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ST. AGNES
SCHOOL

Semi-Annual Report Fall 2017

We Celebrate the Past to Awaken the Future

Fifty years ago, President John F. Kennedy eloquently drew a direct line between the glory which lies behind us and the promise that stands before us. His message to “celebrate the past to awaken the future” serves as a guiding principle for the St. Agnes community. As a school who has stood as a pillar upon the landscape of Baltimore for 152 years, our past holds the key to a treasure chest of memories, stories and learned lessons.

The awakened future of St. Agnes relies upon our vision to provide a program that focuses on four cornerstones: creating a strong Catholic culture; inspiring digitally connected scholars who are engaged in the learning process; forming effective communication structures and collaborative partnerships between home, school, parish and the broader community; and fostering within all a deep sense of communal pride.

An unmistakable spirit exists at St. Agnes School where our students develop an awareness and

appreciation for seeing God in all things. Moreover, it is our faith-filled belief that in directly serving the marginalized of our community, our young people are able to more practically witness that every person is precious in the eyes of God. In a world that promotes material possessions over the self-worth of our human brotherhood, our students learn that we are called to the service of others above our own self-interest.

As we open the doors of our faith wide, please know you and your family will remain in our thoughts and prayers.

We Are...ST. AGNES!

With St. Agnes Pride,

Rob Costante
Principal



Our Strategic Plan

The St. Agnes School Board is currently drafting a five-year strategic plan. With the leadership of Board Member and school parent, Mike Doyle, the board will establish a renewable plan that is meant to guide the school on an annual basis. The plan will focus on the following areas: Faith Formation, Academic Foundation and Institutional Development. Our main objective is to establish bold yet achievable goals in order to position St. Agnes to continue to flourish and provide exceptional Catholic Education for 150 more years! We will continue to share news on the Strategic Plan in future newsletters and this semi-annual report.



What's the Buzz at S.A.S.?



The St. Agnes School campus is filled with the Holy Spirit and a contagious energy this year! With the addition of our new Principal, Rob Costante, many new and exciting things are happening for our St. Agnes students and the S.A.S. family. Here are a few:

 **Community Meetings** - Each morning, our entire student body gathers in the Activity Center to share in prayer, scripture, and celebration. If you have the chance, please join us any morning at 8:05 am to witness the growing sense of our St. Agnes Community.

 **Service Programs** - Our Middle School students experience monthly activities and are learning to incorporate the Christian mentality of *Service Above Self* into their everyday lives. See our *Service Above Self* section for more on this wonderful program.

 **Communication** - S.A.S. has made it a priority this year to increase and improve effective communications between the school and home. Each week, we send out the "Wednesday e-Folder" that includes information about the comings and goings of Bear Nation. In addition, we are actively and regularly updating our website which includes an active blog. We have also published this semi-annual report as a means to increase communication to our alumni and school and parish families.

Who We Are

The St. Agnes School Board has revised the St. Agnes Vision, Mission and Purpose statements to best reflect our current direction as a community.



VISION

St. Agnes School is a vibrant and diverse community centered on Jesus Christ in the Catholic tradition. Our program unites the heart, soul, and mind through a formation of faith, a strong academic foundation and a commitment to serving the needs of our human society. Our graduates are sent forth prepared to take their place as leaders in the church and our world.

MISSION

Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. - *Matthew 28: 19-20*

PURPOSE

Forming Students of Virtue in Heart, Soul and Mind

SERVICE ABOVE SELF - S.A.S. SERVICE PROGRAM



Class of 2018

The 8th Grade Students, the wonderful Class of 2018, have partnered with My Brother's Keeper in Irvington. Each month a group of our 8th grade team of Bears serves hot lunch to the needy of our local community. Service is truly at the HEART of a St. Agnes education.

<http://www.mybrotherskeeperbaltimore.org/>

My Brother's Keeper strives to be the neighborhood caregiver that can put those most in need in touch with services that can have a lasting impact on their quality of life.

Our 7th Grade Students, the amazing Class of 2019, have partnered with our neighbor, Frederick Villa. Each month a small group of our 7th grade Bears visits and spends some quality time with the residents: sharing stories, playing games and bringing joy to our elderly brothers and sisters in Christ.

<http://www.frederickvillanursingcenter.com/>

Frederick Villa Nursing and Rehabilitation Center delivers warm and personalized care in a home-like setting.



Class of 2019

Our 6th Grade Students, the fabulous Class of 2020, have partnered with local volunteer Eileen Leaman (we call her an angel) as they assemble 120 bagged lunches each month for the gentlemen at the Westside Men's Shelter. It is monthly projects like this which inspire our students to see the face of Christ in everyone they encounter.

<https://www.facebook.com/Westside-Emergency-Mens-Shelter>

The shelter is located on the grounds of Spring Grove State Hospital in Catonsville. Men are encouraged to work toward their own self sufficiency with assistance from the staff and volunteer organizations dedicated to ending homelessness.



