



Celebrating Our
10th Graduating Class

Dreams Ignited!

Tee Up With Us To
Support Our Students

13th
ANNUAL
Golf Classic
DEPAUL CRISTO REY

Western Hills Country Club
Monday, September 30, 2024

Contact Lisa Muething for information.
513.861.0600 • lisa.muething@dpcr.net



Diariétou
Mount St. Joseph University

Aicha
University of Cincinnati

Carolina
University of Notre Dame

Aunist
Miami University

From the President

Dear Friends of DePaul Cristo Rey,

When I look back over the 2023-2024 school year, one word immediately comes to mind: record-breaking!


In another year of firsts, we joyfully watched our students not only believe and become, but achieve beyond measure. Whether it was our Lady Bruins basketball team bringing home the CMAC Championship or the creation of Canvas & Reels (the first arts / film festival sponsored by a high school in this region), our students and staff set a high bar for success. This year, a record breaking number of students were inducted into the National Honor Society, while another group visited Universal Studios to learn about film production among the greats. Our track and field athletes shattered school records attending both the district and regional competitions, while another young Bruin won the Rotary Club’s 4-Way Speech Contest. Our celebrations continued as 100 percent of students in the Class of 2024 were accepted to college, with nine receiving full-tuition scholarships to the schools of their dreams!

And guess what? The success didn’t stop there! Our annual Rey of Light event secured a record-breaking \$825,000 in support for students, while a host of our alumni persisted to receive their college degrees. Our Corporate Work Study partners also saw extraordinary success, as **Expeditors** and the **Ohio Bureau of Workers’ Compensation** received the first Cristo Rey National Impact Award. Yes, it was a year of records – those both made and broken!

Even in the midst of such great achievement, the spirit of St. Vincent de Paul and St. Elizabeth Ann Seton continued to inspire acts of compassion and kindness among our Bruins. Whether volunteering at local charities or lending a helping hand at school, our students and staff reflected the light of Jesus with their generosity. Remaining humble, our Bruins didn’t allow their success to become pride, instead they became the very values of empathy and belonging taught so graciously by our patron saints.

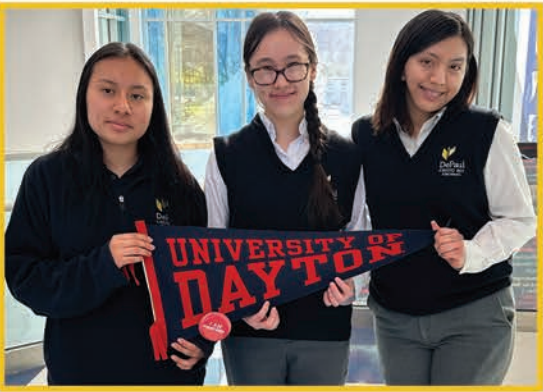
Today, we are filled with gratitude for the blessings we have received. Thank you for your continued belief in our mission and for your unwavering commitment to helping us make education meaningful for many. Together, we are shaping a brighter future for our youth, laying the pathway for even more records to be broken!



With warmest regards,

Siobhan Taylor,
President & CEO

Nine Grads Earn Full-Tuition Scholarships!

Nine members of the Class of 2024 head off to college this August having earned full-tuition scholarships. Pictured left to right below are: **Emily Vasquez Aguilar ’24**, **Deanna Nguyen ’24**, and **Yesica Temaj Guzman ’24** who earned full-tuition Flyer Promise Scholarships to the **University of Dayton**. Featured on our front cover are scholarship recipients (left to right): **Diariétou Minani ’24** who earned the DPCR Achievement Scholarship to **Mount St. Joseph University**; **Aicha Coulibaly ’24** who achieved the Darwin T. Turner Scholarship to the **University of Cincinnati**; **Carolina Garcia Gonzalez ’24** attending **Notre Dame University** having earned the Provost and University scholarships; and **Aunist Hope** who earned the Evans Scholarship and will attend **Miami University**. Not pictured are **Venise Banks-Taylor ’24** and **Alaisha Velazquez Diaz ’24** who will attend **Berea College** with full-tuition scholarships.



