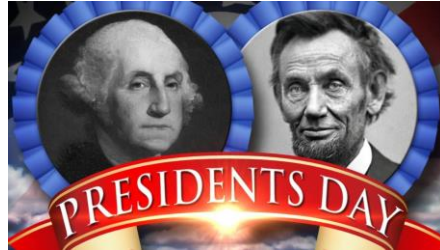


**NATIVITY BVM HIGH SCHOOL
ONE LAWTONS HILL, POTTSVILLE, PA 17901
PHONE NO: (570) 622-8110
FAX NO: (570) 622-0454**

FEBRUARY 2025 NEWSLETTER



FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Catholic Schools Week always reminds us that we must focus on our Catholic Schools and specifically on Nativity as a community of Faith. Our Catholic Faith is first and foremost the reason that Nativity High School continues to serve the community. We have so much to offer the young people in our community and we all need to play a role in encouraging students to enroll. Our continued growth will enable the “Light of Faith” to continue to burn brightly atop Lawtons Hill!

We continue to be proud of the many accomplishments of our students in and out of the classroom. Please take every opportunity to spread the good news about Nativity to your families, friends and co-workers.

Thank you for your support of Catholic Education!

Mrs Lynn A Sabal

Liturgical Calendar

February 3rd – Extended Homeroom - Feast of St. Blaise and Blessing of Throats
February 10th & 11th – Sophomore Retreats and Circle of Grace
February 13th- Liturgy - NHS Induction
February 25th - Liturgy

Important Dates

February 7th – Course Selection Meetings
February 17th - School Closed – President’s Day
February 19th – Progress Reports for 3rd Quarter Issued



CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE

We continue our usual spiritual activities in the month of February: Eucharistic Adoration led by Live Vertical, and school Masses, including our National Honor Society induction at Mass on February 13. This is also a time for more retreats. The sophomore class will be divided between two retreat days on February 10 and 11. We are preparing for the next Encounter Retreat for juniors in early March. For many years I have been giving Confirmation retreats to 8th graders locally and in other parts of our diocese. I am happy to now involve Nativity in these retreats as we host a Confirmation retreat on February 15 with the help of members of our Evangelization Team.

Rev. Kevin J. Bobbin
 Chaplain, Nativity BVM High School
 Pastor, St. John the Baptist Church

Governance Board

The Governance Board meets every other month and continues to work on behalf of Nativity BVM High School. You can contact members of the board at their email address: governanceboard@nativitybvm.net.

FROM THE DEAN'S OFFICE

Service hours as of the end of the second quarter are listed on student report cards. The requirements, by grade, are listed below. All hours must be logged and verified using the MobileServe application. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the school.

	To attend Prom:	To graduate/be promoted to next grade:
Seniors	30 Hours	40 Hours
Juniors	22 Hours	30 Hours
Sophomores	15 Hours	20 Hours
Freshmen	7 Hours	10 Hours
International Students	7 Hours	10 Hours

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 per 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.

Cell Phones

Students are now allowed to use their phones during lunch periods. It is understood that cell phones are used as a tool to study and review material for tests. Any individual problems regarding phones will result in disciplinary action on an individual basis, unless there is a widespread issue.

Students may still check their phones in between classes and are not allowed to use phones in the classroom. They may either be kept in their lockers or in a designated location in the classroom. If phones are being kept in the classroom, students may have their phones back at the end of class. If you need to reach your child at any point in the day, you may call the school, or ask them to call you from the office. Thank you so much for your support!

I am free for a conference or phone call if you feel as though your child is struggling with discipline issues or general difficulties in school. Please let your child know that I am free to talk throughout the day if they would like to have an open discussion regarding concerns, as well. ***My door is always open!*** My email is mgrabrowski@nativitybvm.net or you may call the school at 570-622-8110. Thank you!

SPRING PROM

The Jr/Sr Prom may seem far off but many young ladies shop early for their dresses. As a Catholic School, a reminder that prom dresses must be modest. Dresses may not be shorter than fingertip length and if you are wearing a long dress, the slit may not be higher than fingertip length. Midriffs must be covered and all dresses must be modest. Anyone who comes to the prom dressed inappropriately will be asked to change or wear some type of cover up. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Lynn Sabol.



IMPORTANT DATES FOR SENIORS

Please note the date change for Baccalaureate!

