

NATIVITY BVM HIGH SCHOOL
ONE LAWTONS HILL
POTTSVILLE, PA 17901
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JANUARY 2025
NEWSLETTER
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Our Catholic schools provide all members of our Catholic learning communities with a wonderful opportunity to reflect together on the true meaning of Christmas. We are reminded to keep Christ close to us for He is our strength throughout our lives.

In our Catholic schools, students proudly display their faith in action. Whether it is by singing about the coming of our Savior, organizing food drives, toy drives and clothing collections for those most vulnerable, or celebrating the Eucharist, our students demonstrate the true meaning of the season. As your Principal, I thank you for choosing Catholic Education. Your support of our school is a blessing that allows our students and staff to grow in the love of Christ. May the spirit of Christmas fill your hearts and homes with peace and joy as you rejoice in our Savior's birth. I wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

We will be returning January 6, 2025 with exams the week of January 13th. The schedule is listed below and students have been made aware of the upcoming exams. Our liturgical celebrations give us the opportunity to celebrate our faith together. Please join us for our liturgies on January 9, 2025 and January 27, 2025 when we will open Catholic Schools Week.

The beginning of the New Year gives us the opportunity to thank God for the blessings he has bestowed on us during the past year. May we use this New Year to grow in faith, to cherish the gift of life and to thank God for bringing us to 2025.

Thank you for being an important and vital part of Nativity BVM High School.

HAPPY 2025!

Mrs Lynn A Sabal



Chaplain's Message:

The month of January is a lot like life. It begins in the beautiful Christmas season, but then we must go back to our normal routines and the challenges of life, such as midterm exams. But then we end the month by celebrating Catholic Schools Week. We must be ready to adjust to the unexpected, like the possibility of winter weather changing our plans. As a family centered on Christ, our school community looks to Him to guide us through the blessings and challenges of life, the ordinary routine and the special times of celebration, the expected and the unexpected. We pray for a new year and a second semester of growing closer to our Lord and continuing to be formed as His disciples.

Rev. Kevin J. Bobbin

Chaplain, Nativity BVM High School

Pastor, St. John the Baptist Church



Liturgical Calendar for the Month of January

Thursday, January 9th – Liturgy

Thursday, January 27th – Liturgy – Catholic Schools Week Mass

Important Calendar Dates

January 6, 2025 - School Re-opens and Activities resume

January 20, 2025 – School Closed – Teacher In-Service – Martin Luther King

January 14-16, 2025 – Early Dismissal @ 1 PM for Exams

January 17, 2025 – End of the 2nd Quarter

January 21, 2025 – 3rd Quarter Begins

January 26, 2025 – Open House and Registration 1-3 PM

January 26, 2025 - Catholic Schools Week begins

January 31, 2025 – Progress Reports Issued

PLEASE NOTE: *In order for students to receive report cards, tuition payments and fundraising must be up to date.*

From the Dean's Office:

Service Hours

Please check Mobile Serve for updated service hours. There are several students who have logged zero hours this year.

Student Drivers

Please exercise caution and slow down when driving around the school in the mornings and afternoons. There are many students walking during arrival and dismissal during these times and safety is of the utmost importance. As a reminder, ALL STUDENT DRIVERS should have a parking pass. They are \$10 for a semester.

Dress Code

Students are reminded to come to school in full uniform. Many of the dress code violations we have seen this school year are due to:

- Incorrect shoes- No Hey Dudes. Shoes must be leather top dress shoes.
- Boys' hair must not cover the eyebrows or touch the top of the back collar.
- Girls' skirts must be no shorter than two inches above the knee.
- Socks must be dress socks. No athletic socks.
- When wearing dress slacks or khakis, students must wear a belt.
- No hoodies allowed. Students must wear the uniform sweater.

As a reminder, please make sure shirts are tucked in.

STUDIES OFFICE NEWS

First Semester Exams will take place January 14-16th.

The exam schedule will be:

Tuesday, January 14th: Periods 2, 4 and 5

Wednesday, January 15th: Periods 1, 8 and 6

Thursday, January 16th: Periods 3 and 7

Please have students well rested and report on the day their exam is scheduled.

Exam Times:

8:15- 8:30	Prayer/Announcements and Prep time
8:30 – 9:45	1 st Exam
9:45 – 10:00	Exam Preparation
10:00 – 11:15	2 nd Exam
11:15- 11:30	Exam Preparation
11:30 – 12:45	3 rd Exam

All exams will be 1 hour and 15 minutes long.

In the event of snow on any of these days, the schedule will be moved to the next day. On a two hour delay, the exams will begin two hours later than listed here and students will be dismissed at regular 2:34 dismissal time.

PLEASE NOTE:

In order for students to take their mid-term exams and receive report cards, tuition payments and fundraising must be up to date.