Valedictorian and Salutatorian Proud to Achieve a DPCR First



Both Valedictorian **Alaisha Velazquez Diaz ’24** (right), and Salutatorian **Carolina Gonzalez Garcia ’24** (left) want it known that they are very proud to be the first DPCR students of Hispanic heritage to achieve the top two senior class rankings.

While at DPCR, both graduates excelled academically, in their Corporate Work Study placements, and in student activities. Alaisha was a Student Council and National Honor Society leader, as well as a member of the art, game, film, and yearbook clubs, and the Mock Trial team. She won the Cincinnati Rotary High School Speech Contest as a sophomore and the Bruin Award, DPCR’s highest undergraduate honor, as a junior. Carolina was a National Honor Society leader, a student ambassador, and a member of the art, film and Girls Code clubs. Both were instrumental in planning and carrying out activities during DPCR’s annual celebrations of Hispanic Heritage Month.

“I am very proud to be Hispanic and Puerto Rican,” says Alaisha. “I love my culture and learning about it as I grew up.” Adds Carolina, “I am proud that someone like me had the chance to achieve so much at DPCR. I never thought I could make it this far and now know my culture and language are not a disadvantage.”

Their families, particularly their moms, have been their biggest cheerleaders. “When my mom found out that I’m valedictorian, it was the first time I’ve ever seen her cry. She knew all my hard work has meant something,” says Alaisha. “My mom always believed in my education. She told me to work hard because nothing would be handed to me. She’s really proud of me and told me to remember this day and always have confidence in yourself,” says Carolina.

Alaisha will attend **Berea College** on a full scholarship majoring in biology and elementary education to pursue her dream of becoming a medical geneticist. Carolina has earned a full scholarship to the **University of Notre Dame** where she will major in pre-health with a goal of entering the field of pediatric dentistry.

“We have overcome barriers due to our gender and ethnicity so I hope other Hispanic families can see their children in us and think, if these two can do it, so can my daughter or son,” says Carolina. Adds Alaisha, “When I first saw my valedictorian medal, I cried. It hit me how far I’ve come. I didn’t speak English when I started grade school and I was told I was stupid and would always be last. Now I say, don’t let someone put you in a box. Even though I am the first Hispanic valedictorian, I hope I am not the last.”

Seeing Their Gift of Education at Work

Generous benefactors of DPCR’s Sponsor A Student program enjoyed seeing the impact of their gifts face to face. Students and their sponsors met in May at an appreciation luncheon at DPCR. The sponsors annually fund scholarships for specific students and then receive updates on the student’s progress throughout the school year. This end-of-year luncheon brings them together. Pictured are left to right: **Fritz Shadley**, **Olivia ’26**, **Preston ’26**, **Omari ’26** (standing in back), **Braylon ’27**, **Greg and Nancy Klein**, **Terri Muething**, and **Greg Feltrup**.

If you would like to learn about how you can sponsor a student, contact **Lisa Muething** at 513.861.0600 or lisa.muething@dpcr.net.





Distinguished Young Professional Award

Jo'Von Walker '24 received the Distinguished Young Professional Award as the graduate who achieved an outstanding professional transformation through Corporate Work Study. Over his entire time at DPCR, he never missed a day of work!



Anderson
Mendez-Vasquez '24

Credo Perago Floreo Award

Aunist Hope '24 received the highest graduate honor, the Credo Perago Floreo Award, for exemplifying all of the characteristics of the school motto, Believe, Achieve, Become. Among his many accolades, his nominators praised him for exemplifying compassion, kindness and respect. Qualities of a true Bruin!



▲ Left to right: Zion Bush '24, Amirah Cherradi '24, and Jalynn Wright '24.



Principal Jim Schurrer congratulates Ramata Barry '24.