BACCALAUREATE - Tuesday, May 27, 2025 @ 7:00 PM
 GRADUATION - Friday, May 30, 2025 @ 7:00 PM

FROM THE DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

PLEASE NOTE: All Nativity tuition assistance applications must be completed online through STS. There is no longer a paper application.

Financial Aid information for the 2025-2026 school year will be sent home with students in mid-February. You can then begin applying for financial aid for this coming year via STS. You may access all information regarding financial aid via Nativity's website, www.nativitybvm.net. Please contact Mrs. Daubert at the school with any questions.

FINANCIAL CONCERNS

It is essential that all families keep their tuition and fundraising payments up-to-date. Students who have outstanding balances will not be able to receive report cards, take exams or possibly not be able to participate in activities. This includes field trips and the prom. Seniors who are applying to college must have their financial obligations up-to-date in order for transcripts to be released. Please make every effort to make payments in a timely fashion. It is crucial to the cash flow of the school. Thank you for your understanding!

SCHOOL NURSE

ACTION REQUIRED- Attention parents of rising seniors!

The Pennsylvania Department of Health requires that your child have the second dose of meningitis vaccine (serogroup A,C,Y,W-135) by the start of your child's senior year. Please make an appointment for your child to receive this shot and submit a copy of the updated shot record to Angela Holobetz RN in the Nativity main office prior to the start of your child's senior year 2025-2026.

ATHLETICS



As the month of January comes to a close, our winter sport teams are also less than two weeks away from concluding their regular season schedules. There is plenty of postseason excitement that awaits but first we recognize the “magnificent 7” members of our Golden Girls basketball team. This group of girls came together and combined to courageously take on the task of learning the game of basketball even though several had little to no varsity playing experience. They recorded their first victory of the season against Salem Christian (22-19) and have made great strides throughout the season. Coach Scott Forney and his staff have worked to instill a never quit persistence that is paying dividends now and into the future. Well done Finley McNamara, Emma Joan Fox, Amara Miller, Kyla Stewart, Peyton Evans, [Maria Del Rosal Siles](#) and Blanca Kindler.

Our boys wrestling in the co-op with Pottsville Area took part in the Schuylkill League Championships on Jan 18, 2025 and had two varsity and one JV medalist. Sophomore Stephen Karinch battled into the varsity 112 championship bout and came away with the silver medal. Senior Lucas McNamara suffered a tough quarterfinal loss and battled all the way back to take 5th. Freshman Cooper Felty wrestled in the JV championships and gained valuable experience taking 2nd at the 160 lb weight class. In other wrestling news, sophomore Erin Talmadge placed 5th at the Bald Eagle Area tournament on Jan 25, 2025. She will compete in the DXI championships on Sunday, February 16th, at Easton Area Middle School. The guys take part in the DXI championships at Liberty High School the weekend of February 21 & 22.

The Hilltopper basketball team officially took control of the top spot of Division 2 in the Schuylkill League this month. Great effort and team play has them on an eight game winning streak within the division earning a berth in the SCIAL championship tournament. The Toppers can clinch the division with a win in one of their remaining league games which will put them into the league semifinals on February 12th at Martz Hall. Congratulations to Trey Keating as he surpassed 200 made 3 pointers in his career. Coach Walborn and his staff have the boys primed for a memorable postseason run. Let’s get out and support our TOPPERS.

A reminder to all Spring athletes. Registration is now open and is to be completed on BigTeams. St. Luke’s is offering free physicals on February 7th and 14th for any student athlete that has not participated in a fall or winter sport. All information can be found during the lunches and on the Nativity Facebook page. Finish the 24-25 school year strong by joining a team and create a positive experience for yourself.

FYI

Physicals for spring sports must be completed along with the other paperwork before any student can participate in Spring sports.

STUDIES OFFICE

Report Cards will be distributed on Friday, January 31, 2025. Parents should review the reports with their child. Any student who failed a course for the year must make it up. Information will be sent home soon.

The middle of the third quarter will be during the third week of February. Deficiency notices will be emailed the nineteenth (19th) of the month.

Course selection meetings have been scheduled. All meetings will take place on Friday, February 7th. The juniors will meet during 4th period, the sophomores will meet during 2nd period, and the freshmen will meet during 3rd period. Parents should begin to discuss with your child their plans for courses for next year. Course description booklets will be distributed at the meetings so you can read about each course. Course request sheets and fee will be due by Friday, February 21st.