Class of 2020

Referral Program

We realize our parents and families are our greatest means to promoting St. Agnes and sharing the good news about the value of our Catholic school education. With this belief in mind, we are pleased to announce our Two-Way Referral Program for the 2018-19 school year.



As a token of our appreciation, both the Referring Family and the New Family will receive a tuition credit for the 2018-19 school year upon the New Family's enrollment at St. Agnes. If both families apply and enroll during the Early Admissions cycle, both families will receive a \$750 tuition credit. After the Early Admissions deadline, the Referring Family will receive a \$500 tuition credit and the New Family will receive a \$250 tuition credit.



For more details, please contact Katie Wilder, Advancement Director, at kwilder@stagnesschool.net or by calling the office at 410-747-4070.

Marketing Outreach

St. Agnes School is actively and enthusiastically seeking new families to join our St. Agnes Community. We are committed to enrolling service-minded students who are eager to grow both academically and spiritually. To lead this effort, we are excited to welcome our new Advancement Director, Katie Wilder, Class of '94 and proud parent of David, '20, Emily, '23, and Luke, '28. Our focus will be to spread the good news of St. Agnes through various marketing and word-of-mouth initiatives. We encourage our St. Agnes community to aid us in our efforts. Here are a few ways you can help:

Like and Follow Us



[@St.AgnesCatholicSchoolBaltimore](https://www.facebook.com/StAgnesCatholicSchoolBaltimore)



[@stagnesschool](https://www.instagram.com/stagnesschool)



[@StAgnesSchoolMD](https://twitter.com/StAgnesSchoolMD)



[@StAgnesAlumnaeCatonsvilleMd](https://www.facebook.com/StAgnesAlumnaeCatonsvilleMd)



<https://www.stagnesschool.net/blog>



Share the Good News

If you know of any families that are looking for a quality Catholic education, please do not hesitate to contact our Advancement Director. We would be honored to offer them a tour so they can experience the St. Agnes School Spirit firsthand.

Advancement Committee

We need your ideas, your time and your talent. Join the Advancement Committee on the School Board and help us write and apply for grants, secure funds, and build local business relationships to grow our St. Agnes Community. Interested volunteers are asked to please contact **Katie Wilder**, Advancement Director. Email: kwilder@stagnesschool.net or call the office: 410-747-4070 x127.



ST. AGNES
SCHOOL

Spirit Week 2017

St. Agnes School started a few new traditions this year as we continue to strengthen the St. Agnes Spirit within our community. We look forward to building on this tradition for years to come!

Reunion Sunday - We hosted our very first “Homecoming” for Alumni, families of alumni, former faculty and staff. This year, Reunion Sunday started with a Mass and reception followed in the school. Next year, we will continue the momentum and will host other activities. Alumni who are interested and willing to help plan and coordinate next year’s events should contact Katie Wilder kwilder@stagnesschool.net.

Spirit Week - Each year, we plan to celebrate something different each day during the week leading up to our “Homecoming”. This year, we had Crazy Hat Day, Crazy Sock Day, Backwards Day, Thankful Thursday and Spirit Day. The teachers and 8th grade students battled it out on the Volleyball court where the teachers took home the Win 21-17. You could feel the energy during our Spirit Rally where we introduced our mascot, Aggie the Bear, for the very first time.



Alumni Spotlight - Sarah Grago, Esquire

Class of 2003

Graduated from:

- Mount de Sales Academy, 2007
- Loyola University of Maryland, B.A. 2011, magna cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa, Alpha Sigma Nu, Major: Spanish and Political Science
- University of Baltimore School of Law, J.D. 2015, summa cum laude, Heusler Honor Society

Occupation:

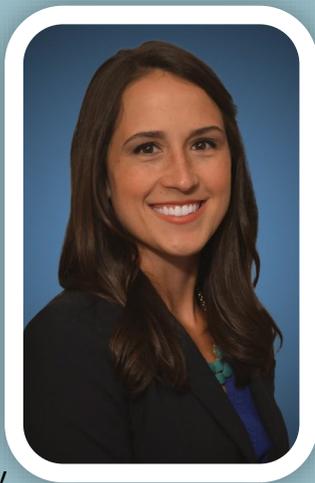
Sarah joined Howanski, Meadows & Erdman as an associate in 2015 and her practice is dedicated to family law matters involving divorce, custody, child support, alimony, adoption, and settlement agreements.

Favorite St. Agnes Teacher:

Mr. Baker and Mrs. Seibel

Favorite St. Agnes Memories:

- Bingo Nights
- Halloween Parades
- Choir Practices
- Christmas Concert - "It was just a magical night. I loved singing all the funny songs with Mr. Baker. Especially Holly, Jolly Christmas with all the encouraged ad-libbing."