Left to right:
Kylah Blue '24, Tierra Buster '24,
Cameron Chambliss '24,
and Sofia Jimenez '24



Class of 2024 Full of Firsts!

When the Class of 2024 started at DPCR, the campus was still closed due to the pandemic. They spent most of their freshman year learning virtually. Despite that challenging start, they finished strong!

- They are the earliest class to achieve 100 percent college acceptance.
- They completed 895 college applications.
- Nine seniors received full tuition scholarships.
- They helped create DPCR's first documentary film, "The Comeback."
- They helped form DPCR's first St. Vincent de Paul Service Conference.
- Five will be among those taking DPCR's first school-sponsored international trip to Tanzania in July.

Rey of Light

DePaul Cristo Rey High School

is Best Ever!

The Rey of Light Scholarship Benefit for Students, held April 27 at DPCR, raised the most funds in the event's history. Sponsorships, silent and live auction bidding, raffles, and a paddle raise for tuition assistance all combined to raise over \$825,000 for financial aid for DPCR students.

Chairs **Lisa and Chuck Ciccia** and **Tammy and Tony Silvestri** led a dedicated committee of volunteers to plan the sold-out event. One of the highlights of the night was the Fund-A-Need paddle raise which directly raised over \$400,000 for tuition assistance. A video created by students in DPCR's Film Program helped to inspire the bidders.



A. ROL chairs **Lisa and Chuck Ciccia** (left) and **Tammy and Tony Silvestri** (right) with DPCR President **Siobhan Taylor**.



B. Recent college grad **Donald Whittle '20** served as MC with DPCR President **Siobhan Taylor** and **Yirialis '26**.



C. Representing the **Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati** (left to right): **S. Mary Caroline Marchal, SC**; **S. Teresa Laengle, SC**; and **S. Marcel DeJonckheere, SC**.

D. DPCR Board Member **Kathleen Hidy** looks on as her husband, **Richard**, bids during the live auction.

E. Left to right are guests **Charnella Grossman**, **JoAnn Hagopian** and **Janie Walker**.

F. Students **Yirialis '26** (left) and **Ahmed '27** (right) greet **Susie and John Lame** as they arrive at Rey of Light.



With Gratitude to Our Rey of Light Sponsors:

PRESENTING SPONSORS:

Christine and John Browner

FasPark&Relax

A Friend of DePaul Cristo Rey

DIAMOND SPONSOR:



PLATINUM SPONSORS:



Pat and Steve Robertson



GOLD SPONSORS:



Dr. Gerald Powers

Vicky and Rick Reynolds

Julie and Brian Ross

The Schroeder Family



SILVER SPONSORS:



Lisa and Chuck Ciccia



Susan and David Deye

Phil and Joe Dillhoff



Linda and Bart Kohler



Jenny and Jim Price

Katherine and Tim Stautberg

Betty and Ed Stenger



Katie and Nick Reilly



“Investing in their future is investing in our future.” Ohio Bureau of Workers’ Compensation Recognized for Partnership



Christian '25 was one of four students working this year at the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation.

CWSP Partner Profile

The seven-year partnership between DPCR’s Corporate Work Study Program and the **Ohio Bureau of Workers’ Compensation (BWC)** has benefited dozens of students in three cities as well as the government agency, and earned the BWC national recognition from the **Cristo Rey Network**.

BWC Chief of Claims Services **Scott McFadden** says the partnership works because they don’t treat the students as students. “We onboard the student associates as we do all new employees and set a tone from the start that they are part of our team.”

In turn, that has had a positive impact on BWC employees, says **Ken Brown**, Cincinnati Claims Director. “The students bring positive energy to our office and have been a morale boost for our staff. Supervising the students has enhanced our staff’s leadership development.”

The success of the program in Cincinnati has led to BWC partnerships with the Cristo Rey schools in Columbus and Cleveland. “This program has helped our leadership consider how to prepare for the next generation of workers,” says Scott. “We view the students as potential future employees and investing in their future is investing in our future.”

