

CLASS OF 2024

# THROUGH THESE DOORS

FATHER RYAN HIGH SCHOOL





“For this very reason,  
make every effort to  
**supplement your faith**  
with virtue, virtue with  
knowledge ...”

2 Peter 1:5

## To the Class of 2024:

Congratulations on your indelible accomplishment of graduating from Father Ryan High School and becoming the newest alumni of an institution steeped in the great history and legacy of Nashville. As graduates, you now join an esteemed group of 13,000 graduates who continue to live out the mission and charisma of a school that has developed, and continues to develop, men and women to be in the service of others. We encourage you to embrace this network of established professionals to be the ones who partner and make a tremendous difference in our world and the future of Father Ryan High School.

As we begin our centennial, the 100th anniversary celebration of Father Ryan High School, we can think of no better group than the Class of 2024 to both lead and close out the first century of our school. Your desire to grow and challenge yourself, with our Tradition of Faith, Knowledge, Service as your compass, will serve you well as you continue your journey to make a positive impact in the lives of those around you. Just as the Father Ryan faculty and staff have held you to a standard of excellence during your time here, we want each of you to carry forward with you a keen sense of and appreciation for that excellence. Be excellent in everything you do, as your excellence honors and deepens your faith and your commitment to Christ.

While you began your high school experience at Father Ryan during an unprecedented time, together as a band of brothers and sisters, you exercised remarkable resilience and persevered to overcome what lay before you. Through your never-ending courage and desire to excel in all endeavors, you faced and overcame your circumstances, and as a result, you have been formed and developed into individuals whom God has destined each of you to be – a living embodiment of the Gospel and a compassionate servant to others.

Indeed, the Class of 2024 experienced many learning opportunities, but the most beneficial lessons were found in your journey to learn and develop your spirituality as you made your contribution to the community. It has been a pleasure to walk this high school journey with you. Our lives and school are better because we had a chance to share them with you. In the coming years, as you go your separate ways and explore what it means to be an illustration of the living Gospel, remember the lessons you learned inside these doors and the communities you have formed at Father Ryan.

Finally, we charge you to be leaders who make a difference, and offer this quote from Saint Ignatius Loyola as inspiration:

*“Go, set the world on fire.”*

You, undoubtedly, are ready for the world. With your fiery spirit, deep within, go, and light the fire in others; as beacons of hope, be the change you want to see in this world.

Congratulations on becoming the newest Father Ryan alumni!

*Go Irish!*

*Paul Davis*

Paul Davis '81  
President

*Francisco M. Espinosa Jr.*

Francisco M. Espinosa Jr.  
Principal

*Jennifer Anton*

Jennifer Anton  
Academic Dean







“Father Ryan’s focus on spirituality has allowed me to lay the groundwork for my faith for the rest of my life. Some of the **most impactful moments** of my high school career took place at the penance services because they offered me the chance to forget about school for a while to mend and strengthen **my relationship with God.**”

*Henry Braeuner,  
Immaculata House Chaplain,  
Retreat Leader*

A TRADITION OF

# Faith

Faith, based in the Catholic tradition, is at the center of all we do at Father Ryan. We provide our students opportunities to deepen their personal faith as we challenge them to reach their spiritual, academic, and personal potential.

The Father Ryan family continues to grow as an inclusive and uplifting community where all are welcome. By encountering Christ in myriad ways, students embody the mission of our school to be an experience of the living Gospel.





**Harry Penne**  
Emerald House Chaplain | Altar Server

At Father Ryan, the Eucharist is at the center of all faith activities on campus. Over the past four years, I have grown deeper in my relationship with Christ by attending daily Mass before school in the chapel. There is no better way to start the day than with prayer and gratitude. Another way I have grown is through Eucharistic Adoration and time spent meditating before the Blessed Sacrament. These opportunities and practices, along with the support of clergy and other students, have instilled habits that will continue through college and beyond.