The second quarter will close on Friday, January 17th with report cards scheduled to be given to the students on Friday, January 31st.

Parents are reminded that the parent portal for grades, discipline reports, and attendance is available at anytime once your account is created.

The parent portal will not be available from January 13th to January 30th for the preparation of report cards.

The third quarter will begin on Tuesday, January 21st. Students will receive their third quarter schedules during the week of January 6th so any corrections can be made before the start of the quarter.

If you have any questions please e-mail Mr. Naffin at jnaffin@nativitybvm.net



NEWS FROM THE DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

Nativity is currently accepting inquiries for enrollment for the 2025-2026 school year. Individual meetings, school tours and shadow days are being scheduled for possible enrollment. Please contact Mrs. Jennifer Daubert in the Development office with any enrollment questions. Advertising for enrollment for the next school year will soon be on Nativity's social media platforms.

OPEN HOUSE AND REGISTRATION

Registration for the 2025-2026 school year at Nativity is scheduled for Sunday, January 26, 2025 from 1:00 to 3:00 PM at the school. Faculty, staff, administration and coaches will be available to answer questions. Tours of the school will be given and tuition assistance drawings will be available that afternoon for those who register. Please contact Jennifer Daubert @ 570-622-8110 with any questions.



NOTES FROM THE ATTENDANCE OFFICE:

Parents please be aware of the **importance** of making a phone call to the attendance office, **before 8:45 AM**, when your student is absent. Also, if your student is going to be late because of an appointment, please call the attendance office and make us aware of the lateness. Additionally, if your student becomes sick during the school day, they are to report to the main office before calling home. More and more students are texting or calling home before coming to the office. This is not allowed and could result in an unexcused dismissal. Please make sure that your son or daughter is on time for school. They must be in their homeroom before the 8:15 AM bell rings. Students who are late 3 times must serve a detention. It is crucial that we emphasize the importance of being on time!



ATHLETIC NEWS

December is quickly winding down and our basketball teams are hard at work preparing to play their best in January and February. The Hilltoppers are a young and eager squad led by Coach Walborn and his assistants Mike Yordy and Bill Reed. Three seniors and two juniors (Noah Dolbin, Ben Kreitzer, Sam Walborn, Trey Keating and Ryan Grabowski) will lead the way. Their talents and leadership are needed to bring along several sophomores. Jacob Bowman, Layne Pasker, Nick Clark and Marc Lutzkanin are learning how to compete in a very challenging division. The goal is the postseason and together this group will count on each other to get there.

The Golden Girls basketball team and Coach Forney are in a rebuild mode and enter the season with their eye on improvement every game and practice. Sophomore Finley McNamara returns from last year's DXI championship team and is surrounded by teammates EmmaJoan Fox, Amara Miller, Peyton Evans and Kylah Stewart to represent the program. Also working hard for the team are two of our International students from Spain, Maria del Rosal and Blanca Kindler. Lessons learned and experience gained throughout the season will lay the foundation for the future.

Athletes that are wrestling for Pottsville have been very active with league and tournament matches. Seniors Jasir Jones, Lukas McNamara and Drew Seaman enter their last season with the Tide. Also wrestling are Kaiden Renn, Stephen Karinch and Cooper Felty. Schuylkill League Championships are scheduled for Saturday, January 18, 2025 at Blue Mountain High School.

Follow our winter sports on Hudl Fan. The URL and QR code will take you right to Nativity's Hudl Fan homepage.

<https://fan.hudl.com/usa/pa/pottsville/organization/38929/nativity-bvm-high-school>



YEARBOOK NEWS

As a reminder, the last day to order a yearbook at the regular price of \$80.00 is January 10, 2025. After that date, the book will be first come, first serve and the price will jump to \$90.00. Please email Ms. Reynolds with any questions at jreynolds@nativitybvm.net. Thank you for supporting the Lawtonian Yearbook!

News from the School Counseling Department

A Message from the Director of Guidance, Mrs. Brensinger

“Let our New Year’s resolution be this: we will be there for one another as fellow members of humanity, in the finest sense of the word.” -Goran Persson

I wish all of the Nativity Families a very Happy New Year!

Please feel free to contact me at any time at guidance@nativitybvm.net



Google Classroom

A reminder to please continue to check Google Classroom for important announcements. Please email guidance@nativitybvm.net if you wish to be added to the classroom of your student.

Schuylkill Technology Center Interest for Next School Year

STC Applications are open! – Any Sophomore or Junior student interested in attending STC for the Spring 2026 semester must complete this interest form! The form will close January 6th. Current STC students should complete this as well if you intend to attend next year. <https://forms.gle/nDwZqUpBDmcHwRoe7>

Scholarships -Juniors and Seniors

Attention Junior and Senior Families now is a great time to search for scholarships. Remember, scholarships are free money! Don’t be afraid to Google Search and look for scholarships now! Scholarships are often announced during the school day and posted on the Senior Class Google Classroom

Here is the link to the Scholarship Packet that I regularly update <https://tinyurl.com/nativityscholarships>.