At the Cincinnati area office students work on data entry, scanning, mailings, and other typical office tasks. Additionally, staff take the time to learn about the students’ interests and future career goals and connect them with other departments for job shadowing and related projects. **Preston '25** is exploring journalism and was given the opportunity to work on newsletter articles. **Christian '25** shared his interest in film and worked on a Christmas video.

“There’s so much more to our organization than claims,” says Scott. “Students are exposed to all of the opportunities within the BWC including IT, law enforcement, medical, and communications.”

DPCR Relationship Manager **Katie Spiece** facilitates the DPCR-BWC partnership. “At the BWC they make the students feel part of their community right away. They go above and beyond to mentor and care about the students. They become the students’ cheerleaders for life!”

The BWC was honored as a DPCR Partner of the Year in February and as one of seven National Impact Award recipients by the Cristo Rey Network in April. “This award affirms that we’re doing something right and making a difference,” says Ken. “Working with DPCR students, our staff feel like they are contributing to the greater good.”

Congratulations Expeditors and Ohio Bureau of Workers’ Compensation



Teri Johnson (left) of the Cristo Rey Network and Nicole Soley of Expeditors.



Pictured left to right are: Cristo Rey's Teri Johnson with Shawn Crosby and Scott McFadden of the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation.

Two of DePaul Cristo Rey’s Corporate Partners are among a select group of employers to receive the **Cristo Rey Network’s** inaugural National Impact Award for their contributions to education and workforce development, and for making a positive impact on student lives. **Expeditors** and the **Ohio Bureau of Workers’ Compensation (BWC)** both employ Cristo Rey students in multiple cities with Cristo Rey schools. They were recognized among seven national honorees at the Cristo Rey Network Annual Meeting in Dallas in April.

Expeditors is a global trade company partnering for more than 10 years with schools in 14 cities. DPCR students work at the Expeditors location in Hebron, Kentucky. The BWC hosts student work teams in Cincinnati, Cleveland and Columbus.

Growing Film Program Unlocks Students’ Creativity

In just two years, DePaul Cristo Rey’s film program has grown to offer students experiences and opportunities they can’t find at any other local high school. With support from a generous benefactor, teacher **Romayne Jones** started the film program in the 2023-24 school year and continues to push it and her students to new heights.

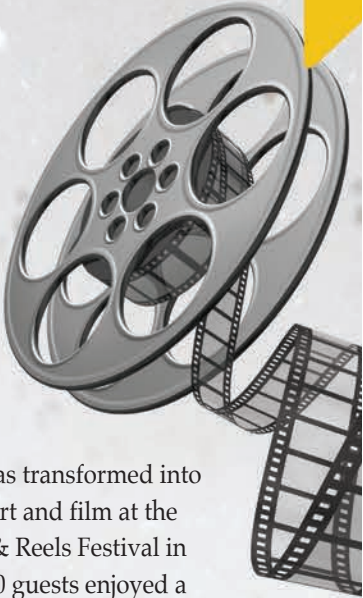
In the program’s first year, students focused on creating the multi-part docuseries, “The Comeback,” that had a red-carpet premiere at DPCR last May. This year Romayne continued teaching the Film 1 class and added a more advanced Film 2 class as well as a Film Club for students who aren’t enrolled in the classes. **Olivia '26** enrolled in Film 1 to meet her fine arts credit requirement. “I heard it was a cool class with a lot of independent work. It has been way beyond my expectations,” she explains. “I’ve learned to work with others to create a story that evokes emotion and how to use a video to make a statement.”

Last year, Romayne taught in a typical DPCR classroom. This year two classrooms were converted into an actual film studio with state-of-the art virtual reality capabilities allowing students to create endless scenes without leaving campus. Romayne believes DPCR is the only local high school with this level of professional film facilities. The focus this year in classes and the film club was on creating short films. Students entered work in local, national and international film festivals. In May, student short films premiered at the inaugural Canvas & Reels Festival. That event was the culmination of a busy spring for film students. They created a video shown at Rey of Light and 22 of them took a trip to Florida to attend the Florida Film Festival and take a behind-the-scenes tour of Universal Studios.