“Father Ryan’s Tradition of Faith has been the most influential part of my high school experience. Through opportunities like SEARCH, I’ve not only grown in my faith, but also learned to understand it better. Each day at Father Ryan, I am in a faith-based environment.”

Charlotte Winkler, Elliston House, SEARCH Leader



**AJ Stacey**  
Oak House Chaplain | Student Ministry Team

I have experienced the Tradition of Faith at Father Ryan through the institution’s culture of intentionality. The relationships that I have formed at Father Ryan have inspired me to encounter Christ through serving others daily. The Tradition of Faith has also helped me shape my character and my aspirations. The daily availability of the sacraments and the opportunities to lead others in faith have helped develop my desire to live a life centered on Christ.







“Father Ryan’s academics have challenged me not only inside the classroom but also outside, motivating me to foster self-growth in my life. With the support of my teachers, Father Ryan’s academics have allowed me to flourish as a student and, by extension, as a person.”

Chloe Edwards, Trinity House



A TRADITION OF

# Knowledge

Every day at Father Ryan, our students experience success, challenge, and growth through academic endeavors that help them reach their full potential. We believe in the importance of offering a rigorous curriculum for all students in a supportive

environment for the development of hearts and minds. By inspiring our students to engage in a variety of challenging courses, Father Ryan graduates are ready to take the next step as well-informed, global citizens.







**Sam Wiggins**  
Trinity House | *University of Tennessee, Knoxville*

I have witnessed Father Ryan’s Tradition of Knowledge firsthand through my interactions with teachers and peers. There have always been teachers who go above and beyond to provide a nurturing environment that allows other students and me to learn in a way that suits us individually. Older students whom I looked up to provided thoughtful advice on how to navigate my way through course scheduling and workload. The community here at Father Ryan is built upon the concept of tradition, and, beautifully, our Tradition of Knowledge is everchanging.



**Kira Stell**  
Elliston House Historian | *University of Georgia*

During my four years at Father Ryan, my teachers have continually guided and supported me to strive to be beyond adequate. Whether it be through spending time helping me before or after school, fostering deeper discussion beyond what is required in the curriculum, or challenging me to not only grow in my strengths but also my weaknesses in the classroom, I have always felt encouraged and inspired to not only learn the material but to find joy in it as well. Without this Tradition of Knowledge, I would not have flourished both in the classroom and beyond, and I will continue to use the skills I have learned, both academically and personally, well into my future.

