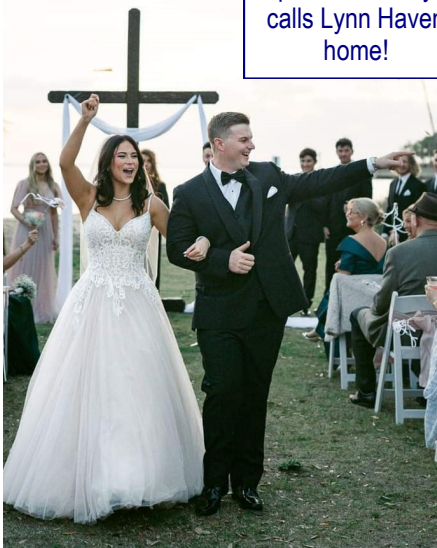


Wesley Stone (c/o 2011) is pictured with his lovely wife Graysen Gladden Stone and their new baby girl, Hadley. This precious family calls Lynn Haven home!

Kassidy Stringer MacLean (c/o 2014) is pictured with her husband **Connor MacLean (c/o 2012)** on their wedding day October 21, 2023. The adorable family includes double Holy Nativity legacies HNES 3K scholar Greyson and 1-year old daughter Emmi!



Stephen Syfrett (c/o 2005) and wife Emily are the proud parents of Charles "Charlie" Ellis Syfrett. Born on March 9, 2024, Charlie is the first child for the Syfrett family.



Sam Gramling (c/o 2011) is pictured with his beautiful wife Gabbie Gladden Gramling on their wedding day March 9, 2024. Lucky Sam now claims the Gladden siblings as family - Graysen & Wesley Stone and Gregory & Leigh Gladden!

Will Cramer is pictured with his proud family as he was deservingly-named the 2024 *Lauren Merriam Memorial Award* winner by the Bay County Chamber of Commerce for his devotion to the improvement of our community.

(Chris & Pam Cramer, Monica, Rosemary, Will, Bill Cramer, Liam Cramer, & Dee Burdett)





Holy Nativity Episcopal School

205 Hamilton Avenue
Panama City, FL 32401
www.HolyNativitySchool.com

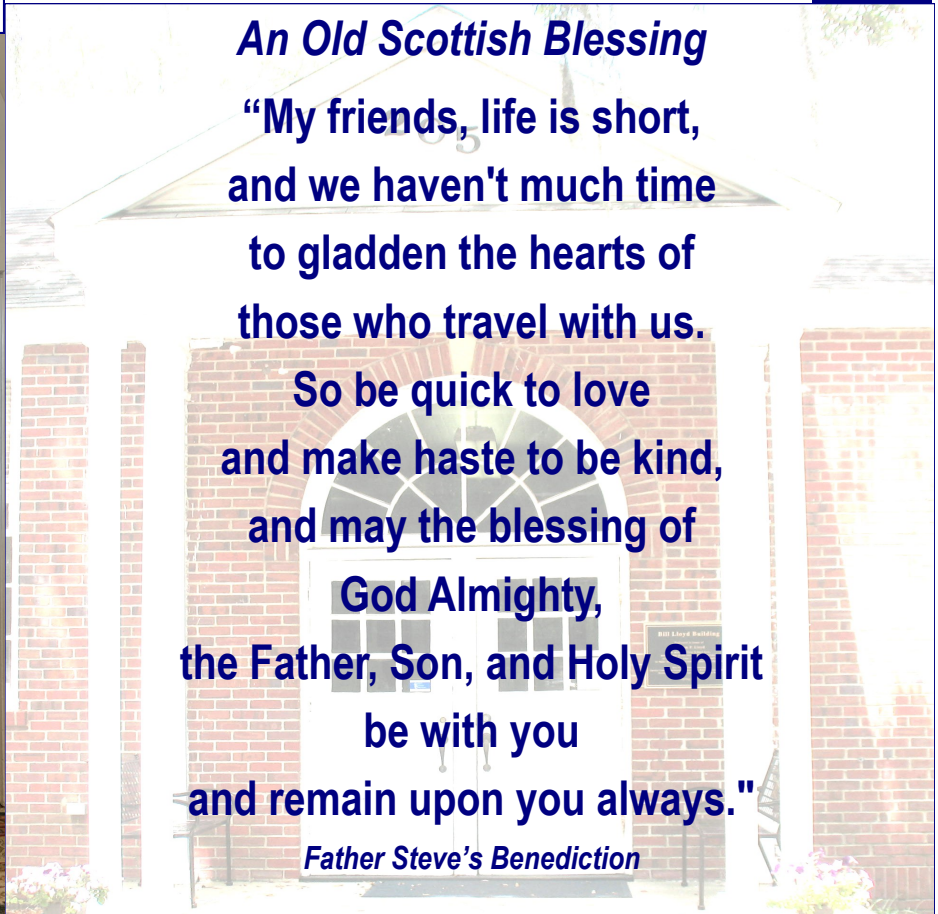
Phone: 850-747-0060
Fax: 850-747-7447
E-mail: amood@hnes.us
Since 1959,
Celebrating Love,
Learning, & Leadership



**HOLY NATIVITY EPISCOPAL SCHOOL
NONDISCRIMINATION POLICY**

Holy Nativity Episcopal School admits students of any religion, race, creed, national or ethnic origin to all rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school.

Holy Nativity Episcopal School does not discriminate on the basis of religion, race, creed, gender, national or ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, financial aid programs, or athletic and other school-administered programs.



An Old Scottish Blessing

**“My friends, life is short,
and we haven't much time
to gladden the hearts of
those who travel with us.**

**So be quick to love
and make haste to be kind,
and may the blessing of
God Almighty,
the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
be with you
and remain upon you always.”**

Father Steve's Benediction

To be removed from our mailing list, or to send correspondence,
contact either the mailing address, telephone number, or email address listed above.