“This program is a game-changer for students in the Cincinnati area,” says Romayne. “Moving forward I envision adding a project-based Film 3 course in which students learn to create portfolios of their work to market themselves to future colleges and employers. I’d also love to see our students working on video projects for their corporate partners.”



CANVAS & REELS FESTIVAL Transforms Campus and Students



DPCR’s campus was transformed into a living canvas of art and film at the inaugural Canvas & Reels Festival in May. More than 300 guests enjoyed a gallery walk and silent auction of 75 works of art and fashion, as well as demonstrations and opportunities to paint, make jewelry, and experiment with virtual reality technology. Guests viewed 25 short films created by DPCR and other local high school students. Guest judges from the local art, music and film communities reviewed all of the works and awarded prizes in both art and film categories.

Jessica '26 received the Creative Vision Award.



Congratulations to Our College Graduates

Our newest college graduates gave us cause for celebration this spring. We are proud to spotlight some of them and their success as they journeyed from being DPCR’s graduates to college graduates!

CLASS OF 2015

Aaron Carter ‘15

Master’s in Counseling
Lindsay Wilson College

CLASS OF 2017

Dejah Gallagher ‘17

Bachelor of Science
in Psychology
University of North Carolina
Asheville

CLASS OF 2018

Aaron Clark-Gragston ‘18

Associate of Arts
Cincinnati State Technical
and Community College

CLASS OF 2019

Chauhkiyin Bishop ‘19

Bachelor of Arts in Journalism
West Virginia University

Iyanna Brazzile ‘19

Bachelor of Science
in Criminal Justice
Tennessee State University

Tanasia Daniels ‘19

Bachelor of Science
in Psychology
Ohio University

Wintana Demoz ‘19

Bachelor of Science
in Chemistry
University of Cincinnati

Ian Dunham ‘19

Bachelor of Science
in Mechanical Engineering
Miami University

CLASS OF 2020

Aaliyah Brooks ‘20

Bachelor of Science
in Political Science
Central State University

JaRon Brooks ‘20

Bachelor of Science
in Health Science
Tuskegee University

Denis Chavez ‘20

Bachelor of Science in
Construction Management
Kent State University

Azyria Douglas ‘20

Bachelor of Science in
Criminology
Mount St. Joseph University

Kah’Lea Everson ‘20

Bachelor of Arts
in Communication
Tennessee State University

Thalia Grant ‘20

Bachelor of Science
in Data Analytics
University of Notre Dame

Miah Harvey ‘20

Bachelor of Science
in Behavioral Science
and Computer Science
Mount St. Joseph University

Lixa Morales Espinoza ‘20

Bachelor of Science
in Health Science
Spalding University

Hailey Mullins ‘20

Bachelor of Arts
in Education
Mount St. Joseph University

Aurora Ortinez ‘20

Bachelor of Creative Arts
Miami University

Emily Rubio-Mora ‘20

Bachelor of Science
in Behavioral Science
Mount St. Joseph University

Cornell White ‘20

Bachelor of Science
in Political Science
Tennessee State University

Hadiyah White ‘20

Bachelor of Arts
in English
Tennessee State University

Donald Whittle ‘20

Master’s in Business
Administration
University of Cincinnati

Catching Up with DPCR’s First Valedictorian

Alumni Profile

It’s been 10 years since **Ruvarashe Chimusoro ‘15** stood on the **Mount St. Joseph University** stage as DPCR’s first valedictorian, and to honor that milestone, she was asked to return as this year’s commencement speaker. “I felt honored to be asked to speak at graduation and to help these new graduates understand and fully grasp the impact DPCR has had on them,” says Ruva. “It’s not a temporary relationship finished in four years; the ties to the DPCR family are deep.”