**Knowledge by  
the Numbers**

**44%**

**Seniors Took One  
or More AP Courses**

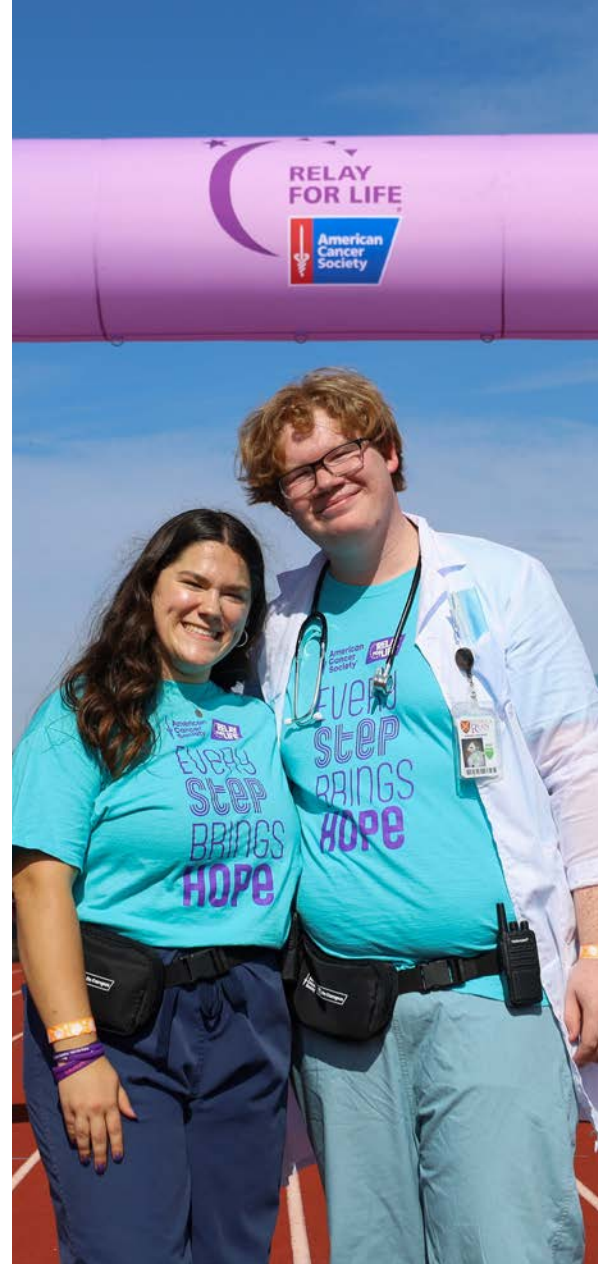
**329**

**AP Courses Taken  
by Class of 2024**

**6,034**

**Credits Earned**





“I believe that it is a **person’s purpose** to give themselves fully to others. This belief was developed through **countless service opportunities** offered here at Father Ryan.”

*JJ Khym, Immaculata House, Fr. Charles Strobel '61 Service Society*

A TRADITION OF

# Service

At Father Ryan, one of the most distinctive and influential ways to connect with God is to serve others. Our students have the opportunity to improve the lives of their Nashville neighbors and effect positive change in their community through

our service-learning curriculum. By developing a heart for service and engaging with those in our community who need it most, our young men and women become an experience of the living Gospel.







**Sanjeeth George**  
Elliston House Chaplain | *Mission Trip*

Father Ryan's Tradition of Service is a core identity of this school. Likewise, I have realized that service is a significant part of my identity, and Father Ryan has helped strengthen that within me. Through helping out at Safe Haven Shelter, Room in the Inn, or even journeying to Mepkin Abbey on Alternative Spring Break, Father Ryan has given me the opportunities to shine outside of the classroom and utilize my gifts to better serve the wider community. As a result, I began to understand how I can live a life according to Christ's teachings. So not only has Father Ryan's Tradition of Service confirmed my identity as a man of service, it has also afforded me the ability to grow as a man of faith and heighten my relationship with God.

**Caroline Meyer**  
Oak House Historian | *Relay For Life Co-Chair*

Father Ryan's Tradition of Service perfectly exemplifies the Catholic call to serve. While there are required service hours every year, Father Ryan encourages each of us to continue our service at Father Ryan and beyond. My work with the American Cancer Society and as a Relay For Life Co-Chair allowed me to further my passion for service and fight for a cause I care deeply about. Relay For Life gave me the opportunity to make a difference in my community and strengthen my relationship with God through service. Without Father Ryan's Tradition of Service, I would not have had such ample opportunity to experience service and spread my call of service to others.



## Service by the Numbers

**\$157,065**

**Raised for  
Relay For Life**

**13,855**

**Service Hours  
by Class of 2024**





**“I believe Irish Pride continues beyond graduation, but today, I am proud not just of the student, but also of the person Father Ryan has helped me become.”**

*Mallory Garland,  
Emerald House Historian,  
Cheerleader*



IRISH

# Pride

Since 1925, Father Ryan has been rooted in strong traditions of Catholic faith, academic excellence, and hearts of service to challenge students to reach their spiritual, academic, and personal potential. For almost a century, Father Ryan has upheld these traditions while evolving to meet the needs of our

community. By exploring diverse extracurricular opportunities, students learn to make a difference in the world by investing in their talents and passions, while connecting with the sense of pride that comes with being Father Ryan students and alumni.