STUDENT COUNCIL NEWS

Thank you to everyone who helped make this year's Catholic Schools Week a success! Our students, faculty, and staff enjoyed fun activities throughout the week including a volleyball tournament, chess tournament, donuts for drivers, dress down day, and more. We also had the opportunity to hear Fr. Giuseppe Esposito and Sr. Christina speak about their vocations and we treated our faculty to lunch. Thank you to all who support our Catholic Schools!



MUSIC DEPARTMENT

County Chorus hosted by North Schuylkill High School was held at Pottsville High School on January 18, 2025. Nativity BVM participants were, Bo McDonald, Chloe Covell, Chloe Zulick, and Hailey Mills. The guest conductor was Dr. Angelica Dunsavage.

Diocesan Music Festival will be held on February 1, 2025 at Berks Catholic High School. Nativity BVM participants in band are: Alana Bachman, Connor Palerino and Hunter-Ryan Notheft. Chorus participances are: Giana Bagley, Nick Sagan, Naomi Neifert, Bo McDonald, Chloe Zulick, and Zahia Burgos. Band and Chorus directors are the High School Music educators throughout the Allentown Diocese.

News from the School Counseling Department

A Message from the Director of Guidance, Mrs. Brensinger



With 2025 in full swing, scholarship deadlines are fast approaching! Students needing letters of recommendation, transcripts, or any other documents must let Mrs. Brensinger know two weeks before the deadline to guarantee their deadline is met. Please note that all financial obligations must be up to date; no documents will be sent if you have a “hold” on your account.

Winter weather often brings about changes in motivation and mood. If your child does not feel like themselves, please encourage them to see me!

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

National School Counseling Week 2025 is Feb. 3-7, 2025

Every year, the first week of February focuses public attention on the unique contribution of school counselors within U.S. school systems. The 2025 theme is: **School Counseling: Helping Students Thrive**. National School Counseling Week, sponsored by the American School Counselor Association (ASCA), highlights the tremendous impact school counselors can have in helping students achieve school success and plan for a career.

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 your student's classroom.

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 April 15th

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.***

POT OF GOLD WINNERS

January 22, 2025

- 1st) Roberta Felty
 Seller: Conner Kanute
- 2nd) Deb Bulino
 Seller: Noah Bulino
- 3rd) Stephen Karinch
 Seller: Stephen Karinch
- 4th) Ann Marie Weicikosky
 Seller: Elijah Weicikosky



GREEN AND GOLD NEWS

The Green and Gold would like to thank everyone who has helped out with our fundraising efforts. We are currently under our goal that we must meet annually to support the school.

To help meet our goal, we will be hosting a bingo on March 9th. This will be a gift card bingo starting at 1:00 PM. Donations of gift cards or food items would greatly be appreciated. If you can help the day of the bingo or with a donation, please call Mrs. Yaneck in the main office.

The dates for the Basket Auction will be May 3rd and 4th. Mark these dates on your calendar!!! There will be a letter coming home with more information, and remember to send in your donations. Thank You!!!

There will be a Basket Auction Meeting on Wednesday February 12th at 6:00 PM for anyone who wishes to help with the auctions. New ideas are always welcome.

School Store:

We are happy to announce that Hershey Ice Cream has been added to our list of Goodies at the school store. Nutty Buddies, Orange Cream Bars, Chocolate Eclairs and Sundae Cups are a few of the items.

A variety of Athletic wear and Uniform clothing (new ¼ Zips) are all available in the store. Please feel free to stop in Monday through Friday from 11:30 – 1:00 or by appointment.

Please remember to buy your certificates and save on tuition. Below is a List of In-Stock certificates.

Grocery Stores:

Giant
Weis
Boyers
Redners
BG's

Gas Stations:

Sheetz
Exxon/Mobil
Sunoco
WaWa

Shopping Stores:

Boscovs
Kohls
Dunhams
Michaels
TJ Maxx
Walmart

Restaurants:

Cracker Barrel	Dunkin Donuts	Crimson House
McDonalds	Burger King	Wendys
Taco Bell	Palermos	Roman Delight
Roma	Subway	Starbucks
Valenti's	Vito's	Mustard Seed

Oils:

Jack Rich, Quality, Shewokis and Tobash

All other certificates called Scrip (need to be ordered) take usually 2 to 3 days.

Certificate Orders may be texted to Sue Eckley @ 570-640-0930 or students/parents can drop off at school store.

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.

