

# NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY HIGH SCHOOL, INC.



Member of the Middle States Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools

One Lawtons Hill  
Pottsville, Pennsylvania 17901-2795

Phone: (570) 622-8110

Fax: (570) 622-0454

Website: [www.nativitybvm.net](http://www.nativitybvm.net)

Date: November 1, 2023

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

For nearly twenty years, the Diocese of Allentown has provided annual child protection catechesis to students as part of the 2002 Charter for Protection of Youth and Young People, as required by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. Over the years, child protection catechesis has been provided to tens of thousands of our students in Diocesan schools and PREP programs. The training programs used since the inception of safe environment efforts, Child Lures and Called to Protect, have served our students well.

The Diocese of Allentown has begun using the *Circle of Grace* Program, developed by a team of educators and youth protection professionals in the Archdiocese of Omaha. *Circle of Grace* equips children with essential knowledge and safety skills rooted in the Catholic faith. Genesis 1:27 tells us that we are created "male and female in God's image" and God saw this as "very good." In that goodness, we are meant to respect ourselves and everyone else as persons created and loved by God. Grade-appropriate modules are designed for K - 12 students. This training emphasizes dignity and respect for one's body, appropriate boundaries, and awareness of child protection topics. Children learn to recognize when they are safe or unsafe and know how to bring their concerns, fears, and uncertainties to the trusted adults in their lives. *Circle of Grace* brings God into the center of child protection catechesis by teaching God's presence and assistance in difficult or confusing situations, respect for self and others, and skills for good decision making.

The training will take place on December 4, 2023 (**Juniors**), December 8, 2023 (**Freshmen**), January 22, 2024 (**Seniors**), & February 12 & 13, 2024 (**Sophomores**) within your child(ren)'s respective Theology class. During this period, your child will participate in discussion and activities based on their grade level's curriculum. If you wish to have your child(ren) opt-out of this program, please email Mr. Lisella at [dliella@nativitybvm.net](mailto:dliella@nativitybvm.net) indicating your request for your child(ren) to not participate in the program. If your child is 18 years of age or older, you, the parent/guardian, will need to indicate on their behalf should you wish to have them opt-out. If you choose to have your child(ren) opt-out, information will be emailed for you to cover the curriculum with your child(ren) as needed. Your cooperation in this matter with Nativity BVM High School and the Diocese of Allentown is very important. We thank you for your attention and cooperation with us!

If you have any questions, please reach out to by calling the school at the phone number listed above, or by emailing [dliella@nativitybvm.net](mailto:dliella@nativitybvm.net). God bless you!

Sincerely in Christ,

Mrs. Lynn Sabol  
Principal

Rev. Kevin Bobbin  
Chaplain

Mr. Daniel Lisella  
Theology Department Chairperson