**Kailey Nicholson**  
Elliston House Captain | Student-Athlete

Throughout my four years at Father Ryan, I've felt Father Ryan's Tradition of Irish Pride in many aspects, especially through being a part of the volleyball team and a part of Elliston House Leadership. As a member of the volleyball team, I was proud to wear Father Ryan Purple on and off the court. I was proud to work alongside my amazing teammates, and always bring hard work, intensity, and effort into everything we did. I'm proud to wear purple on the volleyball court, and I'm proud to wear Elliston gray off the court as a House Leader. Being a part of House Leadership is something I've truly enjoyed, especially for Elliston House, because of the relationships I've made with my other leaders and the wonderful experiences of which I've been able to be a part. I'll never forget my three years in Elliston House Leadership, and I'll take my Elliston Pride and Irish Pride with me after I graduate.



“Father Ryan’s tradition of ‘You Will be Known. You Will be Loved.’ has aided me in finding my voice by supporting me academically, spiritually, and athletically. Through these activities, I have realized my ability to help change the world around me. Father Ryan has prepared me to tackle my future endeavors.”

*Lamont Howard, Immaculata House, Student Ambassador*



**William Kleiner**  
Immaculata House Student Engagement Coordinator  
Purple Masque Players

My experience with Father Ryan’s Tradition of Irish Pride is summed up in one word, community. During my time here, I have grown to be a part of many things around this campus. I am involved in the Purple Masque Players and the House System, among many other things. With the sense of community that is in every activity here, I have gained a sense of belonging. Through this community, the Tradition of Irish Pride has helped me discover who I am. Every teacher here is passionate about their job and takes individual time to understand and help students. Their kind disposition is then paid forward through the many sports and clubs we have here. In everything that I have done, a teacher has taken the time to get to know me and help me in ways that were beneficial to my growth as a student and person. Even students take time in these clubs and sports to make sure others are known and loved. I was Known and Loved at Father Ryan by the caring nature of my teachers and other students.







“When you **build and connect** with people in such a strong community, everyone feels as though they are **Known and Loved.**”

*Kailey Collier, Elliston House  
Student Engagement Coordinator,  
Dance Team*



### Grace Sizemore

*Elliston House | National Merit Scholar  
Speech, Acting, and Debate Team*

**A**s I walk through the halls of Father Ryan, I am greeted by both my current and past teachers, acknowledging and asking me questions that are unique to me. This demonstrates that they truly know me as an individual, giving me a sense of being Known and Loved.

The community at Father Ryan provided me with the support I needed to grow in both an academic and personal manner. I am motivated by my teachers’ dedication and passion for learning and exploration. I have enjoyed attending football games and other sporting events with my friends. I take pride in being a member of the Father Ryan community that I will take with me as I enter the next chapter of my life. Go Irish!

### JoJo Crump

*Oak House | Student-Athlete*

**W**hile I was involved with sports at Father Ryan, I learned the importance of trusting and relying on my teammates. The Athletics at Father Ryan showed me how to depend on others, communicate with those around me, and love the teammates with whom I had the privilege of playing. The coaches taught me the value of respect, which motivated me to show up every day to honor the commitment I made not only to myself but to the coaches and my team. Being a member of a team at Father Ryan has instilled confidence, leadership, and loyalty in me and the person I hope to become. I know I will value these experiences and opportunities and all the lessons that came with them as I enter adulthood.

The genuine friendships I made while playing sports at Father Ryan constantly reminded me that I was loved and cherished, despite how I performed on the field. These friendships ran deeper than just within the lines of the football field.





STUDENT

# Spotlights

RECOGNITION OF ACADEMIC DISTINCTION

One of the following top-achieving students will be named 2024 Valedictorian.



**Victoria Baltz**

Elliston House | University of Notre Dame

Father Ryan's Tradition of Knowledge has encouraged me to become a better student, while also helping me develop as a person through the community's dedication to faith. My time at Father Ryan has taught me my own strengths and the best learning and studying techniques for me. The Tradition of Knowledge at Father Ryan encourages growth of the whole person, allowing for greater success in and outside of the classroom. I have been supported by my teachers and peers during challenging classes, teaching me the value of hard work and asking for help. My time at Father Ryan has prepared me to tackle the demands of college and face new challenges with confidence.