Seniors

I got accepted!!- Be sure to give copies of acceptance letters and financial aid awards to Mrs. Brensinger. This is required for graduation. Please compile a folder with all letters and turn them in at one time, no later than May 1st.

Transcript Requests

All Seniors in need of transcripts being sent to the schools they have applied to may pick up a form outside of my office in the green basket. This form must be turned in with the \$35 transcript request fee and must have your resume attached to it as well when you hand it in. ***Friendly reminder, no transcripts will be sent if there are any financial holds on the student’s account.***

Looking Ahead: National School Counseling Week – February 3-7, 2025

As we head into the new year, I’m excited to share that National School Counseling Week is coming up in February! From February 3-7, School Counselors will celebrate the theme, "School Counseling: Helping Students Thrive." This week is an opportunity to highlight the support I provide to help students succeed emotionally, socially, and academically. Whether it’s setting goals, managing stress, or navigating challenges, I’m here to guide and support each student in their journey to thrive. Stay tuned for more ways to get involved!

GREEN & GOLD NEWS

A SPECIAL THANK YOU to everyone who helped to make our \$20,000 annual fundraiser a SUCCESS. It is a team effort - parents, sellers and purchasers are to be commended! A complete list of the winners is on our Facebook Page.

Our Annual Basket Auction will be May 3rd and 4th. If anyone has a family donation that they would like to donate early just send it to the office. We would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Thank you to everyone for all your support throughout the year!

Nativity BVM High School

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK- 2025

Student Council News

Student Council has begun preparations for Catholic School's Week which will run from Sunday, January 26th – Friday, January 31st this year. We have been working hard to plan activities that will be fun for our students and our school community. The Catholic School's Week schedule is as follows:

Sunday, January 26, 2025 – *Celebrating Our Future*: Open house at Nativity BVM High School beginning at 1:00 PM.

Monday, January 27, 2025 - *Celebrating Our School Community*: We will celebrate Mass and welcome new members of our Evangelization Team. To show our appreciation, we will also distribute doughnuts to bus drivers, van driver, and parents during drop off in the morning.

Tuesday, January 28, 2025 – *Celebrating Our Wonderful Students*: Students will be treated to a free dress down day and will participate in various activities in the afternoon.

Wednesday, January 29, 2025 – *Celebrating Our Nation*: There will be a special flag raising ceremony and singing of our National Anthem in the morning. Our Nativity Nation will participate in planned activities in the afternoon.

Thursday, January 30, 2025 – *Celebrating the Gift of Vocations*: Today we thank our chaplain, Fr. Bobbin, with a gift, we will also have guest speakers to share with our students the stories of their vocations. Students will participate in Family Feud in the afternoon.

Friday, January 31, 2025 – *Celebrating Our Faculty and Staff*: Our faculty and staff will be treated to coffee and doughnuts in the morning and lunch in the afternoon. Teachers will have a free dress down day. Students will participate in planned activities in the afternoon.



FROM THE FINANCE OFFICE

POT OF GOLD WINNERS

DECEMBER 18, 2024

1 st) Dorothea Moser	seller: Trey Keating
2 nd) Carol McCormick	seller: Kyle McCormick
3 rd) Abigail Strause	seller: Brady Holiday
4 th) Albert Kuklis	seller: Charlee Fix

DIOCESAN VICTIM ASSISTANCE COORDINATOR

Ms. Wendy S. Krisak, M.A., NCC, LPC

Direct Telephone: (800) 791-9209

The Diocese of Allentown provides assistance to anyone who, as a minor, was sexually abused by a priest, deacon or employee/volunteer of the Diocese/Parish. Parents, guardians, children and survivors of sexual abuse are invited and encouraged to contact the Diocese of Allentown for more information about this program.

OFFICE OF SAFE ENVIRONMENT

Pamela J. Russo, M.S.W, M.S.

Secretary, Youth Protection and Catholic Human Services

P.O. Box F, Allentown, PA 18105-1538

610-871-5200 ext. 2204

prusso@allentowndiocese.org

Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service

If you have an allegation of abuse against a bishop, please contact the Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service at www.ReportBishopAbuse.org or by calling 800-276-1562.

AHERA

In compliance with the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response (AHERA) an inspection for asbestos was performed at each of our schools within the Diocese of Allentown. A copy of the inspection reports are on file in the school's Administrative Office for your review any time during normal school hours. In the event you have any questions or concerns, please contact the school's principal or the Diocesan Asbestos Coordinator