What did you want to be when you grew up?

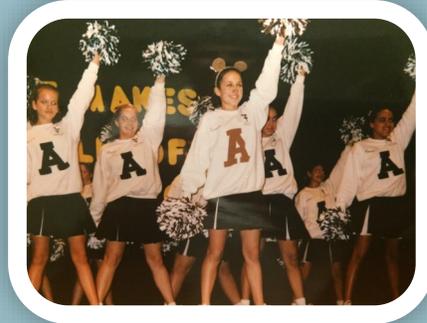
I think I always wanted to be a lawyer. Except for a brief period in 4th grade when I thought I wanted to be a singer until someone asked me to sing and I changed my mind.

Interesting Fact: Sarah taught English in Madrid, Spain before starting law school and has two amazing brothers attending S.A.S. now!

Biggest Accomplishment: Passing the Bar!

How did St. Agnes prepare you for your future?

"Well, anyone who had Sr. Gracette can attest to having excellent grammar skills upon leaving St. Agnes; specifically knowing ALL there is to know



about prepositions. St. Agnes offered a second "family" and provided a nurturing space in which I could feel confident to learn,

ask questions, and grow, but also a challenging environment where your teachers held you accountable if you did not perform to your full potential. Finally, I met three of my best friends in Kindergarten at St. Agnes and was just the Maid-of-Honor in one of their weddings in September!"

What advice do you have for our St. Agnes Students?

1. Be true to yourself in all you do - with your friends, on your teams, in school and beyond. Let your personality shine!
2. Never give up! My friends and I were rejected 3 times from the S.A.S. talent show before they finally let us in!
3. Enjoy recess. It never happens again in your life!
4. Push yourself out of your comfort zone and never stop learning!



From the Desk of our Pastor

Dear Friends:

Thank you for taking a bit of your time to read this update from St. Agnes School. We are so glad that you are a part of our St. Agnes family!

The last few months have been a busy time at our school. We welcomed our new principal, Rob Costante. Students, teachers, families, and staff have settled into the routine of a new school year. We had a great time celebrating Halloween and we look forward to Thanksgiving and Christmas.

We want our St. Agnes students to grow in their reading, writing, and arithmetic but also in their love for God and in their faith. It is important that our students learn that religion isn't just a subject that they take in class, but faith is something that effects every aspect life. To that end, our students participate in Mass on a weekly basis, the older students go to confession once-a-month, our older students and younger students are paired together as "prayer partners," and everyone participates in service projects for those who are less fortunate than ourselves.

A St. Agnes education is truly one that forms students of virtue in mind, heart, and soul.

The St. Agnes story is one that has been going on now for over 150 years. It includes thousands of people that have committed themselves to this parish and school just like yourself. I hope that you will continue to spread the good news of all that is happening at St. Agnes.

Yours in the Lord Jesus,



Rev. Michael J. Foppiano

Pastor



H.S.A. News

The St. Agnes Home and School Association (H.S.A.) is a partnership between families and teachers who combine their time, talents and energy to create memorable events that not only benefit the school, but ultimately the students. Our primary function is to host fundraising events throughout the school year which build community and foster school spirit for the students, faculty and staff.

FUND-raising Update



WE SURPASSED OUR GOAL!!!! Thank you to our students, parents and families for supporting our annual World's Finest Chocolate Fundraiser. With your help, we surpassed our goal of raising \$10,000 for St. Agnes! THANK YOU! THANK YOU! A special thank you to **Allison Joyce** and **Kristen LaSor** for all of their hard work to make our fundraiser so successful!

As always, our Spaghetti Dinner is a huge hit with our families. Thank you to **Allison Cabrera** and **Motisola Rowe** who served as co-chairs for the event. Hats off to the chefs: Jane and John McCaul and Jeff Haskell for serving up the delicious Italian cuisine!



FUN-raising Events

We really do have the best parent volunteers in the world. A special thanks to our Trunk-or-Treat co-chairs: **Erika Gailunas** and **Stacey Ferguson Mruk**. We enjoyed all of the sweet fruits of your hard labor!

JOIN US

Upcoming Events

- | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| December 15: | Christmas Concert |
| January 28 - Feb 3: | Catholic Schools Week |
| February 2: | Open House |
| February 9: | Spirit Night |

CHECK OUT ALL UPCOMING
EVENTS ON OUR EVENTS PAGE:
www.stagnesschool.net/events

VOLUNTEER

GET INVOLVED!

Alumni - K.I.T.

We want you to keep in touch! Please make sure we have your updated contact information by visiting our website and filling out the form on the Alumni Registration page. If you have any ideas or are willing to help plan upcoming events, contact:

Katie Wilder

410-747-4070

kwilder@stagnesschool.net

WWW.STAGNESSCHOOL.NET

Forming Students of Virtue in Heart, Soul and Mind



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