*I have felt Known and Loved at Father Ryan through the support and encouragement of my teachers, coaches, and peers. Through any challenges I have faced, I have been able to turn to the Father Ryan community for advice or support. I felt Known and Loved through the relationships I have formed within the Father Ryan community.*



**Matthew Collins**

Emerald House | University of South Carolina

At Father Ryan, the Tradition of Knowledge manifests itself far beyond the traditional sense. Over the past four years, I have encountered abundant opportunities not only to excel academically but also to immerse myself in a culture that values learning in all aspects of life. Whether through the AP and High Honors classes I have taken or my participation in Show Choir and Purple Masque Players, Father Ryan has consistently pushed me to grow intellectually and personally. In essence, this guiding principle has sparked a transformative journey of knowledge acquisition that has set the stage for my future endeavors in college and beyond.

*Since the first time I stepped onto Norwood Drive, Father Ryan has cultivated an environment of support and development that has manifested itself throughout my past four years here. While my encouraging peers have all helped to shape me into my unique self, the amazing faculty of Father Ryan has made me feel Known and Loved the most. Whenever I am struggling or desire an explanation, there is always someone on campus to guide me in the right direction.*



**Evan Jaeger**

Oak House | National Merit Finalist  
The University of Alabama

Knowledge isn't something that is inherent at birth, and excelling in academics doesn't depend on an arbitrary level of intelligence or being smart; rather, students excel when surrounded by likeminded peers who have the same passion for learning and mentors who truly care about each and every student. People have the most impact on academic success, and Father Ryan emphasizes the importance of the people at this school, from the teachers who sacrifice their time to make certain no student is left behind, to the staff who manage our day-to-day activities and enhance our academic experience. Father Ryan has provided me with the opportunities to make meaningful connections with amazing people and has given me the skills and confidence to bring our Tradition of Knowledge into my college career.

*Becoming involved in the clubs and sports at Father Ryan High School allowed me to develop relationships beyond the classroom. The people I met, my friends, teachers, and coaches, all grew to know me personally as an individual, and they showed genuine interest in my strengths, weaknesses, and aspirations. Through my connections I found support and encouragement to be my best, and I felt the love from the people who saw me for who I was.*





**Katie Knapp**  
Norwood House Captain | *Indiana University*

Father Ryan’s Tradition of Knowledge focuses on empowering and preparing students to be successful leaders in their future endeavors. The classroom environment allows me to engage in thought-provoking discussions with my classmates. I have excelled academically through this community and teachers who challenge me to reach my potential. I feel motivated to exceed past my limits in order to strive for greatness.

*Throughout my time at Father Ryan, I have been surrounded by a loving community and have formed genuine relationships with faculty, staff, and peers. Together, we learn, celebrate, and grow with each other, leaning on one another during life’s challenges. I feel that our campus environment is compassionate and uplifting as we each desire for those around us to be successful. Personally, these connections I have made here through various involvements at the school have created the best mentors and friends whom I can cherish beyond the walls of Father Ryan.*



**Rosanna Yang**  
Emerald House | *University of California at Berkeley*

For me, the Tradition of Knowledge means Father Ryan’s constant support for students’ academic exploration and personal development. In addition to the curricular challenges, there are also abundant extracurricular opportunities where I can explore my interests outside of my classroom. These resources have allowed me to develop the skills I need to excel in my personal and academic life. I genuinely cherish my two short but meaningful years at Father Ryan – a place where I can dream, reflect, explore, and achieve.