Ruva first grasped the importance of her DPCR ties as she navigated her freshman year at **Franklin & Marshall College** in Pennsylvania. “Every day my freshman year I called **Mrs. Jackie Siders** (school secretary) after chemistry class. It was so hard and sometimes I was crying, but she always told me I could do it.” She later transferred to the **University of Cincinnati** where she received her bachelor’s degree in economics in December 2019. Over the next months during the pandemic, she worked several part-time and entrepreneurial positions before joining **Dell Technologies**. That led her to transfer to Austin, Texas, in 2021. She now works as a Microsoft Education Program Manager and Business Development Manager for **SHI International**, another tech company in Austin.

While she doesn’t remember much about her first commencement speech, she does have fond memories of being in DPCR’s first class. “I remember the talent shows at Christmas and the snacks Miss Jackie used to keep in her desk for us students,” she recalls. She also has a strong recollection of what she learned through the Corporate Work Study Program. “Our CWSP jobs exposed us to many different careers and opportunities, teaching us time management and self-advocacy.”



Ruva says there are three ways she believes DPCR most impacted her. “I learned personal responsibility, self-advocacy and the importance of picking your community and surrounding yourself with the right people. We represented DPCR and ourselves when we went to work and that’s a lot of ownership for a high school student,” she says.

She is a student again herself, pursuing a master’s degree in information science at **Texas A&M University**. “The workload is challenging while working full-time, but I hope to move from sales into a more technical role at my company. I am really only three years into my career and recognize I have so much to learn!”

Tanasia Daniels ‘19



Hailey Mullins ‘20

JaRon Brooks ‘20



Denis Chavez ‘20



Wintana Demoz ‘19

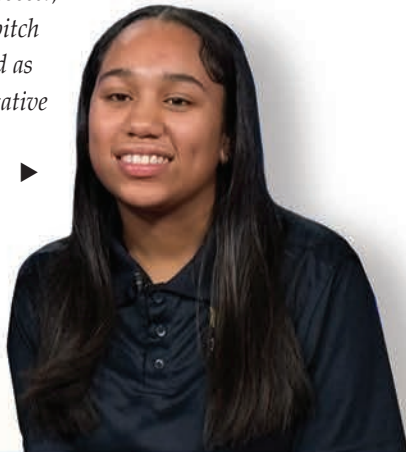


Cornell White ‘20



Sophomore Wins Coveted Bruin Award

Yirialis '26 received DPCR's highest underclass honor, the Bruin Award, for exemplifying the key Bruin characteristics: dedicated, professional, caring, and responsible. In only two years at DPCR, she has demonstrated leadership, curiosity and academic diligence in her honors level classes and through participation on the soccer, Ethics Bowl and X-Squared pitch competition teams. She served as the sophomore class representative on Student Council and won the Cincinnati Rotary Club's speech contest, competing against students from three other local high schools.



Teachers Honored

The three members of the social studies faculty each received an award during the End-of-Year Awards Celebration in May. Left to right: **Kay Miller** received the Spirit of Charity Zeal Award, **Daniel Verdon** received the Elizabeth Ann Seton Educator of the Year Award, and **Dr. Zachariah Davis** received the You Made A Difference Award.



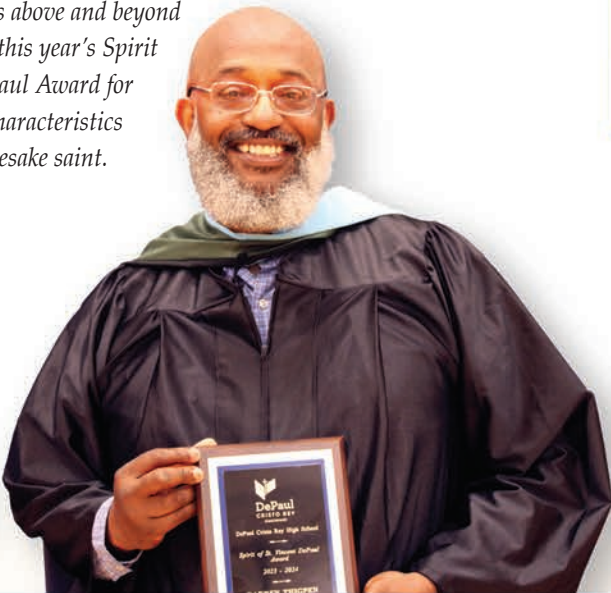
Comeback Kid

Erique Davis '24 is this year's Comeback Kid. He was recognized at the End-of-Year Awards Celebration for making a significant turn-around this academic year.