*As one of the few international students, I found myself worried at first about being alienated for having a different cultural background. However, I found myself a place in the community that is loving, accepting, and kind. They gave me a family while I was far away from home which helped me in gaining the confidence to branch out and meet new people. I’m grateful for everybody I’ve met at Father Ryan who has given me an unforgettable life experience.*

**Academic  
Achievements**

**100%**

**College Acceptance Rate  
of Seniors Who Applied**

**190**

**Unique College Acceptances**

**\$29.5M<sup>+</sup>**

**in Scholarships Offered  
(as of April 30, 2024)**





# Beyond

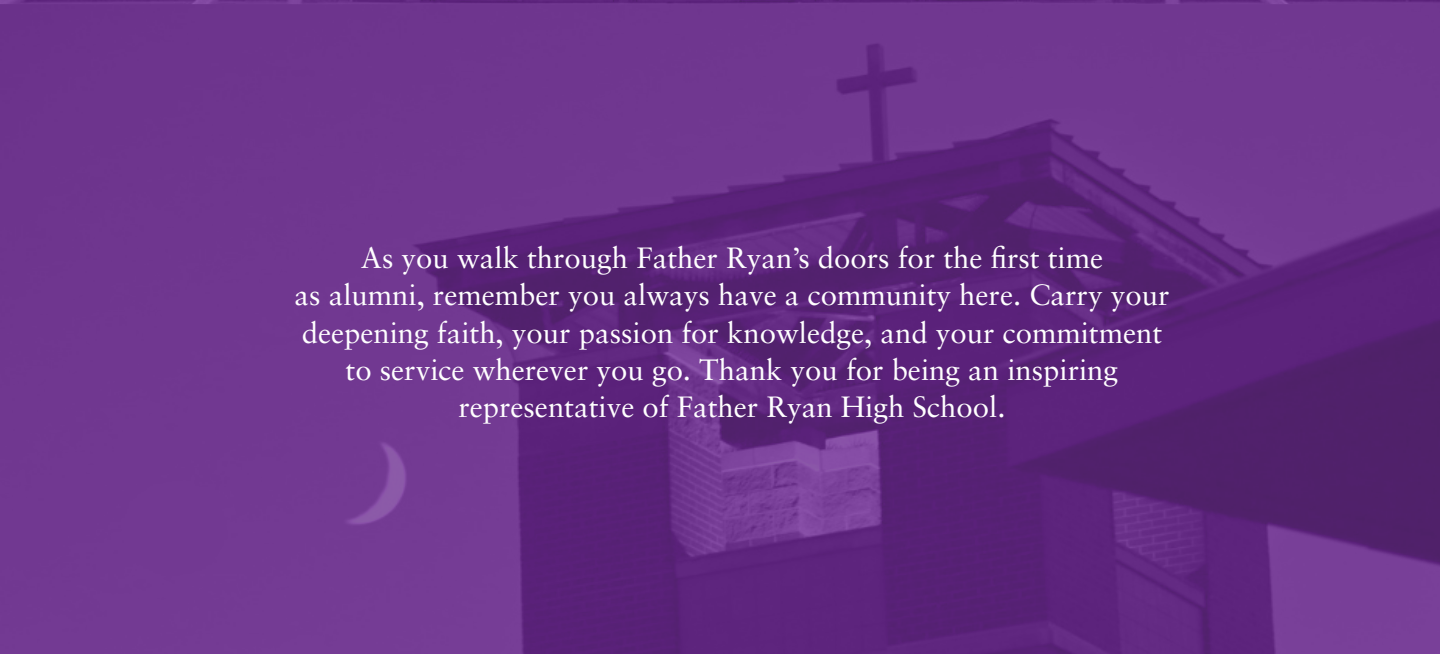
THESE DOORS

Throughout our 99-year history, Father Ryan has held three traditions in the highest regard: Faith, Knowledge, and Service. The exemplary students profiled in this book personify what it means to be

a Father Ryan student and excel in the classroom, in their faith, and in the community. Scan the code below to see where our seniors are headed.



As you walk through Father Ryan's doors for the first time as alumni, remember you always have a community here. Carry your deepening faith, your passion for knowledge, and your commitment to service wherever you go. Thank you for being an inspiring representative of Father Ryan High School.







Tradition Never Graduates.