Spirit of St. Vincent Award

Darren Thigpen supports DPCR students in his role as a senior therapeutic service provider with **Beech Acres** and well beyond that, including coaching basketball and attending off campus student events. His above and beyond efforts earned him this year's Spirit of St. Vincent de Paul Award for exemplifying the characteristics of the school's namesake saint.



BRUIN MOMENTS

Seniors and Supervisors Celebrate Partnership

The Corporate Work Study Program hosted a celebration breakfast in April bringing together the graduating seniors and the supervisors who have mentored, coached and guided them at their work placements. **Alaisha '24** and supervisor **Dale Zdoshek**, the vice president of operations at **Life Learning Center**, were the keynotes speakers, each reflecting on their perspective of the program. Pictured are **Cameron '24** and his supervisor, **Casey Lacey** of **KMK Law**.



Teacher Receives Social Justice Award

Math Teacher **Julie Rentz** has been honored with the Sr. Dorothy Stang Award from the **Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur** and the **Archdiocese of Cincinnati Mission Office**. She was recognized for her long-standing commitment to advancing education in Tanzania as well as for introducing students to the country and culture through DPCR's Tanzania Club. This summer she will lead a group of students, grads and teachers to Tanzania in July. They will visit the Nsoo School and meet the students' pen pals as well as participate in a joint service project. Julie is pictured with **Andrew Musgrave**, director of the Archdiocese's Social Action Office.





Track & Field Runs into the Record Books

Members of DPCR's track & field team broke multiple school records, won the Cincinnati Metro Athletic Conference (CMAC) Championship, and went all of the way to the regional finals. DPCR records were set in girls' long jump, high jump, and shot put; 100, 200, 800, and 1600 meters; 4x100 relay, and 4x200 relay. Records were set in the boys shot put and discus; 100, 200, 400, and 800 meters. The girls CMAC Championship is the first track & field conference title in school history! At the regional competition, the girls 4x100 relay team finished 7th out of 73 teams, setting a new school record with their time.

35 Students Inducted into National Honor Society

In May, 35 students were inducted into the DPCR Chapter of the National Honor Society, the nation's premier organization that recognizes outstanding high school students. They were selected after an application and review process requiring them to demonstrate their excellence in the areas of scholarship, service, leadership and character. Three members (left to right) Jaeda '25, Kylah '24 and Zhane '24 were awarded the NHS Gold Medal for serving as outstanding examples of the NHS ideals.



BRUIN MOMENTS

Look Up In the Sky!



The DPCR community was moonstruck, along with millions of other Americans, watching the near total solar eclipse on April 8. Students returned early from their Corporate Work Study jobs to join the entire school community outside to feast on sun chips, rock to songs with sunshine themes, and view the phenomena through special glasses. Emily '26 was surprised by the speed of the eclipse but said, "It was really cool to be part of a once-in-a-lifetime experience."

Bruins Give Hundreds of Hours of Service

DPCR's new St. Vincent de Paul Service Conference, under the Campus Ministry program, has wrapped up a very successful first year. 115 students participated in 15 different service projects, logging 580 volunteer hours. Projects during the second semester included making Valentine's Day cards for community members; making and placing paper flower bouquets on the graves of students' loved ones; helping to restock the St. Vincent de Paul food pantry in March; and joining other local students to pack 150,000 meals for children at A Child's Hope International in April. The year wrapped up with several campus cleanup days to spruce up the DPCR grounds and tame honeysuckle; Edwin '27 (right) was among the volunteers.

